

part of those negotiations some several weeks ago. It was absolutely clear that it would be a 7-year balanced budget. That was the condition for the last short-term spending bill, and that condition, despite our efforts, has clearly not been met.

The remaining Federal offices regrettably now to be subject to a possible shutdown during the course of this weekend include the U.S. Department of Commerce, Education, Interior, Health and Human Services, Labor, State, Housing and Urban Development, Veterans, and Justice, as well as certain sections of EPA, NASA, and federally funded functions in the District of Columbia.

Mr. President, again, it is my privilege to represent many of these people who live in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and I am deeply concerned and express my compassion to them. But if an agreement is not reached, workers in all these categories again are to be held, as some would say, hostage by the continuing budget crisis. Personnel performing vital emergency functions will come to work and not be paid, and all staff involved in nonemergency functions will be asked to stay at home. These individuals, both in Virginia and across the Nation, have my pledge that I will work once again, as I did during the last budget crisis, to ensure that they will be made whole financially for any lost compensation. I also offer my pledge that their sacrifices will not have been made in vain.

The Federal Government is in a state of budget crisis, as I said, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to patch together these short-term resolutions.

It is my hope, however, that this weekend that can be achieved, and that all Federal workers, indeed all Americans will recognize the unprecedented confrontation taking place between the White House and the Congress and demand that good faith bargaining be resumed.

The Republican leadership of the U.S. Senate has had its sleeves rolled up for weeks—Senator DOLE, Senator DOMENICI, and I particularly want to pay my respects to Congressman KASICH of the House. They were making enormous efforts to address the differences expressed by the White House in a desire for the 7-year balanced budget plan. That 7 years is absolutely the bedrock; it is not movable. It is not changeable.

Federal employees should know that this is serious business of the first order and not just some new form of politics. Our ultimate objective is a balanced budget agreement. This is important, not only to the Republicans in Congress, but also to Americans everywhere, particularly children and future generations.

I recently received a position paper from the Chamber of Commerce of Staunton-Augusta County in my State of Virginia. This states far more eloquently than I could the need to stay the course, stick with the balanced budget and stay the course, 7 years.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that that position paper be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. WARNER. When we finally achieve the balanced budget agreement, the Nation's house will, hopefully, be put back in order. We want that stability to be one that will last, not just weeks, but to protect our future generations.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

EXHIBIT 1

STAUNTON-AUGUSTA COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Staunton, VA, Nov. 7, 1995.

POSITION PAPER

Subject: Balanced Budget.

Position of: Government Relations Committee.

Background:

The economic case for reducing the Federal budget deficit is compelling. Despite this fact, since 1985 neither normal processes of government nor extraordinary statutory restrictions imposed on the budget process have succeeded in reversing the deficit's long-term upward trend. In fiscal year 1994, the total federal deficit was \$203.4 billion and the gross federal debt was \$4.6 trillion, according to the Department of the Treasury. Because of the deficit and the mounting interest which must be paid, money is diverted from investment in the private sector, economic growth is inhibited, productivity is reduced, and export becomes more difficult. This situation threatens the standard of living for future generations.

In June 1995, both houses of Congress passed the FY 1996 Budget Resolution which calls for a balanced budget in 7 years (2002) while providing a \$245 billion tax cut. The resolution provides that tax cuts will be available only after congressional committees produce enough spending cuts to balance the budget by fiscal year 2002. Proponents believe the 7-year approach provides the right balance between easing economic adjustments while maintaining the credibility of the government's deficit reduction plan. Opponents believe that this plan is too aggressive and should be phased in over a longer period.

Committee Position:

Moving spending from government to the private sector will enhance saving and investment, boost productivity, and increase the economy's trend rate of growth. Reducing government waste means greater long-term benefits which in turn will create more businesses and greater purchasing power for American households.

Recommendation:

A balanced budget and deficit elimination are vital for our nation's future. The Board of Directors of the Staunton-Augusta Chamber of Commerce reiterates its support for the passage of a balanced budget.

Mr. WARNER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2127, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the motion.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am sorry that we find ourselves in this present situation. I had thought that we could have worked out an agreement on Labor-HHS appropriations, whereby we would not be faced, again, with another cloture vote on it, but that we could have agreed to have brought up the bill and perhaps even passed it by voice vote.

There have been, I know, a lot of discussions. I know my colleague, the Senator from Pennsylvania, Senator SPECTER, who is the chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Health and Human Services, has been working very diligently to try to get an arrangement whereby we might bring this bill up and expeditiously move it so we can get together with the House and try to work out our differences.

This is an important bill. It is the second largest appropriations bill, second only to defense. It covers not only all of the Department of Labor, job training programs, but it also covers education, all the education programs—everything from title I to college student aid. It covers Health and Human Services, everything from Head Start to funds for the operation of the Social Security system and Medicaid, plus a lot of related agencies, including the National Institutes of Health and biomedical research. Yet, this bill languishes because of the determination of a few to attach riders to it, riders that have no business being on Labor-HHS, riders which should be brought up in the context of an authorization and not an appropriations bill.

Now I note for the RECORD, Mr. President, that other riders that have been put on other appropriations bills have been taken off, clearing them for approval to be acted on and sent down to the President. I will just mention three. The Treasury-Postal appropriations conference agreement, they dropped their effort to attach the so-called Istook antilobbying rider. Once this was taken off, it cleared the bill for approval and was sent down to the