

The amendment, it is true, has not been finalized in its final form but it certainly will be very quickly, and I might say to my good friend from Rhode Island, it is a very good amendment because it is an amendment which does not take money from other programs, as has been said by opponents. It is an amendment that does not require any additional spending, a claim sometimes made by its opponents.

I might also say that the proposed amendment to be offered apparently by the Senator from New Mexico to be co-sponsored by the Senator from Rhode Island which is an amendment that I think will cause much more mischief than is currently realized because under that amendment it gives vast additional powers to the Budget Committee above which that committee now has which would necessarily take it away from the authorizing committees.

In addition, that amendment the Senator described in conjunction with the Senator from New Mexico would also be very mischievous because it would require reauthorizing committees to go back and at least go to conference with the House every year on the highway bill, which would be the cause of all kinds of disruption.

I urge Senators to be very careful and not be taken in by the language of that amendment.

Again, the amendment we will provide will not mandate additional spending this year or any other year and will not take dollars from any other program that are important to people. It only says if there are savings next year beyond those provided for by the budget resolution, and if there is discretion of the Budget Committee and the Appropriations Committee that those committees want to spend on highway, that is their discretion. I think the Senators will find it is a very good amendment and it is good for the country.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, the point I was making is on October 9, Thursday, before we left here, we were promised that this amendment was imminent. As a matter of fact, I thought I would be handed a copy then. But now, 11 days have gone by and we still have not seen the amendment.

All I am saying to my colleagues is, just be cautious before leaping on as cosponsors of something that no one has seen yet. I don't know what the problem is, the hold up in this piece of legislation is, but all I know, it is not here yet, and while the prediction is it will be soon, all I can say is that is exactly what was said 11 days ago, and despite the time off that staffs and others had during the recess, nothing has emerged.

I ask my colleagues to just hold their fire and keep their ammunition dry and let's see what the different proposals are that are inside here, including the one which I wouldn't characterize in the same fashion as the Senator from Montana did, namely, the

Domenici amendment, which I will be part of.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO IDA BAIRD, CELEBRATING HER 95TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ida Baird of Overland Park, KS, who will celebrate her 95th birthday on October 27. Ida is a truly remarkable individual. She has witnessed many of the events that have shaped our Nation into the greatest the world has ever known. The longevity of Ida's life has meant much more, however, to the many relatives and friends whose lives she has touched over the last 95 years.

Ida's celebration of 95 years of life is a testament to me and all Missourians. Her achievements are significant and deserve to be recognized. I would like to join her many friends and relatives in wishing her health and happiness in the future.

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 appropriate committees.

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

REPORT OF THE CANCELLATION OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY (97-42)—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 72

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to Public Law 93-344, to the Committee on Appropriations and to the Committee on the Budget.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, October 14, 1997.

Hon. ALBERT GORE, Jr.,
President of the Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the "Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1998" (Public Law 105-56; H.R. 2266). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest. This letter, together with its attachments, constitute a special message under section 1022 of the Congressional Budget and Compoundment Act of 1974, as amended.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

REPORT OF THE CANCELLATION OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY (97-56)—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 73

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to Public Law 93-344, to the Committee on Appropriations and to the Committee on the Budget.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, October 16, 1997.

Hon. ALBERT GORE, Jr.,
President of the Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amount of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached report, contained in the "Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1998" (Public Law 105-61; H.R. 2378). I have determined that the cancellation of this amount will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest. This letter, together with its attachment, constitutes a special message under section 1022 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, as amended.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

REPORT OF THE CANCELLATION OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY (97-57)—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 74

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to Public Law 93-344, to the Committee on Appropriations and to the Committee on the Budget.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, October 16, 1997.

Hon. ALBERT GORE, Jr.,
President of the Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amount of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2203,