

see. It is obvious we have to do things like the line-item veto.

Some people on the other side of the aisle allege that the line-item veto destabilizes the balance between the executive and legislative branches, but so many States have it. They are great laboratories to review. I do not believe anybody in our country remembers waking up and reading about any State of the Union becoming unglued or destabilized or taken to the brink of ruin over the contest between an executive and legislative branch over the authority to have a line-item veto.

This is a very sensible process that will help establish fiscal order.

I remember years ago when I was running for the U.S. Senate, in fact on other occasions, people said, "Well, you only want the line-item veto because over the recent generations, the Presidents have been Republican." I said at the time, "I am going to support the line-item veto no matter who the Chief Executive is because it is sensible and reasonable."

I find a certain irony that I would be in this capital city watching a new Republican majority fighting the Democrat minority to give a Democrat President the line-item veto. What an irony. I would think both sides of the aisle would be embracing this idea. It is their President. He is a Democrat, and I am just absolutely baffled that we find the other side of the aisle throwing barriers and tacks in the road as we try to put in place this very sensible rule that President Clinton campaigned on and said he was going to fight for.

I think I just heard Senator MCCAIN read a letter from the President indicating his support for the strongest version. You would think, Mr. President, we could end this debate in about a day given the fact that a majority of the Congress supports it and the President supports it and the American people support it 70 to 80 percent. But not in this city. No, sir, not in this city. In this city, the disconnect is so great, and in the light of the new majority going forth, the President of the United States asking for it, and the American people wanting it, we still have to fight our way through, just as we did on the balanced budget amendment, to try to bring this to fruition.

The Presiding Officer just came from the elections. I was there just 24 months ago. I think the Presiding Officer, like myself, recognizes that we are in the midst of a revolution, and the American people want to see some change in the capital city. They are tired of business being run as usual. Mr. President, they expect change to begin to happen here, and one of the cornerstones of this change is the line-item veto.

I hope that the other side of the aisle can somehow make a connection with what is going on in the country and it will register on them that our President, the titular head of their party, the majority, and the American people

have said now is the time for there to be a line-item veto.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator be making the request that the time of the quorum call be equally divided between the two sides?

Mr. COVERDELL. I so request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECESS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 5 p.m. this evening.

There being no objection, at 3:58 p.m., the Senate recessed until 5 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. GRAMS).

#### LEGISLATIVE LINE-ITEM VETO ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 5 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of S. 4, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4) to grant the power to the President to reduce budget authority.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

#### S. 4

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Legislative Line Item Veto Act of 1995".

#### SEC. 2. ENHANCEMENT OF SPENDING CONTROL BY THE PRESIDENT.

The Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new title:

#### "TITLE XI—LEGISLATIVE LINE ITEM VETO RESCISSION AUTHORITY

##### "PART A—LEGISLATIVE LINE ITEM VETO RESCISSION AUTHORITY

###### "GRANT OF AUTHORITY AND CONDITIONS

"SEC. 1101. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provisions of part B of title X and subject to the provisions of part B of this title, the President may rescind all or part of any budget authority, if the President—

"(1) determines that—

"(A) such rescission would help balance the Federal budget, reduce the Federal budget deficit, or reduce the public debt;

"(B) such rescission will not impair any essential Government functions; and

"(C) such rescission will not harm the national interest; and

"(2)(A) notifies the Congress of such rescission by a special message not later than twenty calendar days (not including Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays) after the date of enactment of a regular or supplemental appropriations Act or a joint resolution making continuing appropriations providing such budget authority; or

"(B) notifies the Congress of such rescission by special message accompanying the submission of the President's budget to Congress and such rescissions have not been proposed previously for that fiscal year.

The President shall submit a separate rescission message for each appropriations bill under paragraph (2)(A).

"(b) RESCISSION EFFECTIVE UNLESS DISAPPROVED.—(1)(A) Any amount of budget authority rescinded under this title as set forth in a special message by the President shall be deemed canceled unless during the period described in subparagraph (B), a rescission disapproval bill making available all of the amount rescinded is enacted into law.

"(B) The period referred to in subparagraph (A) is—

"(i) a congressional review period of twenty calendar days of session under part B, during which Congress must complete action on the rescission disapproval bill and present such bill to the President for approval or disapproval;

"(ii) after the period provided in clause (i), an additional ten days (not including Sundays) during which the President may exercise his authority to sign or veto the rescission disapproval bill; and

"(iii) if the President vetoes the rescission disapproval bill during the period provided in clause (ii), an additional five calendar days of session after the date of the veto.

"(2) If a special message is transmitted by the President under this section during any Congress and the last session of such Congress adjourns sine die before the expiration of the period described in paragraph (1)(B), the rescission shall not take effect. The message shall be deemed to have been retransmitted on the first day of the succeeding Congress and the review period referred to in paragraph (1)(B) (with respect to such message) shall run beginning after such first day.

#### "DEFINITIONS

"SEC. 1102. For purposes of this title the term 'rescission disapproval bill' means a bill or joint resolution which only disapproves a rescission of budget authority, in whole, rescinded in a special message transmitted by the President under section 1101.

#### "DEFICIT REDUCTION

"SEC. 1103. (a) If Congress fails to disapprove a rescission of discretionary spending under this part within the period of review provided under this part, the President shall, on the day after the period has expired, reduce the discretionary spending limits under section 601 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 for the budget year and any outyear affected by the rescissions to reflect the amount of the rescission.

"(b) If Congress fails to disapprove a rescission of discretionary spending under this part within the period of review provided under this part, the chairs of the Committees on the Budget of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall, on the day after the period has expired, revise levels under section 311(a) and adjust the committee allocations under section 602(a) to reflect the amount of the rescission.

"(c) If Congress fails to disapprove a rescission of direct spending under this part within the period of review provided under this part, the President shall, on the day after the period