

would not have been the case under this amendment.

If that had been changed, it would have passed yesterday with 75 votes. So there is no joy in that vote. And the message in that vote is not that the U.S. Senate does not want a balanced budget amendment. If that amendment had been changed, the message would have been 75—probably more, maybe 80 votes—in favor of a constitutional amendment to balance the budget provided there was a guarantee that trust funds of Social Security be protected.

I noted that in the Washington Post this morning they editorialized about this Social Security issue and said it is not an issue, because the fact is Social Security is now one-fourth of all spending for other than interest on the debt and that the deficit cannot be reduced without it.

I do not agree with that. If someone believes we should reduce the Federal deficit by cutting Social Security benefits, they would have a responsibility to cut Social Security taxes because the only purpose for which that tax is collected is to put it in a trust fund to be used for only one program, and that is Social Security.

I think the Washington Post is all wet. I am surprised to see the editorial. Everybody has a right to think as they think. I just disagree with them.

Now, the question of Social Security that we have discussed at some length I hope could still be resolved. If we could resolve that, that constitutional amendment can be brought back and will pass by a very significant margin.

I was probably 14 years old when I got a driver's license to drive my father's pickup truck, and my way of making some money during high school was to haul garbage. I would pick up the 50-gallon drums that had been opened at the top, used oil drums that the widows in my hometown of 300 people used to put their trash in and burn their trash.

At the end of a week or two, their 50-gallon drums would be full of burnt trash, and somebody would have to haul it to the dump ground in my small town. I borrowed my dad's pickup truck. When I was 14, I had a garbage route. I picked up the drums and hauled the trash to the dump ground for half a dozen widows in my hometown. That is the way I earned a few dollars and got along in high school.

All of those widows in my hometown whom I was doing a little work for—virtually all of them—lived on Social Security. That is about all they had. The difference between them, then, and those who preceded them 30 or 40 years prior to that, was that they reached that stage in life where they were in their seventies or eighties, some in their early nineties, and they had Social Security checks.

It was the difference between being impoverished at age 80 with nothing to live on, or having a little something to give you a decent life and give you an opportunity. That is what Social Security meant to them.

I saw it when I was a kid. That is why the Social Security system is still important to me. I think it is the crown jewel of achievement in the last 60 or 70 years in this country for us to have constructed something that works the way this works, to give an opportunity during one's retirement years to draw on a stream of income that one contributed to during one's working years.

We face challenges with Social Security, but the wrong way to approach those challenges is to say to somebody, "You can take what is built up in the trust fund or what we intend to build up in the trust fund to save for the future, and use it to balance the Federal deficit." It is the wrong thing to do. I know the amendment might be popular, but there is a difference between right and wrong.

It seems to me here, notwithstanding the strong winds, you need to be prepared to stand and fight for what is right. I respect everyone's views. Those who oppose me on this or dozens of other issues will not hear me denigrating the way they do business or the way they think. There is great room for disagreement. I have enormous respect for those who do disagree, but I also hope they will accord similar respect to the kind of debate that we have had.

I think that we have a country in which people look at the congressional branch of Government these days and they say, "You know, I kind of wish they could just make progress and get things done." And they probably know that there are many Members inside the institution who feel the same way. We understand what the problems are.

Let Members find a way to coalesce to solve the problems. There is no reason that on the issue of a balanced budget, we cannot follow on from what we did in 1993. Yes, I voted for the Deficit Reduction Act of 1993. That was enormously controversial. But I am glad I voted for it. It was the right thing, and it is still the right thing to have done, because it reduced the Federal budget deficit. I am glad I did that. I am prepared to do more.

I hope there are many people on both sides of the aisle during the budget and appropriations process who will join hands together in a bipartisan way. We are prepared to march up the hill. We do not need a constitutional amendment to do that. No one needs a constitutional amendment to build the steps to a balanced budget. Those are decisions of taxing and spending that are made individually, day after day, on appropriations bills and on the budget bill.

I guess my point today is to say there were conditions under which I was fully prepared to vote for this, and I described what those conditions were. They were not able to be met, I guess. I was not able to vote for it. That does not mean that we should not march together toward a balanced budget. Of course, we should. And we ought to start immediately. Some of us started

in 1993. And we are pleased we did. Some who decided to vote for that paid a very heavy price for it. But it was a vote well worth taking as far as I was concerned.

Now, the next question for all Members is, what are the subsequent votes by which we can, together, begin to climb those stairs and make progress toward balancing this country's budget, and not just balancing the budget, but starting at some point to pay off the debt.

We need to create investment in this country. We need to create investment and growth opportunity. I started by talking about the trade deficit, because ultimately we are involved in world competition for the future. There will be winners and losers. I do not want this country to be a loser in the international competition. I want this country to win, because winners will be assigned new jobs, expansion opportunities, and hope, and losers will have the British disease of long, slow economic decay because they believe what is important is consumption, not production. That is another discussion for another time.

I fervently hope that all Members can understand we wear the same jersey. We are on the same team. In international competition, we are fighting the same fight for the future of this country. The answer—should we balance this budget and should we start paying off the debt—is clearly yes, notwithstanding what constitutional amendment might or might not be debated or discussed now or at any time in the future. The answer is yes, that is our job. The sooner that we get that job done, the better it is for the American people and for our children.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is entitled, under the previous order, to 15 minutes.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, how much time is remaining on Senator DASCHLE's time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. One minute and thirty-two seconds.

A HAPPY DAY FOR FLORIDA

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, this is a happy day for my State of Florida. One hundred and fifty years ago today, March 3, 1845, President John Tyler signed legislation which this Senate had passed 2 days earlier making Florida the 27th State to join the Union.

I am pleased to stand on the Senate floor today and express my appreciation to America for having accepted our State as a member of the United States and for the benefits that Florida has gained by that membership.

Florida has a long history that predates its period of statehood. In fact, Florida was the first point in North America to be discovered by Europeans when Ponce de Leon came upon the coast of Florida near what is now St.

Augustine at Easter time in 1513. He spent a brief period of time in the State, enough to declare it the fountain of youth. In Florida, he looked for a place where one could bathe himself and receive eternal youth.

Not much longer, 1565, another Spaniard, Pedro Menendez de Aviles, established the first European city in North America in the location that is currently St. Augustine.

Florida had a tumultuous history during its prestatehood/preterritorial days. In the 18th century, Florida was peripherally involved in what was called the French and Indian War in North America. Florida was also involved in the Seven Years' War in Europe, at the conclusion of which, in 1763, the British Navy occupied Havana Harbor.

At the Treaty of Paris in 1763, the Spanish were given a choice. They could either have the British remove their navy from Havana or they could retain ownership of east Florida and west Florida—west Florida being the extension of the State from the Appalachian River to the Mississippi River.

The majority whip, who joins me on the floor today, should take pride in this discussion of Florida. For almost 300 years, the southern part of Mississippi was part of the territory of Florida.

The Spanish decided that they would prefer to keep Havana. So the Floridas were transferred to Great Britain.

Florida stayed a British territory throughout the period of the American Revolution. At the end of the American Revolution in 1784, the Spanish had occupied Nassau, and the British received the same type of offer that they had made 21 years earlier: Would they prefer to have Nassau or the Floridas?

The British decided they would prefer to have Nassau, and the Floridas reverted back to Spanish control. Floridians had to have a fairly high threshold to deal with rejection in the 18th century.

But by 1819, the citizens of Florida had decided that their future was not with a European colonial power but was with the United States. That decision was sealed in 1819. In 1821 Florida became a territory of the United States of America and the two parts of Florida were combined into a single territory. Tallahassee was selected by its first territorial Governor, Gen. Andrew Jackson, to be the capital of the territory of Florida.

In 1845, Florida's territory had matured, and the United States was prepared to extend full statehood to Florida. Today, we celebrate the 150th anniversary of that statehood.

Mr. President, I would like to briefly comment on some of the changes that have occurred in the 150 years since Florida joined the Union. It is said that the one constant in Florida is change. If you do not like something about the State today, just wait a while because it will certainly be different tomorrow.

That has certainly characterized our State during the last 150 years.

Maybe the most dramatic statement of that change is the sheer demographic size of Florida. When Florida entered the Union 150 years ago today, it was the smallest State in the Union with a population of approximately 55,000. Today, it is the fourth largest State with a population that now exceeds 14 million. Florida is projected to have a population of over 19 million by the year 2020 and by the middle of the next century to have a population approaching 40 million.

Florida in 1845 was a State very much on the periphery of the United States of America. It was a long way from almost anyplace in the country to Florida. And it was a long way from any one point in Florida to another. Legislators who represented the Florida Keys, in order to get to Tallahassee, had to take a boat to Philadelphia and then a train back to Thomasville, GA, from which they would take a carriage drive to get to Tallahassee.

Florida was remote. It was largely cut off from the mainstream of American life in 1845. Today, Florida has become, in many ways, the linchpin of our emerging relationships within the hemisphere. Florida has become a central point for trade and commerce and cultural exchange, not only within the United States but particularly between North America, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

Florida has become a State which is living in the future that will be all America's in the 21st century. The population of our citizens now, particularly the almost 19 percent over the age of 65, reflects what the rest of America's population will be by the end of the first quarter of the 21st century.

Florida is leading in technology and arts and culture. It has become a predictor of national trends. In 1845, Florida was a very homogeneous State. Most of our citizens had very similar backgrounds. Today Florida is one of the most diverse States in the Nation.

The list of countries from which schoolchildren and the largest public systems in Florida is virtually a list of the nations of the world. Florida is a State which has become, as some describe it, the "big paella" of America. It is the place in which people from all around the world now live in large numbers. They are becoming contributing members to our State and our Nation, but also with a fierce pride in their native culture.

Florida is becoming a model of the kind of cultural diversity that benefits America. It was with great pride in December of last year that Florida had the privilege of hosting the Summit of the Americas, the first gathering in a quarter of a century of the heads of government of the Western Hemisphere. The summit was the first time in which all of those present were democratically elected heads of government. The summit is illustrative of

the centrality of Florida in the new relationship within our hemisphere.

Mr. President, Florida is helping the United States in establishing this relationship with the other Americas, but maybe Florida's greatest role for the 21st century will be as a model of how persons from different cultural backgrounds, different ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds can live together in peace.

It has been suggested that the challenge of the 21st century will be the challenge of whether Bosnia is our collective future. Will we live in a world in which people who are different than their neighbors will find it impossible to live a life of dignity, respect, and peace?

While our State has not been immune from some of the abrasions of cultural diversity, we are proud of the degree to which we are building a society from a diverse community.

So, Mr. President, this is a happy and celebratory day for our State of Florida. It comes, I hope, as an event which might serve to assuage some of the contention that was felt here yesterday and maybe reverberates today. One hundred fifty years is a short time in the history of the planet but a long time in the political history of this Nation. It illustrates the good decisions that were made in this Chamber on March 1, 1845, when the Senate of the 54th Congress had the wisdom to enact the legislation that would create the 27th State of the Nation. Our challenge today is to create a record that Americans will look back on 150 years from now with pride.

So we thank America for allowing us to join the United States of America. We are proud of what we have contributed. We are pleased to be a full member of this greatest Nation in the history of the world. Thank you.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COVERDELL). The Chair recognizes the Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that in addition to the previously agreed to 5 minutes, that I have an additional 2 minutes without interruption, for a total of 7 minutes.

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

WELCOME, SENATOR BEN NIGHORSE CAMPBELL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I had the honor earlier this morning of announcing that Senator BEN NIGHORSE CAMPBELL, of Colorado, would be joining the Republican ranks in the Senate. And, again, I want to extend a welcome to him and say how proud I am of him for his conviction and his courage.

I am satisfied that his voting pattern will remain the same. He has things he feels very strongly about. He does worry about where we are headed with deficit spending in this country. He is