[Rollcall Vote No. 74 Leg.]

YEAS—8

Byrd	Feingold	Reid
Conrad	Hollings	Robb
Dorgan	Moynihan	

NAYS—91

Abraham	Feinstein	Lugar
Akaka	Ford	Mack
Allard	Frist	McCain
Ashcroft	Glenn	McConnell
Baucus	Gorton	Mikulski
Bennett	Graham	Moseley-Braun
Biden	Gramm	Murkowski
Bingaman	Grams	Murray
Bond	Grassley	Nickles
Boxer	Gregg	Reed
Breaux	Hagel	Roberts
Brownback	Hatch	Rockefeller
Bryan	Helms	Roth
Bumpers	Hutchinson	Santorum
Burns	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Campbell	Inhofe	Sessions
Chafee	Inouye	Shelby
Cleland	Jeffords	Smith (NH)
Coats	Johnson	Smith (OR)
Cochran	Kempthorne	Snowe
Collins	Kennedy	Specter
Coverdell	Kerrey	Stevens
Craig	Kerry	Thomas
D'Amato	Kohl	Thompson
Daschle	Kyl	Thurmond
DeWine	Landrieu	Torricelli
Dodd	Lautenberg	Warner
Domenici	Leahy	Wellstone
Durbin	Levin	Wyden
Enzi	Lieberman	
Faircloth	Lott	

NOT VOTING—1

Harkin

The amendment (No. 295) was rejected.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise in support of the fiscal year 1998 balanced budget resolution.

I congratulate the hard-working chairman of the Budget Committee for his leadership and dedication in bringing us to this point, as well as our distinguished majority leader.

Am I especially happy to be able to use those 2 words, ''balanced budget.''

This budget resolution represents a victory for the American people; for sound, conservative principles; for those of us who have fought for years for a balanced budget; for the seniors who will be protected by a safer, sounder Medicare system; and for the workers of today and the children of tomorrow, who will benefit from a healthier economy and better jobs.

Some may be disappointed because this is not a ''perfect'' budget; but it's a big improvement over the status quo; and there's a world of difference between this budget and the big-government, tax-and-spend budgets of just a few years ago.

Less than 2 years ago, President Clinton was saying we didn't even need to balance the budget; then he said, maybe we could balance by 2005; but the new Republican majority elected in 1994, and reelected in 1996, insisted on a plan to a balanced budget by 2002—and now we've got one.

Two years ago, when the first Republican Congress in 40 years took office, we found a Medicare system ready to go bankrupt in 2001.

We said it was time to fix Medicare and we tried to slow its rate of growth to 6 or 7 percent a year, with pro-senior citizen, pro-consumer reforms.

Some from the other side tried to hit us with 30-second attack ads, claiming that seniors' benefits would be slashed and burned.

But the American people didn't believe them.

Today, finally, we have a sober, responsible, bipartisan agreement that says Medicare must be repaired—so that Medicare continues to be there for our seniors who need it.

And yes, in this budget agreement, Medicare grows at about 6 percent a year.

Under this budget, Medicare part A will be solvent for a decade.

The details that finally emerge later this year in a budget reconciliation bill will probably not contain all the structural, market-based reforms that Medicare needs for the long term, but this budget should be a good start.

Four years ago, the President asked for, and Congress unfortunately passed, the biggest tax increase in history.

Today, this budget agreement includes real, pro-family, pro-growth, tax cuts.

We finally begin to roll back that last, huge tax increase.

The skeptics said you couldn't balance the budget, cut taxes, and get bipartisan agreement.

But this budget will do those things.

Let's remember: What this budget begins to do is let the people keep more of their own money.

Under this budget, we will finally begin to get spending growth under control.

Will the government still be too big and intrusive? Yes.

But the Federal Government will spend $1.1 trillion less over the next 10 years than it would have spent under previous policies.

Spending growth will drop from 4.4 percent a year under previous policies to 3.1 percent a year under this budget—just barely more than inflation.

The Government will finally begin to shrink relative to the size of the economy.

Spending will still go up in nominal dollars, but it will drop from 20.8 percent to 18.9 percent of gross domestic product, by 2002.

Of course, a lot depends on the enforcement provisions that will have to be part of the budget reconciliation legislation later this year.

I'll be watching that legislation closely.

We've learned from bitter existence in the past that permanent procedures are needed to keep spending from running wild.

After all, the road to a $5.3 trillion debt was paved with good intentions.

That's why we should have passed—and still need—a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

But the budget enforcement rules called for under this budget resolution should help keep us on course to a balanced budget by 2002.

A majority of the people in America have seen the budget balanced exactly once or never in their lifetimes.

The last two balanced budgets were in 1960 and 1969.

A majority of Americans alive today were born after 1960.

It's time for that destructive trend to end.

It's time to create a better future for all Americans.

This budget resolution is the right beginning of that promising future.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes the budget resolution on Wednesday, there be an additional 5 hours subtracted from the overall time constraints provided for in the Budget Act.

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

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I assume we have no further amendments tonight, but I think Senator GRASSLEY would like to take some time, and I will yield that time to him at this point. How much time would the Senator like?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Can I have 20 minutes?

Mr. DOMENICI. Will the Senator mind closing the Senate after his 20 minutes? Does the Senator from New Jersey have any objection? The Senator from Iowa is going to take 20 minutes, and we will let him close the Senate if we are finished for the evening.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. No, I certainly trust the Senator from Iowa. He is not going to cut taxes.

Mr. DOMENICI. I yield the floor, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. I assume that is after I have finished my remarks on the resolution.

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

BIGOTRY MUST BE DENOUNCED

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise to condemn in the strongest possible terms recent comments that have been attributed to Mr. Freih Abu Medein, the Justice Minister in the Palestinian authority.

