

are here. Much of it will be reflected in this budget.

I yield the floor.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, that is going to close the discussion on our side on the President's budget. I am going to yield the remainder of our time at this point to the distinguished Senator from Texas on another matter.

How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. COVERDELL. I yield the remainder of our time to the distinguished Senator from Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak as in morning business for up to 30 minutes thereafter, and I further ask that following my remarks Senator GORTON be recognized, followed by Senator GRAHAM of Florida and then followed by Senator BROWNBAC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. GORTON pertaining to the introduction of S. 346 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GRAHAM. I thank the Chair.

Mr. BROWNBAC addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 12 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator has that right.

Mr. BROWNBAC. I thank the Chair.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN SUDAN

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, I want to bring to the Senate's attention something that, when I first saw it, I found it just to be unbelievable, that the type of situation that is going on is happening in the world today, in 1999.

I am speaking of what is taking place and the human rights abuses that are occurring in the Sudan today. The northern Sudanese Government is waging a vicious war in the south against its own people, who are suffering extraordinary human rights abuses on a massive scale. Slavery—slavery—and Government-induced famine not only exist but are increasing. It is unpardonable that slavery continues in the modern world today, that in 1999 we have slavery going on in the world. And it does in the Sudan.

It is even more dismaying that this offense against humanity is officially tolerated, even perpetrated, by a national government against its own people. I believe that America has the moral authority and the duty to protest this outrageous practice.

Joined by other Members of Congress, I will be introducing a resolution

which demands the end of slavery in the Sudan. Legislation will also be introduced which challenges the famine-induced practices of the Government. Consider this a modern-day abolitionist movement, inspired by the legacy of some of the great freedom advocates such as Martin Luther King or William Wilberforce who ended the slavery trade in Britain nearly two centuries ago.

Let the facts speak for the victims. There are 1.9 million Sudanese who have died at the hands of their own Government, more people than Bosnia, Rwanda, and Kosovo combined. Over 2 million people have been displaced, driven from their ancient communities—that is nearly 10 percent of the population—and they now wander homeless, without resources, education, or hope for a decent future for their children. This is the largest internally displaced population in Africa. Most alarming, 2.6 million risk starvation this year—this year—because of Government policies deliberately calculated to produce food shortages.

Reportedly, 1998 was the worst famine in 10 years because of the official Government practices of denying food distribution to its own starving people. Experts warn that 1999 will even be worse because of the now weakened condition of the population. How could this happen when so much aid stands waiting for shipment? The answer is because the Government denies humanitarian aid organizations access to famine-stricken areas in the south. They deliberately withhold American-sponsored aid from the starving population to manufacture a famine.

Now, why would a government deliberately starve its own people? They have made starvation a weapon of war to crush those fighting for self-determination and religious freedom. Through this weapon of starvation, they can drive the people into refugee centers, which they cynically call "peace camps," and there break them with humiliating treatment, deprivation, rape, more starvation, and even bombings in peace camps.

The Sudanese people suffer terrible treatment in these so-called peace camps; they are forced to renounce their own deeply held religious beliefs as a condition to being given food. Christians and traditional tribal believers report this is a routine practice.

The U.S. Committee for Refugees issued a report recently which describes the bombing of refugee centers by the Government. The Government bombs these unarmed refugees, the women, the children, the sick, the starving, the elderly, all of whom have taken refuge in these camps as their last resort for food.

Recently, reports on female refugees state that virtually every woman interviewed—virtually every woman interviewed—was raped or nearly raped during induction to the camps. Moreover, young boys in these camps are abducted into the northern cause and used as front-line fodder. These are the so-called peace camps.

Yet the most incredible crime against humanity practiced in the Sudan today is slavery. In 1999, slavery still exists in this world, and it is officially tolerated, even perpetrated, by the National Government against its own people. Tens of thousands of Sudanese presently exist as chattel property, owned by masters who force their captives into hard labor and sexual concubinage. They are branded, beaten, starved, and raped at their master's whim. Forced religious conversion is routine. Christian and tribal traditional believers experience starvation and whippings until they renounce their own personal faiths. All slaves with Christian or African names are given new Arab names by their masters. The girls undergo a terrible practice, lightly referred to as "female circumcision," better described as "female genital mutilation," which is permanently disfiguring, extremely painful, and physically dangerous. Some Moslems also have this act forced upon them.

I asked my personal staff to investigate this situation in September. That trip to the Sudan produced extraordinary photos of children who have been redeemed by John Eibner of Christian Solidarity International.

Mr. Eibner is a modern-day abolitionist, an American who redeems people from slavery for about \$50 a person—50 bucks a person to redeem a slave today. He has rescued over 5,000 people from slavery in the Sudan since 1995. These photos from that trip show some of those redeemed slaves. I want to show those photos to the Senate. These are people my staff went and met with, who have been enslaved in the northern part of Sudan. You can see young children here in this picture who were gathered together, beautiful young children who have suffered the bonds of slavery in 1999. Here is the broader group, and a picture of the group they met with who had all been enslaved.

Then I want to show you these next two pictures up close. This is the face of slavery today in the world, in Sudan. This young boy, approximately the age of my son, was a slave in 1999, in this world today in the Sudan. You can see he is holding his arm out here as they were looking at his arm and his slave brand that he had. We have a closer picture of that brand that this young boy suffered that was put on under his slave master's hand—slavery in the world today. It still goes on. It still goes on. And it is going on in the Sudan.

Both victims and experts report that the slave practice has actually even increased since 1996. It appears that the Sudanese Government employs slavery as a deliberate means of demoralizing the civilian population and fragmenting communities. Slavery is also used to reward government soldiers fighting

this civil war. These women and children are captured as war booty, as a type of salary for the soldiers. It is repugnant that any country would permit, let alone promote the demeaning cruelties described here. Therefore I invite anyone who is touched by this account of suffering to join me in this cause to end slavery before the next millennium and stop this insane practice of man-made famines in the Sudan.

We have the capacity to do this. We need to do this. And we must do it now.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I first ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my statements the Senator from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, be recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

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

The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

MR. GRAMS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. GRAMS pertaining to the introduction of S. 347, S. 351, S. 357, and S. 358 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank you for yielding me this time in morning business to address the issue of the Federal budget. This time of year, as America starts to look forward to spring training in Florida and Arizona for the baseball season, Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives get involved in their own grapefruit league, their own spring training, which starts with our speeches on the Federal budget process. And I am sure that many people who would witness this debate would scratch their heads and say, What can that possibly mean to my family in Chicago, IL, or Springfield, IL? In fact, it has a great deal of importance and not only defines who we are as a nation and what our priorities will be in the coming year, but it also affects a lot of programs and a lot of taxes that directly impact families across America. So this kind of runup to the serious debates on the budget resolution is an important part of the annual ritual in Congress. And I am happy to be part of it today.

I have listened to my Republican colleagues, as they have spoken about their view of the budget, the budget process, and where we are in America, and it is a slightly—well, no, it is a significantly different point of view than I have. Because I take a look at this Nation and I do not see it in somber and serious terms. I don't find it depressing. I am not saddened by it. I really

look at the state of government today in Washington, DC, and see so many hopeful signs that I wonder sometimes if my Republican colleagues are looking at the same picture that I am looking at.

There are certain things which I think we ought to accept as a reality. The fact that two out of three Americans today say the Clinton administration is doing a good job suggests to me that most Americans—Democrats, independents and even almost a majority of the moderate Republicans—have come to the conclusion that this country is on the right track, this administration is doing a good job. And there is ample reason for them to reach this conclusion.

Think about where we were 6 years ago when this administration began. The budget deficit stood at nearly \$300 billion a year with no relief in sight. At the time, the Congressional Budget Office was projecting that the deficit would reach \$350 billion in 1998. At that time, no one—absolutely no one—would have expected, instead of a \$350 billion deficit, we would be running a \$70 billion surplus.

The first step on our road to recovery and sanity in the budget process was the passage of President Clinton's 1993 Deficit Reduction Act. I remember that vote as if it were yesterday. That vote taken over 5 years ago is imprinted in my memory, because we were told by our Republican critics that if we voted for this Clinton deficit-reduction plan we would drive this economy into a tailspin, we would have even deeper deficits, we would have a wholesale reaction from the American people against this new policy. And as a result of it, we didn't garner a single Republican vote in support of the Clinton deficit-reduction plan. Here in the Senate, before I arrived, when the vote was cast, it was up to Vice President GORE to cast the deciding vote for this deficit-reduction plan.

It turns out the President and the Vice President were correct and the critics of the plan were wrong. Because, as you see, we have now reached the point where that deficit reduction put us on a road toward a balanced budget, which we enjoy today. Giving credit where it is due, there was a second installment on deficit reduction done on a bipartisan basis by Republicans and Democrats which completed this effort. I am glad that we were able to do that on a bipartisan basis. But history records that the first important and most painful step in this process began in 1993 with President Clinton's proposal.

A lot of my friends on the Republican side have argued that we have been able to eliminate the deficit but at the expense of raising taxes on ordinary Americans. I have heard this so often you almost start to believe it. And then you look at the facts. The facts are these: The Treasury Department shows that a median income family of four currently pays less in taxes as a

percentage of their income than at any time in the last 20 years. It is also true for families of four at one-half the median income level and a family of four at twice the median income level.

So the Republican claims that the President has balanced the budget on the backs of working people just simply are not true. Nor is it true that the administration has increased the size of government. All of these claims about big government and big taxing just do not wash when you take a look at the facts. According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, spending has declined to its smallest share of our gross domestic product in 25 years. Furthermore, under the President's proposal, spending will continue to decline as a percentage of our gross domestic product to its lowest level in 33 years.

Sound fiscal policy has translated into economic resurgence in America which still baffles even the experts. Here we are enjoying the 95th consecutive month of economic expansion, the longest peacetime expansion in our history; interest rates stable and falling; unemployment rates coming down; welfare rolls coming down; inflation at its lowest combined rate with interest rates and unemployment in a generation.

As the President announced to Congress 2 weeks ago, the state of our Nation is strong. As Vice President GORE often says, everything that we want to go down has gone down. We are talking about the unemployment rate and welfare rolls. And things we want to go up, like family income and housing starts and new businesses, continue to go up. So when I hear these funereal tones from my Republican colleagues about how sad it is that this administration just can't get it, can't get it right, I look around at our economy and I am baffled, I cannot find the evidence for their claim.

Despite these promises of surpluses in our budget as far as the eye can see, we all know that budget projections in the future are a guess, an educated guess but a guess. Four years ago, the Congressional Budget Office forecast the deficit would exceed \$300 billion this year and approach \$500 billion by the year 2005.

With \$5 trillion of Federal debt hanging over our heads, now is not the time to abandon fiscal prudence in favor of tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, as many of my colleagues have suggested. We should take advantage of the opportunity to redirect and invest our surpluses at this moment in history where they can pay off for America in the long run. We need a responsible fiscal course to begin with. The President's budget wisely preserves 62 percent of the projected surplus for Social Security and I hope both parties can agree to this. Let me say this: If at this moment in time—this year—as we debate the budget, as we envision surpluses for years to come, if we cannot muster the will, on a bipartisan basis,