

COALITION BUDGET  
RECONCILIATION SUBSTITUTE

HON. BILL ORTON  
OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 1995*

Mr. ORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting for the RECORD an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2491, The Seven Year Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act. This amendment reflects the changes to amendment No. 7 which I submitted on Friday. The changes that we have made to our alternative are technical changes that we have made as the Congressional Budget Office has reviewed our language. As a minority within the minority party, we have been at the back of the line in having our substitute scored by CBO. CBO provided us with preliminary estimates on Monday and has continued to supply us with additional scoring throughout the week. We did not receive final scoring of some of the items until a few hours ago. This delay in having our substitute scored has prevented us from submitting our amendment earlier, because we are committed to ensuring that our substitute will balance the budget by 2002.

Most of the changes in this amendment are minor changes in the drafting of individual provisions that were necessary to clarify our intent for CBO. Other minor changes in the amendment were necessary to achieve the savings that we anticipated in certain areas. The changes in the amendment I am submitting today are as follows:

MEDICARE

Based on CBO scoring and interpretation of our Medicare proposal, we had to make several changes in order to achieve the objectives we had set out in our plan:

The capitated payments to Medicare Choice plans was reduced to 6 percent in 1996 through 1998 and to 5.5 percent in 1999 and thereafter. Payments in areas with reimbursements between 85 percent and 100 percent of the national average would be set at 160 percent of the national average. Payments in areas with reimbursements above 120 percent of the national average would be set at 35 percent of the national average;

The freeze on clinical labs and durable medical equipment was extended from 4 years to 7 years;

The medical economic index floor on payments to physicians was reduced to 91 percent in order to achieve the level of saving from physicians we had anticipated; and

We corrected drafting errors to clarify that PPS hospitals were included in the 1-year update freeze and that the 10-percent reduction in capital payments is extended for 7 years. In addition, we corrected effective dates for several provisions.

MEDICAID

Because CBO scored the per capita limits on Medicaid significantly differently than it had scored similar proposals earlier this year, we had to reduce the per-capita growth rate on Medicaid to CPI minus 0.5 percent in 1996 through 1998 and CPI minus 0.3 percent in 1999 and thereafter; and

In order to have the savings from targeting the Disproportionate Share Payments to hospitals with low-income utilization of more than 25 percent scored by CBO we had to write in

National DSH limits of \$6.5 billion in 1997 and 1998, \$5.5 billion in 1999 and 2000 and \$5 billion thereafter. These lower national limits are consistent with the savings that will result from targeting DSH payments.

WELFARE REFORM

After reviewing the work provisions and other welfare reform provisions that were in the Deal welfare reform substitute, CBO concluded that the welfare reform provisions would achieve greater savings than it had estimated when the Deal substitute was considered in March. As a result, we have made changes to the welfare reform provisions to remain consistent:

Section 9806, "Narrowing of SSI Eligibility on the Basis of Mental Impairments" was dropped; and

The participation rates in the Work First program were increased by 4 percent a year in each year from 1997 through 2001. The new participation rates are 20 percent in 1997, 24 percent in 1998, 28 percent in 1999, 32 percent in 2000 and 36 percent in 2001.

DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS

The discretionary spending limits were adjusted slightly in each year. The new outlay caps are as follows: \$536.6 billion in 1996, \$530.2 billion in 1997, \$526.1 billion in 1998, \$524.2 billion in 1999, \$523.3 billion in 2000, \$529.5 billion in 2001, and \$529.5 billion in 2002.

DEFICIT TARGETS

After receiving final estimates from CBO, we adjusted the deficit targets to reflect the deficit reduction glide path that we anticipate will result from this bill. The deficit targets are as follows: \$179.2 billion in 1996, \$160.4 billion in 1997, \$132.5 billion in 1998, \$111 billion in 1999, \$85.3 billion in 2000, and \$41 billion in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to review this amendment carefully and join me in voting for "The Common Sense Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act" tomorrow.

EAGLE SCOUT HONORED

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 1995*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues an outstanding young individual from the Third Congressional District of Illinois who has completed a major goal in the Scouting career. Joseph Michael Bulvan, a young man from Boy Scout Troop 475, Saint Daniel the Prophet Parish, Chicago, IL, will be honored at an Eagle Scout court of honor.

It is important to note that less than 2 percent of all young men in America attain the rank of Eagle Scout. This high honor can only be earned by those Scouts demonstrating extraordinary leadership abilities.

Joe has been actively involved in Scouting since September 1985 when he joined Cub Scout Pack 3475. There his enthusiasm and eagerness earned him consecutive years of perfect attendance and Scout of the Year awards. The Parvuli Dei Award, the Christian religious award meaning Family of God, was presented to Joe on behalf of his religious beliefs and practices. Joe also earned the Cub

Scout World Conservation Award and reached the highest Cut Scout rank, the Arrow of Light.

Joe began his trail to Eagle Scout in September 1988 when he joined Boy Scout Troop 475. Since that time, he has earned 30 badges, 9 more than were required of him. Joe displayed leadership abilities by serving his troop as den chief, quartermaster, historian, instructor, patrol leader, and senior patrol leader. The Ad Alteri Dei award was presented to Joe for his continued Christian beliefs and knowledge of the sacraments. His duty to country was displayed various times when Joe marched in the annual Memorial Day parades paying tribute to our veterans. He also helped organize a collection of basic necessities and support letters for the troops in Desert Storm. He volunteered his help to homeless shelters, soup kitchens, handicapped functions, and visited nursing homes. Joe was in charge of a clothing drive to benefit the Saint Vincent DePaul Society and the homeless.

Joe put his camping and scouting skills to use on numerous weekend campouts and his five summer camp excursions to Owasippe Boy Scout Camp in Whitehall, MI. He also had the opportunity to be part of the 1993 National Jamboree held at Fort A.P. Hill, VA. Joe again earned the World Conservation Award, this time at the Boy Scout level. His fellow scouts honored him by electing him into the Order of the Arrow, a brotherhood of fellow campers.

In light of the commendable leadership and courageous activities performed by this fine young man, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joseph Michael Bulvan for attaining the highest honor in Scouting—the rank of Eagle. Let us wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RON NOWACZYK

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 1995*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ron Nowaczyk as he is recognized for his vast contribution to polka and the State of Michigan. Ron Nowaczyk was inducted into the State of Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame on Sunday, October 1, 1995.

America was built by the hard work and commitment of settlers who brought with them a rich and varied heritage. Polka flourished in Michigan largely due to the devotion of those who brought with them their families' traditions and customs, as well as their love of polka. Ron is one of those special individuals who is proud to keep an honored tradition alive.

Ron Nowaczyk of Saginaw, MI started his musical career as a drummer for a band he and his friends called the Melody Boys. Over the past 40 years, Ron has been privileged to play the drums for several bands including the Jimmy Chronowski Band, John's Polka Band, and the Andy Nester Band. He even recorded two albums with the John Lipinski Orchestra. He was awarded the European American Music Award from radio station WOAP in 1994, and currently volunteers and serves as a radio personality on WKNX in Frankenmuth, MI.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to Ron's efforts, we are all able to enjoy an old musical tradition from