In a May 17 article in the Washington Post, journalist Barton Gellman reported that Mr. Medein stated last month that ''five Zionist Jews'' are running the United States' Middle East policy and, in the words of the article, he ''added that it is implausible that a

nation the size of the United States can find no one else to maintain diplomatic contacts with Palestinians.''

This statement, if quoted correctly, is deeply offensive on two counts. First, it is patently anti-semitic, or more properly, anti-Jewish. Its conspiratorial overtones reflect the worst traditions of hate-mongering that characterizes classical anti-semitism.

Second, it is a thinly veiled attempt to manipulate our sovereign right as a country to choose whoever we wish to represent us diplomatically. It also evinces complete ignorance of the American system.

I am confident that the individuals to whom Mr. Medein refers were not chosen for their religious beliefs, but rather on the strength of their qualifications for the jobs for which they were selected. Anyone who thinks otherwise has great deal to learn about this country.

If Mr. Medein or anyone else in the Palestinian Authority has difficulty meeting with American representatives who happen to profess a particular religious faith, then that is their problem, not ours.

I would submit, Mr. President, that we have the right to choose a person of any faith, any gender, and any race to represent us in any place. Should we choose an American who happens to be a Muslim to represent us in Israel, a Hindu to represent us in Pakistan, a Jew in Syria, a Roman Catholic in Yugoslavia, a Greek Orthodox in Turkey, or a Buddhist in China, then that is our sovereign right as a nation. The only criterion should be that the person be qualified for the job for which he or she is selected. Religious affiliation should have absolutely nothing to do with it. Zero. Zilch.

That is what distinguishes us from the rest of the world. For unfortunately, Mr. Medein's views are not isolated ones. They reflect an all-to-common obsession with race, religion, and ethnicity that plagues much of the world.

We may not be perfect, but our guiding ideals are unassailable. And we have successfully put those ideals into practice, with the result that many others seek to emulate us.

Mr. President, the day we pause even for a fraction of a second to contemplate the possible validity of remarks such as Mr. Medein's is the day that we abandon our most fundamental beliefs.

Bigotry must be denounced, whether it is at home or abroad. American representatives who are the object of bigoted attacks deserve to know that their country stands four-square behind them.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, May 19, 1997, the Federal debt stood at $5,344,451,048,224.65. (Five trillion, three hundred forty-four billion, four hundred fifty-one million, forty-eight thousand, two hundred twenty-four dollars and sixty-five cents)

Five years ago, May 19, 1992, the Federal debt stood at $3,920,456,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred twenty billion, four hundred fifty-six million)

Ten years ago, May 19, 1987, the Federal debt stood at $2,291,418,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred ninety-one billion, four hundred eighteen million)

Fifteen years ago, May 19, 1982, the Federal debt stood at $1,066,133,000,000. (One trillion, sixty-six billion, one hundred thirty-three million)

Twenty-five years ago, May 19, 1972, the Federal debt stood at $428,331,000,000 (Four hundred twenty-eight billion, three hundred thirty-one million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly $5 trillion—$4,916,120,048,224.65 (Four trillion, nine hundred sixteen billion, one hundred twenty million, forty-eight thousand, two hundred twenty-four dollars and sixty-five cents) during the past 25 years.

TRIBUTE TO COL. ROBERT LEARY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Col. Robert Francis Leary, who died on April 27 at his home in Concord, MA.

Colonel Leary served in the U.S. Army for 34 years, retiring in 1987. His tours of duty included positions as executive officer of the 373rd General Hospital, and chief of staff of the 804th Medical Brigade, coordinating the medical readiness of Army Medical Units in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany. He also served as commandant at Fort Devens, MA, successfully conducting this course the first time it was exported outside of Fort Sam Houston, TX. Colonel Leary was the recipient of numerous military awards for distinguished service, including Meritorious Service Medals, the U.S. Army Commendation Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

Colonel Leary also had a distinguished civilian career. He was employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in Bedford, MA as coordinator and supervisor in the Social Work Service Department. Most recently, he was program manager of the Veterans Homestead transitional housing program in Leominster, MA. In addition, he served as an equal employment opportunity Officer at Veteran Affairs Central Office in Washington, DC, and in several capacities in private practice as a licensed independent clinical social worker.

Colonel Leary shared his many wide-ranging interests with his family and friends including politics, travel, golf, hockey, baseball, and soccer. He was constantly involved in youth sport activities and was his children's most avid fan. To all who knew him, he was a model citizen and family member. His patriotism and commitment to service are an example to us all, and I am honored to pay tribute to him today.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE ORDER PROHIBITING NEW INVESTMENT IN BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 38

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 570(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208) (the ''Act''), I hereby report to the Congress that I have determined and certified that the Government of Burma has, after September 30, 1996, committed large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma. Further, pursuant to section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(b)) (IEEPA) and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1631), I hereby report that I have exercised my statutory authority to declare a national emergency to respond to the actions and policies of the Government of Burma and have issued an Executive order prohibiting United States persons from new investment in Burma.

The order prohibits United States persons from engaging in any of the following activities after its issuance:

—entering a contract that includes the economic development of resources located in Burma;

—entering a contract providing for the general supervision and guarantee of another person's performance of a contract that includes the economic development of resources located in Burma;

—purchasing a share of ownership, including an equity interest, in the economic development of resources located in Burma;

—entering into a contract providing for the participation in royalties, earnings, or profits in the economic development of resources located in Burma, without regard to the form of the participation;

—facilitating transactions of foreign persons that would violate any of the foregoing prohibitions if engaged in by a United States person; and