the House, it is supported by the administration, and we need to act on it because we do have the deadline of today, January 26, of the present continuing resolution. If we do not act this afternoon and get an agreement to move this continuing resolution to the President, then we have looming before us the possibility of another Government shutdown. The headlines last night on the television news reports and this morning were very positive. An agreement is reached to open the Government.

Now the Senate should act quickly to follow the example set by the House. We should not delay this continuing resolution. We should move it through following the example set this time by the House of Representatives. Yet, we are being told that, oh, well, there may have to be several votes. There may need to be some amendments. Certainly any Senator has a right to offer amendments, but I urge them to think very carefully about what could happen here this afternoon. If we start amending, or trying to amend, this continuing resolution, if amendments are not laid on the table, then we could have a real problem. If we amend that continuing resolution, it could mean that the shutdown of the Government would begin over the weekend. We would have a real problem.

The House of Representatives acted responsibly. They have done their work. And they have recessed until next week. So I urge my colleagues here in the Senate to think about this. If you do start offering amendments and some of them, in fact, do pass, then you are flirting with real danger. And the blame will be on the Senate. It will be on those who offer these amendments which should not be considered in this forum and should not be considered on this bill.

So, I hope that we will get an agreement on all three of these issues, take them up in speedy order, and complete our work this afternoon.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

## THE DOD CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I am very pleased that we were able to get another Defense authorization bill, and I want to commend Senator LOTT, Senator WARNER, and Senator COHEN, who have joined with me on the conference committee to get this done quickly. We have a good bill.

I suggest that we act on it and that it be the first thing we do. I do not think we need more than 45 minutes to decide; in other words, an hour and a half to complete this bill and sign it away. I hope it can be taken up at this time. I understood, generally speaking, that it would be taken up. I think people generally feel that it is to be the first thing taken up today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

## THE SUCCESSES OF THE PAST YEAR

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I was glad the leader spoke about optimism and the opportunity to do things. I want to talk just a little bit, if I may, in morning business about this past year and the successes of this past year.

It seems to me that we have worked very hard. We have worked very long. We had to do a number of things to respond to the voters in 1994 who said the Federal Government is too big and it costs too much. Anyone who thinks that making that change from where we have been is easy is a bit naive.

So I think the Republican majority in this Congress has had great success. We restructured the debate in this country and have a whole new approach changing the direction of Congress and, frankly, changing the direction of the President. After 30 years of basically dealing with the Great Society and what this group has done time after time, which is talk about how much more we can spend, there has been no balanced budget for that whole time, but simply a rush to spend more and increase taxation. We have turned that around this year. We changed the debate from where it has been for a very long time.

As to the continuing resolution, the President is probably going to sign it. They say this President is responsible. The Congress is responsible for spending, and it is our responsibility. We are the trustees that have that to do.

I am, frankly, very proud of what we have done this year. For the first time, we presented a balanced budget to the President. Unfortunately, he vetoed it. I do not think the President wanted a balanced budget at that time. But now we are talking about how you reduce spending, how you reduce the size of Government rather than how much it could grow. For the first time, we will make today a downpayment on a balanced budget. We will have a budget at the end of this year that will be in keeping with our 7-year effort to do that. That is progress. That is, I think, a significant victory that should be claimed. It is the first step on the road to success.

What about the change in the President's behavior? I think that is significant as well. Three years ago the President talked about more spending, and about investment. He talked about stimulating the economy through spending. And we had the largest tax increase in the history of the world. Two years ago we were talking about placing one-seventh of the entire economy under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government in health care. This year the President is talking about the era of big government being over. Now, if that is not a change. I am delighted for that. A year ago the President presented a budget none of which balanced. The President is under pressure, I think, from the Congress to present a balanced budget, and that is a movement forward.

So I think this is a great victory for the American people and for future generations. Have we completed our victory? Of course not. Is it good enough? No. Is it a good start? Yes. We probably succeeded in three-quarters of what we set out to do. Did the President make the needed changes in entitlements? No. But he did make some accommodation. He talked about some choices in Medicare. He talked about some caps on Medicaid. He talked about a commitment to welfare. Those are changes. And until we make those, of course, there is no real budgeting. But that is where we have come.

We are talking now about the end of big government. The debate is not about growth, but how we reduce the size of government. These are the things the President talked about before the election. But now we are back to that. I think that is great. I am excited by the opportunity to do that.

Thomas Jefferson said that we do divide naturally in this country, regardless of what the party is called, between those who think there ought to be an elite governing and we take the money from the folks and provide the programs and those who believe people ought to take care of themselves and the Government's role is to create an environment in which the private sector can work. We are still divided that way. That debate, of course, will go on.

So, Mr. President, I think today we ought to say we have had a very successful 1995. We have changed the debate. We are structured differently. We are talking about the possibilities of reduction instead of the certainty of increases. We are talking about a balanced budget, and we have begun and made a downpayment on that. There is a great deal to do, of course, but I believe we ought to recognize that we have made a victory, that we have made some real progress, and that we ought to move forward.

There are other things we need to do. We need to deal with welfare. We need to deal with regulatory reform. We have some health reform that we ought to do. We have to empower the States to be able to do more of those things so there is flexibility and fit. We have to accept, probably most of all, the responsibility for paying for the benefits that we are now providing instead of putting it on the credit cards for our kids and our grandkids.

So, Mr. President, I hear a lot of grumbling and wondering and confusion. It seems to me that we have had a good year. We have done a very difficult thing, and that is make a fundamental change in the direction that this Government is taking, one that I think is good for America, it is good for all of us as citizens and taxpayers and, maybe most of all, it is good for our kids and our grandchildren.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. DEWINE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for 10 minutes.

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

(The remarks of Mr. DEWINE, Mr. GLENN, and Mr. SPECTER pertaining to the introduction of S. 1529 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. SPECTER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

(The remarks of Mr. SPECTER pertaining to the introduction of Senate Joint Resolution 48 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, in the absence of any other Senator on the floor, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

## URGING SUPPORT FOR THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I would like to report to the Members of the Senate the progress of the telecommunications bill and urge that all Members continue to show great interest. I also urge all citizens interested in this legislation to show vigilance and continue to support the bill and urge that it be passed.

As Members of the Senate know, consideration of this bill has gone on for a long time and it is a bipartisan bill. It has attracted the support of many groups across the country. We now have the regional Bell companies supporting the bill and we have the long-distance companies supporting the bill. That is an unusual, rare moment in American history when the regional Bells and long-distance companies are temporarily at peace, so to speak.

Indeed, the labor union, the Communications Workers of America [CWA], yesterday sent a letter to Senator DOLE urging that the bill be passed. So this bill has gotten an unusual amount of support. The big cable companies and the small cable companies support it. The broadcasters support it, to the extent of what is in the bill now.

I know there is a dispute over the spectrum area. What I am saying is that we have an historic opportunity to pass a bill. But if we hesitate very long, this whole thing will come unraveled. I am very worried about it coming unraveled. So I rise to ask for the continued vigilance and support of everybody across the country and of my fellow Senators.

Let me say a word or two about the spectrum issue that has arisen. Our leader has, quite correctly, raised the issue of the spectrum. I would say this bill does not give the spectrum away as it is written. We believe strongly that there is some misunderstanding about what the bill says about the spectrum. Indeed, this Senator tried very hard to put the spectrum auction issue into the reconciliation bill, and later have it dealt with as a budgetary matter.

The point before us is that we are going to have to have a broad spectrum bill. I like to call it a ''grand spectrum debate.'' I think the sale to MCI yesterday, its new bid of approximately $680 million for something that was scored by CBO at less than $100 million, shows the value that there is in the spectrum and the potential savings to taxpayers. We have to think about the taxpayers.

It is not just the broadcasters who use the spectrum. The spectrum is also used by people with handheld radios, and by people doing radar photography. The military has a good deal of spectrum allocated to it, as does the CIA. We need to educate ourselves and the people of the country about the value of all this spectrum use and what the taxpayers' interest in it is.

There has been very little, for example, on television shows discussing the spectrum, strangely enough. We have not had a feature on the spectrum and its value to the taxpayers on ''60 Minutes'' that I know of. Nor have we seen Ted Koppel doing a feature on the spectrum and how valuable it might be to the taxpayers.

For some mysterious reason, there have not been very many television shows on the networks that educate the public about the spectrum. I urge those shows to do so.

In any event, it is not just the broadcast spectrum we are dealing with here. It is all the spectrum out there that is being used. New technologies may make four or five uses out of the spectrum where once only one use was possible. Something designed for one use can now be used for transmitting data and other things. As new technology and new inventions come into play, it may be worth four, five times as much. Where once you might have one TV channel, you now may be able to have four. You may be able to transmit data on one station and do something else with another.

So the taxpayers have a real interest in this, as do budget balancers. We did not really try to solve this problem in the telecommunications bill. Some misunderstandings are floating around. We more or less delayed a decision on the spectrum in the telecommunications bill. So I have suggested that we have a grand spectrum debate and that we have a spectrum bill. We have already had hearings. I suggest that we go through all the spectrum, from the broadcasters' use to other, different uses of it, including that held in public and private use. That we look at what the military has and what the CIA has. We will have to have a classified briefing.

We should not hold up the telecommunications bill for that purpose. It is my hope that in a few days we can work out some language, or leave the present language in the bill.

So we are making a good-faith effort. I am saying that I do not think we can solve all of the spectrum issues at this time. I have tried to do it. The votes are not there. We are in a deadlock situation.

Let us not lose the whole telecommunications bill over this matter. It is too good a bill. We have worked long and hard. It is a bipartisan bill. It is the best bill in this Congress, in this Senator's opinion. It will create jobs in our country. It will provide a road map for investment.

I urge that we act on it soon. I am continuing to lobby our leaders and everybody else. In fact, yesterday the spectrum and the telecommunications bill were the subject of Senator DOLE's remarks when he traveled in South Dakota. I commend him again and thank him for his kind remarks about my work on this bill.

I hope we can work out these problems soon. I urge all groups not to slip into lethargy. We have a lot of work left to do on this bill. It will not pass automatically. We must keep working at it. That is what I am doing. That is what I urge my colleagues to do.

## TRIBUTE TO BARBARA JORDAN

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary and brilliant woman—former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan. I was deeply saddened by Ms. Jordan's death. She was very special to me, and to this country. She enriched and moved this Nation unlike any other American.

Barbara Jordan was in a class all by herself. I was fortunate enough to serve with her in U.S. House of Representatives. She taught me a lot about what it means to be a tough advocate for the American people.

Nothing stopped Congresswoman Jordan from forging ahead—not race, not gender, and not her illness. She lived her life as a teacher never giving in to the victim mentality. Not Congresswoman Jordan. That was not her style.

She had an immense impact on this Nation, and yet, Barbara Jordan served as a Congresswoman for only 6 years. But during that time, she used her rich, booming and elegant voice, to leave a powerful impact on this Nation. She believed, as I do, in letting your voice be heard.

She spoke forcefully about important national issues, and she had commitment and conviction like none other. She had a special kind of commitment—the kind that's hard to find.

She never wasted a breath on nonsense, but always spoke the truth so eloquently. She was a true pioneer for