

pattern, one with significant entitlement reform which continues to protect our most vulnerable citizens, and one which makes a justified modification of the consumer price index. This plan, offered as a substitute during the consideration of the current budget resolution, was the only proposal to receive significant bipartisan support this year, garnering 24 Democratic votes and 22 Republican votes.

While I certainly understand the inability to move this proposal this year given election year politics, I am hopeful that it will provide the seeds for an effective compromise early in the next Congress since the budget resolution before us does not move us any closer toward long-term balanced budgets than we are today.

Mr. President, I am very frustrated by the process that we are engaged in at the moment. We have an opportunity, if we can work on a bipartisan basis, to advance the cause of a balanced budget and fiscal responsibility, and we are missing that opportunity.

I, for one, am prepared to make substantial reductions in spending in the entitlement areas—in Medicaid, in Medicare and in Social Security. I am also prepared to address the very politically sensitive area of adjustments to the Consumer Price Index to more accurately reflect inflation. But at this point, we are not going to do that.

The current resolution is designed to split the reconciliation process into three different pieces. The most objectionable part, from my point of view, is we put tax cuts right up at the front so that we undermine any public confidence that we are really serious about deficit reduction.

We are making bigger reductions in the projected spending in some of the entitlements than we need to because we are planning to put that money into a tax cut before we have actually locked in the tough, principled choices that are going to be necessary if we are going to achieve the stated objective of a balanced budget.

This resolution also substantially reduces the chance of ever getting any meaningful welfare reform in this Congress by linking Welfare reform with a Medicaid reform package that the President is committed to vetoing.

It seems to me that we ought to be able to get together; indeed, 24 Democrats and 22 Republicans found common cause with respect to a budget resolution that was submitted earlier. If we are serious about solving this particular problem, the Resolution before us is not the way to do it.

So, Mr. President, I regret very much that I am going to have to vote against the pending measure, notwithstanding my long-term commitment to deficit reduction and a balanced budget.

For the opportunity to express my views, I thank the Presiding Officer and I thank the ranking member of the Budget Committee for suggesting this approach for getting my views on the record.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time is controlled by the Senator from Nebraska, and under the previous unanimous consent agreement, he is to be recognized now for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may be allowed to speak as in morning business for 6 minutes.

I make a unanimous-consent request I be allowed to speak as in morning business for 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I spoke yesterday on the budget, and I will not reiterate that. I wanted to make a very brief statement about two issues.

BURNING OF CHURCHES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we have seen in recent weeks a series of attacks on black churches in the south. At least 33 churches have been set ablaze in a campaign of terror.

Mr. President, every one of us has to make his or her voice heard in opposition to this wave of terror. These churches have been sources of stability, of kindness, of moral and spiritual guidance for their congregations.

These fires are a chilling reminder of a period that we all thought had passed. A period marked by some of the most shameful, hateful acts ever perpetrated by Americans against Americans. A period in which bombings, fires, beatings, and shootings were tools to prevent African-Americans from realizing equal status in our society. A "dark era in our Nation's history," the President recently called it.

I want to praise President Clinton for his leadership in mobilizing Federal investigators while at the same time offering solace to the people whose churches have been burned. It is the business of the president to offer moral leadership, to console the victims of racists attacks, to call the cowards out for what they have done.

I also praise Ross Perot for his leadership in calling on his Reform Party members to guard the churches.

I also wish to praise Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN for offering a resolution, of which I am a cosponsor, condemning the church fires and urging the administration to mobilize all appropriate resources to put the people who set these fires behind bars.

Finally, Mr. President, I want to state that this is a problem not just for African-Americans, but for all Americans. We should speak with one voice and pass the Moseley-Braun resolution unanimously, so that our message is clear.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mrs. BOXER pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 262 are located in today's RECORD under "Submissions of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

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

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, as I understand the situation now, under the previous unanimous-consent request, we have 10 minutes equally divided on each side remaining before the vote. We have about 16 minutes, 17 minutes before noon, according to my clock. I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote at noon be extended to 3 minutes past noon so that the previous unanimous consent request can be abided with regard to time allotted by each side.

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

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a table showing how the deficit in this budget increases because of its tax breaks be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the table was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2001	2002	1996
CBO Baseline Deficits (April) ¹	130	165	175	182	192	194	210
Republican deficits with tax cut	130	153	147	117	89	42	5
Republican deficits w/o tax cut	130	135	129	97	63	11	-39
Addendum:							
Republican tax cut	0	18	16	18	23	26	28
Interest on tax cut	0	1	1	2	3	5	6
Total	0	19	17	20	26	31	34

¹ The 1996 deficit estimate is a preliminary revision from CBO based on current Treasury data. The 1996 estimate included in their official April forecast was \$144 billion.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, as we wrap up the debate on the budget conference report, I would like to make a few final observations, if I might.

If last year was the Republicans' winter of discontent, this is their spring of missed opportunities. I know the Republicans wanted to hit one out of the ballpark with this budget, but what they did reminds me more of the Red Sox's Bill Buckner in the infamous 6th game of the 1986 World Series. That is when he let Mookie Wilson's grounder roll through his legs. The Mets rallied and eventually won the series. That was a missed opportunity on a grand scale; so is this budget.

There was a chance—granted a small one—to craft a compromise on a balanced budget this year. To his credit, the President has repeatedly offered to come back to the bargaining table. As he has pointed out, at the very least, we could have agreed on the common