

How unbelievable a statement could that be, since his own numbers—not somebody else's, his own numbers when he submitted the budget on Monday, the next day—showed that the lowest single deficit in any one of the 10 years was \$600 billion. He would have added \$13 trillion to the gross debt of the United States over 10 years and the numbers, the deficits were going up in the last 5 years—a totally unsustainable course.

Erskine Bowles, the head of the fiscal commission, was in shock, I think, when he saw this. He was appointed by President Obama to head the commission. He said this will take them nowhere near where they have to go to avoid the Nation's fiscal nightmare—nowhere near. And he was absolutely right about that.

Then he also said, on CNN on a different day, another interview, the budget “takes real actions now so that between now and 5 years from now, we can get our deficit under control so that we can stabilize things so we're not adding to the debt anymore.”

It had never come close to that. It is a horrible thing. He said this. I asked him about it before the committee. I read that very quote to him before the committee 3 days later and this is what he said. I asked him, is it an accurate statement, this statement right here? And he said:

It's an accurate statement that our current spending will not be increasing the debt.

He went on to add:

We've stopped spending money that we don't have.

First of all, this Senate, this Congress, should defend the integrity of our process. We should not have high government officials come before our committees and before the American people and misrepresent in such a dramatic way the financial condition of our country. I called it then and I repeat now that this, I believe, was the greatest financial misrepresentation in the history of this Republic. If anybody has one that is bigger, let me hear it, but I don't think they will. I said that earlier today. You tell me—\$13 trillion added to the debt and they say we are not going to be adding to the debt anymore.

The budget was a terrible budget. It was a terrible budget. Editorial board after editorial board—the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, the Denver Post, the Dallas Morning News—there must have been 40 editorial boards that hammered this budget for failing to lead—the Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Investor's Business Daily—they all hammered this budget because this was early in 2011, after the 2010 elections, after the shelacking of the big spenders, and there was a hope somehow that we would be able then to get the administration to come around and change some things. But they stayed right with their big spending policies. They stayed right with it and they decided not to tell the

truth, that we are not backing down, we are going to continue to spend, we are not going to cut spending. They would not say that. This is what they said. Whereas their budget did just the opposite.

I feel strongly about this. This is not right. We in Congress should not have this kind of misrepresentation before us and we should not reward people who participate in such misrepresentation. He is the architect of the administration's calculated plan to misrepresent the budget, to not have a budget in the Senate, to not expose themselves any more than possible, to attack Republicans such as PAUL RYAN in the House, who actually laid out a plan that would change the debt course of America. That is what the plan was, and Mr. Lew was the architect of it and he executed it. Boy, what was it like, do you think, for him to be in the Senate, in the White House, and have to be told or asked: Would you go out and say this?

Mr. Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury—I ask consent to have 1 additional minute.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Geithner—and this is important, colleagues—Treasury Secretary Geithner came before the committee. He would not repeat these words. I questioned him. Of course he tried to avoid it but eventually when asked directly he honestly said: Senator, this budget will not put us on a sustainable path, exactly opposite of what Mr. Lew was saying.

I ask my colleagues to consider this. I ask them not to award the person who participated in so calculated a plan to misrepresent the financial condition of America and cause the American people to believe we had some sort of time that had the country on a sound path when we remain to this day on an unsustainable path that endangers working Americans.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I yield back all remaining time. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be. There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 71, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 25 Ex.]

#### YEAS—71

Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Hagan	Murphy
Baucus	Harkin	Murray
Bennet	Hatch	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Paul
Blunt	Heitkamp	Portman
Boxer	Hirono	Pryor
Brown	Hoeben	Reed
Burr	Isakson	Reid
Cantwell	Johanns	Rockefeller
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Shelby
Cochran	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Landrieu	Tester
Coons	Leahy	Thune
Cowan	Levin	Toomey
Donnelly	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCain	Warner
Feinstein	McCaskill	Warren
Flake	Menendez	Whitehouse
Franken	Merkley	Wyden
Gillibrand	Mikulski	

#### NAYS—26

Alexander	Enzi	Risch
Barrasso	Fischer	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Rubio
Chambliss	Heller	Sanders
Coburn	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Cornyn	Lee	Vitter
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Cruz	Moran	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Begich	Lautenberg	Udall (CO)
--------	------------	------------

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate 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.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I think the Senator from West Virginia is preparing to speak, but I will speak if he is not ready.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I understand the Senator from West Virginia is going to have the floor, followed by the Senator from Tennessee, and I wish to be recognized to make some remarks following the Senator from Tennessee.

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

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.