

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. FORD. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of future generations. Our national deficit for fiscal year 1994 stood at \$203 billion. Gross interest on the national debt is now the second largest expenditure in the entire budget—higher than Defense spending. The Federal Government, this year alone, will spend an estimated \$295 billion in interest on the national debt, which is a 400-percent increase since 1980 and an amount equal to 57 percent of all personal income taxes collected. Our total accumulated Federal debt stands at \$4.65 trillion—\$18,000 for every man, woman, and child in America. Like every family and business in America, when the Government borrows money it must pay interest on its debts. Given these grim statistics, I believe that we in Congress must amend the Constitution of the United States and pass the balanced budget amendment.

Dr. Robert Reischauer, Director of the Congressional Budget Office, in his cost estimate to the Committee on the Judiciary stated:

Over the entire 1996-2002 period, the savings in CBO's illustrative path that result directly from policy changes would total more than \$1 trillion—in relation to a baseline that includes an inflation adjustment for discretionary spending after 1998.

Amending the Constitution, which represents the very core of American life, a governing principle born of a revolutionary war, withstanding a civil war, two world wars, the war for equality throughout the Nation and endless conflicts, both social and global, is not something to be taken lightly. That said—I believe our current conflict to conquer and eliminate our public debt—a war that we fight against ourselves here in Congress—calls for drastic measures, a call to arms, which the budget amendment answers.

The amendment, House Joint Resolution 1, will set forth in the Nation's governing document the basic principle that the Federal Government must not spend beyond its means.

As Thomas Jefferson said:

We should consider ourselves unauthorized to saddle posterity with our debts, and morally bound to pay them ourselves.

These words ring clear today. The American taxpayer will no longer, nor should they, allow us in Washington to continually spend their money with little or no accountability. We in Congress must put political expediency aside—reduce the deficit—remembering that we are to serve the American taxpayer and not vice versa.

Our Founding Fathers knew of the danger of leveraging current political aspiration on the backs of future generations. Congress remains incapable of looking toward the future—we are an entity embedded in the present, unable to look beyond the next election cycle.

James Madison wrote in *Federalist Paper No 51*:

Government is the greatest of all reflections on human nature. If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern man, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.

Well Mr. President, here in Washington there are few, if any, angels cohabiting among us. Accordingly, we do require a control mechanism to reduce our current fiscal dilemma—a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. This amendment will help restore two important elements left unaddressed by the Constitution: limited government and an accountable deliberative legislative body, both of which are vital to a free America. All too often this legislative body has used the power of the purse for political expediency rather than what is in the best interest of the American people.

Reducing spending in order to balance the Federal budget is something that will require tough decisions, the kind of decisions we in Washington rarely have the courage to own up to and all too often pass on to future generations.

My record with regard to reducing the size and scope of the Federal Government by eliminating excessive spending is clear. I have been cited by numerous grassroots groups like the Concord Coalition, the National Taxpayer's Union, as both a taxpayers' friend and as one of Congress' most frugal Members. I believe the only way to eliminate our Federal deficit is to deal with runaway spending, much like families in New Hampshire deal with life's everyday expenses. If a family is unable to pay for a certain expense, the prudent thing to do would be to do without; not here in Washington where no one and nothing goes without, whether it is funding for Medicare, or to conduct another study to eliminate the screw worm.

The American people are well versed in the way Washington operates—they are not dumb. These past November elections made a strong statement about change; a statement heard loud and clear throughout the hallowed Halls of Congress; one that demands we revert from our past, outdated social policies that govern the Nation and jeopardize the very being of the next generation. The people are screaming, "we have heard enough from you in Washington, now it's your turn to hear from us."

Mr. FORD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky, Mr. FORD, is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the cloture vote on tomorrow, the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD, be recognized to make a statement and lay down an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FORD. I thank the Chair and I thank the majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate do hereby move to bring to a close debate on House Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional balanced budget amendment:

Bob Dole, Orrin G. Hatch, Larry E. Craig, Jon Kyl, Spencer Abraham, Slade Gorton, Connie Mack, Lauch Faircloth, Mike DeWine, Judd Gregg, Jim Inhofe, Kit Bond, Paul Coverdell, Phil Gramm, Trent Lott, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Olympia Snowe, Fred Thompson, Hank Brown, Mitch McConnell, Rick Santorum.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I send a second cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on House Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional balanced budget amendment:

Bob Dole, Orrin G. Hatch, Larry E. Craig, Jon Kyl, Spencer Abraham, Slade Gorton, Connie Mack, Lauch Faircloth, Mike DeWine, Judd Gregg, Jim Inhofe, Kit Bond, Paul Coverdell, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Trent Lott, Phil Gramm, Olympia Snowe, Fred Thompson, Hank Brown, Mitch McConnell, Rick Santorum.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond the hour of 9:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOLE. I suggest the absence of a quorum

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.