

politics to suddenly take away our capacity to free both of our candidates, or any major party candidate, from having to go out and raise these extraordinary sums of money which most Americans have come to agree distort the American political process.

That is not the only issue raised in this budget, and we will have ample time in the days ahead to discuss it.

Mr. President, I see that the majority leader is in the Chamber. I do not know if he had an announcement or a procedure.

Mr. DOLE. Announcement. I would like to get back on the bill.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, let me just say to the majority leader, I had asked if there were any amendments. There were no amendments, and I allowed whatever amendments were there to be done before speaking. If there is an amendment that is ready to go forward, I am not trying to delay the process or hold up the Senate, but I thought I would call attention to this issue in the absence of that.

Mr. DOLE. I do not have any problem with that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DOLE. If the Senator will yield.

Mr. KERRY. I would like to retain the right to the floor, but I will yield.

INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. DOLE. I have just seen a list of amendments—10, 12, 13, 14 amendments. I do not know why people are not here offering the amendments. We are going to be here today, and we are going to vote today, if we have to have Sergeant at Arms votes. People who wish to offer their amendments better come to the floor and offer their amendments. We want to finish this bill.

I do not have any problem with the Senator speaking, because, as the Senator from Massachusetts said, there is nobody here to offer an amendment. But I say to my colleagues who have amendments, if you are going to offer them, come to the floor and offer your amendments. We have two managers here who do want to do business. They were here late last night. They were here early this morning. So I hope we can accommodate Senator BAUCUS and Senator CHAFEE and others who have primary responsibility for this legislation. It is important legislation. We ought to finish it, and I hope that by 4 or 5 o'clock we will be finished with the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader.

LOOKING AT THE FEDERAL BUDGET

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to say to my colleagues that the

last time I looked at the Federal budget, which has been many times in the last few days, I did not notice that spending was increasing significantly in the discretionary domestic side of the budget. I did not notice that Americans were coming up to any of us and saying to us, Senator, we have too much drug treatment in America; we ought to cut it so fewer addicts can get treatment.

I did not notice that a lot of people were coming up and saying, it is already easy enough for me to send my kid to school, so why not cut the tax deduction to send our kids to college and make it harder for us to send our kids to school.

I did not notice people were suggesting that our train system is comparable to the Japanese or the Germans or the French, and therefore we ought to be reducing the investment in our railroads.

I did not notice that our colleges and universities were so fat with money that their laboratories, which are 20 and 30 years old in many cases, are state of the art and so they do not need additional Federal funding to increase the science capacity or research of America.

I could run down a long list of things that I do not think Americans are asking us to cut, but, Mr. President, we are cutting them. We are cutting them. And I respectfully suggest we are cutting out of this country the guts of our ability to be able to remain a great country and guarantee that our kids, who are increasingly growing up in a vacuum, are going to have the best education system in the world, the kind of opportunity that we have promised through these years.

We had a period of know-nothingism in America once before, and I am not sure that we are venturing close to a new period of sort of put your head in the sand and pretend—pretend that a 15-year-old kid who has an abusive parent or a drug addict parent and whose other parent is absent, pretend that that kid, who is already at risk and dropped out of school, is somehow suddenly going to be saved by cutting access to the YMCA, YWCA, the Boys and Girls Clubs, Youth Build, the City Years, the AmeriCorps of this country.

That is what we are doing. The one part of the budget that is increasing is entitlements. It is the only part of the Federal budget that is really increasing in real dollars. And the truth is that you are not going to solve that problem just by whacking away at a fixed amount of money when more and more Americans are turning 65, more and more Americans are living longer, and more and more Americans have a right to expect that they are going to get quality medical care.

What will happen if we just lop off several hundred billion out of Medicare? Sure, we will cut out some waste. And, yes, some good entrepreneurs will respond and there will be an increase in managed care and HMO's, and so forth.

But you will take the guts out of teaching hospitals. You will take the guts out of research and development. And those things that have provided the United States with the most extraordinary advanced technology and medical care in the world will suddenly begin to diminish, just like deferred maintenance on a building. Sure, we can cut the maintenance today, and we have been doing that, I might add, in many different sectors. But 5 and 10 years from now, after 10 years of cuts and deferred maintenance, the buildings begin to crumble, the bridges begin to fall down, the sewer systems fall apart, the water treatment facilities are not there.

Mr. President, we have to stop and recognize that there are three deficits in this country. There is a fiscal deficit, but there is also an investment deficit, and there is a spiritual deficit. And we are not going to address the investment deficit, which is critical to dealing with the spiritual deficit, unless we treat all three of them simultaneously. And all this budget that we will be presented does is deal with the fiscal deficit.

What do I mean when I say an investment deficit? Well, Mr. President, let me give you one example: railroads. The United States is ranked 34th in the world in our investment in our railroads. We are just behind Ecuador and Bolivia and just ahead of Bangladesh. And there are only seven countries I think with railroads that are behind us—34th in the world.

Now, I can tell you that in Boston, in New England, along most of the eastern seaboard and much of the west coast now, and in other parts of this country, rail transportation is essential to moving millions of people to their jobs, taking the burden off of our highways, and yet, we are disinvesting in those railroads, Mr. President.

France has its TGF, Japan has a bullet train. And instead of thinking about how we are going to provide millions of jobs for Americans building an adequate transportation system, we are disinvesting.

No country on this planet has a railroad system that does not have a subsidy. There is not a country in the world that does not subsidize its railroad system. And yet the House of Representatives has zeroed out—zeroed out—money for support of railroads.

Now I can give you dozens of other examples like that. Global climate change. We do not know all the answers. We know that there is a phenomenon taking place. We do not have a complete understanding of it. We need to have an understanding of it, because the consequences could be cataclysmic. And yet we are cutting that research.

The Coast Guard, the admiral in charge of the Coast Guard told me they