

Nation higher taxes and bigger government as the solution. Well, with the support of his congressional allies, President Clinton got his tax increase, but his big-government approach to health care crashed and sank on the rocks of old-fashioned American common sense.

That was the last Congress. What plan has the President offered during the 104th Congress to balance the budget? In the words of Senator DOLE, President Clinton has been AWOL on the budget—"absent without leadership." I just don't understand it. Every time that President Clinton stares a balanced budget in the eye, he blinks. First, he actively fought against the balanced budget amendment, and then he refused to offer his own plan for bringing the Federal budget into balance. Moreover, when his cabinet informed him that we are facing an imminent Medicare crisis, the President did nothing. Perhaps, that is what he does best: nothing.

When President Clinton does meekly act to fulfill his constitutional responsibilities, such as proposing his own budget plan, even his own party cuts and runs. Last week the Senate rejected the Clinton budget by a vote of 99 to 0. No one voted for the Clinton budget. No responsible Member of Congress would dare vote for a budget which would have increased the deficit from \$176 billion this year to \$276 billion in the year 2000 by which time we would have added \$1.2 trillion to the national debt. And yet this is what President Clinton proposed.

President Clinton may be content to sit in the Oval Office at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue and blithely ignore the current budget crisis and the daily mounting debt, but I for one did not leave 45 years of hard work in the private sector to come to Washington and turn a blind-eye to our Nation's fundamental problem. That is why I have come to the Senate floor today to assure my colleagues that I am wholeheartedly committed to working with them to balance the budget, and go beyond that to paying down the principal on our \$4.7 trillion national debt.

A child born today would have to pay \$187,500 over his or her lifetime just to pay interest on the national debt. For those concerned about the impact of the proposed budget on children, this per child cost imposed by the national debt should be the real focus of our concern for children.

We all know that the steps necessary to balance the budget will not be easy. It will require each of us to summon up the courage to cut or eliminate government programs which in times of a budget surplus we might otherwise support.

I recognize that such questions about government programs are difficult, but as the national debt continues to grow out-of-control at a rate of \$20 million per hour, the questions only become more difficult. That is why last week I

introduced a welfare reform bill which addresses the root causes of welfare dependency and runaway welfare costs. It is also why I agreed to co-chair the Senate Task Force on the elimination of federal agencies which today will announce plans for abolishing the Department of Commerce. Plans for eliminating the Departments of HUD, Energy and Education are in the offing.

We must not lack the courage to act together to take bold actions such as limiting the growth in welfare spending, abolishing unnecessary agencies, and reforming Medicare. To do otherwise, will be to tell our children and grandchildren that the generation which fought and won World War II and the cold war has now chosen to abdicate its generational responsibility. A legacy of debt is grossly inconsistent with the self-reliant pioneer values which have built this great nation and made it the world's lone superpower.

When debate time on the budget resolution has expired and the time for voting occurs, the eyes of the world and our children will be focused on the United States Senate. They will wait to see whether, like the House of Representatives, Members of the Senate possess the courage and vision to support a resolution which provides for a balanced budget.

We have already seen the reaction of the world's financial markets when the balanced budget amendment died in this Chamber not long ago. If we repeat that profile in cowardice we will no doubt reap the whirlwind. We will signal to the rest of the world and more importantly to our children that nothing has changed in Washington—the business as usual spending spree continues and we have no intention whatsoever to make serious spending cuts.

I commend Chairman DOMENICI for his outstanding leadership in drafting a long overdue plan to end our Nation's experiment with fiscal irresponsibility. In my short career in the Senate, I can think of no vote more important than this one. Our votes on this budget resolution will clearly define where each of us stands on the most important issue facing our Nation. I intend to stand with those who want to balance the budget by 2002. I intend to stand with those who believe that America's families are desperately in need of tax relief.

The people of North Carolina who sent me here expect and deserve no less.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO COL. JOSEPH W. CORNELISON

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the dedication, public service, and patriotism of Col. Joseph W. Cornelison, U.S. Army, on the occasion of his retirement after 26 years of faithful service to our Nation. Colonel Cornelison's strong commitment to excellence will leave a lasting impact on the vitality of our modern war fighters, commanding admiration and respect from his military colleagues and Members of Congress.

Colonel Cornelison, a 1969 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, is serving his last day of a 21 month assignment as the special assistant for Environment and Installations, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

He holds a master's degree in public service from Western Kentucky University, and has his juris doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center.

From April 1970 to August 1971, Colonel Cornelison was a forward observer, fire direction officer, and artillery liaison officer, 173d Airborne Brigade, Republic of Vietnam. He ensured the effective delivery of direct artillery support to an infantry unit in combat. He then served as battery commander, assistant division personnel officer and assistant battalion operations officer for 101st Airborne Division [Air Assault] in Fort Campbell, KY. As commander, he conducted a tactical standdown of a field artillery battery in Vietnam and redeployed its personnel and equipment to the United States. In the personnel position, was a key player in the assignment of several hundred officers and undertook review of an array of regulatory requirements to identify those that could be eliminated because of redundancy, obsolescence or insufficient value. He also organized and executed an advanced training program for newly assigned personnel.

From August 1977 to July 1978, Colonel Cornelison was the law clerk to the Hon. Oliver Gasch, judge of U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. He assisted the judge in management of his civil docket which included hearings, researching and briefing issues and drafting opinions. He then served as trial counsel, chief of administrative law, and officer-in-charge of Bamberg Branch Office for the 1st Armored Division in the Federal Republic of Germany. In these three positions, he progressed from serving as prosecutor in criminal trials to providing legal support on issues associated with command to serving as city counsel to a major military community.

Colonel Cornelison went to serve as assistant to the General Counsel, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC from June 1982 to December 1983. He developed improvements to debarment and suspension procedures and increasing emphasis on