

or another have joined together to make a real success.

In 1993, along with every one of my colleagues on this side of the aisle, I opposed President Clinton's first budget in the firm belief that it would result in harm to our economy. Now, in a very real sense, we were wrong. For a group of reasons, the budget deficit did, indeed, decline and economic opportunity did, indeed, increase.

In 1995, as a part of a majority, we proposed a dramatic change in direction, a real balanced budget for the first time, genuine tax relief for the first time and major reforms in entitlement programs designed not only to help the taxpayers' pocket, but to save the future of Medicaid and Medicare.

That resolution never became law because of the President's veto, but it did have one tremendously positive impact. For the first time, the President and a majority of his party dedicated themselves actually to balancing the budget. During the entire year during which that 1995 budget was debated, interest rates declined, it became easier and easier for the people of the United States to purchase homes, purchase automobiles, start new businesses, provide job opportunities. Only when the promise began to fail did interest rates, once again, increase.

The promise was renewed early this year, and a few short weeks ago met fruition in an agreement between the Republican leadership of both Houses and the President of the United States.

Since even the commitment to a balanced budget paid dramatic dividends in increased economic opportunity, lower unemployment and lower interest rates, the accomplishment of a balanced budget, I am convinced, Mr. President, will bring even more rewards to the American people in lower interest rates and greater opportunity, and for the first time in decades meeting our responsibility not to spend money today while sending the bills to our children and to our grandchildren.

I am convinced, in spite of my own disagreement with some of the policies in this proposal, that it will have nothing but good results with respect to the economy of the United States. Yet, Mr. President, I am convinced there are still very real troubles ahead, very real rough spots in the road.

I note that while only eight Members of the Democratic Party voted against the budget resolution, the vast majority of them voted for amendment after amendment during the course of the last 3 days that would have increased taxes and increased spending, by my own total for the amendments, by \$88 billion in higher taxes and almost that amount in greater spending—direct violations of the agreement that they and the President have made with the Republican leadership.

As a consequence, I am convinced that it is important for all of us on both sides of the aisle to remember that we made a commitment to the American people in this agreement,

one that was almost instantly approved by the vast majority of our citizens, and keep not just those parts of the agreement with which we agree, but those with which we disagree.

I am the chairman, Mr. President, of a subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. The agreement includes a number of Presidential priorities that can only be funded through my subcommittee. Several of those priorities are ones with which I disagree. I think the money could be spent elsewhere better. But I do feel committed to keep those unpleasant parts of the agreement in order to reach the overall more important goals that are a part of a historic budget resolution.

So, in one sense, Mr. President, the vote a few hours ago was the culmination of a process and of a debate which has lasted for many, many years. In another sense, it is only the beginning. And unless it is taken seriously by those who support it, we still face the prospect of failing.

I am an optimist. I think that this is a new beginning, more than an ending to a long period of arid political exchanges. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues in order to make it happen.

(The remarks of Mr. GORTON pertaining to the submission of Senate Concurrent Resolution 29 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). The Senator from South Carolina.

(The remarks of Mr. THURMOND pertaining to the introduction of S. 813 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECORD SENATE SERVICE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I commend the President pro tempore, the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, [Mr. THURMOND]. As we will note when we come back, the distinguished Senator from South Carolina will mark a very important day on Sunday. That day will represent the first day he will have exceeded the time that anyone has had the good fortune to serve in the Senate. He will go down in history as having served longer than any other Senator, Democratic or Republican or, for that matter, any other party that has existed in our Nation's 220-year past. I congratu-

late and commend him. I look forward to having more of an opportunity when we return to call attention to his remarkable record and the success he has enjoyed. It has been my good fortune to work with him. While we differ on many issues, I certainly admire the extraordinary service he has provided this country. I congratulate him and his family on this remarkable achievement this weekend.

MARY NIEDRINGHAUS: BRANDON VALLEY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, it is my privilege today to honor Mary Niedringhaus of Brandon Valley, SD. Mary has been selected as Teacher of the Year in the Brandon Valley School District in recognition of two decades of outstanding teaching, guidance, and care that she has given the children of the community. I can think of few individuals more deserving of this prestigious award.

A fifth grade teacher at Brandon Elementary, Mary's gift is her ability to recognize and meet the needs of each of her students. She conveys an excitement for learning that her students find infectious. Whether bright or struggling, students excel in Mary's class because she genuinely believes in each of them and draws out their best efforts. After hearing Mary's lesson on importance of ladybugs to people, one little girl was so excited that later in the day she rushed to Mary and presented her with a ladybug. As she explained breathlessly, she had just rescued it from being flushed down the toilet in the girls' bathroom.

Mary holds herself and her students to the highest standards. Parents in Brandon seek to place their children in her classroom because they know that she will give them the finest education possible. Once, when planning a unit on South Dakota history for her students, Mary discovered that no good textbooks existed on the subject for grade school students. Undaunted, she developed her own curriculum based on materials she gathered on her own. Mary's curriculum is now the model used by all teachers in the Brandon Valley school district.

No remarks about Mary would be complete without mention of the deep empathy she has for others. Brandon Elementary School Principal Marv Sharkey noted that Mary, "has the knack of making parents feel like their child is the best kid in the world." Mary genuinely loves her students; I believe that this is the true source of her success as a teacher.

Finally, it seems that Mary has done as a good of job raising her children as she has teaching her students. Her daughter, Nancy Erickson, is a long-time, invaluable senior member of my staff. Mary should be deeply proud of her.

Mr. President, I commend Mary Niedringhaus for her exceptional work. Along with other district winners, she