

amendments, spoke in favor of various amendments, or voted not to table the amendments that were offered. I hope that they will continue to think about the problems that have been raised with the proposed constitutional amendment.

I want to thank the organizations that have provided invaluable information and insights into this debate. In particular, I would like to thank Charles Loveless and Edwin S. Jayne, of the legislation department at AFSCME, who spearheaded the Coalition on Budget Integrity, and Robert Greenstein and Ellen Nissenbaum, of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, who spearheaded the Center's research on this proposed constitutional amendment. I also thank Eugene Lehrmann for his important testimony on behalf of the American Association for Retired Persons. I commend the 150 organizations that made up the Coalition on Budget Priorities for the hard work of each of their representatives and all of their volunteers.

I also commend Professors Robert Eisner of Northwestern University, Robert M. Solow of MIT, and James Tobin of Yale University and the 1,060 economists from around the country who came forward with a joint statement to condemn the proposed constitutional amendment.

Finally, I thank the Senate staff for its dedication and professionalism during the debate on this proposed constitutional amendment: Larry Sein and Jonathan Adelstein from Senator DASCHLE's staff; James English and Peter Kiefhaber from Senator BYRD's staff; Caroline Chambers and Jeremy Bates from Senator DORGAN's staff; Michael Myers and Melody Barnes from Senator KENNEDY's staff; Kevin Cronin from Senator FEINSTEIN's staff; Sumner Slichter and Michael O'Leary from Senator FEINGOLD's staff; Tom Faletti from Senator DURBIN's staff; Eric Shuffler from Senator TORRICELLI's staff; JIM RYAN FROM SENATOR REID's staff; Bill Dauster and Jodi Grant from Senator LAUTENBERG's staff; and Julie Kehrl and Carlos Angulo from Senator SARBANES' staff. From Senator HATCH's staff, I would like to thank Manus Cooney, Sharon Prost, Shawn Bentley, Paul Larkin, Larry Block, Steve Tepp, and Troy Dow. I was assisted, in particular, by Ed Pagano and Michael Carrasco.

As in so much that I do, my counsel Bruce Cohen was indispensable.

This effort would not have been successful, however, without the attention and efforts of hundreds and thousands of concerned Americans who want to balance the budget while preserving the Constitution and the guarantees that it provides. Their calls and letters made the difference. This is their victory.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a pe-

riod for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

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

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Monday, March 3, the Federal debt stood at \$5,358,956,534,107.64.

Five years ago, March 3, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,830,561,000,000.

Ten years ago, March 3, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,260,323,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, March 3, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,051,000,000,000.

Twenty-five years ago, March 3, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$424,645,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion (\$4,934,311,534,107.64) during the past 25 years.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM G. DAUSTER

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a most valued staff member of the Senate Budget Committee who will leave the committee this Friday to join Senator KENNEDY at the Labor and Human Resources Committee as general counsel and deputy staff director.

I am speaking of Mr. William G. Dauster, known to every Democratic Senator who ever had a question on the budget, an amendment to the budget resolution, or a budget point of order, simply as, "Bill."

You could see Bill Dauster on the Senate floor, late at night, at the side of Budget Committee Chairmen Chiles or Sasser, or Ranking Minority Member Jim Exon. He was the best right hand and the finest counsel these Senators could seek.

As the longest serving member on the Budget Committee, I have known Bill since he first walked in the door almost 11 years ago after working in private practice as a litigator with the New York City law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore. Bill Dauster served on the committee, first as chief counsel from December 1986 to November 1994, and then rose to the position of Democratic staff director and chief counsel.

I saw Bill grow into one of the most respected and expert voices on the budget. His advice and guidance made him an invaluable resource to all Democratic Senators. I think he taught a few lessons to some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle as well. But they respected him, too.

Bill Dauster took on more thankless tasks than any reasonable man could ask for, including some of the most arcane issues and twists and turns of budget process imaginable. And he did it with enormous dedication, consummate patience, an abundance of affability, and a large dose of excellent humor. Bill doesn't take himself seriously. He takes the issues seriously.

Bill Dauster leaves behind him a string of accomplishments of which few can boast, and of which many would envy. He has participated in Congress' reception of 11 Presidential budget submissions and 11 years of budget hearings.

He had a strong hand in drafting 8 budget resolutions, the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, the 1987 revision of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, at least a few amendments to the balanced budget amendment, and amendments exposing the weaknesses of entitlement caps.

During that time, Bill also wrote 3 editions of a budget process law book, 3 budget law review articles, numerous speeches, and more than 20 op-ed pieces that have appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Monthly, Roll Call, the Hill and the Sunday Journal newspapers of suburban Washington, DC. He can be justifiably proud of all of them. Bill's keen wit, nimble mind, and ability to turn a phrase are as evident and legendary as his extensive library and e-mail list. The Budget Committee may have afforded Bill a wealth of opportunities, but this body is the richer for it.

Bill's résumé, however, does not do justice to the enormous contributions he has made, not just to the budget process, but to our fellow citizens as well. He personifies a true servant, not only of this great institution, but of the people we serve.

Blessed with enormous intellectual skills, Bill has also exhibited great compassion for the less fortunate among us, especially America's children and the disabled. Bill has toiled tirelessly on their behalf. And his source of inspiration has always been his family—his wonderful wife Ellen Weintraub and their three children, Matthew, Natanya, and Emma—to whom Bill is devoted.

I certainly don't want to make this sound like a eulogy, since Bill will be just down the hallway from the Budget Committee. And I trust Senator KENNEDY will still let us call or visit with Bill to benefit from his counsel. So this is not farewell, but merely thank you, Bill, for a challenge well met and a job well done.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 19. Joint resolution to disapprove the certification of the President under section 490(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 regarding foreign assistance for Mexico during fiscal year 1997.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated: