by the taxpayers. Again, this is their money. There is no excuse not to reserve it and then return it to the people who paid it.

If we don't lock in this surplus to the taxpayers, we all know that Washington will soon spend it all, leaving nothing for tax relief or the vitally important task of maintaining our long-term fiscal health.

Such spending will only enlarge the Government. It will only make it even more expensive to support in the future. And it will create an even higher tax burden than working Americans bear today.

Mr. President, I applaud the creation of the safe-deposit box for future Social Security surpluses to protect retirement security for our Nation's retirees.

But I also believe we need to create a safe-deposit box of a similar mechanism to lock in any additional on-budget surplus for tax relief and/or debt reduction beyond the fiscal year 2000 reestimate that is in the resolution.

The Congressional Budget Office reports that by 2012, we will have eliminated all the debt held by the public and we will begin to accumulate assets. By 2020, the share of net assets to GDP is expected to reach 12 percent. This is great news.

However, I believe we should use some of the on-budget surplus from the general fund to accelerate debt reduction. Currently we pay about $220 billion a year in interest. We saw from Senator VOINOVICH, in his charts, tonight how much we are spending every year just to pay the interest on the debt.

The sooner we eliminate the debt, the more revenue we will have in hand to reform Social Security, to reduce our tax burden and to finance our priority programs. This amendment will help us to achieve that goal.

We have also heard some say that Americans do not want tax relief. I hear that often: ''Americans don't want tax relief.'' Clearly they are completely out of touch with working Americans, and this is not what I hear when I listen to Minnesotans when I am at home.

A poll conducted by Pew Research Center shows that 53 percent of the American people say that the budget surplus should be used for a tax cut. Fifty-three percent want a tax cut. Only 34 percent say that it should be used for additional Government programs.

An Associated Press poll taken by ICR is even more specific. The following question was asked:

> President Clinton and Congress have predicted big budget surpluses in the next few years. Both sides want to set aside more than half of the surplus to bolster Social Security, but they disagree on how to spend the rest.

The question goes on:

> Which one of the following uses of the remainder of the surplus do you favor most: paying down the national debt, cutting taxes, or spending more on government programs?

The results of that survey: 49 percent said cutting taxes, 35 percent said to pay down the debt, and only 13 percent said that they wanted to spend more on Government programs.

There was another question that was also asked. And the question was:

> Some Republicans want a 10% tax cut for everyone. President Clinton prefers tax credits for specific things like child care or taking care of disabled parents. Which approach do you like better?

And the answer: 50 percent said they want a 10-percent cut for everyone, 44 percent want tax credits for specific things.

Mr. President, Americans' message is loud and clear. They want—and deserve—major tax relief.

Again, my biggest fear is that without the lockbox, the Government will spend the entire additional on-budget surplus generated by working Americans. Last year's omnibus appropriations legislation was a prime example of how the Social Security surplus was spent by Congress.

This year's supplemental threatens to be equally abusive if we cannot agree on any offsets.

Mr. President, as I conclude tonight, we must protect the interests of our taxpayers. We must secure the future for our children's prosperity. This amendment would allow families, again, the opportunity to keep just a little more of their own money and to provide a good downpayment on debt relief. I urge my colleagues strongly to support this amendment.

Thank you very much. I yield the floor.

Mr. CRAPO addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate from Idaho.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ALLEGATIONS OF SPYING AT LOS ALAMOS, SANDIA, AND LAWRENCE LIVERMORE LABORATORIES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, for decades Los Alamos, Sandia, and Lawrence Livermore have attracted the greatest scientists in the world. That has not changed with the end of the Cold War; the knowledge and skills in those laboratories are unequaled in the world and the envy of the world—for that reason, others will always try to gain that information. The directors and scientists have, since the inceptions of the laboratories, been cognizant of the fact that they are the target of spying.

As we consider how to respond to these recent allegations—and some steps have been taken including: the initiation of an aggressive counter-intelligence program at the laboratories that has had its funding increase substantially in the last 24 months and we have halted a declassification initiative until its implementation can be reviewed—we have to ensure that our actions do not undermine the excellence of the laboratories.

Interactions with experts outside the laboratories and outside the United States are critical to the pursuit of scientific knowledge and underpin the vitality of the laboratories. Cutting off those interactions will cause the capabilities at the laboratories to fade with time until, at some point, no one would spy on our labs there wouldn't be anything worthwhile in them.

I have been briefed by:

The Director of Central Intelligence;

The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Department of Energy officials, and others on the recent allegations of spying by the Chinese at Los Alamos National Laboratory. I will await the final report of the panel of experts appointed by the Administration before I assess what damage has been done by this latest episode, but some facts are evident.

We do know, without doubt, that China's intelligence program against the United States has yielded some results—they have gained access to classified nuclear weapons design information. However, we do not know how much information they have gained or how much that information benefited their nuclear weapons program.

I must also say that it is unclear how China gained that information. The Chinese do target our nuclear weapons laboratories, but they also target other potential sources of the same information including other parts of the government, its contractors, and the military branches.

It is also unclear how useful information China may have gained, about the W–88 in particular, is to China. The W–88 is extremely advanced; the product of fifty years of our best scientific and engineering know-how. In many ways, China's nuclear weapons program is not capable of utilizing the W–88 design.

That is not reassuring when you look out over the coming decades, and in any case, knowing where our years of work led our designers will allow the Chinese to avoid some of the mistakes we made, but the Chinese do not currently have warheads anything like the W–88.

Despite the fact that the Chinese capability today does not come anywhere near matching ours, the Chinese nuclear weapons program is threatening. China does share its nuclear weapons technology with others along with its missile technology, and it continues to develop more advanced nuclear weapons designs.

Chinese nuclear capabilities threaten its neighbors and limit the opportunities to pursue broad arms control