

It is sad to have to conclude on this note, but this is clearly a failed budget. Once it passes, as it will, we will be starting over again on what we went through last year—meeting after meeting, crisis after crisis, and not a workable budget that can be supported by the President, by the minority in both the House and the Senate, and certainly not by the American people. When, oh, when, will they learn?

Mr. President, I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. I wonder, since nobody else is seeking recognition, if I might ask the Senate if they would mind my yielding up to 5 minutes to Senator ABRAHAM for comments on Senator DOLE, to be taken off my time.

Mr. EXON. We have no objection.

Mr. DOMENICI. I so request and so yield.

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

The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BOB DOLE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise at this time to speak in concert with so many others who have spoken today about the career of Senator BOB DOLE who today moved on to a new role and new responsibilities and left behind a legacy that is virtually unsurpassed in the history of the Senate. Obviously, the accomplishments that BOB DOLE achieved, both as a leader in the Senate as well, in his earlier career, as a Member of the House of Representatives, have been chronicled pretty thoroughly both by the media as well as by Senator DOLE himself today. It is a legislative record that any of us would be, I think, immensely proud to have at the end of our careers here in this institution.

So, what I thought I might do instead was to just spend a minute or two talking about the personal side of BOB DOLE, the side that many of us here in the Senate know but which is maybe not as well known to the American people.

I have certainly come to know BOB DOLE as a friend. He is somebody who, from the very day that I arrived in the Senate, had a door that was open to me, and I know it was open to others in the freshman class that makes up this 104th Congress. He is a man who did not view himself as a senior Member and we as, somehow, junior Members not to be on the same playing field, but somebody who viewed us all as Members of this institution, as equals, who treated us that way, as he treats everybody.

He is a man of great compassion, a person who, through his own life's experiences, I think, probably cares about and sympathizes and understands the problems that his fellow citizens have more than virtually any-

body else in national leadership. He is a person who, I think, personifies the words trust and honesty and integrity more than anybody I have ever worked with in the political process or in the private sector. I have never known anybody who has served with BOB DOLE who has not said that his word was good, that his word was always one that you could count on. That is clearly a reason why he is held in such high esteem on both sides of the political aisle.

These qualities, his capacity to be a good friend, his compassion for his fellow citizens, the honesty, the trust and the integrity that he brought to his service here in the Congress of the United States, make him a giant, in my opinion, a giant who will be remembered far beyond the balcony which today was named after him. But he will be remembered along with the names of Webster and Clay, Johnson, Mansfield, and others who have served and who are remembered as the important ingredients in the formation of our democracy and its continuation.

I would just say this. Although my tenure in the Senate has lasted only a year and a half, I am extraordinarily proud that I had the chance for that year and a half to serve with BOB DOLE. I happen to be one of those who believes that his career in public service is not coming to an end today but that in just a few months he will be back in a different role, working together with us. But I am proud that I had the chance to serve as a fellow Member of the U.S. Senate with him.

Some people come to this Chamber and perhaps never are given the opportunity to work closely with one of the giants of our Nation's history and of the Senate's history. I feel very lucky and fortunate to have had that chance, even if it was only for a year and a half.

I wish him and his family great good fortune as they move on to a new challenge in this political campaign, and the best of luck and best wishes for the future.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, just for purposes of some kind of accounting, how much time has Senator EXON used and how much have I used, with all of that which I asked that I yield and asked be credited to me even though the speeches were on Senator DOLE?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico has used 28 minutes; the Senator from Nebraska has used 17 minutes.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask Senator EXON if he has any other Senators coming down this afternoon.

Mr. EXON. I advise my friend, I am expecting Senator KENNEDY momentar-

ily. I have no certainty beyond Senator KENNEDY, but I am certain Senator KENNEDY will be here very shortly, and I will yield to him such time as he needs when he comes. Other than that, I know of no Senator on this side who will be speaking tonight, but we have had surprises before, as you know.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I will just ask again if there are any Republican Senators desiring to speak on this budget resolution or ask any questions regarding it. While there will be some time tomorrow—I am not at all sure how much time there will be—to speak on the resolution. I think we are going to be here—

Mr. EXON. I might advise my colleague that Senator KENNEDY will be using approximately 30 minutes when he arrives, and I have just been advised Senator SIMON, a member of the Budget Committee, wishes 15 minutes. So that is about 45 minutes that I know of for Senators at this juncture.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I repeat for Senators on this side, if they would like to speak this evening—I know it is somewhat of an imposition since we have already announced there are no votes for the remainder of the day—there will be some time this evening and there will be some time tomorrow. Clearly, there will be some Members who would like to be heard.

Mr. President, I yield myself 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ABRAHAM). The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I did not get to hear all the remarks of the distinguished Senator from Nebraska, but I believe I know generally what his criticism is, and I would like to address my views and my beliefs with reference to this budget.

First, Medicare, the trust fund for the senior citizens' hospital protection—and I do not say this with any joy in my voice—is going broke. I do not know how else to say it. This is not partisanship that determines that the trust fund is going bankrupt. It is not Republicans predicting it, it is not Democrats predicting it, in the sense of elected Members of Congress.

The trustees who are in charge of telling the American people the truth about the trust fund and making recommendations have, once again, reported—I do not say this to frighten anyone; it is just true—we are now spending more money out of the trust fund for senior citizens than is coming into the trust fund. In fact, we started doing that last year by a small amount. It is growing this year, that is, the amount that is spent in excess of what is coming in, and the next year after that it is more, and the trustees say in 5 years—in 5 years, not 30, not 20; 5 years—there will not be any money in the trust fund to pay the hospital bills for senior citizens.

No one has violated the trust fund. Congress has not taken money out of the Medicare fund. All of the money in