

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing a resolution regarding recent reports coming out of the U.S. Postal Service.

On Tuesday, the United States Postal Service in an effort to cut costs announced that it may eliminate Saturday mail delivery, thus reducing home delivery to five days a week.

I believe this would be a terrible mistake. Saturday delivery is an essential service, and we should make sure it continues. Eliminating the sixth day will lead to inevitable delays for mail delivery as well as higher costs to pay overtime to our postal workers.

So my resolution would put the Senate on record as strongly opposed to a cut in service. The amendment will also call on the governing body of the Postal Service to take the necessary steps to ensure the essential service goes uninterrupted.

Cutting out the Saturday delivery would represent a major change for the service, a service that many Americans, especially our seniors who don't use e-mail, have depended on for decades.

People across America depend on the services of the Postal system. Millions of working families depend on the mail for their pay checks, millions of seniors depend on the mail for their Social Security checks, and millions of poor Americans can't afford computers and don't have access to things like e-mail which many of us take for granted. We should not let them down.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 351. Mr. BOND proposed an amendment to amendment SA 170 proposed by Mr. DOMENICI to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 351. Mr. BOND proposed an amendment to amendment SA 170 proposed by Mr. DOMENICI to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011; as follows:

- On page 36, line 6, increase the amount by \$967,000,000.
- On page 36, line 7, increase the amount by \$967,000,000.
- On page 43, line 15, decrease the amount by \$967,000,000.
- On page 43, line 16, decrease the amount by \$967,000,000.
- On page 48, line 8, increase the amount by \$967,000,000.
- On page 48, line 9, increase the amount by \$967,000,000.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2001

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 23, the Senate resume H. Con. Res. 83, and the majority leader, or his designee, be recognized to make a motion for the Senate to insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes thereon, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, those conferees being: Senators DOMENICI, GRASSLEY, and GRAMM, and Democratic nominees to be announced on Monday, April 23. There will be two of them.

Further, there will be 4 hours equally divided for debate only, and following that debate, the motions be immediately agreed to without any intervening action, motion, or additional debate, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could take a moment while Senator DASCHLE is present, I thank the managers of this legislation on behalf of all the Senate. Being chairman of a committee and ranking member of a committee always has its challenges. And when you manage a bill on the floor, any of them can present difficulties and take quite some time. But probably no bill is any more difficult than the budget resolution because you have so many different parts. You are dealing with mandatory programs, appropriated accounts, the aggregate numbers, and those categories, as well as what you are going to do with regard to tax policy. It is not an easy job.

I must say that Senator DOMENICI, the chairman of the Budget Committee, and Senator KENT CONRAD, the ranking Democrat on the committee, have done an excellent job. We really appreciate it. It has been long hours. But I watched you working last night and again this morning, and I am sure there are many Senators who would not have believed we would be where we are at this moment—20 minutes to 3—having completed a bipartisan budget resolution.

I am sure many of us would make changes and say it is not perfect, but in the years I have watched votes on budget resolutions—and they now go back over some 25 or 26 years since we first started the budget resolution—I only remember two or three times where it was really a bipartisan budget resolution. This vote of 65-35 was, I think, a good vote, a positive vote, and a good step toward completing our work this year on all the different components of this bill. So I congratulate you and thank you for your work.

I say to Senator DASCHLE, would you like to comment?

Mr. DASCHLE. If the majority leader will yield, I only add my voice to the majority leader's. He has spoken for both of us again in complimenting our chair as well as our ranking member.

This is the first managerial responsibility, under our Budget Committee, that our ranking member has had. I must say, he has made us all proud and very grateful. He has done an extraordinary job. And his staff has been very helpful, as we worked through many of the legislative landmines we faced over the course of the last several days.

I would also like to thank our Democratic whip, Senator REID of Nevada, for the outstanding job he did in helping our ranking member and working through the many challenges we faced. He, as he always does, has been just a tremendous workhorse. Senator REID deserves our thanks and our debt of gratitude as well.

I thank the majority leader for yielding.

Mr. LOTT. In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to join in expressing appreciation for Senator REID. We consider him the utility player for both sides. He does wonderful work. We do appreciate it.

Also, I want to take note that Senator DOMENICI, as chairman of the committee or ranking member, has been involved in every budget resolution we have worked on since the law went into effect back in the 1970s; and he has been the manager on our side 14 times.

So we have the old pro here, and we have the new ranking member, and they both did a great job and worked together quite well. We do appreciate it.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I say to my good friend, Senator KENT CONRAD, it is a pleasure working with you. I extend my congratulations for a superb job. It was a very difficult budget from the standpoint of both of us. In the last 36 hours, you and HARRY REID have been miracle workers. We very much appreciate your willingness to help us get through this, and get through quickly, so that our Senators can get on with their Easter recess and so that we could do something significant before we leave.

Mr. CONRAD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, first of all, I thank the majority leader and the Democratic leader for their kind comments. It has been terrific working with them. I also want to highlight the work of the chairman of the committee who has done a very fair-handed job of managing the Budget Committee. We thank him for his fairness, and we appreciate very much the working relationship we have established throughout the year.

I think our committee was one of the first to reach agreement in this power-sharing arrangement. And certainly here on the floor, Senator DOMENICI worked in such a constructive and gracious way. We appreciate it very much.