

Republican President created this deficit from bipartisan policies they jointly developed.

To those Democrats who claim Republicans have no right to discuss deficits, they need look no further than their own actions. Take a look at the fiscal effects of the stimulus bill they crafted 2 years ago. Take a comprehensive look at the real deficit impact of ObamaCare.

Take an honest look at the appropriations bills that piled on double-digit increases in spending.

American families don't have the luxury of 84 percent or 24 percent increases in their spending. They have made their priorities and restrained their spending.

If American families can prioritize, deleverage, and live within their means, I hope the President will push his allies in Washington to do the same.

All of us in Congress await the arrival of President Obama's third budget.

The American people are demanding that he make deficit reduction a priority. And they are asking Congress to approach this subject in an intellectually honest fashion.

We need to acknowledge that when it comes to the budget, the road to fiscal ruin has been paved with good intentions. In the name of fixing the economy, the Democrats' stimulus bill has imposed both short-term and long-term costs on American taxpayers, jeopardizing economic growth and, with it, liberty and opportunity. That damage has been expanded with un-offset extensions of what we were told were temporary provisions.

As we start writing a budget, let's do it with all the fiscal cards on the table. Let's remove the political blinders and deal with the fiscal facts. And that means being realistic about expiring tax relief, its merits, its economic growth effect, and its political popularity.

This is not a problem that we can tax our way out of. Getting our fiscal house in order is going to require hard decisions on spending. We need to put our shoulders to the wheel. We owe it to the people who sent us here.

There is an old saying that applies here. I am not the first person, nor will I be the last, to reference it in the context of our fiscal troubles. The saying is: When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging. We need to use our shovels to fill this fiscal hole, not dig it deeper.

I look forward to this debate on spending. It will not be an easy one. But the American people have demanded that Congress take up this cause, and I fully intend to.

Ultimately, I am confident that we will achieve meaningful deficit reduction. Yet I go into this debate with my eyes open.

President Reagan, in the foreign policy arena, reminded us to trust, but verify.

As we await the President's State of the Union speech, Republicans trust that Democrats will make a nod toward deficit reduction, but we need to verify whether they are serious about getting this problem under control.

Democrats do not have a great track record when it comes to cutting spending. But hope springs eternal.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, on Monday, January 17, our Nation once again celebrated the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a national holiday. Signed into law in 1983, the bill to make Dr. King's birthday a legal public holiday was the result of a 15-year legislative effort.

Although I was not a Member of the Congress at the time, I remember well the national debate and eventually the overwhelming support this legislation engendered. For the Senate pages on the floor today, for their entire lifetimes, Dr. King's birthday has been a Federal holiday. But they and all young Americans should know the passage of that law was not certain and not without controversy at the time.

I was the speaker of the Maryland house of delegates in the 1980s when the State of Maryland took up legislation to make Dr. King's birthday a State holiday, and we were one of several States that passed State laws to make Dr. King's birthday a holiday. As the federalism system works, as more States got engaged in this issue, the momentum at the national level became very apparent. And for the importance of this day and its message to Americans, the Congress finally enacted legislation in 1983.

This holiday, which has appropriately come to be known as a day of service, would not have happened without the leadership of former Senator Charles Mathias of Maryland. I am very proud of the work Senator Mathias did on this issue and so many issues that were important to the opportunities for all Americans. I also want to acknowledge the work of former Representative Katie Hall of Indiana. They were the authors of the 1983 legislation. This holiday also would not have happened without the work of Representatives JOHN LEWIS and JOHN CONYERS, who have dedicated their lives to social justice. Also, I might add, without the work of our former colleague, Senator Ted Kennedy, this bill would never have be-

come law. I congratulate all of them for their work.

Serving in the Senate today are colleagues whom I would also like to thank for their efforts to enact this legislation, the 1983 King holiday bill. Six of the thirty-four sponsors are still in the Senate today, including Senator BAUCUS, Senator BINGAMAN, Senator INOUE, Senator LAUTENBERG, Senator LEVIN, and Senator LUGAR, as well as the president of the Senate, Vice President JOE BIDEN. Moreover, five Senators who were Members of the House of Representatives at the time were original cosponsors of the companion bill, H.R. 3706, which became law. They are Majority Leader REID, Senators AKAKA, BOXER, MIKULSKI, and SCHUMER. I thank them all for their leadership and vision in the 1980s as to the importance of making this holiday a remembrance to Dr. Martin Luther King.

Twenty years before its enactment, in August of 1963 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King delivered what is his most well-known speech, in which he called for racial equality and social justice for all Americans.

In honor of Dr. King's birthday, I ask unanimous consent that the text of that speech be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

"I HAVE A DREAM"

(By Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

"I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

"Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

"But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

"In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the 'unalienable Rights' of 'Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.' It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note, insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds.'

"But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great

vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

"We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

"It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. And those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. And there will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

"But there is something that I must say to my people, who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice: In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

"The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom.

"We cannot walk alone.

"And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead.

"We cannot turn back.

"There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, 'When will you be satisfied?' We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their self-hood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating: 'For Whites Only.' We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until 'justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.'

"I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. And some of you have come from areas where your quest—quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive. Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Geor-

gia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed.

"Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends.

"And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'

"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

"I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

"I have a dream today!

"I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of 'interposition' and 'nullification'—one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

"I have a dream today!

"I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.'

"This is our hope, and this is the faith that I go back to the South with.

"With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

"And this will be the day—this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning:

"My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.

"Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride,

"From every mountainside, let freedom ring!"

"And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

"And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire.

"Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

"Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania.

"Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado.

"Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

"But not only that:

"Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia.

"Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee.

"Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi.

"From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

"And when this happens, when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles,

Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

"Free at last! Free at last!

"Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE DEFICIT

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, I will speak for just a few moments on something I think is the most important issue facing our country today. I can't think of a better time than the first day of the new session in the U.S. Congress to address it; that is, the Federal deficit. I am proud to say that later this week, CLAIRE MCCASKILL from Missouri will be joining me, along with RICHARD BURR, JOHN MCCAIN, Senator ALEXANDER, and Senator ISAKSON in something called the Cap Act. The bill takes us, over a 10-year period, from where we are in spending at the Federal Government level as a percentage of our country's economy, the gross domestic product, at 24 percent, down to the 40-year average which we have had in this country, as I mentioned, for 40 years, of 20.6 percent. It puts in place a construct or a straitjacket on Congress that allows us, over time, to take a methodical, thoughtful approach to spending at the Federal level but to actually have to do it.

This bill, which we also offered as an amendment during the lameduck session—it is now a stand-alone bill—again, we will be offering it a little bit later this week. We hope to have additional cosponsors from both sides of the aisle. What it would do is take us from where we are today down to that average. If Congress did not act responsibly, then OMB would have the ability, through sequestration, to actually take money out of both mandatory and nonmandatory accounts to ensure that we again have that discipline to take us where we need to be.

I have traveled throughout Tennessee and spoken about this bill. I have made about 46 presentations of how we in Congress could act more responsibly. It is amazing that people on both sides of the aisle have looked at this and said this makes a lot of sense. So it is my hope, as we look at trying to rein in Federal spending, that this bill—I believe this bill is the vehicle—there may be other ideas, but I hope this is something we, in fact, will act upon during the spring.