Recall that back in 1981, they had surplus projections, too. In President Reagan's first budget, incorporating his major tax cut, the administration projected a $28 billion surplus in the fifth year, 1986. In the actual event, the federal government ran up a $221 billion deficit in 1986. The Reagan budget was thus off by $249 billion in its fifth year alone. Over the 5 years covered by the Reagan budget, its projections were off by a total of $921 billion.

Expressed relative to the government's total outlays, the first Reagan budget's surplus projection for 1986 was off by an amount equal to fully a quarter of all the government's spending. Expressed as a share of the gross domestic product, the first Reagan budget's surplus projection for 1986 was off by 5.6 percent of the economy.

If this budget resolution conference report is off by the same share of the economy as President Reagan's budget was, it will miss the mark by $744 billion in the year 2006 alone and $2.9 trillion over 5 years.

As both Senators CONRAD and BYRD have ably pointed out, the people who make the surplus projections, the Congressional Budget Office, say in their own report that they regularly miss the mark in their projections. CBO says that over the history of their 5-year projections, they have been wrong in the fifth year by an average of more than 3 percent of the gross domestic product. Thus, CBO says right in their own report that just their average error in the past would lead you to expect that they will be off by $412 billion in 2006.

We should not commit to massive tax cuts of the size in this conference report on the strength of these flimsy projections. Rather, we should enact a moderately-sized tax cut now, and revisit the possibility of additional tax cuts in a few years if the projected surpluses actually materialize.

And this budget resolution conference report also puts the Nation's needs in the wrong order by committing to these massive tax cuts before we have updated and ensured the long-term solvency of the Medicare system. In their 2001 annual report, concluded under the Bush Administration, the Trustees of the Medicare Hospital Insurance trust fund project that its costs will likely exceed projected revenues beginning in the year 2016. The Trustees say: ''Over the long range, the HI Trust Fund fails by a wide margin to meet our test of financial balance. The sooner reforms are made the smaller and less abrupt they will have to be in order to achieve solvency through 2075.''

This budget resolution conference report puts the Nation's needs in the wrong order by putting these massive tax cuts before extending the solvency of Social Security. Social Security's Trustees remind us again this year that when the baby-boom generation begins to retire around 2010, ''financial pressure on the Social Security trust funds will rise rapidly.'' The Trustees project that, as with Medicare, Social Security revenues will fall short of outlays beginning in 2016. The Trustees conclude: ''We should be prepared to take action to address the OASDI financial shortfall in a timely way because, as with Medicare, the sooner adjustments are made the smaller and less abrupt they will have to be.''

We know, these are not alarmist projections. These projections were signed by, among others, Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, and Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson. If the right hand of this Government knew what the left hand was saying about our future commitments, we would not be acting first to cut taxes and only later taking steps to extend the lives of Medicare and Social Security.

This budget resolution addresses only one side of the Nation's needs. It is a lopsided budget. And we can do better.

Let us not neglect our long-term commitments to Medicare and Social Security. Let us not squander years of efforts to balance the budget in one great fiscal jubilee.

I urge my Colleagues to reject this conference report. And let us begin to address the long-term needs of our Nation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada, Mr. ENSIGN.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I have a number of items for wrapup. I ask the following consents as in morning business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following nominations, and, further, the Senate proceed to their consideration: Pat Pizzella, PN296; Ann Combs, PN354; David Lauriski, PN324; Shinae Chun, PN370; and Stephen Goldsmith, PN222. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

Pat Pizzella, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Ann Laine Combs, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

David D. Lauriski, of Utah, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

Shinae Chun, of Illinois, to be Director of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor.

Stephen Goldsmith, of Indiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2005.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK AND NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 85, submitted earlier by Senator WARNER for himself and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 85) designating the week of May 6 through 12, 2001, as ''Teacher Appreciation Week'', and designating Tuesday, May 8, 2001, as ''National Teacher Day''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 85) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The text of the resolution is located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Submitted Resolutions.'')

HONORING THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 108, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 108) honoring the National Science Foundation for 50 years of service to the Nation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (H. Con. Res. 108) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate