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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Charles V. Antonicelli, St. Joseph's Church on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Lord of all hopefulness, we come before You this day to praise You and to thank You for Your countless blessings.

With heavy hearts, dear Lord, we pray for Your peace and Your justice in our world. Help us to be the instruments of Your will. In Isaiah we read, "Put away your misdeeds from before My eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged."

God Almighty, bless and protect the men and women in this Senate who seek to do Your will. Give them right judgment. Help them to know Your loving presence always.

We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TED STEVENS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 23, the concurrent budget resolution, with 30 hours left for debate on the resolution. Fifteen hours remain under the control of the

chairman of the Budget Committee and the ranking member respectively. Pending is the Boxer amendment No. 272 striking the reconciliation instruction to the Energy Committee relating to ANWR. While Senators on both sides of the aisle participated in the debate last night, there are still several Senators wishing to speak on this amendment this morning.

The consideration of other amendments is expected during today's session and rollcall votes will occur throughout the day. The Senate will finish the budget resolution this week. Therefore, Members should expect late nights and rollcall votes for the remainder of the week. I do want to stress to my colleagues that we will finish the budget resolution this week. We have 30 hours for debate and then the voting on the amendments, which is not a part of those hours. Therefore, we really have a challenge over the next 3 days but one that we will step up to and meet.

There is a lot of indecision in terms of potential military action abroad. As we all know, the clock is ticking for a deadline tonight and we will take that into consideration, but we will be focused on the budget over the course of today. It is the Nation's business. The American people expect us to pass a budget. We have certain statutory deadlines that we will meet in this Congress and therefore will finish the budget resolution this week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, through the Chair to the leader, on the ANWR amendment, we have 40 minutes remaining on this side. The time on the other side is gone. Of course, other time can be yielded, as it will be, to speak on the amendment.

We have a couple of amendments lined up. I spoke to Senator NICKLES last night. The majority leader was present during most of those conversations. We hope to offer another amendment forthwith.

The one question that a number of Members have asked is what is the leader's—I think we all contemplate something happening in the next 24 hours in regard to the situation in Iraq. What is the leader's desire as to a resolution, which I am sure will be forthcoming at that time, as far as Members being able to speak on the resolution?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, not knowing what will happen tonight with the President's statement, as the deadline is reached for Saddam Hussein—and I have been working with the Democratic leader—we have a resolution of support and are working through the language that is most appropriate. We will do that over the course of today. Again, I want to be very careful not to anticipate an outcome which is not quite there, but if military action is begun, we would very soon introduce that resolution and give Senators the opportunity to speak. I think we all recognize that if military action is undertaken, although we hope and pray that things will be very shortlived, we do want to make sure Senators have the opportunity to express their support for our troops and for this President, if this engagement begins. So that is underway. We will address that over the course of the day. I do want to make it clear to our colleagues that we will be here this week until we finish the budget.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 23, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S3913

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 23) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2003 and for fiscal years 2005 through 2013.

Pending:

Boxer amendment No. 272, to prevent consideration of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in a fast-track budget reconciliation bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Senator CONRAD authorized Senator BOXER to control the final 40 minutes of debate. Do we not have 40 minutes on the amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Forty-one minutes is controlled by the sponsor.

Mr. REID. Senator CONRAD has authorized me to delegate that 41 minutes to Senator BOXER for allowing other Senators to speak during that 41 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

AMENDMENT NO. 272

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, at this point, I will yield to four people in sequence: Senator BINGAMAN, 10 minutes; Senator DURBIN, 5 minutes; Senator MURRAY, 5 minutes; Senator STABENOW 5 minutes. That will be the total of our speakers and then we will be happy to yield an equivalent amount of time to the other side, if that will be acceptable. These Senators would like to give their short statements and then go back to their committees.

Mr. NICKLES. Reserving the right to object, the Senator is trying to block in how much time?

Mrs. BOXER. Twenty-five minutes.

Mr. NICKLES. Reserving the right to object, let me consult with my colleague from Alaska.

Mrs. BOXER. As I understand it, I control 41 minutes of time. Is that correct? Instead of just standing here and speaking myself about this amendment, I have suggested we allow it to go in this sequence and then back to my colleagues on the other side, just for the sake of my colleagues' schedule.

Mr. STEVENS. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. When I left the floor last evening, I yielded to my colleague from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI, and it was my understanding the time would be charged against the bill. Instead, I understand it has been charged against the amendment. I ask the manager of our bill to allocate to us an equal amount of time as remains for the Senator from California under the amendment.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I am happy to yield to my friend and colleague from Alaska an hour on the bill so he may speak in opposition to the amendment of the Senator from California.

Mr. STEVENS. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

The Senator from California has the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I yield 10 minutes to a real leader on this issue, Senator BINGAMAN, the top Democrat on the Energy Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized for up to 10 minutes.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I very much appreciate the Senator from California yielding me some time to speak and briefly express the point of view that I expressed when we debated this bill last year.

As all of us know, this issue has been a perennial one. It comes back all the time in the Senate and has now for several decades. I rise to support the amendment of the Senator from California. The amendment would strike the provisions from the budget resolution that essentially pave the way for the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development.

There are various reasons, both related to national security and related to the environment, that lead me to conclude that I do not support going ahead with oil and gas leasing and development of the Arctic Refuge. The most compelling reason for not opening the refuge is that it will do very little, if anything, to further our national energy security. Not a single drop of oil would come from the Arctic Refuge for at least 7 years and more likely 10 or 12 years.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of the amendment for the following reasons:

First, drilling in the Arctic Refuge is not an answer to the problem of energy security. This chart is familiar to any who were here during the debate on the energy bill last year. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates the mean economically recoverable oil on Federal lands on the Coastal Plain of the Refuge at somewhere between 3.2 and 5.2 billion barrels and that is at prices of somewhere between \$20 and \$24 per barrel, in 1996 dollars. Clearly, prices are higher today.

The Arctic Refuge would supply no more than 2 percent of America's oil demand in any given year. This chart shows the U.S. oil consumption in million barrels per day. The top line is the total oil demand. Below, the green line, is domestic oil production. The small red line is the ANWR production. Relative to our total consumption it is a small item. It will be at least 7 years, more likely 10 to 12, before there is actual production on the Coastal Plain if we were to vote today to open this area for production. Peak production would not occur for 20 years or more after the initial production started.

Another chart shows the same point in a slightly different way, that drilling in the Arctic Refuge does not address in a significant way our reliance on imported oil. This chart contains in-

formation from the Energy Information Administration. The green line indicates the net imports with ANWR production and the blue line is net imports without production from ANWR. According to our own Energy Information Administration, which is part of this administration, they show that production would begin in about 2012 and production from ANWR of oil, any significant oil, would end by about 2025. Then we are right back where we started.

So our dependence on foreign imports to meet our oil demand will continue to grow. It will not grow as much during those years when ANWR is in production, but it will grow a substantial amount. The Energy Information Agency estimates that production from the Arctic Refuge would reduce the net share of foreign oil relied on by consumers from 62 percent to 60 percent by the year 2020. As this chart shows, by 2025 we are right back to no reduction as a result of ANWR production because ANWR production will have largely played out by that time.

Another reason I offer to my colleagues today in support of the amendment, is that a controversy over the Arctic Refuge diverts attention from the real opportunities we have for enhancing domestic energy production. There are other ways we can expand production.

Senator GRASSLEY, Senator BAUCUS, Senator DOMENICI, and I introduced the Energy Tax Incentives Act the other day. Unlike the opening of the Arctic Refuge, this legislation would provide near-term increases in domestic energy production. Not only does the legislation include tax provisions that would help us diversify our energy supply and increase our reliance on renewable sources of energy and enhance energy efficiency, it would also provide specific incentives for increased oil and gas production.

Some would ask, from where is this oil and gas production going to come? I have another chart that makes a point people do not focus on. This is a map of the North Slope of Alaska showing the ANWR area on the right, the 1002 area. It shows the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska, the large tan-colored area on the map. The National Petroleum Reserve Alaska is an area that has begun to be leased by the Department of the Interior. Secretary Babbitt began that process when he was in office. Secretary Norton is proceeding with that. Frankly, I support going ahead with drilling in that area. There is a substantial likelihood of very large energy production from that area. There is a real prospect of increased oil and gas production from the North Slope.

Let me mention gas production. I indicated one of the reasons we should not focus on ANWR is that it is diverting our attention from our other opportunities to deal with our energy needs. One of those great opportunities is to bring the gas production from the

North Slope of Alaska, gas that is already being produced and reinjected into the ground, bring that gas down to the Lower 48 States. We tried very hard in the last Congress to pass legislation to streamline the process for getting a pipeline constructed. I strongly support that. We need a pipeline to bring that natural gas to the Lower 48. Anyone who is dependent upon natural gas for home heating today knows the price is high. They are going to notice it even more over the next 2 or 3 months as they get the bills during this period of high natural gas prices. The best opportunity we have to relieve that pressure is building that pipeline to bring Arctic gas down to the Lower 48. That is what we should concentrate on: develop more oil from the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska, bring the gas already produced on the North Slope down to the Lower 48. I hope we can do that.

I also make the point that we need to continue to emphasize developing alternative sources of energy. That is something we will get into in a large way when we debate a new energy bill this Congress, a new proposed energy bill, and we can make the point again.

The solution to our long-term energy problems is not to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. It is an environmentally sensitive area, one we have determined to keep off bounds, out of bounds, for drilling up until now. I believe that is a sound policy.

In conclusion, there are many reasons why the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is not needed and should not be drilled for oil and gas. The environmental sensitivity of the area is clearly well recognized by all. Opening the Refuge is not good environmental policy. Equally important, it is far from necessary as part of our national energy policy.

I urge my colleagues to join in opposition to the oil and gas leasing and development of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and to support this amendment by the Senator from California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. It is my understanding Senator BOXER has yielded me 5 minutes.

I say to my colleagues who follow this debate, take a look at this Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. If you look at the National Academy of Sciences' recent report, it is clear that drilling for oil in this wildlife refuge in the far reaches of Alaska is environmentally dangerous. There are some who write that off and say if we get more oil out of it and create some jobs, so what. Frankly, that is irresponsible.

We have a responsibility in this generation to leave to the next generation the natural heritage that we were given. If we are not forced to go to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the survival of the United States or its economy, for goodness' sake, why would we run the risk to endanger this important National Wildlife Refuge

that we have protected for over 50 years?

Second, this is as shortsighted as it gets, to suggest the only way to deal with energy security in the United States is for us to start drilling in wildlife refuges, that small part of the world we set aside to protect endangered species, topography, and environment that you cannot find anywhere else on Earth. Now the oil companies tell us: I'm sorry, our energy needs are so substantial, we have to start drilling there?

I say to the young people in America: Following this debate, take a look at the parking lots across America if you want to know what to do about energy. Take a look at the inefficient vehicles we are driving on the road today because this Congress and this country has not shown the leadership to have more efficient cars and trucks in America. We can do it. We have done it in the past. But this bill, this issue, is consistent with what I am afraid is the wrong message to America.

The message in this bill is: We may be minutes away from a war where thousands of American lives are at risk, we may be faced with terrible news for families across America and death in Iraq to innocent Iraqis, but we can still call for a tax cut for the wealthiest people in America. The message in this amendment is: We may face the question and challenge of energy security, but rather than to say to American families, Do your part, buy vehicles that are more efficient, and to Detroit, produce those vehicles—instead of that, no, we are going to drill for oil in a wildlife refuge in Alaska. Is that what America has come to? Is that what we are all about? Don't we expect our leaders to summon us to show our best, to sacrifice for our Nation so we can lead and demonstrate to future generations that we care about our natural heritage, we care about our spirit of national sacrifice?

This is an amendment that should be defeated. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should not be drilled. We should not move forward with this exploration. And this bill calling for tax breaks for the wealthiest people in America as we are poised to go to war is a shameful bill. It is something we should not be considering on the floor of the Senate at this moment in our history. This amendment, if I understand it correctly, will not change the budget levels. This amendment failed by only 1 vote, on a party-line vote, in committee. But I believe we will win it now.

Let me begin by saying that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge provision has no place in the budget. For those who want to propose oil and gas development in this area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, we can debate that in a more appropriate context, such as the energy bill. This important issue should not be snuck into the budget through a legislative back door, but should be debated in an open, hon-

est way through the normal legislative process.

Let me also note that the full Senate has already defeated proposals to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, because it is bad policy. We should end this perennial debate once and for all, and move to more reasonable matters that deserve the Senate's attention. There are better, longer-term solutions to our energy crisis than drilling in our few remaining frontier areas, including making automobiles more fuel efficient.

The Refuge is not the answer to energy problems. The most stunning statistic in this whole debate is that the Arctic coastal plain would only yield 6 months' worth of oil for our country; and we wouldn't get it for 10 years. And this is under the most optimistic assumptions.

There is no doubt that we are over-dependent on foreign oil in our country. We need to address this issue on multiple fronts, including by exploring alternative sources of energy, such as fuel cells, and by promoting efficiency and thereby reducing consumption. I have talked with coal developers who say that we may be able to use coal to isolate hydrogen for use in fuel cells in automobiles. I have also talked with automobiles researchers, who have told me of myriad existing technologies to improve fuel efficiency in the transportation sector, the largest user of oil.

So to say that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the only answer to our energy questions in completely off-base. In fact, it is not even one of the viable answers, because it holds so little oil compared to what we demand as a country.

The Refuge deserves protection. The 1.5 million-acre coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a clear candidate for protection under the Wilderness Act of 1964. That is why I am cosponsoring Senator LIEBERMAN's bill to designate this 1.5 million acre area as wilderness. This swath of land is surrounded on three sides by 8 million acres of land already designated as wilderness.

The Arctic Refuge includes boreal forests, dramatic peaks, and tundra. It features a complete range of arctic and subarctic ecosystems, with an extraordinary assemblage of wildlife. Polar and grizzly bears, wolves, muskoxen, and snow geese are just a few of the more than 200 animal species that use the coastal plain. Also the coastal plain is the most significant on-land polar bear denning habitat in the U.S. In addition, the 155,000 member porcupine caribou herd has used the coastal plain as a calving area for 20,000 years or more. There is no alternative to this sensitive habitat for the caribou herd.

Research has documented the ecological importance of this land, and the effects of oil and gas development there. On March 5, 2003, the National Academy of Sciences released a new report that details the serious, detrimental, and cumulative effects of oil

and gas activities on Alaska's North Slope. The report finds numerous effects, including "a large oil spill in marine waters [which border the coastal plain] would likely have substantial accumulating effects on whales and other receptors because [current clean-up efforts are inadequate]." This is especially significant, given that there is an average of 423 oil spills annually on the North Slope.

The report also finds that species population decline, including reduction of some bird species such as black brant, snow geese, eiders and probably some shorebirds, is common in industrial areas in the North Slope.

In an important new discovery, the report finds "climate changes during the past several decades on the North Slope have been unusually rapid." Climate changes can change ice flow and the entire ecosystem of this area.

The report further finds that only about 100 acres—1 percent—of the habitat affected by gravel fill on the North Slope have been restored. The National Academy of Sciences concluded that unless major changes occur, it is unlikely that most disturbed habitat on the North Slope will ever be restored. Because natural recovery in the arctic is slow, effects of unrestored structures are likely to persist for centuries, and will accumulate as new structures are added.

Environmental impacts of oil and gas development are real, and that is why we need to site such activities in a careful, responsible manner.

In conclusion, Aldo Leopold, the long-time Forest Service employee and conservationist said it best in 1949: "Having to squeeze the last drop of utility out of the land has the same desperate finality as having to chop up the furniture to keep warm."

The Arctic Refuge is one of the last, remaining wilderness areas awaiting protection. Let's not destroy it; let's save it. And let's end this perennial debate once and for all. There are better, longer-term solutions to our energy crisis than drilling in our few remaining frontier areas, including making automobiles more fuel-efficient. And if we want to debate energy policy, the budget resolution debate is not the time to do it.

Out of respect for the proper legislative process, and out of respect for the seriousness of this decision in terms of energy and environment issues, and in terms of the impacts on the present and future generations of this country, I urge my colleagues to vote for the Boxer amendment.

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield his remaining time for a question?

Mr. DURBIN. Yes.

Mrs. BOXER. I wonder if the Senator had seen this chart which shows by the year 2030 how much energy is yielded by these various factors. This would be how much energy we would get from the Arctic Refuge production, 2.38 billion barrels of oil. If we just put better tires on our cars, it would result in bet-

ter fuel economy, we would save more energy.

If we just closed the SUV loophole, meaning we got those SUVs up to the same mileage as cars, we would save 10 billion barrels. And, by the way, if we did fuel economy, as my friend suggested, up to 35 miles per gallon, which is very modest, look at what it would save: 18 billion barrels. Here is what the Arctic gets us, and we destroy a region that looks like this, instead of going this way.

Mr. DURBIN. I know my time is running out. I just want to say, when you turn to the conservatives in Congress and say: Can't we improve the efficiency of our vehicles? No, that's the heavy hand of Government.

Let me tell you, drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the heavy hand of Government in a part of our world we should be protecting. It is saying to oil companies, make a profit so we don't have to ask American families and automobile manufacturers to do the right thing for our future.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am going to take 1 extra minute off the bill, if I might, to simply send to the desk a letter from Jimmy Carter, former President Jimmy Carter. Last night it was implied by several colleagues—I have their words actually—I will not go through them now—that President Carter supports drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Just to quote from a little bit of his letter, he says:

We can have the untouched sublime wilderness. Or we can have oil field development. But we cannot have both.

Opening the coastal plain for oil exploration and development would be, despite all the much-vaunted technological promises, severely damaging to wildlife and the ecosystem. And it is inherently fatal to the wilderness qualities of this matchless example of America's natural heritage.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

THE CARTER CENTER,
Atlanta, GA, February 27, 2002.
The Honorable SENATOR,
U.S. Senate, Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR: Every decade or so we seem to have a great national debate about whether or not to preserve the very best of our natural heritage. In the 1960s it was over building dams in the Grand Canyon, a desecration comparable to oil drilling in Yosemite or Yellowstone.

Now, an equally significant showdown is over the fate of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, an area first set aside for protection by President Dwight Eisenhower.

Rosalynn and I have crouched on a peninsula in the Beaufort Sea to watch the defensive circling of musk oxen that perceived us as a threat to their young. We have sat in profound wonder on the tundra near the Jago River as 80,000 caribou streamed around and past us in their timeless migration from vital calving grounds on the coastal plain. We have watched dens of wolves, large flocks

of Dall Sheep, and isolated polar bears. These phenomena of the untrammeled earth are what lead wildlife experts to characterize the coastal plain as America's Serengeti.

Having raveled extensively in this unique wilderness, I feel very strongly about its incredible natural values. I hope you will not be distracted by the argument that oil exploration and development will have minimal impact because the "footprint" of modern drilling technology will be small amid the 1,500,000 acres of the coastal plain.

This simply is not true. While a precise measurement of the exact acres finally to be covered by drill pads, gravel pits, access roads, air fields and the vast spider-web of pipelines might not exceed 2,000 acres, these acres would be spread across a far wider expanse, covering hundreds of square miles, connected by a network of modern transportation routes. The impacts on the fragile tundra ecosystem, on migratory waterfowl and on other wildlife would be much greater than the claims of the oil drillers.

The point I want to stress to you is that, as with the proposed dams in the Grand Canyon years ago, we face on the Arctic coastal plain a choice about fundamentals. We can have the untouched, sublime wilderness. Or we can have oil field development.

But we cannot have both.

Opening of the coastal plain for oil exploration and development would be, despite all the much-vaunted technological promises, severely damaging to wildlife and the ecosystem. And it is inherently fatal to the wilderness qualities of this matchless example of America's natural heritage.

Through compromises that began more than four decades ago and were concluded when I signed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, 95% of Alaska's North Slope has already been made available for oil exploration or development. We should not sacrifice the last 5%—the area scientists call the "biological heart of the Arctic Refuge"—for a speculative short-term fix of oil a decade from now.

As with previous great environmental debates, this issue has assumed gigantic symbolic stature, as some have elevated it as the alleged "solution" to everything from higher gas prices to terrorist threats.

The truth is we could drill every national park, wildlife refuge, and coastline and still be importing more than half our oil, remaining just as vulnerable to the price fluctuations of the global oil market. By contrast, raising the fuel economy of our cars and trucks would save far more of then we import from the Persian Gulf, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and save billions for American consumers. To put this in perspective, had the United States continued to conserve oil at the same rate we did from 1976 to 1985, we could have weaned ourselves from Middle East oil fifteen years ago.

I urge you to pass a cleaner and safer energy plan that enhances our security without undermining our nations' great wilderness heritage. Please vote against cloture on any amendment that would authorize oil drilling in any part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain.

Sincerely,

JIMMY CARTER.

Mrs. BOXER. I now yield 5 minutes to Senator PATTY MURRAY who has also been a tremendous voice for the environment here in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MURRAY. I rise this morning to support the amendment of my colleague from California, Senator BOXER, that will stop this backdoor attempt to

drill for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I spoke several days ago here on the floor of the Senate at great length about what this budget proposal would do, the budget resolution that is before the Senate, and how reckless it is. It ignores the cost of war, it ignores the cost of the aftermath in Iraq, and it underfunds critical priorities here at home such as homeland security, education, and transportation.

But I am appalled that there is something else buried in this massive budget that needs to be removed. The budget now before the Senate actually assumes increased spending that will result from opening ANWR up to exploration and drilling, even though the Senate clearly rejected that last year. Exploration and drilling in ANWR is a controversial issue, and it should be fully debated. But the appropriate place for that debate is on the energy bill which the Senate will consider in the coming months.

Last year, this Senate soundly rejected efforts to open ANWR to exploration and to drilling. This year, proponents of drilling are using a backdoor approach to try to get support for ANWR in this budget reconciliation. The amendment that has been offered by my colleague from California will strike that language and leave the ANWR debate where it belongs, as part of the upcoming debate on an energy bill.

The budget reconciliation process was enacted actually to help us reduce our deficit. That is even more important now that our country is back in red ink. Instead of supporting a process that helps reduce our deficit, proponents of drilling are using it to pass something the Senate rejected last year.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is an important and unique national treasure. It is the only conservation system in North America that protects a complete spectrum of arctic ecosystems. It is the most biologically productive part of the Arctic Refuge. Energy exploration in ANWR would have a significant impact on this unique ecosystem.

I have heard the proponents of this measure argue over the years that energy exploration has become what they call more environmentally friendly. That may be true. But there are significant environmental impacts for this sensitive region. The oil reserves in ANWR, in fact the oil reserves in the entire United States, are not enough to significantly reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

There are ways to reduce our need for foreign oil. My colleague, the Senator from Illinois, spoke about that a moment ago. We can increase the fuel economy of our automobiles and light-weight trucks. We can reduce our need for foreign oil by expanding the use of domestically produced renewable and alternative fuels. We can invest in emerging technologies such as fuel

cells and solar electric cars, and we can increase the energy efficiency of our office buildings and homes. Those kinds of strategies will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and protect one of our Nation's most precious resources. That is what we should be focusing on.

I think we should also remember the amount of oil in ANWR is too small to significantly improve our current energy problems. The oil exploration in ANWR will not actually start producing oil for as many as 10 years.

Exploring and drilling for oil and gas in ANWR is not forward thinking. It is a 19th century solution to a 21st century problem. The Senate should soundly reject this backdoor attempt to use the budget process to embrace drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge when so many in the Senate oppose it. We should debate drilling in ANWR when the Senate energy bill comes up, but we should not make a decision on drilling in this budget resolution.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important amendment by the Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield her remaining time?

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield my remaining time to the Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I say to my friend, I appreciate her raising the issue of the safety here because in the Prudhoe Bay oil field and the Trans-Alaska we have seen an average 423 spills annually on the North Slope since 1996, and that is according to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Over 1.7 million gallons of 40 different substances, from acid to waste oil, have been spilled during routine operations from 1996 to 2002. There were 2,958 spills, commonly diesel, crude oil, and hydraulic oil.

My friend is right. Maybe years ago they would have been worse spills, but the fact is there are terrible spills now.

I see that my colleague's time is up. I thank the Senator for participating.

Mr. President, I yield 5 minutes to Senator STABENOW from Michigan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized for up to 5 minutes.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first, as I begin, I know I share the feelings of all my colleagues, as we are debating this budget resolution and this important amendment, that our thoughts and prayers go to the men and women who are overseas, our troops who are being placed in harm's way. Regardless of our feelings about the policies that have brought us to this point, we all stand united in supporting our troops. It makes these kinds of debates even more important.

I am very proud to be a cosponsor of this amendment. I commend the Senator from California for her steadfast leadership on this issue, along with a number of colleagues of mine who have consistently stood firm about protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I have been pleased to be a cosponsor of legislation to stop drilling since first coming to the House in 1997. I also am proud to be the author of the ban that we placed on drilling in the Great Lakes, another national treasure. I view this area in Alaska as much of an irreplaceable and fragile natural and national treasure as the Great Lakes. I am very hopeful that today we will, one more time, stop this particular drilling policy from moving forward.

I would like to, once again, speak about some of the same points my colleagues have spoken of because I believe we have to keep repeating them to make it clear what the facts are.

First of all, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is, in fact, one of the wildest and most pristine places in the United States. We have an obligation to protect this area for the future, for those who are counting on us to be able to look beyond the immediate time period and look to the future for our country and for our children.

I believe we also have an obligation to stop back-door approaches to this issue. We are seeing, one more time, the drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge being placed in a bill where it should not be. This is a budget bill. We are focusing on the budget priorities for the next year.

Frankly, we should be debating how much the war is going to cost, and making sure our folks on the front line, and our first responders at home, police and firefighters and emergency workers, have what they need as we enter this very challenging time. Those are the kinds of things we should be debating, not seeing a back-door approach to drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

Most importantly, we know that drilling in the wildlife refuge will not result in energy independence. This is talked about all of the time, but it needs to be repeated, that only 2 percent—if we were to drill, we are talking about 2 percent of America's oil demand every year; and it would take at least 10 years to begin to see this brought on to the market.

We are talking about 2 percent rather than focusing on other areas of energy policy that will net alternatives in terms of conservation: alternative vehicles, alternative fuels, all of those kinds of things we know will allow us to become energy independent sooner and more effectively for the long run.

It is impossible for the United States to drill its way to energy security and independence. What we need to have is a debate about the energy policy of the country and how we are going to move forward. And that needs to be done in the energy bill, not in the middle of the budget resolution.

I am concerned when I hear this particular debate tied to Iraq, the serious debate about war and the oil in Iraq. It is important to say that gas prices are determined by global supply and demand factors, as we all know, not by opening one area to drilling.

In addition, Iraq supplies a very small percentage of our U.S. energy needs. According to the EIA, only 1.5 percent of the Nation's energy supply comes from Iraq. Imports from Iraq were banned in 1990 in the wake of the Persian Gulf war, and we obtained no oil from 1991 to 1995—all with no impact on the greatest economic expansion in U.S. history. The fact is, Canada and Mexico together supply more oil to the U.S. than the entire Persian Gulf.

So I encourage my colleagues to join with us in support of this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. STABENOW. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMHAM of South Carolina). Who yields time?

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I, on this issue, yield as much time to myself as I shall need. I ask unanimous consent to do that, and that the time come off the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I don't know exactly where to begin on this particular subject. But I would like for the American taxpayers to understand one thing: We maintain a strategic oil reserve. It is 700 million barrels of oil that is stored in salt caves in Louisiana. It costs us \$175 million a year to maintain the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. I just want the taxpayers to know what they are paying for.

The fact is, part of that oil was purchased by this Government and put in there, but most of it was taken from royalties. They took the oil instead of the money. And that was recovered on the Outer Continental Shelf or from public lands. So it is there: 700 million barrels of oil that costs the taxpayers \$180 million a year to maintain.

I suggest that we have a Strategic Petroleum Reserve that is not costing the American people a thing. It is still in the ground in North Dakota, found on public lands, where we cannot get to it. It is found in Montana, on public lands, where we cannot get to it. That is because of organizations that deal primarily in fear, not common sense.

Abraham Lincoln once said: God must have loved the common man because he made so many of us. Then, when we use the same term in the phrase "common sense," that sort of changes the definition a little bit.

That Strategic Petroleum Reserve is also maintained, and it is still in the ground in ANWR. We do not know how big that reserve is. It has been estimated to be anywhere from 5.3 billion barrels upwards. Does it answer the question of our shortage? Does it take care of all of that? No, it does not. We know that. But, on the other hand, it replaces all the oil we buy that is termed "rogue" oil—Iraqi oil that we give hard dollars for and that you contribute to every time you fill your tank at a filling station.

What is that money used for? We have seen it on television every night for the past month and a half. We know what that money is being used for. We give it to a tyrant who uses that money to subsidize families, to entice them to take one of their children and strap dynamite on them and walk onto a bus and blow themselves up, and for the development of weapons of mass destruction, chemical and biological warfare. That is what that money has done.

And yet we sit here today trying again to ban the use of a resource that is not only one of the major underpinnings to our economy, but also takes away from that \$180 million a year we spend to maintain that SPR in case of an emergency. That is 90 days. It wouldn't even last 90 days. We would just go through it, bingo. It defies common sense, what we are doing here.

As far as my State of Montana is concerned, I don't know what the impact is. I know during the major exploration and lifting of Prudhoe Bay and the North Slope when it opened up, probably 1,500 families in Montana worked on the North Slope. It provided a lot of jobs. I am not saying that their figure here on the creation of jobs is what some would claim, but it isn't zero, I will guarantee you that. It is going to put a lot of people to work. Maybe jobs only are important to us if they are just in our home state. Maybe it is the welfare of the people if it is just in our State. But the impact it has on Alaska is terrific, on the people who live there, work there, raise their families there, provide services there.

If you wanted to put it to a vote in Alaska, this debate wouldn't even be taking place. The Native Alaskans; ask them, take a vote among them, if we really believe in this 50 percent plus 1. It is their income. This is just about all they have.

What you see of the pictures over there is a result of a 30-day growing season. Any other time I would look with great interest at a photograph that was being displayed last night of the caribou that was out in the water. They had water clear up over their back going into the sea up there. Do you know why they are standing in that water, folks? It is not to cool off. Because they have mosquitos up there that are big enough to turn over your dog tags and check your blood type. That is what they are getting away from. It is a hostile environment.

What are we doing here with the new technology: I mentioned a while ago the jobs of the families who are affected in my State. Those kinds of jobs have moved on. New technology has taken over. We drill differently now. We do it all differently with horizontal drilling practices, with one little area impacted. You may see the wells. It wouldn't be the size of the Chamber of the Senate. It may have a dozen wells. That is the way we do it now. Technology has moved on.

I was interested in the words of my good friend, the Senator from Michigan, and the Senator from California. And by the way, California consumes 12 percent of all of the transportation fuels produced in this country. Yet we cannot drill on the Outer Continental Shelf of California. There is a moratorium on that. There is a moratorium on Florida. They are quick to talk about the Gulf of Mexico and off the coast of Louisiana and Alabama. We can't drill off the east coast, yet Canada does. When you get north of the border, they drill all the way offshore almost to Iceland. If you want to go east of the United States and the Canadian line and the northern territories off Alaska, you have gas and oil production all across Canada. The largest exporter of energy to this country is Canada, both in crude and in gas.

Yet the United States is being denied our own resource in our own country to supply the heat and the transportation fuels for our own people and our own security. And groups would manipulate information on ANWR to deny the American people when common sense tells you it is just the other way. Those of us who live near and some of us on public lands understand what the thinking is.

I will tell you this, as we talk about this total resolution. If you want to see something happen, this President has offered a way to stimulate the economy and to have it going when those young men and young women come home from the gulf and they go back into the workforce. Do you want them to come back into a sluggish economy? Is that what we want to do here? Do we want to take a sluggish economy and pound it down further and have no opportunities for them outside of military life, those reservists and also those who serve in the National Guard?

We are finding out the cost of 50 percent of our force structure and military is at home now and not found on military bases, full-time soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen. This is a part of that growth package. This is a part of a package that shows immediate return to the American taxpayer and also gives us that security, our own home security, if it is ever needed. What is wrong with finding out how much oil we really have? We can't even explore, let alone lift. And we are doing it based on thinking and facts that do not heed common sense. It is groups, little tiny groups that propagate misinformation and do it on an emotional "green, fuzzy" resolution. That you would deny people a livelihood, deny them food, deny them the basic needs of education and health care in the State of Alaska based on misinformation, that can't make one feel very good.

So if we are looking for job creation, if we are looking for energy security, if we want to do away with this little ticket of \$175 million a year just to maintain oil in salt caves, then when you get the bottom line, the answer is

pretty clear—let alone the promise that this Congress made to the State of Alaska whenever they passed the land bill there and also created the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

By the way, we are breaking that word, too. That rests on the backs of Congress. So I ask for those who live there, the Natives who were raised there, with their traditions—I will tell you, I don't know if you have ever seen the caribou come across there. The area is not short of wildlife—not from the impact of Prudhoe and North Slope. All the benefits that have gone to Alaska and to America as a result of that tremendous resource—those tremendous reserves, in a part of the world that is fragile, yes; all land is fragile, but it is a land we can take care of and still use the resources it provides.

I ask my colleagues to use some common sense. Go through the same figures I have. If you get a different number, you let me know, because I am just a country boy; I count bushels and heads of livestock. But when you get to the bottom line, it is a plus for America, a plus for our security, a plus for jobs, and it is also a plus for the great State of Alaska.

Our technology has not gotten us to the point where we can safely and economically do in our transportation fuels, using fuel cells and biomass, anything you want to do. That technology is not there yet, folks. If you want to cut off the oil today, you will see how fast this economy would crumble. But you cannot talk economy, you cannot talk numbers, because this is an emotional debate. It is wrong. It is wrong to do it to the State of Alaska, and it is wrong to do it to America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask that the Senator from North Dakota yield such time as I may consume.

Mr. CONRAD. I am happy to do so.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are doing our best, in accordance with the direction we have gotten from the majority leader, to move this bill along. We are trying. I spoke to the manager of the bill this morning, and we are trying to do that. We want to offer other amendments. We have a couple of minutes left to speak on ANWR. We want to offer other amendments. We were ready to vote on ANWR last night, or this morning, or early this afternoon—anytime. We need to move this legislation along, and we are doing the very best we can, but we have amendments we have to offer.

I hope we have the opportunity to do that. The time is quickly dwindling, and we are doing our best not to have many votes on the vote-athon; but with each day that goes by, it appears there will have to be more because people are not having the opportunity to offer amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will use my leader time for the comments I am about to make.

The decision whether or not to allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a defining moment for national energy and environmental policy.

This debate reflects two divergent views of our Nation's values and future.

We have a choice: Either we can continue building oil wells in environmentally sensitive areas or we can reject the quick fix and broaden our Nation's energy base while honoring our commitment to our natural heritage.

It has become apparent that America depends too heavily on some very dependable foreign sources of oil.

Hostilities in Iraq are just the latest chapter in decades of instability in the Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile, production of oil in Venezuela has been brought to a near standstill because of domestic unrest.

For the sake of our economy, for the sake of national security, and for the sake of our environment, America must reduce its reliance on foreign oil.

But instead of diversifying energy supply, investing in new technologies and promoting efficiency, the Bush administration's priority is to look for the next big domestic oil field.

Last year, the Senate rejected the Republicans' effort to authorize drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in comprehensive energy legislation. Now they are back attempting to use the budget resolution to grease a change they couldn't make in the energy bill.

No matter how clever they view this parliamentary sleight of hand, the proponents of drilling in the Arctic Refuge cannot escape the facts.

While endangering one of the most pristine areas in the world, drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would do nothing to make our country more energy independent.

We cannot sit silently by while the administration promotes a short-sighted strategy that mortgages one of our most precious and irreplaceable wild spaces for a few months' supply of oil.

Gasoline prices are soaring today. Yet this proposal would add nothing to our oil supply for 10 years.

Even then, the Arctic Refuge would supply our country with no more than 6 months' worth of oil and would reduce our dependence on foreign oil by just 2 percent.

This is not a serious attempt to come to grips with America's long-term energy needs. America cannot drill its way out of this problem.

Ninety-five percent of Alaska's North Slope is already open to drilling and exploration. Even if we drilled in the last 5 percent, even if we drilled in the backyards of every American, we could not satisfy our Nation's appetite for oil.

America produces just 3 percent of the world's oil; yet we consume 25 percent of that supply.

The answer to our energy challenge will not be found in the Arctic Refuge.

The answer will be found in our willingness to encourage American innovation and break the habit of spiraling energy consumption. We have met this test in the past.

In the 1970s, Congress increased fuel efficiency standards and began to encourage the development of renewable fuels.

Today, those fuel efficiency standards save our country the cost of 3 million barrels of oil every day.

That, and a wide range of clean, domestic, renewable energy technologies would dwarf any contribution the Arctic Refuge could make in the future.

Meanwhile, if drilling in the Arctic Refuge is authorized, our lack of vision would come at enormous cost.

According to the administration's own Fish and Wildlife Service, "The Arctic refuge is among the most complete, pristine, and undisturbed ecosystems on Earth . . . a combination of habitats, climate and geography unmatched by any other northern conservation area."

There is no alternative to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge once it is despoiled. But there is an alternative to this reckless proposal:

A true national energy strategy that speaks to our core environmental values while at the same time frees our country from the dictates and uncertain fortunes of foreign oil producers.

Now more than ever, we should be aware of the real cost of dependence on foreign oil.

Now more than ever, we need real answers and serious stewardship to the energy challenges of our Nation's future.

Mr. President, I encourage my colleagues to vote to strike the authorization to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from the budget resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. On behalf of Senator CONRAD, I yield 10 minutes to the Senator from New Jersey, Mr. LAUTENBERG.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Nevada for yielding the time to me to talk about the Boxer amendment and talk about the decision we could be making very shortly about the use of oil from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. President, what happens is, as these debates get going, sometimes we hear statements that are somewhat misconstrued or mistaken. We just heard it suggested on the floor that funds from the purchase of Iraq oil are used to purchase bombs. Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact is, that money is passed through the United Nations to buy food to be distributed to the people of Iraq. There is no way that money can be used to buy

bombs. It is important we keep the record straight.

I want so much to see the Boxer amendment prevail, but in order to make the case, apparently, we have to do more than simply justify the fact that if we did not do this, we could find other ways to conserve oil and not have to invade this snow desert, if one has ever seen it. It is one of the most beautiful places in the world, and the last thing we ought to do is turn the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge into an oilfield.

I traveled to Alaska in the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez spill in 1989. At the time, I was chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, so I had jurisdiction over Coast Guard funding. I was also a senior member of the Environment and Public Works Committee. So I had a great deal of interest in the Valdez incident.

What I saw was shocking, stunning almost. Over 11 million gallons of oil spilled into the Prince William Sound. I witnessed beautiful wildlife covered in oil, many dead or dying. I saw workers from the Department of the Interior, the fire service, and others hand wiping oil off birds and other wildlife. It was a devastating tragedy.

The disaster left a major impression on me. I thought about my children, my grandchildren, other people's children, and other people's grandchildren. I never wanted to see the dismay on their faces should they ever witness this tragedy.

To this day, 14 years later, the area remains contaminated with a persistence that has surprised many scientists. Sadly, the optimistic predictions of its recovery proved to be unjustified. Fully 60 percent of the area remains contaminated. Pools of toxic oil are still being found several feet deep.

Ecosystems, such as those in Prince William Sound and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, are so fragile, they are such delicate treasures of our Nation.

I had the privilege of visiting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge at the same time, and I can tell you, from personal experience, that in addition to the damage caused by drilling and oil spills, the debris of human intrusion, acres of rusting pipes and dilapidated structures dishonors America's 100-year-old tradition of protecting remote wild places.

On that visit, I flew in a single-engine plane across to a community called Deadhorse. It is right near Prudhoe Bay. It was troubling to see that area, the tundra littered by refuse left by the same oil companies that now avow they will be good environmental stewards should the Arctic Refuge be open to drilling.

Why would we risk devastating these national treasures? For what gain?

There is a dispute as to whether it is a 6-month oil supply or more that we will see from the Arctic Refuge, but for this short-term gain, what is the long-term risk, the cost?

I believe the long-term damage is too great. Turning this refuge into an oilfield will result in the loss of a national treasure we will never be able to replace. Look at what is happening on the North Slope. The National Research Council's new report shows that oil drilling on the North Slope has drastically reduced the population of nesting birds, such as the snow geese, and seismic exploration has displaced the culturally sacred bowhead whales from their migratory path, according to the National Research Council.

Additional drilling will only compound the stresses on these and the 200 other animal and bird species that inhabit the region.

What would the payoff be for recklessly endangering this national treasure? We would save more oil than we could drill at the Arctic Refuge at the height of production by requiring SUVs to meet the same fuel economy standards as regular cars. We never hear talk about conservation. We never hear talk about everybody pitching in on the eve of a war to economize and use less fuel whenever we can do so.

There is simply no good reason to endanger this fragile Coastal Plain ecosystem.

More than oil is at stake here. Thoreau wrote:

In wilderness is the preservation of the world.

America and the world need the last remaining wilderness places. The Arctic wilderness is one of those places. It would be unconscionable to despoil it for all time just for a bit of oil. We can find other ways.

I came across an article that tells us about the risk, a risk we are not discussing in pure terms. This is an Internet news report from a service called Ananova. The headline is: "ExxonMobile damages for Valdez spill cut to \$4 billion from 5; to appeal." It is going to be appealed further by the ExxonMobile company. They already paid some damages to the Alaskans, some money for cleanup, and some money to the State and Federal governments. But they have yet to pay a dime for punitive damages. This is 1989. We are not talking about recent months or even recent years. Fourteen years ago last month that tragedy took place, and they have not paid, and they do not want to pay. They are going back to court to say, Reduce our damages, even though the court the first time assessed them a \$9 billion punitive damage claim. They are working their way down, and maybe they will get it down to nothing one of these days. We ought to stop it right now where it is and not permit this to continue. They just want to get their mitts on the money that comes from that oil drilling, and it is without regard for the consequences.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this article by Ananova be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Ananova, December 8, 2002]

EXXONMOBIL DAMAGES FOR VALDEZ SPILL
CUT TO \$4 BILLION FROM 5; TO APPEAL

A US federal court in the state of Alaska has reduced punitive damages awarded in the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill to \$4 billion from 5 billion, ExxonMobil Corp said in a statement late on Friday.

The company, which had been hoping for a far greater reduction in damages, said it plans to appeal against the ruling, saying it is excessive and "entirely inconsistent with the law."

ExxonMobil wanted the damages cut to no more than \$40 million, a sum which would be "only slightly less than the largest punitive damages award ever approved by any federal appellate court anywhere."

A US appeals court last year sent the case back to the Anchorage District Court with orders to reduce the award to an amount consistent with constitutional limits.

Company officials said ExxonMobil took immediate responsibility for the spill, cleaned it up, and voluntarily compensated those who claimed direct damages.

It also paid \$300 million immediately and voluntarily to more than 11,000 Alaskans and businesses affected by the spill, 2.2 billion for the cleanup of Prince William Sound, and another 1 billion to state and federal governments.

[From Environment, April 20, 1995]

JUDGE VOIDS PORTION OF EXXON FINE

An Alaska state judge, Brian Shortell, ruled that Exxon Corp., did not have to pay \$9.7 million in punitive damages to five Alaska native corporations, it was reported March 31. The damages originally had been awarded in recompense for land damage caused by the March 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. The ruling had no effect on the \$5 billion in punitive damages that Exxon had been ordered to pay to 14,000 Alaskan natives, fishermen and property owners. [See 1994 Environment: Exxon Fined \$9.7 Million in 'Valdez' Spill, 1994 Exxon Fined \$5 Billion In 'Valdez' Spill; Record Award to fishermen, Natives, 1989 Largest U.S. Oil Spill Fouls Alaska Marine Habitat; Containment Effort Delayed from Onset]

Shortell said that the corporations already had received adequate compensation from the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Liability Fund and a \$98 million settlement with Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.

[Exxon Press Release, November 7, 2001]

EXXON VALDEZ APPEALS RULING, STUNS
ALASKANS

(By Yereth Rosen)

ANCHORAGE, Nov. 7.—Exxon Mobil Corp.'s reprieve on Wednesday from a \$5 billion punitive fine stunned and angered Alaskans who had sued the energy giant for punitive damages from the 1989 Valdez oil spill disaster.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the fine, ordered by a U.S. District Court jury in 1994 at the close of a summer-long civil trial against Exxon was excessive. The court sent the case back to the trial court for assessment of a new fine.

One Alaska Native leader in Cordova, the town that is the center of the Prince William Sound commercial fishing industry, described a groundswell of anger at the ruling.

"I wouldn't want to be anyone from an oil company in this town today, I'll tell you that," said Bob Henrichs, a Native leader in Cordova.

Anyone associated with Exxon is particularly unwelcome, he said. "They hired a drunk who couldn't get a license to drive a car and turned him loose with an oil tanker," he said.

About 40,000 fishermen, Natives, property owners and others affected by the spill sued Exxon over the disaster. Most of the cases were consolidated and heard at the 1994 trial. Many plaintiffs were counting on payments from the punitive verdict to help heal various problems, including a deteriorating fishing economy.

Now the appeals court ruling has dashed those hopes, said Riki Ott, a Cordova fisherman, marine biologist and environmental activist.

The ruling means that Exxon Mobil may emerge unpunished for the spill, which continues to harm the area's environment and people, Ott said.

"They just go on, business as usual, and try to shove all of us under the carpet by relying on the court system, which favors big corporations," she said. "Exxon has continued to profit off this, and we're all slowly going broke."

SHOCK AND SURPRISE

Sue Aspelund, executive director of Cordova District Fishermen United, said she reacted to the news with "shock and surprise."

The fishermen's group on Wednesday was still trying to figure out what to do next, she said. Henrichs, president of a 500-member tribal organization based in Cordova, said his faith in the court system was shaken by the ruling.

"I'd like those judges who made that decision to come up here and confront our people, look us in the eye," he said.

One of the lead attorneys for the spill plaintiffs said he believes the punitive award can be resurrected.

Attorney Brian O'Neill said arguments over the punitive fine will be made again within months before U.S. District Court Judge H. Russel Holland, who presided over the 1994 trial.

"And we'll go back and get the \$5 billion. Because I think the process was fair, I think the award was fair," said O'Neill, who presented most of the plaintiffs' case at the trial.

"The thing that I'm sad about and embarrassed about is that it's taken us so long to get here," he said. "It's going to take another year or two longer, but we'll get there."

Meanwhile, Henrichs' organization, the Native Village of Eyak, and other Native groups are pushing for stricter regulation of the trans-Alaska pipeline. The 30-year leases that allow the pipeline to operate on state and federal land are up for renewal in 2004.

Ott is working on a campaign—including a possible new lawsuit against ExxonMobil—to address chronic illnesses that spill cleanup workers said they suffered as a result of working without proper protections.

The 11 million gallon (50 million liter) spill, the worst tanker disaster in U.S. waters, polluted more than 1,200 miles of shoreline and was the deadliest ever to wildlife.

It killed thousands of marine mammals and hundreds of thousands of seabirds, forced the shutdown of fish harvests and, government scientists say, caused lingering damage to fish, bird and mammal populations.

The U.S. District Court jury found that reckless behavior by Exxon and tanker captain Joseph Hazelwood had led to the spill. That verdict paved the way for the punitive fine.

Also during the trial, the jury ordered Exxon to pay \$287 million in compensation to commercial fishermen, and the company settled some of the Native compensatory claims before the trials' end.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, we will wrap up this debate in a very short while. We have to look at the full

picture. It is not simply getting oil here or taking advantage of an opportunity to go into the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to search for more opportunities to consume oil at a rate that has never been heard of. We have to step back and take a look into the future as to what we want for our children and their children.

I hope the Boxer amendment will get the support it deserves. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire. Who yields time?

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, how much time does the Senator from New Hampshire desire?

Mr. SUNUNU. I had not calculated it. Twenty minutes.

Mr. NICKLES. I yield to the Senator from New Hampshire as much time as he desires.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. SUNUNU. I thank the Chair. Mr. President, I thank the chairman. As a new Member of the Senate, I bring to this body, as do many of my colleagues, experience having served in what we like to refer to as the "other body," the House of Representatives. Prior to that service, I worked in what we sometimes refer to as the "real world" in manufacturing, having been trained as a mechanical engineer.

Engineers often try to develop solutions to problems by arguing from first principles, and that means simply that you work from the most basic understanding of a problem you wish to address. Once you come to terms with the central element of that problem, you are far better able to craft a meaningful and effective solution.

What the astute listener might ask is: What does this have to do with the Federal budget? And to that I reply, if you really want to put together an effective budget and a meaningful budget that will serve us well, we need to remind ourselves exactly what this budget resolution is for.

As we listen to much of the budget debate, one might understand or come to assume that the budget resolution establishes funding levels for every conceivable Federal program, every line item in the budget; that it rewrote the Tax Code; that it modernized Medicare, all in and of itself without even having the benefit of the President's signature. Of course, this is not the case, even though the rhetoric we hear might suggest otherwise.

So what is the budget resolution? It is simply a blueprint. It is a vision the Congress puts forward of where we imagine our budget priorities should be this year and in future years. We try to set priorities for taxes and for spending, try to estimate what we are going to collect into the Federal coffers, and try to set priorities for modernizing programs like Medicare or Social Security. Above all, it reflects a set of priorities.

For example, listening to the debate this morning, one might get the im-

pression it actually authorizes oil exploration in northern Alaska. That is simply not the case. What the budget resolution as written would do is allow the Senate Energy Committee to write legislation that would then be debated on the Senate floor. It would still have to pass the Senate to allow exploration or production in northern Alaska to take place. The budget simply provides the mechanism allowing that legislation to be written and then later brought to the floor.

Our goal in this debate should be to reflect the right set of priorities in our country. To be sure, this is a \$2 trillion budget we are talking about. If I or any of my colleagues were writing a \$2 trillion budget, I am sure someone somewhere would find something in that \$2 trillion budget they might disagree with, and I understand that. Any Member of the Senate, any citizen of our country, can find something in our Federal budget they are not comfortable with, that they do not like, that they would disagree with, a program they would change. But if we want to do the work of the American people in the Senate, we need to put together that budget blueprint. We need to set those priorities, and I would hope those priorities would be consistent.

As we listen to the debate over the next few days, unfortunately we will hear a lot that is not consistent. We will hear individuals talk about their concern for the Federal deficit, and then they will step forward and vote for an amendment that raises domestic spending and increases the deficit. We will hear individuals raise concerns about the cost of military action at this historic time. But after raising concerns about those costs, those individuals will then step forward and vote for amendments that raise domestic spending.

We will hear Members raise concerns about economic growth, and then instead of stepping forward to propose or support a package that lays the foundation for future economic growth, what will they do? They will step forward and they will vote to raise domestic spending. There is a pattern, to be sure.

We are in challenging and difficult times, and we have work in front of us that will require us to make difficult choices and to set the right priorities for our country.

Why do we need this budget in the first place? We need this budget, as I suggested before, to enable us to get our work done. I talked about the budget allowing the Energy Committee to come forward with legislation crafting a comprehensive energy policy that might include exploration in northern Alaska. The budget will also set an overall limit on discretionary spending. This year, I think the goal put forward in the budget resolution is approximately \$784 billion. But we need to set that goal, that cap, that target, so the other spending committees, the

Appropriations Committee in particular, can then move the spending bills forward.

This is not insignificant. Last year, we failed to pass a budget in the Senate and we paid for it. We paid for it because as a result we could not get the work of the country done. We ended up completing that work, not in September, October, November, or December of last year, but in January of this year. That is simply wrong. That is why we need a budget. The budget lays the foundation for critical legislation, and not just a comprehensive energy bill. If we want to modernize Medicare, pass a prescription drug benefit for retirees in this country, we are going to need a budget resolution. If we want to pass an economic growth package that helps lay the foundation for job creation in America, we are going to need a budget resolution.

The Senate may well appear chaotic under any circumstances, but without a budget we are even more so. I do think it is important to note the minority in this case has not offered any comprehensive alternative to the budget. We will hear debate and criticism of the pending resolution that is before this body, but no comprehensive alternative. This is similar to last year when the minority, then in the majority, failed to offer and pass a comprehensive budget. As a result, not only were we completing last year's business this past January, but we were unable to pass a prescription drug benefit under Medicare and other work before the Senate was delayed. The budget resolution is critical to being able to get our work done in Congress.

What is in the budget resolution that is before us? What are the priorities we have laid out that have been put together by the hard work of the chairman of the Budget Committee and the members of the Budget Committee? Given the challenge of these times, I think it is a very strong package. The overall spending level, \$784 billion, represents a growth in discretionary spending of a little bit less than 4.5 percent.

There is a basic principle at work, and that is we should not be expanding the size and scope of the Federal Government. We should not be increasing domestic spending any faster than an average family budget is increasing.

On the defense side, we all know the challenges we face, the priorities we need to set in defense spending. Defense spending has increased approximately 3.8 percent. Homeland security, where we need to make investments in new technology and new ways of identifying threats to this country, has been increased over 25 percent in order to help first responders—police and firefighters—around the country.

As with defense and homeland security, we have to set priorities throughout the budget. If the Federal spending level is increasing by 4 or 4.5 percent, not every program can receive a 10 or 20 percent increase. Priorities need to be set.

On veterans health care, we step forward to provide an increase of \$1 billion in this budget; on education, a 4.5 percent increase, including \$1 billion for special education, which is an enormous unfunded Federal mandate on cities and towns around the country. In science, space, and technology research, the budget provides for an additional 5.5 percent over last year. Setting priorities in important areas; that is what putting together a good budget is all about.

This budget will allow us to modernize Medicare, to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare, something that is essential if we are going to deliver on our commitment to a modernized health care system for our retirees.

As we have heard and will continue to hear over the next couple of days, this budget allows for an economic growth package to help get our economy moving, to help create incentives to entrepreneurs and risk takers across the country to create new economic opportunity and to create new jobs.

I think it is the right set of priorities. I think it makes sense to put together a package that focuses on economic growth. I think it is the right thing to do to make sure we are not expanding the size and scope of the Federal Government any faster than the average family might be expanding its budget.

To be sure, we will hear people argue about the level of spending and we will have amendments to increase Federal spending in a number of areas. The fact of the matter is, we would hear those arguments and have that debate no matter what the spending level in this budget resolution was. If it was at \$794 billion, we would have similar amendments to increase Federal spending. If it was at \$800 billion, \$810 billion, or \$820 billion, we would have the same amendments to expand the size and scope of the Federal Government, because some legislators find it more difficult than others to set priorities and to control the size and scope of that spending. Now more than ever we need to set priorities.

We have heard and will continue to hear a lot of discussion in this budget debate about the deficit. It needs to be addressed. We cannot ignore it. In order to do the right thing regarding the deficit, we have to understand why it is there. Why do we have a deficit?

I just talked about spending growth. Growth in spending, expansion of the size and scope of the Federal Government, that alone is responsible for 25 percent of the deficit we have projected for the coming fiscal year and over the coming 10 years.

We had surpluses after a long period of expansion that began in the early 1980s, with a sharp brief interruption in 1991. Revenues increased year after year. We had record revenue growth because we had strong economic growth. That enabled us to balance the budget. Coupled with control of growth in

spending, we were able to balance the budget. Some say the surpluses then just provided incentives to ramp up the spending level again. As we have seen over the last 5 or 6 years, the growth in discretionary spending has been at near historic levels.

At the same time, we had unprecedented defense and homeland security needs that had to be dealt with in the wake of September 11. With the recent economic downturn, we have seen unemployment costs increase once again. So new spending has been responsible for about 25 percent of the deficit. An even larger portion, almost half of the deficit, has been caused by the slowdown in the economy and the drop in revenues. This is unfortunate, but we all understand we are in slow economic times.

The result has not been created by tax cuts. Despite the rhetoric, the Tax Relief Act signed into law in 2001 was responsible for less than 25 percent of the deficit we will see in the coming year. It was the slowdown in the economy, cutting Federal revenues by over \$150 billion over the last year, that resulted in 50 percent of the deficit we see today. That is why it is important we include in this resolution an allowance for an economic growth package. The economy has slowed down.

We need to understand why it slowed down. It is not because of inflation. It has not been because of a slowdown in consumer spending. American consumer spending has been surprisingly robust over the last 18 months. It has not been a credit squeeze like we had in 1991. This economic slowdown has been driven by and led by a slowdown in business investment. Businesses are reluctant to go out and spend additional capital on improvements to plants and equipment, on improvements of productivity and expansion of their facilities. We know of the slowdown in technology investment. That has led this slowdown in the economy.

If we want to do something about it—and I think we all care about the economic growth in this country—if we want to do something, we have to address the reason for the slowdown, to address the sharp downturn in business investment. That is what the economic package of the President has put forward and what this budget resolution attempts to do.

We have other options. We could do nothing. At the end of the day, if you watch the votes carefully, you will see that there are a number of Members of this body who would just as soon do nothing. They do not support an economic growth package. They will argue they do not want to increase the deficit. That means do nothing, do not spend any additional money, do not put together an economic growth package. I do not think with the economy as slow as it is, the American people want us to say we are going to do nothing to try to get job creation back on track.

We could spend more money and there will be a series of amendments to

this budget resolution to do just that. Some will be offered by those who decry the short-term deficit, or the deficit that we have had over the last year. But they will offer amendments to spend more money and ultimately increase the deficit. The idea that we could spend ourselves out of a recession is ridiculous. It is absurd on its face.

We have extended unemployment insurance. That was the right thing to do and it is an important thing to do. But in and of itself, spending more on unemployment insurance will not rekindle economic growth. We need to recognize that in order to create incentives for entrepreneurs and risk takers to spur job creation, we need to look at the Tax Code. That is where the growth package comes forward.

Is it a big package? Relatively speaking, not at all. It represents less than 2.5 percent of our Nation's revenue collections over the next 10 years. But it is focused on making the Tax Code more fair: by getting rid of the double taxation on dividends; by giving small businesses incentives to invest in plants, equipment and the modest increases I spoke of; and by tripling the amount small businesses could expense over time. It tries to deal with the economic slowdown by recognizing the first principles of why the economy has slowed down in the first place.

This budget sets forward a realistic, reasonable and common-sense limit on Federal spending. It sets priorities even within those areas for veterans health care, special education, science and technology, homeland security, and our national defense. It allows us to modernize Medicare and add an important prescription drug benefit. It also sets forward principles for an economic growth package we all know is needed in America.

It is a strong resolution. With all due respect to the chairman of the Budget Committee, it is probably not a perfect resolution. I served for 6 years on the Budget Committee in the House, and I am the first to admit there is no such thing. But it is a strong set of priorities for America. It reflects common sense when you look at the economic realities, the budget realities and the national security realities we have.

America was built on a foundation that rests on individual liberty. From that very first principle comes our country's commitment to property rights, to free markets, and to open trade. As we conclude this debate on the budget in the coming days, I hope our budget resolution will reflect the importance of these ideas; that it will include provisions necessary to strengthen our economy, but that it will balance the needs of our Government with the rights of individuals. These are not just fanciful ideas, but are bedrock principles that enabled America to build the strongest economy the world has ever known. They make us strong today and will keep us strong tomorrow.

Although I am just beginning my service in the Senate, I hope it will be

marked by a consistent and enduring commitment to these ideas. I can think of no better way to serve my State and my country.

I yield the floor.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss America's national security and the need for American independence from Middle Eastern oil.

America's chronic dependence on foreign oil is a critical national security issue. It not only affects citizens and businesses nationwide, but also has a direct impact on our Nation's ability to fight and win wars. As we prepare to engage in military operations in Iraq, it is important to understand that our forces are highly dependent on foreign oil, much of which comes directly from Iraq. In other words, we are dependent on oil from Iraq to fight a war against Iraq.

During the 1970s energy crisis, America was 36 percent dependent on foreign oil. Today we are 56 percent dependent, and by 2010, we are headed for well more than 60 percent. For the military, it now takes eight times as much oil to meet the needs of each U.S. soldier as it did during World War II. The Department of Defense today accounts for nearly 80 percent of all U.S. government energy use. During the 1991 Persian Gulf war, our 582,000 soldiers consumed 450,000 barrels of petroleum products—four times the daily amount used by the 2 million Allied soldiers that liberated Europe from the Nazis in World War II. Since World War I, the outcome of every war has been influenced by the control of the energy. We are talking about a serious national security issue.

As a result of military operations in Iraq, we must prepare ourselves for the possibility of disruptions in the flow of oil from the Middle East. Iraq has been the fastest growing source for United States oil imports. Shockingly, in the year 2000, \$5 billion of American money went to Iraq to buy oil. After September 11, when asked how U.S. dependency on foreign oil relates to our national security, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz said that U.S. dependency on foreign oil "is a serious strategic issue. . . . My sense is that [our] dependency is projected to grow, not to decline. . . . it's not only that we would, in a sense, be dependent on Iraqi oil, but the oil as a weapon. The possibility of taking that oil off the market and doing enormous economic damage with it is a serious problem."

It is critical that we develop our own resources and establish our energy independence. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham has reviewed our national energy policy. He has warned that unless we act now, we will threaten our national security, damage our economic prosperity, and harm our quality of life. Likewise, in both 1995 and 1999, the Secretary of Commerce acknowledged, pursuant to a law directing his assessment, that our oil deficit poses a threat to national security. This threat has been acknowledged by both sides of the aisle.

According to Secretary Abraham, consumption of energy has risen sharply yet production continues to decline. In a report released by the Energy Information Administration, the Department of Energy estimates that oil and gas reserves totaling 1,166 trillion cubic feet are recoverable in the lower 48 states and Alaska. The oil we could recover from three square miles of Alaska alone would allow our Nation to replace the oil we buy from Saudi Arabia for 30 years.

The time to act is now—not for some immediate quick fix, but for the long-term security of America in the years and decades ahead. Our lack of an adequate long-term national energy policy is not a partisan matter. It is a supreme national challenge that cannot be continually ignored without posing an increasing danger to our security and our way of life. Sadly, our Nation has failed for three decades to address this issue properly.

The tired refrain that ANWR "will destroy the environment" is so out of date and out of touch with reality when we have the technology and the know-how to affirmatively protect the environment while meeting an important long-term national security challenge. Additionally, I wish it were required for everyone who is going to be voting on ANWR to take a trip up to the North Slope of Alaska to see what we are really talking about. It is not a pristine wilderness. We are only talking about a very small, a minuscule part of that area up there, and we are talking about an environment where the Eskimos, the local people, are begging us to come in and open it up.

They have estimated that between 5.7 billion and 16 billion barrels of recoverable oil will be found in ANWR's Coastal Plain—up to 16 billion. That equates to over \$300 billion worth of American oil. The American people want our country to comprehensively rebuild our military, our defenses and our future security on all fronts. This was true before September 11. It is only more true today. It is time for the Senate to vote, for the Congress to act, and for America to move forward towards true and lasting energy independence.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the amendment introduced by Senator BOXER, which would strike the provisions contained in the pending Budget Resolution that would allow for the commencement of oil exploration and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, ANWR. I am deeply concerned about the irreparable damage these actions would have on this unique and beautiful wilderness.

A mere 6 days ago, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution commemorating the Centennial Anniversary of the Wildlife Refuge System, established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 with the designation of the Pelican Island Reservation on the eastern coast of Florida. According to last

week's resolution, which I cosponsored, the Senate "reaffirms its commitment to continued support for the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the conservation of our Nation's rich natural heritage." The language contained in the pending Budget Resolution, which would lead to the disturbance of one of the largest and most pristine components of the Wildlife Refuge System, not only falls far short of this reaffirmation, but explicitly breaks the commitment laid out by President Roosevelt a century ago.

The principal mission of the Wildlife Refuge System, in President Roosevelt's own words, is "keeping for our children's children as a priceless heritage, all of the delicate beauty of the lesser and burly majesty of the mightier forms of wildlife. . . ." Moreover, Roosevelt declared that this mission is founded on the basic principle that "wild beasts and birds are by right not the property merely of the people who are alive today, but the property of unborn generations, whose belongings we have no right to squander." The environmental damage we have seen throughout the country over the past 100 years has strengthened and reaffirmed President Roosevelt's wise foresight in preserving certain areas of beauty and natural significance for present and future generations.

Proponents of drilling in ANWR have claimed that oil exploration activities on the Refuge's fragile coastal plain will result in virtually undetectable environmental impact. However, an extensive, congressionally mandated report released earlier this month by the National Research Council of the National Academies of Science and Engineering makes clear that drilling in ANWR will result in significant damage to the region. According to the report, which examined the cumulative effects of oil and gas exploration and production on Alaska's North Slope over the past three decades, "[r]oads, pads, pipelines, seismic-vehicle tracks, and transmission lines; air, ground, and vessel traffic; drilling activities; landfills, housing, processing facilities, and other industrial infrastructure have compromised wild-land and scenic values over large areas. . . ." Moreover, "climate changes during the past several decades on the North Slope have been unusually rapid," and "noise from exploratory drilling and marine seismic exploration" have disrupted migratory patterns and severely impeded reproductive rates of bowhead whales, caribou, native birds, and other species.

In addition to the major environmental impact that would likely affect ANWR should it be opened for oil and gas exploration, the resulting energy supply would do little to address our growing energy needs. Indeed, ANWR represents only five percent of Alaska's North Slope the remaining ninety-five percent of the North Slope is currently open to oil and gas exploration and production. According to a 1998 U.S.

Geological Survey study, the total amount of oil that could be harvested from ANWR would roughly equal the amount of oil consumed by Americans in a 6-month period. Finally, this relatively small supply of oil would do even less to address our immediate energy needs. A 2001 report published by the Congressional Research Service has estimated that American consumers would not begin to benefit from oil recovered from ANWR for at least 10 years.

If we truly want to address the challenge of our country's overwhelming dependence on foreign oil, causing irreparable damage to an area of exquisite beauty in exchange for a small supply of oil and gas is not the manner in which we should proceed. It is my strongly-held belief that we must aggressively pursue sources of renewable energy, as well as turn our focus away from increased production, and toward greater conservation.

Mr. President, attempts to open ANWR to oil and gas exploration are reckless and shortsighted. I urge my colleagues to honor President Theodore Roosevelt's vision by joining me in supporting Senator BOXER's amendment to preserve the integrity and beauty of ANWR.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Senate soon will have the opportunity to support an amendment to remove the proposal to increase oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from the budget reconciliation bill. By tucking away this proposal into the energy section of the reconciliation bill, proponents of this provision would smother the open debate the American public deserves on such a significant and contentious national issue.

Just last Friday, on March 14, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Nation's first Federal bird reserve on Pelican Island, the predecessor of today's refuge system. Today we are debating whether to allow further drilling in the fragile arctic environment, for reasons that do not add up to justify such a step.

Consider how far we have come since President Theodore Roosevelt had the vision to set aside the 5-acre Pelican Island—a small thicket of mangroves off the east coast of Florida—to a system that today totals more than 95 million acres consisting of 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. The National Wildlife Refuge System hosts 35,000,000 visitors annually, with the help of 30,000 volunteers. It is home to wildlife of almost every variety in every State of the Union, and some part or parts of the system are within an hour's drive of almost every major city. It would be unwise to sanction the degradation of one of the crown jewels of our refuge system—the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The administration argues that allowing an increase in drilling in the

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would be an integral part of alleviating the Nation's dependence on foreign oil. In reality, drilling in the Arctic Refuge would only provide the equivalent of what the United States consumes in 6 months. Nor would this provision amount to any increase in oil production for at least a decade, or truly enhance our energy security, or lower prices for consumers, or create a significant number of new long-term jobs.

Furthermore, 95 percent of the potential oil reserves of Alaska's North Slope are already designated for potential leasing or open to exploration and drilling. The last 5 percent—the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge—is the only wild stretch of the coast of Alaska's North Slope that remains off limits.

What are the tradeoffs? According to a recent National Academy of Sciences, NAS, report issued just last month, the impacts of current activity already adversely impacted numerous wildlife species in the Arctic Refuge. The NAS documented displacement to the fall migration patterns of bowhead whales due to noise associated from seismic exploration and cited an increased number of predators which adversely affects the reproduction rates in migratory and resident birds, as well as the migration pattern and reproduction rates of one of the greatest caribou herds in North America. The NAS study concluded that expanding oil and gas exploration into the surrounding refuge lands would result in further degradation of soils, vegetation, and aquatic systems in this fragile environment.

Protecting this refuge is our obligation as stewards of this land. As President Theodore Roosevelt, the creator of the refuge system, said: "wild beasts and birds are by right not the property merely of the people who are alive today, but the property of unknown generations, whose belongings we have no right to squander." Sanctioning these incursions not only would damage the environment today, but it would take away those tangible and inherent values the refuge will provide to future generations—our children and grandchildren.

Last Thursday, March 13, the Senate unanimously approved a resolution marking the Centennial Anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. This week, we have the opportunity to follow that symbolism with a more tangible step in defense of our refuge system, by voting to remove the rider on ANWR oil and gas exploration from the budget reconciliation bill.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to support the Boxer-Chafee amendment that has my cosponsorship along with 14 other colleagues. The amendment strikes the reconciliation instructions to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that would open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration and drilling.

The issue as to whether to open up a pristine and vital habitat refuge for a finite amount of oil is a fundamental policy question that should not have been injected into the budget process, thereby bypassing the Senate committee process. Including the drilling receipts and reconciliation instructions in the budget is a major policy initiative with serious environmental ramifications.

The budget process, with its strict rules for limited debate, is not conducive to adequate consideration of this issue. In fact, opening up the Arctic Refuge proved to be extremely controversial in the 107th Congress and was debated at length during the Senate's consideration of its omnibus energy bill. On April 18, 2002, by a vote of 54 to 46, the Senate defeated a procedural motion to invoke cloture to shut off the debate.

Revenues from oil leases in the Arctic Refuge have been estimated to be \$1.2 billion over 10 years. I believe that the budgetary effects of oil leases in the Refuge are incidental compared with the weight of its policy impact. The tradeoffs just don't balance out when considering drilling for a finite supply of oil in the biological heart of Alaska's coastal plain.

Drilling in the Refuge is not the solution to our Nation's current energy problems, and for years the issue has distracted us from the real answers to energy needs. Unfortunately, over the past several years, rather than being serious about offsetting the nation's increasing thirst for oil by increasing the use of alternate and renewable energy sources, we are now more dependent than ever on these foreign oil sources. If we are to be serious about addressing our energy needs, we should be advancing energy efficiency, energy conservation and clean, renewable sources of power so that we can reduce our need for fossil fuels, which is mainly responsible for air pollution and greenhouse gases impacting climate change.

As the storm clouds gather today in the Middle East, we should be putting our energies into becoming more fuel efficient, for instance, by increasing corporate average fuel economy, or CAFE, standards, to close the SUV loophole that currently allows the increasingly popular sport utility vehicles to get only 20.7 miles per gallon while passenger cars must meet a 27.5 mpg standard. Increasing the SUV standard to that of passenger cars would help to eliminate the need to import oil from the most volatile area of the globe.

In addition, based on the estimate provided by the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, it would realistically take seven to 12 years from approval to first production of oil, meaning that not a single drop of oil would be available to go to market for 7 to 12 years. In contrast, Paul Portney, Chairman of the National Academies' 2001 Report on CAFE

standards, stated at the Joint Commerce and Energy Committees' hearing that year that "... increases to fuel efficiency could be made in a few years."

The fact is that, sooner or later, any oil found in ANWR will run out—while increasing CAFE standards will continue to decrease oil usage. It is estimated that one million barrels of oil per day would be saved by the Feinstein-Snowe bill that closes the SUV loophole. Improving the gasoline mileage of the Nation's new vehicles by just three miles per gallon could take less time and could be expected to save more oil than would ultimately be recovered over the lifetime of the finite oil resources in ANWR. The United States Geological Service estimates a 95 percent probability of 4.2 billion barrels of recoverable oil, and a five percent probability of 11.8 billion barrels of recoverable oil.

Interestingly, CAFE increases would keep more greenhouse gases, specifically carbon dioxide—the major cause of climate change—from going into the atmosphere because less gasoline would be used and therefore there would be less vehicle emissions of CO₂. In contrast, the process of getting oil out of ANWR will add more greenhouse gases and air pollution because of the oil drilling facilities and processes required for extraction.

Drilling in the Arctic Refuge poses environmental risks by impacting sensitive wildlife habitats. The Refuge is the summer home for thousands of migratory birds; year-round home to muskoxen, fox, wolf and wolverine; and its lagoons support eight species of marine mammals, 62 species of coastal fish, and seven species of freshwater fish. Of note, the Refuge is the calving ground of the Porcupine caribou herd. Much has been said on the Senate floor about the Central Arctic caribou herds in the North Slope drilling area that have greatly increased since the North Slope pipeline was installed, but these caribou have the ability to move south, unlike the Porcupine caribou herd within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that have no place to go due to the geological features of the narrow strip of an island-like area in the refuge between the ocean and the mountains.

Again, I would like to reiterate that including drilling receipts and reconciliation instructions in the budget is not the right way to go as it is a major policy initiative with serious environmental ramifications that must be debated fully in the proper forum of committee hearings and subsequent floor and public debates. Consider the National Research Council's recently published report on the effects of drilling in the North Slope of Alaska. It stated that, even though oil companies have greatly improved practices in the Arctic, three decades of drilling along Alaska's North Slope have produced a steady accumulation of harmful environmental and social effects that will probably grow as exploration expands.

Some of the problems, the report said, could last for centuries, both because environmental damage does not heal easily in the area's harsh climate and because it is uneconomical to remove structures or restore damaged areas once drilling is over. I urge my colleagues to vote to strike the language from the budget resolution so that drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge does not begin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask we take 10 minutes off our side of the resolution.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President I will speak a couple of minutes about the general budget, and then turn to the ANWR Alaska refuge amendment that is pending that I hope will prevail in a vote in a few years.

I ask unanimous consent Senators CORZINE and CLINTON be added as cosponsors to my ANWR amendment.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I will talk about this budget overall because I listened to my colleague talk about it in a way that, frankly, is stunning because I remember when Republicans wanted a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. Now they are embracing a budget that has deficits as far as the eye can see. If you like deficits as far as the eye can see, you will love this budget and you should vote for it because that is what you are getting.

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mrs. BOXER. I will after I am finished, as I listened to my friend talk for quite a few moments.

If you embrace the idea that deficits are a good thing for the country, red ink is a good thing for this country, you will love this budget; go ahead and vote for it and that is fine and we will talk about it when we go home.

If you like the idea that we should ignore an enormous cost that is staring us in the face as our beautiful men and women are standing on the brink of war, if you think this budget should ignore those costs, then you should vote for this budget because this is an Alice-in-Wonderland-type of budget.

The whole country is focused on what is about to happen—but not in this budget. I have seen comments made by friends of mine from the other body on the other side of the aisle that said hurry up and get this through before we have to deal with the costs of the war.

When I hear Senator FRIST say let's push this through fast, that, in my opinion, ties the knot here. The other side wants to get this done very quickly even though it has no costs for the war. The first person who said the war will cost between \$100 billion and \$200 billion was Larry Lindsey, and as we know, he was shown the door.

Vote for this budget if you think we should ignore the costs of the war. Vote for this budget if you love deficits. If you like breaking promises to our children on No Child Left Behind, cutting afterschool programs and the like, vote for this budget because that is what you are doing.

The President posed for pictures with Senator KENNEDY and Congressman MILLER—No Child Left Behind—and then he fails to fund it.

He is going to kick 50,000 California kids out of afterschool programs, unless we fix it. All through the country, he is going to kick 500,000 to 700,000 kids out of afterschool programs, including kids in New Hampshire and all over our great Nation.

Our kids deserve more than that. If you like the fact that No Child Left Behind is not funded fully, vote for the budget. If you want to cut environmental enforcement, vote for the budget. If you want to fund the highways and transit at a lower level than what we need, vote for the budget.

Especially vote for the budget if you want to give tax breaks to people who earn more than \$1 million a year because they will get back \$87,000 a year. Definitely vote for this budget if your heart bleeds for those folks who make more than \$1 million a year because that is the centerpiece of this budget.

I hope we can change it. We are going to try to change it. We have a few brave souls on the other side of the aisle who agree with us. I don't know how it will turn out. But when I hear people talk about why our country is in so much economic trouble, it started 2 years ago. We lost 2 million jobs because we abandoned fiscal responsibility, we abandoned investment in job-producing investments, we abandoned the principles that led us to the greatest economic recovery in generations. But if you don't want to go back to those good days and stick with these bad days, vote for this budget.

On my time that is remaining, I want to say how excited I am that we actually may pass the Alaska wildlife amendment.

What we have here on this chart is a very simple visual of what we will save from various scenarios on imported oil. I had, yesterday, the percentages.

We see that while ANWR would reduce our reliance on imported oil by 2 percent, if we just did better tires on our cars, which would lead to better fuel economy, we could save 4.3 percent of imported oil. If we closed the SUV loophole and just had the SUVs get the same mileage as cars, we would save 16 percent on the amount of oil we have to import. If we increased our fuel economy by 13—to 35 miles per gallon—which the automobile people say is absolutely possible; we would reduce our dependence on foreign oil by 43 percent.

The alternative is this reduction of dependence on foreign oil by 2 percent. By the way, this wouldn't happen for 8 or 10 years. For everybody who says it is going to happen sooner, that is not

what the proof is. The science tells us it will take 8 to 10 years to get it up and running.

This is the alternative, drilling in this God-given area.

I will give the remainder of my time to Senator CONRAD. We are talking about a place that looks like this. Yes, in the winter it is icy. Yes, in the winter there is not much—it doesn't look as beautiful as this, but I don't look as good as I looked when I was young, so that happens sometimes. But the bottom line is, it is a beautiful place.

Here are some other beautiful pictures. We will show you some of the wildlife that we have, this beautiful bird which is the whimbrel—quite beautiful. It is my chart bird, I call it. That is a beautiful example of what we are trying to save.

I will yield the remainder of my time on the resolution to Senator CONRAD and hope my colleagues on both sides will support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I am wondering, I ask my colleague and friend from California who showed those pictures of a beautiful area adjacent to the Brookes Range—I have been there—I wonder, Has the Senator from California visited the 1002 area, the ANWR area?

Mrs. BOXER. I have been to Alaska and I am going back. I haven't been to the 1002 area, but my chief environmental legislative aide took my place on a trip that, unfortunately, I had to cancel 6 months ago, and just said it was absolutely exquisite.

As my friend knows, we have hundreds of wildlife refuges. I have been to a few. I haven't been to them all. But this is God's gift and whether—

Mr. NICKLES. The answer to the question is you have not been there?

Mrs. BOXER. Yes, I stated that clearly in the debate. The last time I was asked this question, people said these photos were—

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma has the floor.

Mr. NICKLES. I would like to make a couple of comments. I am going to speak about ANWR momentarily. My friend and colleague from New Mexico, who happens to be chairman of the Energy Committee, wants to speak. But many of us have been to ANWR. The picture the Senator from California shows, the beautiful part, is of Alaska adjacent to the Brookes Range. It is gorgeous. That is not where we are drilling, or proposing to drill.

I will say, there are a couple of people who have been there more than the Senator from Oklahoma and that would be Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator STEVENS. They have been there many times. They know what the 1002 area is. They know the area we are talking about drilling. It is not the beautiful pictures we see that some people are advertising. People are not proposing to drill in those areas.

The area they are proposing to drill on is not nearly as pretty. It is very barren. It looks somewhat like a frozen moonscape area, or frozen Saharan desert, or something like that.

My point is, I see the picture of the caribou. I have seen them. I have been to Prudhoe Bay as well. I have seen a lot of caribou. The caribou happen to like the Prudhoe Bay area and the Alaska oil pipeline. There are a lot of caribou in that area.

I think there is a tradition in the Senate that is being violated and that is that we respect home State Senators, when we are talking about parks or refuges in their States. We usually assume they know best.

I heard Senator MURKOWSKI give an outstanding speech last night that talked about her State and talked about how important this is to her State and our country.

I heard Senator STEVENS, with whom I have had the pleasure of working with for the last 23 years and for whom I have great respect, and he knows this better than anybody. He used to be Solicitor at the Department of the Interior. He goes way back on this issue. He knows more about Alaska than the rest of the Senate combined.

To ignore his comments, or those of the Senator, Ms. MURKOWSKI—or Governor Murkowski—on this issue I think is a serious mistake, especially if people haven't been there. I encourage my colleagues, if they have questions about this area, to go visit it. I think it would be very educational. I think it would be very helpful, especially if we are going to try to dictate exploration in an area smaller than a couple of thousand acres, smaller than Dulles Airport. If we are going to try to mandate they cannot forever drill in those areas, I think we ought to at least go there and visit the area and know, really, what it looks like. If we have not been, I think we ought to defer to the home State Senators for their expertise and advice.

I yield to the chairman of the Energy Committee, Senator DOMENICI, such time as he desires on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator from New Mexico yield just for a question?

Mr. DOMENICI. Which Senator is going to ask a question?

Mr. REID. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. DOMENICI. Of course.

Mr. REID. Last night the Senator from New Mexico said he wanted to speak for approximately an hour? How long, just so we can get people ready here.

Mr. DOMENICI. The Senator knows I don't have a notebook full here. I wanted to make sure. One thing I learned, as a Senator, from Senator BYRD is if you want to make a speech, don't agree to the shortest amount of time because, sure enough, you never get what you wanted to say said. I said an hour. I probably will use an hour.

Mr. REID. Thank you very much.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the distinguished minority floor leader.

Mr. President, fellow Senators, and more importantly, fellow Americans who might be watching, I am going to have one of my aides turn this chart for a moment. You are going to be able to read the print very easily. It says:

If ANWR was the size of this chart, the total footprint of any development there would be smaller than the box below.

You see the people running the television here in the Senate have to be very careful because if they are not, you will not even see it. ANWR is as big as this chart. We have done it to scale, all of that blue.

Now, regardless of what is said about what you are going to do to ANWR, let me submit to you that you are going to do it on this little piece, I say to the chairman. Look at this. Can you see it? Maybe I can show the chairman of the Budget Committee. Do you see that little piece there? I don't think you can even see it, that little piece. That is where ANWR is going to have a footprint to produce oil for America.

Can you imagine we are here arguing about whether or not we ought to take this tiny little piece? Here it is. Let me show it to you again. Do you see this, Mr. Chairman? I don't think you can see it from there. That is the size of the footprint. And the whole chart is the size of ANWR.

Now, I can guarantee you, the thousands of Americans who have been writing to their Senators and who joined the Sierra Club to say don't do anything in ANWR have no understanding, have never been told—as a matter of fact, have been told to the contrary—that of this huge wilderness, that is the amount of the footprint which will yield oil for America's future.

I ask the Presiding Officer, are you looking at this chart?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

Mr. DOMENICI. Do you need any assistance to see it?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I can see it from here.

Mr. DOMENICI. You don't have to answer. As a matter of fact, I am very hopeful that everybody can see it, because you saw beautiful polar bears, you saw fantastic growth everybody is proud of. But can anyone believe that little, tiny footprint is going to affect polar bears in the ANWR wilderness? Can you believe that much property, used to drill oil for America's future, is going to have an impact on America's economic future?

I submit, if the issue had not already been framed, and if, as a matter of fact, Senators had not already been convinced, if they truly started right here on the floor—let's discuss America; let's discuss the amount of oil we have to use each day; let's discuss our future; and now let's take a look at ANWR. If we had not received messages in the mail, if we had not received requests for contributions from those who support keeping ANWR exactly

like it is, and not letting us have any of the resources that belong to America—if none of that occurred, we were here in a closed session, all 100 Senators, and those who wanted to say “no drilling” got a day, and I got an hour, they could talk all they wanted, and I would put this chart up and say, “Are you kidding? You don't even want America to take a look at that?”

Now, having said that, it has been said on a number of occasions on the floor there isn't enough oil in ANWR to amount to anything. A few years ago, when I was sitting around and heard somebody say, “America doesn't need this oil,” I said to myself, “Who are we kidding? How arrogant about our future are we? We don't need the oil that could be produced from Alaska because it isn't very much oil?”

Well, I started, over the weekend, asking, How much oil is it? How much oil is it in a way that maybe Americans would understand? And I decided we could take a little trip. We could take a trip through America and look at where we are producing oil today, and as we came upon a State that was producing oil, we would decide whether we needed that oil. After all, we are so strong and so arrogant about our economic future that there is a lot of oil America might have we must not need.

Guess what happened. The very first State I came upon was Texas. Texas. As I rode across America and stopped in various States, I stopped in Texas. And what did I find? I went to their Department of Minerals and Resources, and I looked, and I said: Could you help me? I am trying to find out where oil is produced in America and whether we need it or not. And what in the world did I find? ANWR has more oil than Texas. So I surmise we do not need the oil from Texas either. I surmise Texas oil does not amount to that much, because, after all, for comparison purposes, the total reserves in the State of Texas are 5.2 billion barrels. That is data for the year 2000. Let's repeat that. The reserves in the State of Texas for the year 2000 are 5.2 billion barrels.

According to the Energy Information Administration, upon which we as policymakers are basing our decisions, ANWR's oil reserves would range from a low—a low—of 5.7 billion barrels to a high of 16 billion barrels.

Let's repeat it. The reserves in the State of Texas, because that is where I started that sojourn—I would have ended up, had I not found that out in Texas—we did not have to go any further—I would have gone over to New Mexico and found their reserves, and then I would have gone to Oklahoma. But just stopping at Texas, you find the reserves in the State of Texas are estimated to be 5.2 billion barrels. And according to the experts advising the policymakers, the present Congress, and people of America, the reserves for ANWR—from that little, tiny dot—are 5.7 billion barrels for the low estimate, and 16 billion barrels for the high estimate.

I see the distinguished Senator from Alaska in the Chamber. That means, I say to the Senator, if I read it right, that the reserves in your State, just in ANWR, if one uses the most conservative estimates, are equivalent to or more than the State of Texas. And if you use just a middle point, a 50-percent expectancy in terms of reserve estimates, I imagine if you do that, the yield is twice the State of Texas. Twice the State of Texas. If you like this Senator's estimate, it will be twice the State of Texas, it will not be the 5.2 billion barrels because that is the lowest estimate.

Now, I would like, once and for all, whatever has been said in this Senate—with the charts up there about us not needing this, that it is only a speck of the world's production of oil—I would like to submit, we need the production from the State of Texas, and we need an equivalent to the production from the State of Texas which would come from ANWR. America, as rich as we are, as powerful as we are, as willing as we are to say, “We just don't need this. We will buy it from the world. We just don't need American oil. We don't even need as much as Texas produces”—right—“Just forget about it; we will buy it”—we will buy it, all right. And then, as war looms, the case for Arctic oil gets better and better and better.

As we look at America's future, we hear people get on the floor and say: Don't worry about producing more oil; we will just conserve more. Well, we will have an Energy bill here on the floor about when we come back from the April recess. I welcome Senators to come to the floor and tell us how in the world in the future we are not going to have to continue to import huge quantities of oil.

Now, somebody can get up and say: We only want half the automobiles we are driving today 4 years from now and 5 years from now. That is ridiculous. Or: We are going to use hydrogen cars. Of course, we are going to use a few of them each year, and in 20 years we are going to use a bunch of them. What do we do in the meantime?

They will say: Let's use electric cars. We will use them, but how many? Everybody understands the oil consumption is not going to come down dramatically during the next decade to 20 years. And what are we going to be doing? We are going to be depending upon the world for that period of time, and well beyond that, to buy it from the world.

It seems to me that a secondary issue—maybe a primary issue—we are debating in the Senate is jobs for Americans. I regret to tell you that for those who oppose that little tiny piece of this budget resolution called ANWR, they are opposing the biggest job producer this whole bill has in mind. I am more certain that if ANWR is permitted to be developed, when the time comes that it is producing, it will produce more jobs for America than this bill with all its tax provisions and

at the same time will produce oil for Americans. This is the estimate given by the experts of the American jobs, high-paying jobs. We are not even including in this the fact that American companies will own it. Americans will be part of the rig operators. Americans will be producing the pipelines.

Here is the estimate of employment that would flow from ANWR. You could vote against all the tax relief if ANWR was coming on board next month. That can't happen because it is a few years away. Here are the jobs: 575,000 full-blown American jobs for American men and women and American executives, and they have to be high paying. For any State that would like to look: for Colorado, there is estimated employment of 8,000; New Jersey, 17,000; California, 63,000 jobs if ANWR comes on. I suppose in the course of things, 63,000 jobs doesn't mean that much for a big State such as California.

Incidentally, if I would have followed that little trip through America to see where the oil was produced and I would have passed right on by Texas, and passed right on by New Mexico, and passed right on by Arizona and a little pinch of Nevada, and ended up in California, and gone to their mineral extraction department and said, how much oil do you produce? guess what I would have found. I would have found that the production in California of crude oil for America is about equivalent to what will be produced from ANWR when it is producing oil for Americans. Think of that.

People look at California and say: Boy, if we didn't have that production from California, where would we be? Isn't that interesting? If we had ANWR on board and producing and we took our little trip through America and ended up in Alaska and somebody would have said to us, well, that is producing about the same as Texas and California, let's just not produce it anymore, what do you think would happen? Do you think anybody would vote for that? I mean, it would be such a ridiculous proposition that we don't need it, even though it is about the equivalent of California and about the same as Texas, that clearly this issue to this Senator reaches the point where you can hardly understand what we are doing on the floor of the Senate with as close a vote as you can possibly get on this issue.

To the two or three Senators who still might have enough courage, enough concern, enough freedom to say I am going to do what is best, I submit that they ought to vote to keep ANWR, keep that marvelous huge wilderness that President Eisenhower is cited as having been instrumental in creating, keep it, and use this tiny piece here to produce oil for generations to come.

There is an excellent review and outlook in the Wall Street Journal this morning called "Drilling for Votes." That is probably what they assume their editorial is doing, it is drilling for votes. It outlines the issues before us.

It is rather succinct. It covers what I have just discussed, the insignificance of the probable damage to ANWR. I have tried to depict it in terms of jobs. It discusses that with words. They are wordsmiths, and they have done it in a very exciting, excellent, and forthright manner. They discuss jobs, which I just did. They also discuss what the distinguished chairman of the Budget Committee discussed for just a few moments as to what is the nature of this tiny piece of geography that is part of ANWR. It is not the beautiful parts of this that have been shown in pictures here on the floor. It is discussed in this editorial in words as to what it is. It says:

This oil would come from a tiny piece of land that is nowhere near the "pristine" mountains shown in the Sierra Club ads. Exploration would be on Alaska's coastal plain, a sliver of tundra that [the Secretary of the Interior] has described aptly as "flat, white nothingness."

The editorial continues:

Far from pristine, it is the home of the town of Kaktovik, with its people, cars, boats and airplane hangars. The actual drilling footprint would be about 2,000 acres, the size of Washington's Dulles Airport.

I ask unanimous consent that the entirety of this editorial be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Wall Street Journal, Mar. 19, 2003]

DRILLING FOR VOTES

If war in Iraq, sky-high oil prices and a moribund energy bill aren't reason enough for the Senate to finally approve drilling in the Arctic, could someone please tell us what is?

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is back in the headlines, and the good news is that Senate Republicans are very close to passing a drilling amendment. By attaching ANWR to the Senate budget resolution, they need only 51 votes and can avoid the filibuster threats (and Presidential aspirations) of certain opposition Senators from the Northeast.

The arguments for Arctic drilling haven't changed, but it's worth running through them again. The biggest is the ANWR is a new and important supply of oil. The site is expected to produce 10.4 billion barrels, or 1.4 million barrels a day—the largest single prospect for future oil production in the country. To put this in perspective, the oil-rich states of Texas and California each offer about one million barrels a day. No, ANWR won't provide "energy independence," but it will give a cushion in the event of future oil-supply crises.

This oil would come from a tiny piece of land that is nowhere near the "pristine" mountains shown in those Sierra Club ads. Exploration would be on Alaska's coastal plain, a sliver of tundra that Interior Secretary Gale Norton has aptly described as "flat, white nothingness." Far from pristine, it is home to the town of Kaktovik, with its people, cars, boats and airplane hangars. The actual drilling footprint would be about 2,000 acres, the size of Washington's Dulles Airport.

As for the environmental consequences, we'd point to the recent National Academy of Sciences report on the cumulative effects of drilling in the nearby North Slope. Green groups have spun the report as evidence of

eco-calamity, but anyone who reads it knows it shows more or less the opposite.

The report, for instance, found that there had been no major oil spills on the North Slope through operation of oil fields, and that small spills had had no cumulative effects. While some animals had been "affected," the committee could not list any species that were threatened. And it conceded that drilling hadn't led to any large or long-term declines in the much-celebrated caribou herd.

It also noted that new technology had reduced damage to the tundra. Given the report was measuring the effects of 25-year old equipment, and that a Senate bill would require best-technology, we can expect even better results. And the report acknowledged that oil development had resulted in real improvements in schools, health care, housing and other community services for Alaskan communities.

As good as these policy arguments are, the reality is that drilling ultimately hinges on the environmental politics of the Senate. Republicans have 48 sure votes. They need two more, because Vice President Dick Cheney is standing by at his secure, undisclosed location to break a tie. Most of the focus is therefore on a few moderates, Arkansas Democrats Mark Pryor and Blanche Lincoln, and Republicans Gordon Smith and Norm Coleman.

If it's political cover these folks are looking for, they might consider the environmental advantages that would accrue to their home states with a yes vote. For starters, the ANWR plan would divert \$2 billion of the \$2.15 billion in federal royalties from drilling directly to the states for land and water conservation. A gusher of new oil in Alaska would also reduce the incentive to keep drilling in the lower 48, which has its own environmental costs.

And if these "moderates" are truly on the fence, they could give the Administration the benefit of the doubt, vote to keep ANWR in the Senate budget resolution for now and then fly to Alaska to see the site for themselves. At least if they changed their mind in the final budget later in the year, they'd really know what they were voting against.

We know it is perhaps a forlorn hope that Senators will vote on substance over environmental symbolism. But why not? On the economic and environmental merits, this isn't even a close call.

Mr. DOMENICI. One remaining issue is: How do you drill for oil today, and how did you drill for it 25 years ago or even 30 years ago, when some of the wells were drilled in California—maybe hundreds of the wells were drilled in California and hundreds, maybe thousands of the wells in Texas were drilled? Has America made any strides in changing the way we drill for oil in 15, 20, 25 years?

I can tell you, some of the most dynamic, intelligent engineers in the world have spent years finding out how to drill holes in Mother Earth. As a matter of fact, the expertise in drilling did not just come over these years from people interested in drilling for oil wells. We have had an interest in drilling for many reasons.

Would you believe that the great laboratories of America—Los Alamos, Sandia, Livermore—have had a genuine, abiding piece of their research directed at, how do you drill holes into Mother Earth?

One time, they were experimenting in one of the laboratories in drilling

thousands of feet underground to see if they could tap into the geothermal heat pockets. They learned all kinds of things about drilling. Then they had to drill holes as part of the nuclear weapons activities in the deserts of Nevada. Millions of dollars were put into, how do you do it so you don't waste time, so you don't produce a whole bunch of environmental degradation? Couple that with the resources of the energy companies, which wasn't soft; it was pretty big. It was pretty hot stuff. You put it together, and you have the most profound, innovative ways to drill for oil you could ever imagine.

Let me just suggest, if oil is about 400 yards over there and you found it—about four football fields away—and you don't want to touch that ground, you can start here, where I am standing, and you can drill over there in what is called slant drilling. It is done with such precision today that it can take place for yards and yards and yards from the actual point under the earth where you attempt to strike the liquid mineral, or the natural gas. That is what will be used if you are worried about how will you use this tiny piece, the size of Dulles, to go into the hinterland without touching anything.

That is the answer. You will go in when it is frozen, you will do your drilling activity, and when it starts to thaw, you get out and wait until it freezes again, you come back and, frankly, you won't know anything has happened—except that underground you will be moving ahead full speed to make America have more of the oil that is ours, that we own, that we will use for our future.

I have a little picture up here from Science Times. It was covered in the Times. It is called "Hunting For Oil: New Precision, Less Pollution."

I am sure those who have circulated millions and millions of letters and the hundreds of TV ads saying we are going to ruin ANWR—if we take a tiny piece of that property, the size of Dulles, which I have just shown you on the map, and we drill, they are assuming you are going to spoil the earth as you do when you are producing with the conventional drilling of wells.

This is a pictorial of the chronology and the evolution of how you go about drilling today.

Using the latest drilling techniques, oil drilling sites like those in the Alpine Fields of Alaska's North Slope are using cutting edge technology in the hope of reducing environmental damage.

To reduce the damage, recent advances are lessening the industrial impact on the fragile Arctic ecosystem.

They proceed to show you an Alpine Field, Alaska. They show you what is happening. Let me move over here because I described it in not too good a manner a while ago when I said the oil was 400 yards away, four football fields. You could drill from here.

Let's look at this diagram. You see, here is the platform that might be the size of Dulles. Here is the drilling. Here

is the oil underground. And you see, way far away, the oil is underground, and it is going to be drilled and come up, and everything is going to be done on this platform. The same here. Here is a giant reservoir underground. It is many yards from where you have set out to manage and control the destiny of the tundra. There you are with this dramatic picture of how, just like a curved straw, you put it underground and maneuver it, and the "milk shake" is way over there, and your little child wants the milk shake, and they sit over here in their bedroom where they are feeling ill, and they just gobble it up from way down in the kitchen, where you don't even have to move the Mix Master that made the ice cream for them. You don't have to take it up to the bedroom. This describes the actual drilling that is taking place.

I told you a while ago that I was going to give you just a shirt-sleeve example, where four football fields over there is where you thought the oil was. I used an example that is way too small. As a matter of fact, 4 miles—not 400 yards, but 4 miles—away is this oil from this drill. It is not yards, not football fields, but miles. How many? Four. Now, you tell me that those who are telling America this will damage this tundra, damage this wilderness, are scurrying to the American people and telling them: Did you know you can set a piece of that aside and 4 miles away you can take oil out of the ground? Pretty fantastic.

As a matter of fact, I am using 4, because my staff told me 4. They have evidence from the science that it is 4. I don't see any reason it could not be more than 4. I don't see why it cannot be 6. In fact, if people want to know, we could go ask the experts how far away it can be. It can be plenty far away.

So no hard feelings. Everybody makes their case. I have been here a long time. I try to make mine. But I guarantee you, this one has me worried. If the Senate cannot say, 1, we need oil; 2, we need American oil; 3, if we have got American oil and we can take it out of the ground, we ought to properly assess the risk, we ought not to just say no. We just established we need it. It should be American, if possible. So, third, we ought to properly assess the risk.

The risk is not properly assessed by saying it is under ANWR, therefore no oil. That is not a risk assessment. That is an arbitrary decision—that in one swath negates the first two propositions of significance and reality. We need oil, and we need American oil.

It is too bad that we do hear in America—and people are fair minded—we should not be using so much oil. I hear that. I am prepared to confront that on the floor of the Senate because, when the energy bill comes up, some people are going to say we are not a very good country because, after all, we use a third of the energy of the world. Who do we think we are? Do you know what I say? I say we need it for

our standard of living, but we don't deny it to the other people in the world. We will help them produce more. We will help them produce clean electricity so they can grow. But I am not prepared to say, since we need it for our standard of living—just because we use a disproportionate amount—abandon the oil in Alaska. What does that have to do with it? What does that have to do with whether we are using oil?

Mr. President, the other thing I think Senators and the people of this country ought to look at is, what is oil? It is easy to say we don't need oil, why should we buy so much oil? But oil is our everyday life.

Fellow Americans, do you want to live without cars? Sure, you do. Can you? No, you cannot. I will repeat, would you like to live without cars? Most Americans would say, of course, I love cars, I like them. If you want to say I wish I didn't, I wish I didn't have a car, I ask you, how would you make a living?

Equally important, where would you live? There are two freedoms that are not covered anywhere in the sacred documents of our country that have evolved, and they are about as American as the proverbial apple pie. They are: The freedom to own a house anywhere one can afford it; the yearning to have a house that is your own. We are not going to change that until America is no longer America. The second freedom is to own an automobile or two so you can go where you want when you want.

I respect the fact that Americans say: This is our life. But I regret to tell my fellow Americans, without oil or if oil becomes so ungodly high priced, both of those freedoms will be in jeopardy. There is no question, both of those freedoms will be in jeopardy because we have built our life around those freedoms being reasonably priced. If we make them unreasonably priced and create anger among the American people, and if, in fact, part of the reason the oil is so highly priced is because you did not want to use your own oil because you did not want to touch that little piece of property in ANWR, I surmise people will not think you have a very good excuse. I for one would say you do not have any excuse at all.

I want to recap—and I apologize to the Senate if I have spoken too long and if I have made any misstatements. I do not think I have, but if I have, I will try to correct them.

In summary, it is almost impossible to prove that ANWR will be damaged to any noticeable degree if we produce the oil that is under the footprint the U.S. Government would like to lease so we can determine whether oil is there and how much. It is almost impossible to prove damage.

I am prepared, although this debate will not go on much longer, to take any instrument, any study, any report anybody wants to bring to the floor to

the contrary and debate it. If they want to use the Academy of Sciences study that has just reviewed the Prudhoe area, let's debate it. One may find a few sentences in there that are cautionary, but they will find tremendous amounts of information saying those who claim Prudhoe Bay has been significantly damaging are in error, and it produced that other part, Prudhoe, which passed this Senate by one vote and has produced oil for America without which we would really be in trouble. We can debate that issue.

This is so small in comparison to the size of this wilderness, an area in the wilderness for which we are very grateful to whomever structures the underground oil reserves that they put it in this part of ANWR such that the drilling will occur in the area as I have described it: not mountainous and beautiful and full of flowers, but level and barren and frozen in a gigantic piece that looks like part of New Mexico that turned white and froze.

The next is we are not strong enough to throw away this much of our own patrimony. I do not know where I got the word except it is so important to own your own resources that in Spanish-speaking countries, such as Mexico, they call the oil of Mexico "El patrimonio del estado de Mexico," the patrimony of the state. That is how important oil is. This is our patrimony. It belongs to us. For those who say we should not drill in ANWR because somebody went there and said, We just should not touch this wilderness, to me is absolutely ignoring the reality of America's future.

Every other issue I can think of—new technology which will cause a minimalization of environmental degradation, jobs in the future, and every other issue one can think of—is on the side of the last two or three votes deciding to get this done, not for me, but I have nine grandchildren. I hope they can still drive a car and own a house wherever they would like and work hard and give us ample time to make the transition toward other technologies that will make our lives like they are today rather than lock this up for no good reason.

I close by saying the patrimony of Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask to take 5 minutes off the resolution to respond to the Senator from New Mexico. I believe I might pause here for a unanimous consent request. Mr. President, I ask Senator NICKLES, is that correct? Does the Senator wish that I wait while he propounds a unanimous consent request?

Mr. NICKLES. If the Senator will.

Mrs. BOXER. As long as it does not come off my time. I would like to reserve the 5 minutes off the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I am going to propound a couple unanimous consent requests. I appreciate the cooperation of my colleague.

It is our intention to have a vote on the ANWR amendment at 3 o'clock today. I know there are still some Senators, including Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator STEVENS, who wish to speak on the ANWR amendment, and we will accommodate their request. Also, Senator GRAHAM from South Carolina has an amendment. It would be my intention to send it to the desk so that discussion and debate can occur on that amendment as well. We will not lock in a time for a vote on that amendment, but we may vote on that shortly after the ANWR amendment.

We are also shopping, for the information of our colleagues, for a couple other major amendments. It was my intention, and it is still my intention, to have a vote on the 350 amendment, the size of the growth package, today. I would think that is a major amendment and will require some significant debate. That possibly could happen shortly after the ANWR vote or maybe early afternoon, maybe by 4 or 5 o'clock and have some of that debate between now and that point on the 350 amendment. That amendment is not ready right now.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote in relation to the Boxer amendment No. 272 occur at 3 o'clock today, with no amendments in order to the language to be stricken prior to that vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just so everyone within the sound of my voice understands, we tried to have the vote earlier than 3 o'clock. The Vice President is going to be here for one reason, and I think that is a powerful reason we are going to have the vote at 3 o'clock. I have no objection to the vote at 3 o'clock.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I may, while the manager of the bill is on the floor, I hope this sense of the Senate—I am happy it is their turn to offer an amendment, and we have no control over what they offer. But I hope, Mr. President, that we will not spend a lot of time on this sense-of-the-Senate amendment and that we can get to another amendment before 3 o'clock. I hope the manager will work with us so we can have Senator GRAHAM debate this amendment as long as he thinks appropriate. We will respond, if necessary. I think this will pass overwhelmingly, with the little knowledge I have of it, and I hope we can get to other amendments.

I say to my friend, we are ready to move forward on a homeland security amendment. We are ready, as we speak,

to move forward on an education amendment. We hope we can get to those amendments before too long, recognizing that my friend, the manager of the bill, wants a vote on the best kept secret around here, the \$350 million amendment which we will vote on sometime.

Mr. NICKLES. I thank my friend and colleague from Nevada. I have been working with Senator CONRAD, and it is a pleasure to work both with the Senator from Nevada and the Senator from North Dakota. It is my hope and desire to consider a lot of amendments, the serious amendments, the big amendments. I encourage people to give us copies. I have heard there is a desire to have a vote on the Hagel amendment. I have seen some language, but I am not sure which language.

That is maybe changing the Budget Act. So we kind of need to see that in advance. If people will give us these amendments, on both sides, we can try to get these in queue so we can have adequate but not extended debate, so we are not just burning time.

We know there is a limitation on debate. In years past, we have burnt all the time and then we have a very unpleasant vote-arama. I want to avoid that. I know the Senator from North Dakota wants to avoid that. We will cooperate with the managers to try to make that happen.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is set aside.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California will state her inquiry.

Mrs. BOXER. I want to make sure I have my 5 minutes to respond to the hour-long speech of the Senator from New Mexico.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That unanimous consent request was granted.

AMENDMENT NO. 279

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I send a sense-of-the-Senate resolution offered by the Senator from South Carolina to the desk and ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES], for Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, proposes an amendment numbered 279.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate regarding the urgent need for legislation to ensure the long term viability of the Social Security program)

On page 79, after line 22, add the following:

SEC. 308. SOCIAL SECURITY RESTRUCTURING.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) Social Security is the foundation of retirement income for most Americans;

(2) preserving and strengthening the long term viability of Social Security is a vital national priority and is essential for the retirement security of today's working Americans, current and future retirees, and their families;

(3) Social Security faces significant fiscal and demographic pressures;

(4) the nonpartisan Office of the Chief Actuary at the Social Security Administration reports that—

(A) the number of workers paying taxes to support each Social Security beneficiary has dropped from 16.5 in 1950 to 3.3 in 2002;

(B) within a generation there will be only 2 workers to support each retiree, which will substantially increase the financial burden on American workers;

(C) the implementation of a Social Security "lockbox" would have no direct effect on the future solvency of Social Security;

(D) without structural reform, the Social Security system, beginning in 2018, will pay out more in benefits than it will collect in taxes;

(E) without structural reform, the Social Security system, by 2042, will be insolvent and unable to pay full benefits on time;

(F) without structural reform, Social Security tax revenue in 2042 will only cover 73 percent of promised benefits, and will decrease to 65 percent by 2077;

(G) without structural reform, payroll taxes will have to be raised 50 percent over the next 75 years to pay full benefits on time, resulting in payroll tax rates of 16.9 percent by 2042 and 18.9 percent by 2077;

(H) without structural reform, Social Security's total cash shortfall over the next 75 years is estimated to be more than \$25,000,000,000,000 in constant 2003 dollars;

(I) without structural reform, real rates of return on Social Security contributions will continue to decline dramatically for all workers; and

(J) absent structural reform, spending on Social Security will increase from 4.4 percent of gross domestic product in 2003 to 7.0 percent in 2077; and

(5) the Congressional Budget Office, the General Accounting Office, the Congressional Research Service, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security have all warned that failure to enact fiscally responsible Social Security reform quickly will result in 1 or more of the following:

(A) Higher tax rates.

(B) Lower Social Security benefit levels.

(C) Increased Federal debt.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the President and Congress should work together at the earliest opportunity to enact legislation to achieve a solvent and permanently sustainable Social Security system.

Mr. NICKLES. I know I gave that amendment to my colleague from Nevada, but I believe the Senator from South Carolina wanted me to call up the sense-of-the-Senate amendment No. 274.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

AMENDMENT NO. 279, WITHDRAWN

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw amendment No. 279.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 274

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I send amendment No. 274 to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES], for Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, proposes an amendment numbered 274.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate regarding the urgent need for legislation to ensure the long term viability of the Social Security program)

On page 79, after line 22, add the following:

SEC. 308. SOCIAL SECURITY RESTRUCTURING.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) Social Security is the foundation of retirement income for most Americans;

(2) preserving and strengthening the long term viability of Social Security is a vital national priority and is essential for the retirement security of today's working Americans, current and future retirees, and their families;

(3) Social Security faces significant fiscal and demographic pressures;

(4) the nonpartisan Office of the Chief Actuary at the Social Security Administration reports that—

(A) the number of workers paying taxes to support each Social Security beneficiary has dropped from 16.5 in 1950 to 3.3 in 2002;

(B) within a generation there will be only 2 workers to support each retiree, which will substantially increase the financial burden on American workers;

(C) the implementation of a Social Security "lockbox" would have no direct effect on the future solvency of Social Security;

(D) without structural reform, the Social Security system, beginning in 2018, will pay out more in benefits than it will collect in taxes;

(E) without structural reform, the Social Security system, by 2042, will be insolvent and unable to pay full benefits on time;

(F) without structural reform, Social Security tax revenue in 2042 will only cover 73 percent of promised benefits, and will decrease to 65 percent by 2077;

(G) without structural reform, payroll taxes will have to be raised 50 percent over the next 75 years to pay full benefits on time, resulting in payroll tax rates of 16.9 percent by 2042 and 18.9 percent by 2077;

(H) without structural reform, Social Security's total cash shortfall over the next 75 years is estimated to be more than \$25,000,000,000,000 in constant 2003 dollars;

(I) without structural reform, real rates of return on Social Security contributions will continue to decline dramatically for all workers; and

(J) absent structural reforms, spending on Social Security will increase from 4.4 percent of gross domestic product in 2003 to 7.0 percent in 2077; and

(5) the Congressional Budget Office, the General Accounting Office, the Congressional Research Service, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security have all warned that failure to enact fiscally responsible Social Security reform quickly will result in 1 or more of the following:

(A) Higher tax rates.

(B) Lower Social Security benefit levels.

(C) Increased Federal debt.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the President and Congress should work together at the earliest opportunity to enact

legislation to achieve a solvent and permanently sustainable Social Security system; and

(2) Social Security reform—

(A) must protect current and near retirees from any changes to Social Security benefits;

(B) must preserve Social Security's disability and survivors insurance programs;

(C) must not allow the government to invest directly the Social Security trust funds in the stock market;

(D) must not raise Social Security payroll tax rates;

(E) must reduce the pressure on future taxpayers and on other budgetary priorities;

(F) must provide competitive rates of return on Social Security contributions; and

(G) must prepare and strengthen the safety net for vulnerable populations.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, for the information of my colleagues, we will have a vote on the ANWR resolution at 3. We will have a vote on the Graham of South Carolina sense-of-the-Senate amendment sometime shortly thereafter. It is my hope and desire that we will get another amendment in queue. I would like to see that amendment be the \$350 billion limitation on the growth package. If not, we will work with our colleagues to find another substantive amendment to consider and try to get that in as quickly as possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I have 7 minutes following the Senator from California. Is that consistent with the way the manager of the bill has been operating the floor? If not, I will withhold.

Mr. NICKLES. If the Senator will yield, that has been done. It is not the best legislative procedure. I would like to follow a better legislative procedure and not stack. In order to manage the floor, Senators should be recognized at the conclusion of a speech, and if my colleague seeks recognition, I will yield to my colleague as soon as the Senator from California concludes her remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

AMENDMENT NO. 272

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the Senator from New Mexico spoke with tremendous conviction about why he wants to drill in the Alaska Wildlife Refuge. He said he had no hard feelings for those people who felt differently, but he said a number of things that deserve to be rebutted, and I am going to do that.

I certainly believe that whether one has an area that looks like this—and my colleagues said this is not a photograph of the area that would be drilled, but they are completely incorrect. This has been mapped. We have exactly where this is on the back of the photograph. It is right in the heart of the refuge. We had this picture last year, which then-Senator Frank Murkowski said was not taken in the refuge area. We had the head of Fish and Wildlife in Alaska phone in, irate, and essentially

say, yes, this is exactly where they want to drill, where the caribou are roaming.

So let's get that right. I am not going to stand up in front of pictures that do not apply to make my case. That is ridiculous. I would not do that. That is wrong. It is not a fair way to debate. I want to debate on the merit.

I also have never, ever said in this debate—and I spoke last night, as well as this morning—that people on the other side are doing this because they get campaign contributions from oil and gas companies and other economic interests. I will not do that. I have more respect than that. But, of course, my colleague from New Mexico says the only reason we are fighting for this is that we get contributions from a few environmental organizations. Hogwash. I would like to line up the campaign contributions of the environmental organizations versus the campaign contributions of big oil and gas companies.

Let's just cut it out. The Senate should be above that. I speak from my heart when I say there is an inconsistency with setting aside this beautiful acreage and then saying, oh, well, now we need to drill.

I received a call this morning from former Representative John Seiberling. Last night, his picture was held up by Senator STEVENS. Senator STEVENS said there was a deal cut in 1980 to allow oil drilling. Obviously, I was not in that meeting. The fact is I came to the Congress in 1982, so I missed that by 2 years.

Representative Seiberling phoned us this morning. He was the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands. He was in that picture, and he said there was no deal to open the Alaska Wildlife Reserve to exploration. So I want to state that for the record, just as last night I talked about the letter from President Jimmy Carter who said he is totally opposed to this drilling, even though he, too, was referred to as being part of this so-called deal.

I also want to show a footprint of the New Jersey Turnpike. Now, my colleagues are going to say: Well, Senator BOXER, what does that have to do with anything? The fact is, this is the same size footprint that the opposition is saying would be the footprint of the oil field that would be allowed in this refuge.

I say to my friends, the way Senator DOMENICI posed it, he had a great big chart and a little dot. Well, what goes on when you drill for oil is not a little dot. That is so obvious; it is kind of silly. If we even take the footprint that they talk about, the 2,000 acres, that is the footprint the size of the New Jersey Turnpike, and I say to anyone who has some common sense, no one would say that what happens on the New Jersey Turnpike does not have an impact on the surrounding community.

I also say to my friend, because he opposes me in a lot of areas—this is my friend from New Mexico. I served on

the Budget Committee for years. I have tremendous respect for him, but we disagree. I, with just as much fervor as he, will say to my colleagues today I want them to look at the footprint for offshore oil drilling off the coast of California. It will look really small if the whole coastline is taken into account, but my people in California know it is destructive. How do we know that? We have seen it. We have seen what happens when oil spills. We know that no matter what technology is promised, accidents occur. We have certainly experienced that in Alaska given what has happened in the past from spills, and I put that in the RECORD before.

We know the USGS analysis says that oil in the refuge is scattered in many different areas. It would require multiple fields across the Coastal Plain, 250 miles of roads, 100 miles of pipeline.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). The time of the Senator has expired.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask for 3 additional minutes off the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from North Dakota yield 3 minutes?

Mrs. BOXER. I would like 3 additional minutes, if I could, off the resolution, or I could take it off the amendment; it is immaterial.

Mr. CONRAD. We are now in a situation where we have had very extended debate on ANWR. At some point, we have to draw it to a close.

Mrs. BOXER. I will take the time from the amendment.

Mr. CONRAD. That will be fine, if we take it from the amendment.

Mrs. BOXER. That will leave 1 minute, and I will reserve that.

I say to my friend from North Dakota, the Senator from New Mexico had an hour speech and I believe I need to rebut it. We know from USGS we are talking 250 miles of roads, 100 miles of pipeline, airfields, gravel pits, power lines, waste facilities, and other structures. We are talking about this, not coming from the side of those who believe this pristine area ought to be left alone, but from the USGS survey.

John Seiberling says no deal was cut in 1980; Senator STEVENS sees it a different way. People can take away different meanings. But I mention that in the RECORD. When we hear President Carter's name as being part of a deal, and he writes a letter and says he does not want to see drilling here, we ought to set the record straight.

This is a fair debate. But it ought to be based on the facts as the people who were in the room saw it. Senator STEVENS laid out how he felt. John Seiberling phoned and left his phone number. I am sure if Senator STEVENS would like to chat with him, that would be fine with him.

Mr. STEVENS. Who should I call?

Mrs. BOXER. I am happy to answer on your time. May I answer on your time?

Mr. STEVENS. You mentioned my name, thank you very much.

Mrs. BOXER. I am sorry, I have 60 seconds left to rebut an hour-long tirade by someone on the other side who said the reason we are preserving the Arctic is because we received campaign contributions.

I print in the RECORD the facts, a letter from Jimmy Carter who opposes drilling in this area. He talks about it very eloquently.

John Seiberling, then-chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks, was in the picture that my friend from Alaska held up last night, and has said absolutely there was no deal cut to drill in this area. It is important we set that record straight.

I correct that. He was not in the picture, but in the meetings that led to the picture. He was the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands.

Lastly, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of a very important document put together by the Alaska Wilderness League. In it there are comments of the National Research Counsel on the cumulative environmental effects of oil and gas activities on Alaska's North Slope. We keep hearing there is no problem, no problem at all, but there are newspaper reports that say the local people who live up there claim there is a problem with the caribou herds. They are going elsewhere, away from the drilling.

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

COMMENTS ON THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL REPORT ON THE CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES ON ALASKA'S NORTH SLOPE

Overall: The report documents significant environmental and cultural effects that have accumulated as the result of three decades of oil development on Alaska's North Slope. Industrial activity has transformed what once was part of the largest intact wilderness area in the United States into a complex of oil fields and their interconnecting roads and pipelines that stretches over 1,000 square miles. Many important effects on animals and vegetation extend well beyond the actual "footprint" of development. New technologies have reduced some effects, but despite this, the committee concluded that expansion into new areas is certain to exacerbate existing effects and generate new ones.

While no economic assessment of the environmental costs of oil development on the North Slope has been done, the report estimates that the costs of removing facilities and restoring habitat will run in the billions of dollars. No money has been set aside for this purpose by either the oil companies or the government. Because natural recovery in the arctic is slow, effects caused by unrestored facilities are likely to persist for centuries.

ANIMALS

Bowhead whale migrations have been displaced by the intense noise of seismic exploration offshore. Spilled oil poses a great potential threat to bowhead whales due to their specific morphological characteristics.

The reproductive success of some bird species in the oilfields has been reduced to the

point where some oil-field populations are likely maintained only by immigration from more productive "source" habitats elsewhere. An important consequence of this phenomenon is that loss of such "source" habitats can threaten the viability of a population even though most of the habitat occupied by the species in a region remains relatively intact. The location of important source habitat for birds or other species is not well characterized for the North Slope. Thus, the spread of industrial development into new areas could result in unexpected species declines, even though total habitat loss might be modest.

Some denning polar bears have been disturbed by industrial activities. Though limited development offshore has taken place to date, full scale industrial development offshore would displace polar bears and ringed seals from their habitats, increase mortality, and decrease their reproductive success. Predicted climate change is likely to have serious effects on polar bears and ringed seals that will accumulate with those related to oil development.

Caribou

Although industrial development has not resulted in a long-term decline in the Central Arctic Herd (the herd most affected by current oil development), the Committee concluded that by itself is not a sufficient measure of whether adverse effects have occurred. Female caribou exposed to oilfield activity and infrastructure produced fewer calves, and following years when insect harassment was high, that effect increased, which may have depressed herd size. The spread of industrial activity into other areas that caribou use for calving and relief from insects, especially to the east where the coastal plain is narrower than elsewhere, would likely result in reductions in reproductive success.

The Porcupine herd, which calves in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, has the lowest growth capacity of the four arctic herds and the least capacity to resist natural and human-caused stress. Higher insect activity associated with climate warming could counteract any benefits of reduced surface development by increasing the frequency with which caribou encounter infrastructure.

DEVELOPMENT "FOOTPRINT"

Development has directly affected 17,000 acres spread across an area roughly the size of the land area of Rhode Island. Of this, 9,000 acres are covered by gravel, excluding TAPS, the Haul Road and facilities in NPRA. The environmental effects of oil development are not limited to the "footprint" (actual area covered by a structure), but occur at distances that vary depending on the environmental component affected, from a few miles (animals), to much farther (visual effects and seismic effects on whales).

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Climate change will continue to affect the usefulness of many oilfield technologies and how they affect the environment. For example, the length of the winter season when seismic and other off road tundra travel is permitted, and ice roads and pads are constructed, has been steadily decreasing since the 1970's. The coastline of the North Slope is presently eroding at a rate of 8 feet per year, the fastest rate of coastline erosion in the United States, and this will accelerate with climate change.

WILDERNESS

Oil development has compromised wilderness values over 1,000 square miles of the North Slope. The potential for further loss is at least as great as what has already occurred as development expands into new areas. Roads, pads, pipelines, seismic vehicle

tracks, transmission lines, air, ground and vessel traffic, drilling activities, and other industrial activities and infrastructure have eroded wilderness values over an area that is far larger than the area of direct effects. Most analyses of wilderness effects conducted by the government are cursory, out of date, or both, and none has used new techniques for measuring wilderness values, or attempted to coordinate wilderness assessment or planning among different jurisdictions.

ECONOMIC COSTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

There have been no economic valuation studies of the effects of oil development on the physical biological, or human environment on the North Slope. As a result, the full cost of oil development on Alaska's North Slope has not been assessed, quantified, or incorporated into decisions that affect use of public land. Incorporation of environmental costs into an overall economic assessment of development would alter projections of economically recoverable oil and gas on public land on the North Slope. For example, the U.S. Geological Survey periodically estimates the amount of recoverable oil in various areas of federally owned land on the North Slope. In doing so, the USGS generally projects the amount of oil that is "economically recoverable" from these lands given a particular price of oil and given a set of costs associated with development and transportation. By not fully accounting for environmental costs in its projections, the USGS underestimates the cost of development, which in turn inflates the amount of oil considered economically recoverable at a given market price.

SPILLS

Hundreds of spills occur each year in the oilfields, but to date they have not been large enough or frequent enough for their effects to have accumulated. Offshore, the industry has not demonstrated the ability to clean up more than a small fraction of oil spilled in marine waters, especially when broken ice is present.

AIR POLLUTION

Not enough information is available to provide a quantitative baseline of spatial and temporal trends in air quality over long periods across the North Slope, and little research has been done to quantify effects. More than 70,000 tons of NO_x are emitted each year by industrial facilities on the North Slope, along with thousands of tons of sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, volatile organic hydrocarbons, and millions of tons of carbon dioxide. Even though air quality meets national ambient air quality standards, it is not clear that those standards are sufficient to protect arctic vegetation.

LACK OF RESTORATION

Only about 100 acres (1%) of the habitat affected by gravel fill on the North Slope have been restored. The Committee concluded that unless major changes occur, it is unlikely that most disturbed habitat on the North Slope will ever be restored. Because natural recovery in the arctic is slow, effects of unrestored structures are likely to persist for centuries, and will accumulate as new structures are added.

DECISION-MAKING

Decisions about development on the North Slope have generally been made one case at a time, in the absence of a comprehensive plan and regulatory strategy that identifies the scope, intensity, direction, and consequences of industrial activities judged appropriate and desirable. Similarly, the minimal rehabilitation of disturbed habitat has occurred without an overall plan to identify land-use goals, objectives to achieve them,

performance criteria, or monitoring requirements. Little consideration has been given to how future trajectories of development would be viewed by different groups, including North Slope residents. In addition, as indicated above, the full cost of oil development on Alaska's North Slope has not been assessed, quantified, or incorporated into decisions that affect use of public land.

WINTER OFF-ROAD SEISMIC EXPLORATION AND ICE ROADS

The Committee estimates that more than 32,000 miles of seismic trails, receiver trails, and camp-move trails were created between 1990 and 2001, an annual average of 2,900 miles each year. If current trends continue, some 30,000-line miles will be surveyed on the North Slope over the next decade. These trails produce a serious accumulating visual effect and can damage vegetation and cause erosion. Data do not exist to determine the period that the damage will persist, but some effects are known to have lasted for several decades. Seismic exploration is expanding westward into the western arctic and the foothills, where the hilly topography increases the likelihood that vehicles will damage vegetation. The use of ice roads and pads has increased and will continue to do so, but little information is available on how long effects persist.

REGULATORY ISSUES

The report did not evaluate the adequacy of existing regulations. However in the course of the review, a number of issues arose. Examples include the following.

Protecting the tundra from winter off road travel

DNR permits tundra travel for seismic camps where there is an average of 6" of snow and 12" of frozen soil, which the committee concluded are not based on scientific evidence. The only published study of seismic disturbance in relation to snow cover suggests that disturbance occurs at snow depths of 10"-28" of snow. In addition, the use of AVERAGE snowpack and frost thickness by regulatory agencies does not take into account differences in snow cover across different land forms or across the slope.

Restoration

Fewer than 1% of Corps permits contain restoration requirements, and those don't generally include specific standards, requirements for long term monitoring, or performance criteria. Only 6 of the 1,179 permits issued by the Corps require the re-use of gravel. The Corps does not have an estimate of the area affected by permits it has issued.

Groundwater

Existing data on groundwater suggests that sub-permafrost groundwater may meet the regulatory definition of a drinking water source more commonly than thought. No testing of groundwater is required prior to waste injection.

Water withdrawals

Water withdrawals from fish-bearing lakes for purposes such as building ice roads and pads are limited to 15% of the estimated minimum winter water volume. The committee cited the lack of data to support this criterion, which it terms arbitrary. For fishless lakes, there were no restrictions on removal of water as of late 2002; all unfrozen water from such lakes can be drained. The effects of such complete withdrawals have not been evaluated.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, it is very important everyone vote. This is a close vote. I don't think this should be in a budget resolution. It is very obvious what the proponents of drilling want to do. They want to get this into

reconciliation so those who have deep, strong feelings will not be able to talk at length about it, to stop it. I hope we stop it today.

I reserve 1 minute for closing debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, previously I yielded the Senator from Alaska 1 hour on the amendment. Is there any time remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 12 minutes remaining on the amendment.

Mr. NICKLES. I yield to the Senator from Alaska not only those 12 minutes but also such time as he desires on this resolution. I also remind him I told the Senator from Alabama that he would be recognized for a few minutes, as well. I yield to the Senator from Alaska such time as he desires.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I am delighted to be here when my friend from California mentions my name and someone I should call. I assume that would be President Carter. President Carter told the House of Representatives not to send him the 1980 bill until after the election. And he waited until after the election, but he did sign it.

The item I read last night is from Jimmy Carter's own record, his own words at the time he signed that bill. It is true, since that time he has campaigned against a provision of the bill that he signed.

We have an amendment introduced now by the Senator from Connecticut to repeal that provision. But that is the first time there has been an amendment to repeal that provision, primarily because the people who were here then who made the commitment to Alaska are all gone. It is sad we have to wait until those people who make commitments to a State that leads to a decision to withdraw over 100 million acres of Alaska land, the one decision we got was we would be able to open up exploration and development on the Arctic coast if we could show there would be no irreparable harm in that area. That was shown with two environmental impact statements.

Later I will make comments about the impact of the provision of the Senator from California with regard to the people of California. I spent a good period of time in California. I was raised there and went to school there—UCLA. I tell the people of California when their price of gasoline goes up, call Senator BOXER. Call her and ask her why she opposes oil coming from Alaska as it used to. For over 20 years we sent oil to California from the same area. Now she refuses to allow us to continue to explore in the area that her two colleagues, Senator Jackson and Senator Tsongas, in 1980, said would be open.

There are pretty flowers all over Alaska in the summertime. I can show the Senator from California a picture

of a million acres of golden rod waving in the breeze. It is beautiful. But I can also show a picture again of the tundra. This is what the area she had a picture of looks like most of the time, the tundra, solid, frozen tundra, and we do this in the wintertime. We do not spoil the flowers. We build ice roads across the tundra and drill for oil and gas. It is completed when it is still frozen land.

We did not disturb the caribou. As a matter of fact, here is a good example. I am sorry the Senator from California has not seen fit to come to Alaska and look at the area she talks about. There is the caribou right near Port McIntyre field. That is where they come. They do not look disturbed to me. I have been up there, and there are so many on the runway we had to wait until they decided to leave because they get first call on the runway.

It is time we talk facts. And the fact is, Congress pledged this area would be available for oil and gas exploration. The 1002 area was specifically reserved for oil and gas exploration. It is not wilderness. The Senator from California and others insist on coming out here and saying we want to drill in wilderness. That is not true. It never was wilderness from the time it was withdrawn when I was in the Department of Interior in the 1950s. We specifically allowed oil and gas leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act to continue, although the area was withdrawn from all other forms of entry under public land laws.

As long as the Senator from California mentions whom I should call, she might want to visit with the Eskimos in the Senate gallery. They are part of 100,000 Alaska Natives in favor of drilling in this area. I intend to spell that out in more detail later.

I don't need to call a former President. I know where President Carter stands now, but I knew where he was when I saw him signing the bill. He signed that bill that contained the section 1002, and he gave us the right and approved the offer made by Senator Jackson and Senator Tsongas to me that if we allowed the million acres to be withdrawn, we would continue to have the right to explore in the Arctic.

I yield to my friend, and I reserve the remainder of my time. I will talk right up to the vote and urge Members of the Senate to think about one thing, and that is the value of the oil in our area of Alaska as compared to the continued dependence upon foreign oil in increasing amounts in this country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Alaska for his tremendous leadership on this issue. It is a very important issue to America. I salute the Presiding Officer for her leadership on it. It is so important.

There is no doubt about it; any activity in this area would have minimal environmental impact. This is going to be the most closely watched drilling ever

to occur in the world, I suppose. It will be environmentally sound in every possible way, using the newest technology, as Senator DOMENICI said. It will be on land where you can control things better. It will be a minute footprint in these millions of acres of land. It is going to be carefully done.

While we are talking about safely drilling in Alaska, today no one I know of is seriously opposing drilling in the Caspian Sea. No one is opposing the drilling that goes on in Venezuela. We are drilling off the coast of Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi, and in the Gulf of Mexico right now, producing oil and gas in a much more high-risk environment than this would ever be. So this is an unbelievable argument to me. It goes against all logic.

This is a minute environmental impact, I suggest. But it represents, without doubt in my mind, the greatest economic growth potential of anything in the President's package or anything we are dealing with on the floor right now. This is an important growth issue for America. The reason is, we are talking about new wealth to America.

Every day, if we do not buy the oil that comes from this region, we will be sending our money to Venezuela and Saudi Arabia and Iraq and whatever other OPEC nation we would be sending it to—a direct sucking sound of American wealth going to foreign nations.

We have had various studies. One said 735,000 jobs would be produced. Another one has come in at 575,000 jobs that would be created.

I want to make one point. These are going to be critical jobs, high-paying jobs in drilling—environmental engineers, pump manufacturing, shipping, transportation, rail, airlines are going to be active, steelworkers, teamsters, and that kind of thing, high-paying jobs. Money will be paid to them out of the money that we would have otherwise sent outside of this country for foreign oil that would not have been paid to American workers. High paid salaries to American workers—it will be missed by us.

So I would say this is big. I will just briefly make this point. How big is it? If we had 575,000 jobs, and they are making higher wages, if they are a spouse who is working, they may be paying more than the figure I would float out, but I suggest these jobs will result in IRS payments to Uncle Sam, Uncle Sugar, of probably \$10,000 per job.

You add that up, 575,000 jobs at \$10,000 to the tax man of the United States, that turns out to \$5.75 billion a year to the Treasury of the United States. Over 10 years that is almost \$50 billion.

Are we going to pay this to the "stans," to Russia, Venezuela, Mexico, Iraq, Kuwait, those countries? That is who is getting it now and will be getting it in the future. It is really a tremendous amount.

This does not count the royalties that will be paid by the drilling companies to the United States. They will be paying \$10 to \$20 billion over the life of this activity.

We have also not forgotten, I hope, that the drilling here, under the legislation as proposed, will result in the payment of \$2.5 billion to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for conservation programs in America. I have absolutely no doubt—I know the Presiding Officer shares this—that \$2.5 billion will do more environmental good throughout the entire United States than this 2,500-acre footprint of drilling would cause damage in this vast ANWR region of Alaska.

I really believe this is a tremendously important economic issue for America. It is jobs, jobs, jobs. Those of us who are wrestling with a budget in this country that shows declining revenues, it will guarantee increased tax revenues to the United States. We must not allow exaggerated fears to pull us back from this important issue.

It is great to be with the Senator from Alaska, and know he knows this issue so well. I appreciate his leadership. Yes, it is good for Alaska, but it is good for America. We thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

AMENDMENT NO. 274

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I know the Senator from South Carolina has a sense-of-the-Senate amendment. Let me just say I regret that because we have done our level best to stop the practice of offering sense-of-the-Senate amendments on the budget resolution. We have established a point of order against them to try to discourage sense-of-the-Senate amendments. And we have been so far, until this moment, successful on both sides. I just say to my colleagues, if we start down this path, we will be right back to where we were in the past. We are going to be right back to vote-arama. We are going to be right back to a circumstance in which, when all time has expired, we are going to face 30 or 40 or 50 votes and nobody is going to have a chance to explain them. We are going to have Senators, hour after hour after hour, marching down into the well of the Senate to cast votes on issues they have not even had a chance to debate or had a chance to discuss.

I regret very much the sense-of-the-Senate amendment has been put in this queue. I say to my colleagues on the other side, if we start down this path, the same thing is going to happen over here.

Let me say, it is not the fault of the Senator from South Carolina. He has offered an amendment in good faith. We respect that Senator. But the point is a larger question of how we proceed on a budget resolution. Both sides have worked very hard to prevent vote-arama.

We are right now rushing toward that result. I hope everybody thinks very carefully now about the decisions we

are making because we are going to reap the whirlwind.

Let me just say this to my colleagues. There is an alternative. The Senator from South Carolina has gotten in the queue. I hope we can work out an agreement on his amendment. I understand staffs on both sides are working on that. If we do not draw the line here, it is Katie bar the door. And we should all understand that.

No. 2, I hope after the Senator from South Carolina has a reasonable time to discuss his amendment, hopefully during that period our staffs can work together and we can reach an accommodation and agreement so the amendment of the Senator can be adopted without a vote. I urge that course on my colleagues on the other side.

Next, that we then move to a debate on another amendment with the ability to come back and finish off on ANWR before the vote that is now scheduled at 3 o'clock. I just hope we all think very carefully, now, in these minutes, before we head down this path, of where it leads. At the same time, on both sides, we discussed trying to reach an agreement on a set number of amendments, those to be debated and those to be in vote-arama.

On our side we are calling a caucus to discuss that very question. I hope the other side—I have already talked to Senator NICKLES about it—will give it close consideration as well, so we avoid this spectacle of vote-arama. But right now colleagues should understand we are headed for the vote-arama of all time, and it will not reflect well on the body, and it probably will not lead to the best results.

With that, I yield the floor and, again, hope my colleagues consider these options.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina addressed the Chair.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, will the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Absolutely.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, while the Senator from North Dakota is here, I would like to see if there could be an agreement. I understand we are going off this amendment to delete the ANWR provision in this budget resolution for a little while. I wonder if it would be possible if we could ask unanimous consent that we return to this amendment at 2 o'clock—the vote will be at 3—and the time between 2 and 3 o'clock be equally divided between the two sides.

Mr. CONRAD. I would certainly be open to that. I would want the opinion of the manager and chairman of the committee.

Mr. NICKLES. I have no objection to that. This is a very important amendment. It is one of the reasons why I encouraged our colleagues to bring it up. I knew it was going to take some time. I have no objection to that.

Mr. CONRAD. We have no objection on this side.

Mr. STEVENS. I do offer that unanimous consent request. I point out, I could speak from now until 3 o'clock, if the Senate would like to do that, but I think it is best we go ahead as the leader requests we do. I renew my request.

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

Who yields time?

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Madam President, I have a house-keeping chore. I would like to submit to the clerk a modification to my amendment and ask unanimous consent that the amendment be modified.

No modification is needed, I am told. Thank you.

Madam President, Social Security is not only hard to solve, it is also hard to get before the Senate. So I apologize for the confusion.

I understand the concern of my colleague from North Dakota. But having a bit of time to talk about Social Security I think is very appropriate.

The budget resolution process is a roadmap to make sure we can understand what we are doing as the year progresses in terms of spending and taxes and what provisions to take up and when. I applaud both the Senator from North Dakota and the Senator from Oklahoma for working together to try to make this as painless on the body as possible. But this amendment, hopefully, can be accepted in some form, either voted on or accepted by the body.

If you are going to have a roadmap for America this year or any other year, it is time we start putting Social Security on that roadmap. Social Security is a system that Democrats and Republicans embrace as being vital to the Nation. It is a system that working Americans pay into every year. Millions of Americans receive a substantial part, if not all, of their retirement income from Social Security, after years of paying into the system.

This amendment is part of this roadmap for America that we are talking about. It lays out some findings and some facts that are not Republican spin, not Democratic spin, but come from the Social Security trustees themselves, the people in charge of telling us, in managing the program—"us" being the House and the Senate—the state of affairs with Social Security.

We are on the verge of a war. Only God knows what will happen here shortly. But it is my belief, unless there is some major miracle, we will be involved in hostilities with young men and women in harm's way protecting our freedom. I know one thing every Member of the body can agree on is that these young men and women deserve our support and our prayers if ordered into battle. And they will get that support and those prayers in a bipartisan way because what they are doing is very noble, in my opinion, trying to preserve our freedom and bringing about more stability in the Middle East.

We can argue about the nuances of the diplomacy and lack thereof in some people's opinion that got us to being on the brink of war, but once hostilities begin, I am sure everybody will come together and say a prayer for our troops and support our President the best they can.

That same dynamic needs to exist with Social Security, because there is a big, gaping hole in America's domestic agenda. You can talk about the size of the tax cuts, whether we should have one, whether it should be \$750 billion or \$350 billion or 30 cents or \$2 trillion. Whatever opinion you have, I respect, and I have my own about that; and that is a point of debate.

One thing we need to understand and come together on quickly, in my opinion, is certain facts surrounding Social Security.

In 75 years—I know that seems forever. But my predecessor, Senator Thurmond, turned 100 a few months ago. He is going to be a first-time grandfather. Our State's former junior Senator, now senior Senator, is 81. So in South Carolina, 75 years is not long in politics. It seems forever, but it is not, really.

In 75 years, our trustees, the people in charge of the Social Security trust fund, tell us we will be \$25.3 trillion short of the money necessary to pay benefits. I want to repeat that. I know there are a lot of important votes to come on ANWR and tax cuts, and this roadmap is about this year; and we are trying get through this day to make sure we can get on with the business of the Senate. And that is the way politics is, probably to a fault sometimes: getting through this day, getting through this amendment, so we can get on with the next event of the next day. We are in the middle of an international crisis, and our hope is we can get through the coming days as quickly as possible and resolve it.

Time is not on our side in solving Social Security structural problems. You could say: Well, 75 years is a long time. But between now and 75 years from now, for the obligations of the trust fund, and the money to pay those obligations, there will be a \$25 trillion gap. And I ask, simply, the following question: Where does the money come from?

People want to know how much the war is going to cost—and the occupation. The truth is, it is going to be billions of dollars over several years. As we try to find out where the money comes from to get us through this day and this year, I hope we will start focusing on, in a bipartisan fashion, where does the money come from to keep Social Security solvent?

Seventy-five years from now, if nothing changes—if all we do is run ads against each other and belittle opportunities to fix it in a partisan way; if the Democratic and the Republican parties stay on track, based on the last campaign cycle, of trying to use the Social Security issue as a way to cap-

ture power for the moment—then we are going to allow one of the best programs in the history of the Nation not only to become insolvent but create a financial crisis in this country that we have not experienced, ever.

Another date I would like to point out: In 2042, which seems forever, but it is not, a problem occurs with Social Security. Seventy-five years from now, the unfunded liability in obligation will be \$25.3 trillion. But before you get to that point in time, the next major event, according to the trustee report released yesterday, is 2042.

What happens in 2042? In 2042, the amount of money available to pay benefits will be such that benefits will be reduced for the average recipient by 28 percent. I want to say that again. If we do nothing different, if we just collect the same amount of money, and get the same growth rates, in 2042 you are going to reduce benefits for everybody on Social Security by 28 percent. The other option is, according to the trustees, raise payroll taxes of the workforce in existence then by 50 percent. These are two very dramatic and unacceptable options, in my opinion.

Now, in 2042, I doubt if I will be here. But if the history of my State stands the test of time, I will be here because I will turn 100 in 2055. If I can do what my predecessor has done, which I very seriously doubt, I will have another term left. I doubt if that will happen in my case, but somebody is going to be here in 2042 from South Carolina and every other State represented here today.

My hope is that during my time in the Senate, I can join with my colleagues of like mind on both sides of the aisle to make life a little better for the American public, the taxpayer, and those who will be doing the job we are engaged in today a little better than the trustees tell us of what is going to happen in 2042.

I would like to recognize certain Members of this body: Senator GREGG, Senator BREAUX, and many others, Senator Moynihan, a former Member of the Senate, who have brought ideas to the table, have worked in a bipartisan manner, along with President Bush. I compliment President Clinton for putting the issue of Social Security on the table. I didn't particularly like his solution to better growth rates, but he acknowledged that growth rates were a problem. So there is the foundation being laid in the last couple years to do something constructive.

I compliment everybody in this body who has been part of that process. As a Member of the House for four terms, I tried to be a constructive Member dealing with Social Security over there.

The temptation to achieve political power is great when the Senate and the House are so closely divided. Every issue is looked upon as the issue that can get you back in the majority or the issue that may cost you the majority. My concern is that if we have that approach to reforming and solving Social

Security—I know the Senator from North Dakota who is managing the minority side of the bill is a fine Member who loves his country as much as I do—if we keep this partisan atmosphere going that has existed in the past and has been bipartisan in the demagoguery, we will run into a problem. So in 2042, I would like us to avoid what is coming our way. The only way to do is to start now.

Another date the Social Security trustees tell us is a very important date is 2018. I have gone from 75 years now to 2042 to 2018. What happens in 2018? In 2018, for the first time in the history of the program, we will pay more in benefits than we collect in taxes. What is going on here? There are a lot of young folks working in the Senate—pages, interns. We are really talking about their future more than anything else.

In 2018, we pay out more in benefits than we collect in taxes. What is wrong with Social Security? Why is it mounting up this unfunded obligation? Why are we beginning to pay more in benefits than we collect in taxes? Why do we have to cut benefits in 2042, and why are we \$25 trillion short in the money to pay everybody 75 years from now?

Well, it is not a Republican or a Democratic problem in terms of politics. It is just the way the country has changed. I was born in 1955. In 1950, a few years before I was born, there were 16.5 workers to every retiree. According to the trustees, in 1950, there were 16.5 people working paying Social Security taxes for every retiree. Today there are 3.3 workers to every retiree. Twenty years from now, there are going to be two workers for every retiree. That is not a Republican problem. It is not a Democratic caused problem. That is not because we can't get along up here. That is because the ratios have changed. There is no reason to believe they will go back the other way.

My father and mother are deceased now, but I think in my mother's family there were nine members of her family, and my father had eight. I am not married. I don't have any kids. My sister has one. I sort of reflect what is going on in the world. I hope to help solve the problem later down the road. If I do what Senator Thurmond has done, 23 years from now, I would have my first child. I doubt if that will happen, either.

But as we kind of mark these points in time and make it personal, the problem is that the demographic changes in America have put Social Security at risk. It is nobody's fault, but it is everyone's problem. You cannot keep the program solvent when the ratio has gone from 16.5 workers to 1 in 1950 to 20 years from now being 2 to 1. There is just not enough money coming into the system.

Now, when you talk about Social Security spending and what to do and the idea that we are spending Social Security surpluses to run the Government,

you get everybody upset. And they should be. I came to the House in 1995. One of the first things we tried to do was isolate Social Security money surpluses and make sure we did not use the Social Security dollars paid into the system to run the Government. That has been a practice that has been going on for 30 or 40 years. Both parties have engaged in that practice.

Every year we collect more in Social Security taxes than we pay in benefits. That extra money is called surplus. We have borrowed that extra cash, given the trust fund IOUs that have to be redeemed in the future. That has allowed us to grow this Government without a direct tax on people.

That is a bad practice. It is not good government. It is not good business. For several years we have been able to avoid doing that in a bipartisan way.

You remember in the last debate there was the lockbox. Let's put everything related to Social Security in this lockbox. In my last campaign for the Senate, I constantly heard it: If you just left Social Security money alone and you didn't take it out to run the Government, if you kept it in a lockbox and left it alone, most of these problems would go away.

That is not true. As much as you would like to believe that, that is not true. If you took every penny collected from Social Security and you dedicated it totally to the trust fund and totally to the benefits to be paid, you are still \$25 trillion short in 75 years. It still runs out of money in 2042. The problem is that two workers paying into the system will not be able to support the massive number of baby boomers coming into the system.

Having said that, I would like to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do a better job of protecting Social Security. I don't believe there is any party that has been in power for the last 40 years that could look the American public in the eye and say that they have not been guilty of using the surpluses in some fashion for other than Social Security.

In September of last year, I wrote a letter to the Social Security Administration asking 17 questions. Here is one of the questions I asked: Some have proposed a Social Security lockbox; would a lockbox, by itself, extend the solvency of Social Security beyond the year Social Security is expected to become insolvent? In a nutshell they said, the implementation of a Social Security lockbox would not alter this commitment and thus would have no direct effect on the future solvency of Social Security.

Having said that, I do believe we should isolate Social Security dollars and dedicate those dollars to the payment of Social Security trust fund obligations. That is just good government. But please do not tell your constituents back home that will fix this problem because it most certainly will not.

After having heard my rendition, there is probably not much good news

you have heard yet. The good news: there is a way, in my opinion, to make up the \$25 trillion shortfall over 75 years, to change the fact that you will have to reduce benefits by 2042 by 28 percent—that is all the money you will have to pay benefits by then—and to even change the dynamic of paying more out in benefits than you collect in taxes by 2018.

The good news—just like everything else in Washington, there is a bad news/good news part of what I am about to say—is that the growth rates for Social Security, the amount of return you get on your FICA tax dollars or Social Security tax dollars taken out of your paycheck for younger workers, people born in the 1980s, it is less than 2 percent. If you happen to be a minority in this country, born in the 1980s, it is less than 1 percent.

Let me say that again. This is not Lindsey Graham saying that. The Social Security trustees have reported back to me in this letter.

I ask unanimous consent to print the letter in the RECORD.

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

SOCIAL SECURITY,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ACTUARY,
Baltimore, MD, September 26, 2002.

Hon. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. GRAHAM: Thank you very much for the opportunity to answer the questions you have posed in your letter of September 6, 2002. The answers below are based on the intermediate assumptions and projections presented in the 2002 Annual Social Security Trustees Report and estimates that we have provided for a number of reform proposals over the past several years.

Many of the questions that you raise are very complex and the answers are subject to considerable uncertainty and even debate. I am providing brief answers reflecting my understanding of these issues based largely on the work done in the Office of the Chief Actuary for the Trustees, the Administration, and the Congress. I hope these responses will be helpful. I look forward to working with you, and Aleix Jarvis and Jessica Efrid of your staff in the effort to develop proposals to reform Social Security and restore long-term solvency for the program.

(1) Based on the Social Security Administration's projections, in what year does Social Security begin to pay more out than it takes in?

Answer. Under the current intermediate assumptions of the 2002 Annual Report of the Social Security Board of Trustees to the Congress, and assuming that current law is not changed, we project that annual cash flow for the Social Security program will remain positive through 2016 and will turn negative for calendar year 2017 and later. Annual cash flow is defined here as the excess of income (excluding interest) over expenditures.

(2) Based on the Social Security Administration's projections, in what year is Social Security expected to become insolvent?

Answer. Under the intermediate assumptions, full benefits would continue to be payable after 2016 and part of the way through 2041 by augmenting current revenue from taxes with revenue from redeeming special United States Treasury obligations held by the Trust Funds. During 2041, the theoretical

combined Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds are projected to become exhausted and full scheduled benefits would no longer be payable on a timely basis. This condition is referred to as insolvency of the Trust Funds, because available tax revenue would then be sufficient to cover only about 73 percent of the cost of scheduled benefits. In fact, the OASI and DI Trust Funds operate separately and the projected dates of insolvency are 2043 for the OASI Trust Fund and 2028 for the DI Trust Fund. For simplicity of analysis, the date for theoretical combined Trust Funds is usually considered.

(3) Assuming current growth rates remain the same would benefits have to be reduced or taxes increased to keep Social Security from insolvency? If so, how much?

Answer. The intermediate assumptions for the Annual Trustees Reports reflect the Trustees' best judgment about the continuation of current trends in demographic and economic variables like birth rates, death rates, average wage increases and price increases. Assuming the intermediate assumptions of the 2002 Trustees Report are realized, Social Security will require either a reduction in benefit levels or an increase in revenue starting in 2041 for the combined OASDI program (and in 2043 for the OASI program and 2028 for the DI program). If benefits were reduced to meet the shortfall in revenue for the combined program, the reduction would need to be 27 percent starting with the exhaustion of the Trust Fund in 2041 and would rise to 34 percent for 2076. Alternatively, if additional revenue were provided beginning in 2041, revenue equivalent to a payroll tax rate increase of about 3.3 percent (from 12.4 percent under current law to about 15.7 percent) would be needed for the year. The additional revenue needed for 2042 would be equivalent to a payroll tax rate increase of about 4.5 percent. Thereafter the amount of additional revenue needed would gradually rise, reaching an amount equivalent to an increase in the payroll tax rate of about 6.4 percent for 2076. There is, of course, a great variety of ways in which benefits could be reduced or revenue increased for the Social Security program. Many different combinations of provisions to reduce benefits and/or provide increased revenue from taxes could be developed to avoid insolvency of the OASDI Trust Funds throughout the 75-year projection period, and beyond.

(4) If Social Security surpluses were not diverted from the general budget, how would that affect the system? Would it avert a future insolvency?

Answer. I assume you are referring to the fact that for most years in which Social Security has taken in more tax revenue than it has paid out in benefits and other expenses, the rest of the Federal budget has operated in deficit. In these years, the Social Security tax revenue not currently needed for benefit payments has, by law, been invested in securities backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. In practice, this revenue has been invested in special issue United States Treasury securities. These securities represent a commitment to redeem these investments, with interest at the market rate, when the Social Security Trust Funds are in need of revenue. Such commitments to the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds have always been met in the past and should be expected to be met in the future regardless of the fiscal operations of the rest of the Federal Government. Therefore, the trust funds are in no way compromised in their role of maintaining solvency as a result of being invested in special Treasury securities. However, redemption of these Treasury securities held

by the Trust Funds does require the Treasury to allocate General Revenue for this purpose, and this allocation must be met by increasing taxes, reducing other federal spending, or increasing borrowing from the public.

(5) Some have proposed a Social Security "lock box." Would a "lock box" by itself extend the solvency of Social Security beyond the year Social Security is expected to become insolvent?

Answer. As suggested above, the Social Security Trust Fund investments represent commitments of the United States Treasury that should be expected to be met when the Trust Funds need to redeem these investments. The implementation of a Social Security "lock box" would not alter this commitment and thus would have no direct effect on the future solvency of Social Security.

However, if the effect of a "lock box" were to require that the non-Social-Security Federal budget be in balance or surplus for the years in which Social Security makes investments, then the amount of borrowing from the public might be reduced. In this case the difficulty of generating General Revenue for the redemption of Trust Fund investments in the future would likely be diminished.

(6) How many South Carolinians do you project will be receiving Social Security benefits when the program becomes insolvent? How many South Carolinians currently receive benefits?

Answer: In December of 2001, about 704 thousand South Carolinians were receiving Social Security benefits. This represented about 1.5 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries at that time. If this percentage remains the same in 2041, when the combined Social Security Trust Funds are projected to become exhausted, we estimate that about 1.4 million South Carolinians will be receiving Social Security benefits at that time.

(7) What is the ratio of workers per retiree when the program began, in 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, today, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040?

Answer: The table below provides the historical and projected numbers of Social Security covered workers and beneficiaries. Ratios of covered workers to beneficiaries are shown both where beneficiaries include all beneficiaries and where beneficiaries are limited to retired workers. The number of beneficiaries was extremely small in 1940, the first year that monthly benefits were payable, because only workers with some work in 1937 through 1939 could qualify. This resulted in a very high ratio of covered workers to beneficiaries at the start of the program, which required several decades to mature.

SOCIAL SECURITY (OASDI) COVERED WORKERS, BENEFICIARIES, AND RATIOS—1940–2080

(In thousands)

	Beneficiaries			Ratio of Covered Workers to—	
	Covered workers	Retired workers	Total	Retirees	All beneficiaries
1940	35,390	112	222	316.0	159.4
1950	48,280	1,771	2,930	27.3	16.5
1960	72,530	8,061	14,262	9.0	5.1
1970	93,090	13,349	25,186	7.0	3.7
1980	113,649	19,564	35,118	5.8	3.2
1990	133,672	24,841	39,470	5.4	3.4
2002	152,461	29,123	46,239	5.2	3.3
2010	165,443	34,126	52,865	4.8	3.1
2020	172,848	48,324	68,699	3.6	2.5
2030	178,131	61,740	84,070	2.9	2.1
2040	184,433	66,895	90,068	2.8	2.0
2050	189,845	69,692	94,109	2.7	2.0
2060	194,568	74,937	100,177	2.6	1.9
2070	198,687	80,635	106,723	2.5	1.9
2080	202,238	85,939	112,895	2.4	1.8

Note.—Projections are based on the intermediate assumptions of the 2002 Trustees Report.

(8) What is the sum of the total cash shortfalls that social security is projected to experience from now through 2075, from 2025–

2050, and from 2050–2075? (in constant and in present-value dollars)?

Answer. Combining financial values over substantial periods of time is generally done taking into account the "time value of money". This is accomplished by accumulating or discounting the separate annual values with interest to a common date. Values combined in this way are referred to as present values as of the date to which they are accumulated or discounted.

In present-value dollars (discounted at the OASDI Trust Fund interest rate to January 1, 2002) the total net OASDI cash flow for years 2002 through 2076 is projected to be nearly –\$4.6 trillion. When the Trust Fund balances of over \$1.2 trillion at the beginning of 2002 are added to this value, we get a financial shortfall (or unfunded obligation) for the 75-year period of \$3.3 trillion. This unfunded obligation indicates that if an additional \$3.3 trillion had been added to the Trust Funds at the beginning of 2002, the program would have had adequate financing to meet the projected cost of benefits scheduled in current law over the next 75 years. It should be noted that if the dollar amount of this unfunded obligation is accumulated with interest to the end of 2076, and then expressed in constant (CPI-indexed) 2002 dollars we get \$33 trillion.

The present-value net cash-flow of almost –\$4.6 trillion for the period 2002 through 2076 can be separated into the three 25-year sub-periods: +\$0.4 trillion for the period 2002 through 2026, –\$2.7 trillion for the period 2027 through 2051, and –\$2.3 trillion for the period 2052 through 2076. If only years of negative cash flow are included then the value for the first 25-year sub-period is –\$0.5 trillion and the total for the 72-year period is –\$5.5 trillion.

Summing constant 2002-dollar values from several different years is equivalent to taking their present value and assuming that the operative real interest rate is zero. This may result in values that are difficult to interpret. Constant-dollar values are generally used for comparing separate values over time rather than for combining them. A comparison of constant-dollar values for a series covering many years is helpful in illustrating the extent of real growth in the series over time. There is no meaningful interpretation of the result from summing constant dollar values from many different years.

Expressing the combined values discussed above in terms of simple sums of constant 2002 dollars (CPI discounted dollars) results in quite different results from present value because much greater weight is placed on more distant future years than would be indicated by current market interest rates. Using this approach produces constant-dollar cash-flow sums of +\$0.1 trillion for 2002 through 2026, –\$8.6 trillion for 2027 through 2051, –\$15.3 trillion for 2052 through 2076, and –\$23.8 trillion for the entire 75-year period. The sum for the first 25-year period with only negative values included is –\$1.1 trillion. The sum for the 75-year period including only negative annual values is –\$24.9 trillion.

(9) As a demographic group, do African-American males receive the same proportional return from the retirement portion of Social Security as other demographic groups?

Answer. Due to the nature of the Social Security program it is difficult to look at retirement benefits in isolation. The payroll tax rate is specified in two components, one for retirement and survivor benefits and the other for disability benefits. In addition, a significant portion of the benefits payable from the retirement and survivor tax, for years after reaching normal retirement age (NRA), is actually attributable to the fact

that many become eligible for disability benefits before reaching retirement age. However, there are some observations that we can make.

To understand the tradeoffs, first consider the comparison of returns on retirement and survivors taxes for men and women. Men tend to die younger and have higher career-average earnings than women. These factors tend to make the return on contributions for retired worker benefits alone lower for men than for women. However, most men marry, and many have spouses with lower career earnings who receive spouse or widow benefits based on the earnings and contributions of their husbands. This tends to raise the relative return for contributions made by men. Finally, men have higher disability rates than women and thus are more likely to have a shortened career, lessening their lifetime payroll tax contributions without materially affecting their monthly benefit level when retirement and survivors benefits become payable. Thus, with all these factors taken into account it is less clear whether men get a lower return on their retirement and survivor taxes than do women.

For African-American males the situation is even less clear. Life expectancy for African-American males is lower than for white males. But average career earnings are also lower. These factors have at least partly offsetting effects. Because African-American males have higher death rates, they are also more likely to leave a widow beneficiary if married. Importantly, African-American males are also more likely to become disabled than are white males.

Some recent studies have suggested that African-American males get a lower return from Social Security retirement benefits. But these studies have not sorted out many of the complicating factors mentioned above. In particular, many of these studies consider actual case histories of individuals who work successfully without becoming disabled up to retirement. For such individuals, life expectancy at retirement is clearly greater than for those who have been disabled prior to that time, but these studies use overall population death rates. Because African-American males are relatively more likely to become disabled, this distortion of overstating death rates for those who do not become disabled is relatively large for them. This is a significant shortcoming that causes a disproportionately large understatement in retirement returns for African-American males. We are working on a more complete model that we hope will address these concerns and will inform you of our progress in the future. But for now, the evidence on this question appears to be inconclusive.

(10) What is the average current return on investment for FICA tax contributions for someone born before and after 1948?

Answer. Actuarial Note Number 144 "Internal Real Rates of Return Under the OASDI Program for Hypothetical Workers" authored by Orlo Nichols, Michael Clingman, and Milton Glanz in June 2001 addressed this issue. This note provides extensive estimates of real internal rates of return for a wide variety of cases.

The most representative of these hypothetical cases presented may be the married couple with a husband and a wife, each having medium career earnings. For this case, assuming a realistic earnings scale through the working lifetime, the real internal rate of return was computed to be 3.50 percent for those born in 1920, declining to 2.33 percent for those born in 1943. Assuming that present-law scheduled benefits would be payable in the future with no change in the payroll tax rate, this real rate of return is projected to decline gradually, reaching 2.20 percent for those born in 1964, and then rising

gradually as life expectancy rises. However, the current payroll-tax rate is projected to be inadequate to finance scheduled benefits in the long run. Under the hypothetical assumption that payroll tax rates would be increased as needed to finance scheduled benefits in the future, future real rates of return are projected to decline more rapidly, reaching 1.95 percent for those born in 1985 and 1.63 percent for those born in 2004.

In general, real rates of return are higher for married couples with one earner and for workers with low earnings. Rates are generally lower for single workers and for high earners.

(11) Have policy proposals been introduced that keep Social Security from insolvency, allow for personal accounts, and do not change benefits for those already receiving Social Security benefits?

Answer. Absolutely. A number of Congressional proposals would accomplish these goals. At a hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee in June 1999, ten plans were presented by Congressional sponsors. The sponsors of these plans were, Archer/Shaw, Kolbe/Stenholm, Nadler, Moynihan/BKerrey, Gregg/Breaux, PGramm, NSmith, Stark, MSanford, and DeFazio. We estimated that all ten of these proposals would restore solvency for the Social Security program for at least the full 75-year projection period. None of these proposals would reduce benefits for current beneficiaries, but three of them would slow growth in benefits for current recipients by reducing the size of the automatic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) either directly, or indirectly (through modifying the CPI). Seven of these proposals provided for individual accounts on a voluntary or mandatory basis.

Since 1999 additional proposals have been developed that would meet these criteria, including the Arme/DeMint plan and Models 2 and 3 of the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security.

(12) Have there been any proposals introduced that would create personal accounts, avert a future insolvency of Social Security, without reducing benefits or increasing taxes? Have there been any proposals without personal accounts introduced that would avert a future insolvency of Social Security without reducing benefits or increasing taxes?

Answer. The financial shortfalls projected for the Social Security program can only be eliminated by reducing the growth in benefit levels from what is scheduled in current law, or by increasing revenue to the program. In the long-run, additional revenue can be generated by expanding the amount of advance funding either in individual accounts or in the Social Security Trust Funds. All of the proposals mentioned above pursue this approach to some degree. However, creating additional advance funding requires additional revenue for a period of time. This additional revenue may be generated by (1) reducing Social Security benefits paid from the Trust Funds, (2) directly increasing the amount of payroll tax or some other tax, or (3) providing transfers or loans from the General Fund of the Treasury. Whether General Revenue transfers or loans represent an indirect increase in taxes depends on a number of complex factors many of which are generally unknown in the context of Social Security reform, so no definitive answer can be given.

All of the plans that we have analyzed in recent years provide for one or more of the three measures to generate additional revenue both to restore solvency for the Social Security Trust Funds and to provide for additional advance funding. This is true for

plans that include individual accounts as well as for those that do not.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN C. GOSS,
Chief Actuary.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. They have laid out the rates of return for people born after 1980.

As I have told you, they are less than 2 percent. Over time, they go down because the problem, over time, gets worse. As you pay into the system as a young worker, the obligations of the system get greater, and there really will be no rate of return. As a matter of fact, by 2042, not only does your money not work for you, it is not enough to pay benefits to people who are already in the system.

Here is the good news. If we could, in a bipartisan fashion, work together, I am confident we could construct a program for younger workers—voluntary in nature—that would allow them to take part of the money they pay into Social Security, invest it in a different system—equity and nonequity, depending on what they want to do—that will dramatically outpace a 1.8 percent return.

Here is what I suggest to you as reality. If you had a business and you wanted to sell an annuity to young people in America, and you laid out the program of that annuity and it mirrored Social Security, nobody in the country would invest in it simply because they can get a better rate of return leaving it in a checking account.

Now, everything about Social Security is not total retirement. There is a component of Social Security that pays for people who have been disabled and injured. That aspect of the program is extremely important also.

But to have a better business view of Social Security is necessary. If we could achieve better growth rates—and the trustees tell us that if you achieve better growth rates, every dollar in additional growth, every time the fund beats that 1.8 or 1.6 rate of return, that extra dollar allows benefits to be paid without raising taxes.

We are going to argue about the tax cut and how to stimulate the economy. I remember in my last campaign, when I presented this idea, the ad was that “Lindsey Graham is going to take your Social Security tax dollars and put them in Enron stock.” Well, I didn’t wake up one day and think investing in Enron with Social Security was a good idea. That is not what this program is designed to do.

There is bipartisan support for personal accounts, allowing individual Americans the opportunity, if they choose, to invest in plans to get better growth rates. There are visitors here from all over the country, most likely, and I welcome them here. One thing about being a Member of the Senate, or the House, or a Federal employee in any fashion, is that you have the opportunity, if you choose, to invest in the Thrift Savings Plan. It is a pretty good deal. I, as a Senator, can invest up to about \$10,000 of my salary into a

thrift plan. It is a Government-sponsored plan, administered by the private sector, where I can choose between three or four different investment options, based on the risk I want to take. There are stock funds, mutual funds, bond/stock funds, Treasury notes, which I can choose based on the risk I want to take.

All of these funds are supported by the Government in the sense that we are going to stand behind them and not let them collapse. It is even better than that. The Government puts in 50 cents on the dollar up to the \$10,000 I put in, and they do the same for every Federal employee.

I suggest something like that should exist for the average working person in this country because under the current tax system, the average American will pay more in Social Security taxes than in any other form of tax, because this comes out of our paycheck—6.5 percent—no matter what our income is, up to a certain level.

For middle- and low-income workers struggling to get by, 6.5 percent—I think that is the correct number—comes out of your paycheck to go into the Social Security trust fund. For younger workers, we are taking that money from you. We are giving you no options to invest it. We are controlling it for you, and you are going to get that 2 percent—eventually less than 1 percent—over time.

I think that is wrong for the people paying taxes. But here is the big crime of it all: That system locks in failure for Social Security. Some Senate, somehow, someday—if we don’t do something relatively soon—is going to be dealing with a trust fund that is \$25 trillion short of the money necessary to pay the obligation, and it is going to be dealing with a trust fund from which somebody gets a letter one day saying: That check you got last month will be reduced by 28 percent, and I am sorry we don’t have the money to pay you.

I don’t know who will be occupying this seat then—I doubt if it will be me—but I would like to take some of that burden off their shoulders and off the working families and the working people in this country, in terms of taking their money and getting a better rate of return for it.

So the hope and purpose of this amendment is to put into the record this year, 2003, let it be said—if there is a record that stands the test of time, let it be said that in 2003 the Senate will soon adopt facts that I think are irrefutable, nonpartisan in nature, that lay out the future of Social Security solvency in a very honest, dramatic, and chilling way.

I congratulate my colleagues who are willing to accept this amendment as part of the roadmap for the budget this year. The facts are real. They are not going to go away unless we make things happen differently.

One thing I remember from President Clinton—and it was a good line—is that

the definition of insanity is doing an event the same way and expecting different results. So I think it is insane politically for us to keep this system in place expecting different results to fall out of the sky. They will not fall out of the sky.

Our freedom is about to be strengthened because some young man and woman chose to volunteer to serve their country and risk their life for our freedom. You can debate all you would like whether this is an appropriate thing to do. But they have taken on that sacrifice, and they will accept the order, if given, to go forward. That model is the model that has kept us free for over 200 years—average, everyday Americans who are willing to do their part, willing to risk their sons and daughters, their own lives, to make sure the next generation can have the blessings of liberty that we have enjoyed.

There was an interview I heard today of a family with twin sons serving in the same Marine unit, both of them ready to go tomorrow, if that is the day chosen. The mom and the dad were very worried but bursting with pride about the fact that both of their sons have chosen to serve in the Marine Corps and both of them are on the tip of the spear. What they were trying to tell the commentator was that they are proud of them because they are willing to serve their country and protect their way of life. The parents mentioned the fact that their hope is that life will be better for their kids than it was for them, and that truly is the American dream. That is what keeps us all going, trying to make sure that we pass on to the next generation a future with a possibility, with hard work, to be better than the one we have experienced.

I can say with all the confidence in the world that if we don't act soon, and act decisively, and if we are not willing to sacrifice politically and make some structural reforms to Social Security, we are committing political malpractice, and the future of Social Security is dismal and the ability to maintain the system is going to be unbelievably costly, and you can wind up with a Social Security pension plan and the military, and no money to do anything else. That is what awaits us as a nation.

But I am just as confident that we will rise to the occasion, and I cannot see how right now—it is beyond my ability as a political person to see how all this is going to come together. I am telling you that, based on faith, I know it will. The problems facing our troops—there are so many scenarios that face them in the aftermath of Iraq. There are thousands of different scenarios of “what if that” and “what if that.” I can only tell you I have the same faith that at the end of the day we will be successful and at the end of the day the sacrifices will be made.

Unfortunately, some people, most likely, will lose their lives or be in-

jured. We are going to get through this thing at the end of the day stronger rather than weaker. We are doing the right thing.

I have faith in our troops and in our President that the dictator, Saddam Hussein, will be gone soon. I have faith that this body, starting this year—I hope it is this year—will come together to address the looming problems that face Social Security. This amendment lays out those problems. It puts it as part of the road map for this year's budget and, at the end, it encourages all to work together with the President to come up with solutions to avoid raising taxes and cutting benefits. It is a small step that will hopefully get us to the right place one day.

I am standing on the shoulders of people who have gone before me who have addressed problems of Social Security, such as Senator Moynihan and other Senators in this body from both parties. I do not know how long I will be here. Only the Good Lord and the voters know that. I can tell my colleagues one thing for certain: While I am here—I consider it to be an honor to be here—I want to do as many constructive activities for my country as possible. I think one of the best things I can do is to come up with an approach my colleagues from the other side can buy into, which means a give and take, to put in place a plan that begins to turn around the dynamics that are facing Social Security.

The good news is if we work together, if we start now, we can beat this problem, we can solve this problem. The bad news is if we continue to do what we have done for the past decade, we are going to pass on to the next generation of political leaders and taxpayers a dismal picture. I would argue that would be the first time in the history of the country that political leaders passed on a country that was diminished, not enhanced. I am confident we will not be the first ones to make that mistake.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for his statement. I will take a few moments later to respond. Hopefully, we can get an agreement on the contents of the Senator's amendment. In the meantime, the Senator from Washington has been patiently waiting. I yield her 10 minutes or whatever time she uses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I will later be offering a very important amendment on the budget resolution. It will fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act, and I will be offering that amendment with Senators KENNEDY, BINGAMAN, KERRY, MIKULSKI, and JOHN-SON.

Given the bipartisan support for the No Child Left Behind Act a year ago, I am disappointed that there are still no

Republicans who have asked to cosponsor the funding that bill promised to all of our constituents.

A budget is a statement of our priorities. In an environment where we cannot fund everything, we have to make choices based on our values. Even when times are challenging, certainly as they are today, it is important that we continue to fund our children's education and to invest in their future.

This budget that is before the Senate has a meager investment in funding for the No Child Left Behind Act, and it fails our children and fails their future. It actually fails the very promise that Congress and this President made to students just a few years ago.

Leaving no child behind was a very important, noble goal, and it passed with bipartisan support. It was an education reform bill that was set out to say we will leave no child behind. But the Republican budget that is now before this Senate does not even come close to meeting the needs of our students or keeping the important promises of that legislation.

When we passed the No Child Left Behind Act, we passed it based on two commitments. The first was that we would hold schools accountable for their progress—an important promise. But we also had a second commitment that we would provide those schools with the resources to meet those new requirements. We are certainly keeping the first part of that bargain, but this budget suggests that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not intend to keep the second part of that promise.

We have to ask why this administration is willing to keep a commitment to come down very hard on low-performing schools, but it is unwilling to keep a commitment to provide the resources that our students need to succeed. Tougher accountability without adequate funding is not reform. Mr. President, that is politics.

I want to talk a few minutes about the ways this budget shortchanges America's students. The budget before us could cut funds for afterschool programs for more than 500,000 latchkey children in this country. That is on top, by the way, of the more than 6 million latchkey children we already are not serving.

This budget leaves 6 million of our most disadvantaged students behind by not providing the title I funding they need.

It also falls short on funding for teacher quality, class-size reduction, English language acquisition, safe and drug-free schools, and rural education.

At a time when we are demanding more than ever from our students, our teachers, and our schools, this budget does not invest in them. Some of my colleagues may argue that this budget increases funding for education, but let's be pretty clear. This budget before us robs Peter to pay Paul to provide that meager increase. Even that increase falls short.

Title I in this budget is underfunded by almost \$6 million. This budget assumes the elimination of 46 education programs, including, by the way, rural education, support for small schools, and dropout provisions.

This budget also assumes a \$400 million cut in afterschool programs despite the strong evidence that keeping children safe after school reduces juvenile violent crime and prevents children from engaging in risky behaviors.

This budget also freezes most of the other major No Child Left Behind programs, including funding for teacher quality, class-size reduction, bilingual education, and State test development. The Federal Government is not only requiring that States put assessments in place, we are requiring those students pass those assessments. That is where our obligation to provide the funding promised in No Child Left Behind comes in. Students need more tests, they need afterschool programs, tutoring, quality teachers, and small classes to pass those tests.

Given the budget crisis that is occurring in many of our States—my State has a \$2.5 billion shortfall with which they are dealing—I think it is unrealistic to expect the States are going to suddenly pick up increased education funding to meet the new Federal mandates that this body passed on to them just a few short years ago.

Setting a high bar is obviously important. We all agree with that. But setting a high bar and failing to give our kids the resources to succeed is simply setting them up for failure. We know what the needs are out there. We know what works to help our children succeed, and I am really dismayed that the level of education funding in this budget is going to leave many of our children behind.

That is why later this afternoon I will be offering my amendment to fully fund the commitments we made, all of us made, in the No Child Left Behind Act. It will provide the resources that parents, teachers, and students are asking for. It will fully fund title I at the level that was agreed upon in the No Child Left Behind Act. It will continue to fund the effort to hire 100,000 fully qualified teachers so we can reduce the size of classes in early grades where our children are struggling to learn the basics, and when they are in a class of 35 or 40 students, they simply cannot get the attention they need to assure that when they move on in to the later grades they have the basic skills they need to be successful.

My amendment will also put a high-quality teacher in every classroom. Every parent knows the most important question you ask when your child comes home from school on the first day is, Who is your teacher? Why is that? Because they want to make sure their child has the best teacher. We promised in the No Child Left Behind Act that we would put a high-quality teacher in every classroom.

This budget fails to fulfill that promise. My amendment will also allow

communities to offer more afterschool programs to keep our children safe and in a place where they can learn those high standards that we, at the Federal level, are now requiring. It will give children with limited English proficiency more support to succeed, and it will fund initiatives such as rural education and dropout prevention that this President's budget zeroes out.

We know the needs are there. We know what works to help our children succeed. We need the will of the Members of this Senate to make it happen.

I am out in my State, like every other Senator, and everywhere I go students, teachers, parents, principals, and community leaders come up to me and say: We want the No Child Left Behind Act to succeed. We want our students to be held to high standards. We want our principals, our teachers, and all of our administrators to be held to high standards. But we cannot do it when you rob us of the seriously needed funds to do it. Do not put a Federal mandate on us that is not followed through with the resources.

The amendment I am offering will fulfill the second half of that bill that so many Senators spoke so eloquently to a short time ago.

Two years ago, we started down a road of promising all children in this country a quality education. We did the first part by calling for schools to be more accountable for their progress, but now we are seriously stumbling on the second part, providing the funding so local schools can reach those goals that we set at the national level. I hope we are going to do the right thing, I hope we follow through on the promises that every single Senator in this body made to students several years ago, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this amendment and doing the right thing for our children and our future.

We are at a very critical time in this country. We are facing a possible war in Iraq within hours. I think every American is feeling the anxiety and the angst that all of my constituents are as we move forward. Even at this time, we cannot ignore the anxiety that is happening in our children's classrooms. We need those children to succeed so we can have a strong country in the future. My amendment will assure that we keep that part of the commitment that was such an important part of No Child Left Behind.

I look forward to being able to offer this amendment at some time later this afternoon, and I urge my colleagues to support it. I yield the remainder of my time to the Senator from North Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Washington for her excellent presentation on this amendment and hope that we can proceed with more substantive amendments as soon as possible and that we can have a healthy debate and then vote on

these matters so the body has a chance to indicate their priorities.

I know there are other Senators wishing to discuss matters. I notice the very able senior Senator from South Carolina is in the Chamber. How much time is the Senator seeking?

Mr. HOLLINGS. Is it controlled time?

Mr. CONRAD. Yes, it is controlled time.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Ten minutes.

Mr. CONRAD. I yield 10 minutes to the Senator from South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina on the Graham of South Carolina amendment.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I have a very high regard for my distinguished junior colleague, but anybody who puts up this particular sense-of-the-Senate resolution relative to Social Security could not possibly be voting for the tax cuts.

I know a majority of our Republican-controlled Budget Committee has voted for the tax cuts. The President is for the tax cuts. Right to the point, we are about to pass a tax cut in this budget resolution.

I want to bring into focus the sham of the so-called resolution of the distinguished junior Senator from South Carolina because he worries about the year 2042 hours before we are going to war and totally disregards the law. I will propose an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the Budget Act, section 13301.

Section 13301 was a very deliberate and discussed matter that we had not only in the Budget Committee, but I had help on both sides of the aisle, and we voted on it 98 to 2. It was signed into law on November 5, 1990, by President George Herbert Walker Bush. It signed into law the Greenspan commission. With this particular Graham of South Carolina resolution, one would think there was no President Bush commission.

President Bush's commission was chaired, I think, by one of our distinguished former Members, the Senator from New York, Mr. Moynihan, who is under the weather and we all pray for his speedy recovery, but we have that commission report on what to do.

This resolution says we really are concerned about Social Security at this particular point but, by passing this resolution, we want everybody to disregard the fact that this day, this week, this year, this budget, we will be spending Social Security trust funds in order to afford a tax cut. That is all it is. It is an absolute sham. They know it, and I know it.

Section 21 of the Greenspan commission said, put this money in a trust off budget. If we had adhered to it, I think we would have about a \$1.3 trillion trust fund. The distinguished chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator NICKLES, said we have always taken from the general fund in order to pay for Social Security, but that is not

right. I have two pages of the 2003 annual report of the Social Security Commission, page 4 and page 5. I ask unanimous consent that those two pages be printed in the RECORD.

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

B. TRUST FUND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS IN 2002

The table below shows the income, expenditures, and assets for the OASI, the DI and the combined OASDI Trust Funds in calendar year 2002.

TABLE II.B1.—SUMMARY OF 2002 TRUST FUND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

	Amounts (in billions)		
	OASI	DI	OASDI
Assets at the end of 2001	\$1,071.5	\$141.0	\$1,212.5
Total income in 2002	539.7	87.4	627.1
Net contributions	455.2	77.3	532.5
Taxation of benefits	12.9	.9	13.8
Interest	71.2	9.2	80.4
Transfer from General Fund of the Treasury44
Total expenditures in 2002	393.7	67.9	461.7
Benefit payments	388.1	65.7	453.8
Railroad Retirement financial interchange	3.5	.2	3.6
Administrative expenses	2.1	2.0	4.2
Net increase in assets in 2002	146.0	19.5	165.4
Assets at the end of 2002	1,217.5	160.5	1,378.0

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components.

In 2002, 85 percent of total trust fund income consisted of net contributions, comprising taxes paid by employees, employers and the self-employed on earnings covered by Social Security. These taxes were paid on covered earnings up to a specified maximum annual amount, which was \$84,900 in 2002 and is increased each year automatically (to \$87,000 in 2003) as the average wage increases. The tax rates scheduled under current law for 2002 and later are shown in table II.B2.

TABLE II.B2.—TAX RATES FOR 2002 AND LATER

	OASI	OASDI
Tax rate for employees and employers, each (in percent)	5.30	0.90
Tax rate for self-employed persons (in percent)	10.60	1.80

Two percent of OASDI Trust Fund income came from subjecting up to 50 percent of Social Security benefits above a certain level to Federal personal income taxation, and 13 percent of OASDI income came from interest earned on investment of OASDI Trust Fund reserves. Social Security's assets are invested in interest-bearing securities of the U.S. Government. In 2002 the combined trust fund assets earned interest at an effective annual rate of 6.4 percent. More than 98 percent of expenditures from the combined OASDI Trust Funds in 2002 went to pay retirement, survivor, and disability benefits totaling \$453.8 billion. The financial interchange with the Railroad Retirement program resulted in a payment of \$3.6 billion from the combined OASDI Trust Funds, or about 0.8 percent of total expenditures. The administrative expenses of the Social Security program were \$4.2 billion, or about 0.9 percent of total expenditures.

Assets of the trust funds provide a reserve to pay benefits whenever expenditures exceeded income. Assets increased by \$165.4 billion 2002 because income to each fund exceeded expenditures, as shown in table II.B1. At the end of 2002, the combined assets of the OASI and the DI Trust Funds were 288 percent of estimated expenditures for 2003.

Mr. HOLLINGS. We can see from the table:

Assets of the trust funds provide a reserve to pay benefits whenever expenditures exceeded income. Assets increased by \$165.4 billion in 2002 because income to each fund exceeded expenditures—as shown in the table II.B1.

Unlike what Senator NICKLES says at the end of 2002, the combined assets of the OASI and the DI Trust Funds were 288 percent of estimated expenditures for 2003.

This resolution of Senator GRAHAM of South Carolina is just cover for the looting of the Social Security trust fund. As the distinguished Presiding Officer knows, all that is needed to secure the Social Security trust fund is quit spending it on any and every other thing other than Social Security.

Is my time up?

Mr. CONRAD. Would the Senator like additional time?

Mr. HOLLINGS. Yes, I would like additional time, if I can have additional time.

Mr. CONRAD. I yield an additional 10 minutes to the Senator.

Mr. HOLLINGS. The reason I would like additional time is to amend this resolution, and insert section 13301. That is the budget law.

How can we bring into sharp focus that is the law? I have tried by putting different penalties in, but I cannot get the Senate to pass them. We have to quit worrying about the year 2042 and start worrying about today and getting by. Our soldiers in the front lines are ready to go into Iraq, and they are worried about being around this time tomorrow, not 2042.

It is a shame for the Senate to engage in this charade at this hour. We are looting the Social Security trust fund. We are running, this fiscal year, according to the President, \$554 billion in the red. That is without the costs of the war, without a supplemental. We ran a deficit last year of \$428 billion. That right there is \$1 trillion of stimulus into this economy.

They should be ashamed to come here asking for tax reform under the cover of stimulus. No one believes the relief of taxes on dividends will stimulate the economy or the estate tax will stimulate the economy. Those with estates and those with dividends, Bill Gates and several other witnesses, have said that is the wrong course to take. They know it. I know it. You know it.

I had to speak on the initial amendment of my distinguished colleague from South Carolina for whom I have the greatest respect, but we are not going to be able to join in these charades. We have to start paying the bills, including paying for the war, and not engage in tax cuts.

Yesterday, I sent a Dear Colleague letter to everyone in this body about paying for the war. It is very simple. Here we are saying: GI, we want you to go into Iraq and we hope you do not get killed. Then we want you to come back. The reason we want you to come back is because my generation, this Congress, isn't going to pay for it. You

are going to have to pay for it. You are not only going to have to fight the war but pay for it.

What do we need in this Congress right now—a tax cut so we can go to Disney World? That is the charade going on here, a few hours before we commit our troops to freedom in Iraq. We ought to sober up.

I am informed by the staff that we have to wait until the end of the consideration to put up the amendment.

Everyone is on notice, I would like to strike all of the "whereases" because that is poppycock. We do not all have to be worried about 2042, today, as we go into Iraq. We ought to cut out the playing of games and get serious around here that we are running the economy into the ground.

I yield back the remainder of my time and I ask that I be able to call the amendment at the proper time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, the manager has the right of recognition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. I hope we have an understanding from the Chair that the managers have the first right of recognition here or we will have a real problem.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator's right.

Mr. CONRAD. The Senators from South Carolina, in describing the problem, are correct. The problem with Social Security is severe. The Social Security trust fund is currently running surpluses. But we all know it is then going to turn to cash deficits. Those are going to become very large cash deficits. This is like falling off the cliff. This is the Social Security Administration's outlook for the Social Security trust fund.

Why is that? Very simply, the baby boom generation will start to retire. They are alive today. They are eligible for Social Security. When they start drawing Social Security, there will be 77 million, about double the number eligible now. When that occurs, we will have a very serious problem on our hands.

The Senator from South Carolina who offers the amendment has correctly described the problem, but he is not dealing with the budget resolution before the Senate. It exacerbates the problem severely.

This chart shows the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. The green bar is the Social Security trust fund; the red bars are the President's tax cuts, both enacted and proposed. One can see very clearly as the Social Security trust fund is running surpluses, the size of the President's tax cut proposals are growing. At the very time the Social Security trust fund turns cash negative, the cost of the President's tax cuts explode.

The result of this is a totally unsustainable plunge into deficits and debt. That is the fundamental problem

with the budget resolution before the Senate; it is the fundamental problem with the President's budget before the Senate.

The budget before the Senate takes out of the Social Security trust fund nearly all of the surpluses over the next 10 years. Social Security will run surpluses over the next 10 years of \$2.718 trillion. The mark before us by the chairman takes \$2.718 billion of those surpluses and uses it for other purposes, uses it to fund tax cuts, uses it to fund other expenditures.

The Senator from South Carolina said that is not an appropriate way to proceed. I agree. I hope he will consider opposing the budget resolution on that basis.

However, the Senator from South Carolina is also correct to say even if we do not do this, even if we do not raid the Social Security trust fund surplus, we still have a problem. This is a necessary step to stop this raid, but it is not sufficient. It is necessary because if instead of taking these funds and using it for other purposes we were to use that money to pay down debt or to prepay the liability, we would be in a less severe circumstance going forward.

The Senator from South Carolina, who offered the amendment, has referenced a \$25 trillion shortfall in Social Security; that is, if you take each year and accumulate it over time. The net present value of those gaps between income and outgo for Social Security is not \$25 trillion. The net present value is \$3.5 trillion. Yet the President is proposing a tax cut with interest costs of \$1.96 trillion, even though we are already in deficit.

Both Senators from South Carolina have revealed the flaw in this budget. We have record deficits now. The President proposes cutting taxes almost \$2 trillion with the interest costs included. The result is we are taking virtually every penny—under the President's budget, every penny of the Social Security surplus over the decade, right on the eve of the retirement of the baby boom generation. I remind my colleagues, what earthly sense does this make? At the very time the cost of the Government explodes with the retirement of the baby boom generation, the costs of the President's tax cuts explode, driving us deep, deep into deficits and debt.

I hope this budget resolution falls on the basis that it puts us in a circumstance of ever mounting deficits and debt right at the time the baby boom generation retires.

If there has ever been an illogical, irrational, dangerous budget, this is it. To me, this is it. We are about to make fateful decisions we are going to be living with for a long time. Nobody should be under any illusion about where this is headed. This is headed right off the cliff.

We can either together find some way to restrain both our spending impulses and our tax-cutting impulses or we can

wage what we have waged so far, which is a rush to deficits and debt.

It will be a sad day when we wake up from this hangover and from this binge of tax cutting and spending that can only lead one place, and that is to shredding of Social Security and Medicare and most of the rest of Government as we know it.

We have worked with the Senator from South Carolina to try to reach an agreement. I don't know if those modifications have been agreed to. If they have, we are prepared to accept them.

I think Senator CRAIG is perhaps waiting to speak on this matter so I withhold going further. Perhaps the Senator from South Carolina would like to speak further. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, I compliment the Senator. I thought that was a fairly eloquent rendition of where we find ourselves. But I would like to add to it and respond to my good friend, really, the senior Senator from South Carolina. If anyone has earned that title, Senator HOLLINGS has. He is the senior Senator from South Carolina.

But there is a difference between what the Senator from North Dakota and the senior Senator from South Carolina were saying that I think is important.

The purpose in my offering this sense-of-the-Senate amendment is to take facts that have been reported by the Social Security Administration and make them part of this year's roadmap when we decide what to do to get through the budget process this year and to remind the Senate and get the Senate to focus on the short- and long-term problems our Nation faces.

"Poppycock." I don't know what it means, but it is often used by my good friend from South Carolina, the senior Senator. It sounds good. Everything he says is intriguing to me, just by his speaking style. But I do want to respond to the gist of what he was saying. The sham and the fraud which I think has been going on, which has been going on for years, is to suggest there is an easy solution. It is to suggest if you just left Social Security alone, didn't use it for tax cuts or didn't use it for spending, everything would be OK. My senior Senator doesn't want to talk about 2042. I do. The reason I want to talk about 2018 and 2042 is I believe the reason I am here today is to pass on to the next generation a country very sound and very fit. If we do not address the problem of having two workers for every retiree, versus 16.5 when I was born, then we are going to fail and commit political malpractice.

I think it is political malpractice to suggest that if you just let Social Security alone, the problem will go away. Here is what the Social Security trustees said about that solution:

The implementation of a Social Security lockbox would not alter this commitment

and thus would have no direct effect on the future solvency of Social Security.

As to the Senator from North Dakota, he is telling us, telling me, that now is not the time to cut taxes because of a variety of reasons, and one would be it will put pressure on the Social Security trust fund beyond the pressure that exists today.

People on my side would say that additional spending in the past, when the Democrats were in control, took money out of Social Security to put pressure on the trust fund.

The point is, the current income stream, diverted or not, is not going to save Social Security. We are going to have a \$25 trillion shortfall in 75 years. And it does compound on itself. That is the point. The Senator from North Dakota is right. Every day, literally, that we ignore the problem of Social Security, it gets worse by billions. The unfunded liability has grown dramatically as we have been talking, and nobody is going to fix it except people such as us.

Here is why I will support the tax cut. One thing that is for sure, there are two Senators from South Carolina and we are going to cancel each other's vote a lot on taxes. He has his reasons and I have mine. The reason I will vote to cut your taxes is to stimulate the economy.

Where does Social Security money come from? What is the source of Social Security dollars? It is payroll taxes.

Well, who pays payroll taxes? People working.

How do you get a job? Somebody hires you.

How do they pay you? They make a profit.

The economy needs infusion, in my opinion. But I respect the Senator from North Dakota tremendously because he is saying let's put no pressure on Social Security, let's not have a tax cut. I respectfully disagree. I believe a tax cut will help stimulate the economy, making the economy and payroll taxes stronger, not weaker. But I respect him tremendously because he has bought into the big picture. We disagree about what to do today. We may disagree about spending plans tomorrow. But the Senator from North Dakota has bought into the big picture. He understands what faces our Nation.

As we argue about how to fix problems each year with the trust fund, I encourage him to work with me and others to come up with an overall solution that will hit the problem head on. This is a cancer that needs to be treated—and not with a Band-Aid. The problem we are facing as a Nation is we would not have enough money coming into the system, if it was all dedicated, to come close to paying benefits. In 2042—I will mention that date again—28 percent reduction in benefits; 2018, you pay more benefits in taxes. Every day we talk about it, it gets worse.

Having said that, I do believe the Senator from North Dakota and myself

will be able to work on a compromise that reflects accurately the facts facing the trust fund, the problem the Nation faces, and we will disagree about this year's budget and how to have a tax cut or not. But I do wish to work with him in the future because I believe he has got it. I believe he understands it.

With that, I will yield 10 minutes to my colleague, Senator CRAIG, from Idaho.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I first ask unanimous consent I become a cosponsor of amendment No. 274.

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

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with the senior Senator from South Carolina on a sense-of-the-Senate amendment expressing that Congress well ought to act sooner rather than later in strengthening our Social Security Program for the long term, for the young men and women today who are beginning to invest in the system and who have grown increasingly to believe it will be unreliable and not there when they get to be of Social Security age.

Why? The statistics have been talked about this morning, but here we are again. Year after year, trustee report after trustee report has been played out, spoken to, shown on the floor of the Senate. Hearings after hearings, month after month in our committee rooms, have given us the same message. Whether it is the junior or senior Senator from South Carolina, they both agree on the outcome. They may disagree on the reasons, but the trustees are always reflecting the graph or the chart that is so effectively displayed here. This comes directly from the Social Security trustee report of 2002 that we are speaking to this morning.

Current retirees and those approaching retirement age are going to get their money. Why? Because Social Security in that sense is solvent. But what we are concerned about, and why we begin to express a degree of urgency about reform for Social Security, is that you do not reform Social Security today for tomorrow, you reform it today for 40 years down the road, or 50 years down the road. It is like an insurance account. We are the board of trustees responsible for establishing and sustaining its actuarial soundness so we do not have to dump large sums of general fund money into it at the last minute to keep it whole.

I think all of us agree with the general understanding and the overlook that the trustees and the studies have shown. Social Security is solid today for our seniors. I am chairman of the Special Committee on Aging. We have spent a lot of time looking at this issue. Some folks take umbrage when they hear that Social Security will be broke. I don't know of anything that

would express it differently than this bright red ink that would suggest at about 2020 it breaks beyond the black ink, or the break-even, and it heads into deficit. That is exactly what the junior Senator from South Carolina is talking about and what I am talking about.

Last month, Alan Greenspan of the Federal Reserve was before our Subcommittee on Aging. He was not there to talk about interest rates. He was there to talk about global aging. He testified that the country faced "abrupt and painful" adjustments down the road as related to Social Security if we do not address it sooner rather than later.

He simply meant that baby boomers were going to get cut. In essence, this is what is going to happen: I am a baby boomer. I am afraid my grandkids are going to say to me: Grandpa, we can't afford you anymore. We can't afford a huge bump in our taxes just to pay for your well-being.

And I would not blame them, when we look at the kind of tax scale that will result if you stand here and say there is nothing required now and in the future to deal with this red ink, except leave the trust fund alone, and that in some magical, mythical way you can take it out of the general fund of the Treasury of the United States, and that you don't spend it, or at least you don't borrow it back to Government to spend on other programs until such time as it is necessary and on call and Government can afford to pay for it.

Those are the issues at hand. That is what this resolution is about, to push us forward and into action in the near future, to make the kinds of adjustments that will assure my grandchildren that Social Security is going to be there for them and that grandpa isn't going to break them by demanding they keep Social Security whole, because he did not have the common sense and the good judgment to deal with it in the appropriate fashion.

I hope I do have that common sense and good judgment. Certainly, the group that has been looking at it and the group that reports and talks about insolvency down the road and the need to adjust are doing a great service to this country.

Last November, Peter Fisher, the Under Secretary of Treasury for Domestic Finance, compared the unfunded promises in Social Security and Medicare to those of a spendthrift insurance company unable to make good on its promises.

When I asked Alan Greenspan, well, let's compare Social Security and Medicare and fixing it, he said: Frankly, Social Security is not that difficult. Why? Because you have real figures and exact numbers in a relative sense. You have demographic studies that project the number of people who will come online, and you can make the adjustments for it.

Medicare is tied to a very dynamic health care system. It is growing and

changing, and its costs will grow and change. It is a much more difficult task at hand, if you will, than that of us building up the backbone to deal with Social Security.

To his credit, our President appointed the blue-ribbon panel to explore ways of addressing this challenge. The President's bipartisan commission to strengthen Social Security was co-chaired by former Senator Pat Moynihan, our colleague and former Finance Committee chairman. He is an undisputed expert on Social Security, with unique bipartisan credibility.

Now the President's bipartisan commission has come forward with three models to strengthen Social Security. Many of us are studying those models to determine what is the best way to reform not the politically possible, because we are going to have to convince ourselves and the public about reform—and that is what we are about to do, I hope—but what is the right way to reform Social Security, to create the dynamics 30 or 40 years down the road, to assure that young people who are now beginning to invest in it with their hard-earned tax dollars—their withheld dollars from their payroll—to assure that it will be there for them.

This week, the trustees have done their job, and they have done it well. They have talked about it, and they have determined a status quo or do-nothing plan versus a variety of others. The do-nothing plan is what the trustees laid before us on Monday. And the do-nothing plan is the plan represented right here, in all of the bright red ink that is either displayed by my chart or by the chart of the Senator from North Dakota. I think my chart is prettier, but the charts are the same. Democrat or Republican, the figures don't lie, and we can't lie about them.

We both agree that herein lies the problem. A dynamic economy—people working softens it, and that is what this tax cut is about, getting people back to work, putting money in the market, creating jobs. We are going to have to tighten our belt a little bit on the other side. We are going to have to quit spending at the rate we are spending while we are stimulating the economy and putting people back to work. That helps the bottom line and softens the deficit a little bit.

But most economists agree, if you do not give a tax cut, and you continue to spend at the rate you are spending, you are going to have deficits for a long time to come. You can't cut your way out of them. You have to grow the economy and put some money back in the Treasury, and in doing that, for the short term, you strengthen Social Security.

But this is what is true about the long term, and in the long term are people like me at 55, 50, 57 years of age. I am 57. And in a short time we are coming online—62, 65, 67 years of age, eligible for Social Security, being part of that baby boom generation, that tidal wave of people hitting the Social Security system.

The Senator from North Dakota talked about the doubling of the numbers of recipients. That is what this red ink is all about. We need to create dynamics in the system, and change it, and assure that the right kind of investment is going in, that the right kind of energy and multipliers are at work there, to assure that not only is the system going to be there in the long term for me, but, most importantly, that the system is going to be there for the young people who are investing in it today.

I am not alone in condemning the do-nothing plan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wants to inform the Senator he has used 10 minutes.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. If the Senator would like additional time—

Mr. CRAIG. If I could have an additional 2 minutes to wrap up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator may continue.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for yielding me the time.

Whether it is former Senator Bob Kerrey, Democrat from Nebraska, whether it is former Senator Pat Moynihan, Democrat from New York, whether it is Republican LARRY CRAIG of Idaho or Republican LINDSEY GRAHAM of South Carolina, the reality is, we all understand we must act now, sooner rather than later, to recreate, strengthen, and ensure the future for a Social Security system that is good for my grandkids to put their money in, that is a sound investment that will yield for them a reasonable supplemental income in their retirement years.

I am not alone in condemning the do-nothing plan. Our former colleague, Senator Bob Kerrey, from Nebraska wrote a letter to another former colleague, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, from New York, on the eve of his assuming the cochairmanship of the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security. He wrote:

Dear Pat, In that I have a great and abiding interest in your success on the 2001 Social Security Commission and that I am willing to provide free advice, I offer the following two suggestions:

1. Start talking about the details of the most popular plan in Washington to fix Social Security. . . . It is called the do-nothing plan. The do-nothing plan discloses no details. . . . Citizens who want to know the rest of the details must look to the Social Security Trustees who will tell them this: The do-nothing plan proposes to cut benefits 25 to 33 percent by 2043.

2. Wealth should have a goal. . . . Our goal is to eliminate poverty amongst eligible Social Security beneficiaries. By the way, the do-nothing plan will increase poverty rates.

For every year we delay strengthening Social Security, it will only become more difficult to do.

The challenge calling out to this generation in Congress is how to sustain Social Security beyond this generation of retirees without overburdening our children and grandchildren with excessive taxes on their labor or huge cuts in retirement income.

It is not too late. We can still do the right thing. We can save Social Security by embracing the framework provided by the President's Commission and working to strengthen it soon.

David Walker, the Comptroller at the General Accounting Office, testified just this January before the Aging Committee that we have:

a. window of opportunity to craft a solution that will protect Social Security benefits for the nation's current and near-term retirees, while ensuring that the system will be there for future generations.

We should embrace that window of opportunity for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

As I said: Here we are again. The trustees are trying to get Congress and the public to face the future with confidence and action. The challenge for us is to respond.

That is why the Aging Committee has been and will be holding hearings and briefings this year. We will continue to highlight the work of the—nonpartisan and bipartisan—General Accounting Office, the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security, the Congressional Research Service, the Congressional Budget Office, and the Social Security trustees.

The call to action begins with understanding what the trustees have told us again this week. The consequences of the do-nothing plan will be devastating for today's workers and tomorrow's retirees.

That is what the study was all about. That is what the commission has been about. That is what this amendment is all about.

I thank the Senator from South Carolina for bringing forward this concurrent resolution, urging us forward now, to begin to act. Hopefully, by 2004, 2005, or 2006, we will have developed the political will to do the right thing for the Social Security system and its future.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, if I may, to put a couple things in perspective as we close out the discussion on the amendment, No. 1, I have been able to reach accommodation with the Senator from North Dakota about the language of the amendment. I am willing to accept his changes. I think they are reasonable and helpful.

I encourage my colleagues, we can have disagreements about how to best protect the Social Security trust fund. We can have a debate that we should not cut taxes, that we should make sure that we do nothing in terms of spending or tax cuts that jeopardizes the dollars coming in. That is a legitimate, healthy debate. I believe the best way to protect the trust fund is to create additional jobs and grow the economy so we will have more payroll taxes coming in to shore up the trust fund.

The focus of the amendment is to clarify in this roadmap the status of Social Security, not based on what a Republican thinks or what a Democrat thinks. And here is the summary of that status.

No matter what happens with the current amount of money coming into the system, if it is all protected, or some of it is bled off, if every dollar were to be collected that is going to be paid, it is \$25 trillion short to pay bills in the next 75 years. And in 2042, you would have to cut 28 percent of the benefit package or increase taxes by 50 percent. In 2018, you would pay more in benefits than you collect in taxes. Why is that? The amount of money to be dedicated to this system, if it is all left alone, is nowhere near the amount of money to pay the benefits. It is no one's fault. It is not Senator HOLLINGS' fault, and it is not my fault. The problem is we went from 16.5 workers paying into the system in 1950 to 20 years from now having two to one. There are just not enough people paying taxes to take care of the baby boomers.

One thing I am trying to make crystal clear is, there is no easy fix. The demagoguery must stop now. Those who say a tax cut this year or a spending plan next year is the problem with Social Security are missing the boat and engaging in conduct that is going to prevent us from ever finding a solution that works.

My belief is that you grow the economy to help Social Security. The belief of the Senator from North Dakota is that you don't do anything to jeopardize the trust fund this year through a tax cut. I respect that. I just disagree.

I hope if there is a vote in any fashion on this amendment, that my colleagues would allow the product that the Senator from North Dakota and I have come up with to be part of the record because it is vitally important that the Senate incorporate information from the Social Security trustees that tells us exactly the future of Social Security and its status so that there will be something we can agree on and we can start working toward a solution sooner rather than later. If we can't agree on the basis, if we can't put into the budget resolution what the Social Security trustees are telling us about the status of the fund in 2018 and 2042 and the structural problems, if we can't do that because somebody wants to make a point about the tax cuts for political advantage, how in the world are we ever going to solve this problem?

I hope the Senate will overcome the temptation to kind of punch and counterpunch on the debate about taxes or any other debate and put in the record the real facts about Social Security, a record that has been established between myself and the Senator from North Dakota. It would be a great day, a small step forward to finally come to grips with the problems that Social Security faces.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I must say, when I hear the suggestion that cutting taxes now won't affect Social Security in the future, that is no economics that I understand.

Just so we all understand how it works, all the revenue of the Federal Government goes in a pot. All the expenditures come out of that pot. That is the way it works. When you take revenue away from that revenue stream and you already can't pay your bills, guess what. You can't pay your bills in an even more serious way. Any family's economics would tell them that if you are not able to pay your bills now and you go out and cut your income more, you have more bills you can't pay. That is what our friends on the other side are trying to convince people of. I don't think that is going to work.

This is the hard reality of the budget before us. There is over \$2.7 trillion of Social Security surplus available in the next 10 years. I believe we ought to take that money and either pay down debt or prepay the liability. That would strengthen Social Security.

The other side has offered a budget that takes virtually every penny of those Social Security surpluses and uses them to pay for tax cuts or other expenditures. That does not help Social Security. That hurts Social Security. That makes the shortfall more serious going forward because we have not taken the resources, those trust fund surpluses, and used it to either pay down debt or prepay the liability.

The other side tries to posture that one side wants to do nothing; the other side wants to do something about economic growth. No. No, I don't believe their program improves economic growth. Why not? Because the tax cuts are not paid for by reducing spending. The tax cuts are paid for by borrowing. You can't borrow your way to prosperity.

Here is the work of the macroeconomic advisers. These are people under contract to the White House and under contract to the Congressional Budget Office to tell us what the effect of various fiscal policies are on economic growth. Do you know what they tell us? If we enact the President's plan, it will actually hurt long-term economic growth. It will hurt economic growth. Why? Because of increased deficits and debt that put a weight on the economy. What is that weight? When you run deficits and debt, that reduces the pool of societal savings, that reduces the money available for investment. That hurts economic growth. That is exactly what the folks who have analyzed this have concluded.

Is the Senator from South Carolina seeking time?

Mr. HOLLINGS. Yes.

Mr. CONRAD. I yield 10 minutes to the Senator from South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, right to the point, when the distinguished Senator from Idaho was talking about growing out to it, I ask unanimous consent to print page 6 of the budget resolution before us in the RECORD at this particular point.

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

Fiscal year 2012: —\$327,375,000,000.

Fiscal year 2013: —\$317,115,000,000.

(5) PUBLIC DEBT.—The appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2003: \$6,687,816,000,000.

Fiscal year 2004: \$7,269,629,000,000.

Fiscal year 2005: \$7,825,005,000,000.

Fiscal year 2006: \$8,366,224,000,000.

Fiscal year 2007: \$8,885,256,000,000.

Fiscal year 2008: \$9,412,708,000,000.

Fiscal year 2009: \$9,932,454,000,000.

Fiscal year 2010: \$10,443,080,000,000.

Fiscal year 2011: \$10,971,657,000,000.

Fiscal year 2012: \$11,449,831,000,000.

Fiscal year 2013: \$11,919,328,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of the debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2003: \$3,858,449,000,000.

Fiscal year 2004: \$4,184,748,000,000.

Fiscal year 2005: \$4,446,730,000,000.

Fiscal year 2006: \$4,661,214,000,000.

Fiscal year 2007: \$4,828,626,000,000.

Fiscal year 2008: \$4,980,020,000,000.

Fiscal year 2009: \$5,101,852,000,000.

Fiscal year 2010: \$5,190,541,000,000.

Mr. HOLLINGS. On page 6 you will see that the appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows: Fiscal year 2003, \$6,687,816,000,000, but for the fiscal year 2013, the public debt is \$11,919,328,000,000. So it is an increase of \$5.2 trillion. Good gosh, I said "trillion." I was hoping to say "billion." The debt goes up, up, and away. Well, we know what the interest cost is going to be on that. That is going to be in excess of \$600 or \$700 billion a year. We just can't afford that.

Let me say to the distinguished colleague from South Carolina, again, I was here in the 1970s. I was here in the 1980s. We didn't spend the Social Security trust fund, but we were beginning to drain it at the very end of the 1970s. And we appointed the Greenspan commission, and the Greenspan commission put on a graduated increase in taxes over the years to take care of the baby boomers in the next generation, exactly what my colleague from South Carolina is talking about. We foresaw that. It was supposed to build up these reserves and surpluses. That is exactly what has occurred.

I refer, since it is already in the record, to page 4 of the annual report of the Social Security trust fund that was issued on Monday.

It shows at the end of 2002, we had assets in the Social Security trust of \$1.378 trillion. Of course, they have been spending the money on any and everything but Social Security. You can propose plan A, and plan B. You can talk about 2018 and 2042 and all those other funny little things until you are blue in the face. But unless and until you stop spending Social Security moneys on everything but Social Secu-

rity, none of those plans is going to work—whether you privatize or not. That is why the Congress, under the leadership of President George Herbert Walker Bush, in November of 1990, wrote into law section 13301.

I want to put Section 13301 into the amendment to make it crystal clear. I don't mind some of the whereases—and I understand the Senator from North Dakota wants to try to move things along and accommodate my colleague from South Carolina in taking a sense of the Senate. But there is no way in the world to make that a bill because there is no way to write it. You have to provide what the budget impact is, and everything else like that, and have it appraised. So it remains as a sense of the Senate at the desk. So that we can clear the air from this particular sham, I raise a point of order under section 305 of the Budget Act that sense-of-the-Senate resolutions are nongermane.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A point of order is not in order at this time. It can only be made when the time of the amendment has been used or yielded back.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Very good. I yield the floor. I think I have made my point. I ask the Chair, is it still a sense-of-the-Senate resolution? What is the form?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is a sense-of-the-Senate amendment.

Mr. HOLLINGS. A sense-of-the-Senate amendment. Right, mine would be the sense of the Senate. So I don't know—may I ask unanimous consent, then, to be recognized at the end, not to make a point of order?

I ask unanimous consent that when the time expires, I may be recognized to have considered the amendment, or voted on the amendment that I have at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I believe an effort is being made between my office and Senator HOLLINGS' to work something out we can all live with. I ask him to take that into consideration. There are negotiations going on as we speak.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Do you object?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator object?

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. No, I do not object.

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

The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, simply put, a couple things: My senior Senator seems to suggest we did something in the 1980s that has made Social Security sound. Social Security has surpluses today, but every day that goes by, those surpluses are not enough to pay the bills that are due and yet to come. Here is what the Social Security Administration told us yesterday: There are 3.3 workers to every retiree in 2002. Twenty years

from now, it goes 2 to 1. They told us yesterday that without structural reform—I emphasize again, structural reform does not include leaving Social Security current dollars alone. If you leave every dollar owed to Social Security alone and do nothing else, it still runs out of money in 2042. It is \$25 trillion short in 2075. That is not the problem. People who say that are not being forthright about the problem.

Having said that, I join my colleague from South Carolina and the Senator from North Dakota to try to make sure we preserve Social Security, keep it strong and healthy until we can find a structural reform. He has made an argument that cutting taxes reduces the family's income. The point is that payroll taxes are the income for Social Security. We are in a depressed economy right now.

We are trying—at least I am trying—to take some dollars and invest them back into the families and businesses of America, to create additional jobs, to strengthen the revenue flow, and to protect the revenue flow of Social Security.

My friend from North Dakota doesn't believe it will work. I totally respect him. But it is very difficult to be lectured to by some of my friends on the other side of the aisle about needing to be good stewards with taxpayer dollars. I came to Congress in 1994. When I came here, there were deficits as far as the eye could see. We had not balanced the budget in 30 years. We were able to balance the budget and cut taxes twice. Now, because of war, recession, and other problems, we have a debt. The debt, compared to the gross domestic product, is very small as compared to years past. But it is still a debt, and it is a real problem, and we need to work together to solve that debt, and we will.

I am asking my colleagues today, whatever you think about the tax cut, or other proposals that my party may present today or tomorrow, please do not prevent us from having in the RECORD for the country to see the true state of affairs with Social Security. My amendment doesn't fix the problem; it identifies it. I have been able to work with the Senator from North Dakota to put it into the RECORD. Today could be a good day—a day that the Senate agrees on the outyear problems of Social Security and begins to define it in a nonpartisan way or today could be the same old politics, where the political moment prevents us from talking honestly and openly about the looming problem of Social Security.

I am hopeful this will be a different day because, if not, we have lost the opportunity to do something constructive to fix Social Security. I appreciate the Senator from North Dakota working with me. I hope I can reach an agreement with my senior Senator from South Carolina to define the problem in honest terms, without anybody putting their spin on it, because the wording comes from the Social Security

Administration. If I fail, I deeply regret the fact that I was not able to achieve this small first step. I am hopeful that, working together, we can achieve this small first step. That is all I know to say.

This is a great exercise in what this country faces. I am trying to use the Social Security trustees' report to define the problem. I don't want the demagoguery of the moment to keep us from doing that, because the country loses in the debate of the moment. There are honest differences. Let's do something constructive and define the problem in the terms given by the Social Security trustees.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, has the Senator from South Carolina now seen the modification suggested by the senior Senator from South Carolina? Is the Senator from South Carolina, at this point, willing to accept the modifications we previously discussed, as well as the modification of the senior Senator from South Carolina?

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. After having reviewed the documents, I am willing to agree to the modifications as offered by my senior Senator and the modification offered by the Senator from North Dakota. I am willing to do that. I think it is a good first step.

Mr. CONRAD. I appreciate that and I think that would be a good outcome. I will soon seek unanimous consent to accept the amendment as modified, and then we will be able to proceed. As you know, at 2 o'clock, we have to turn our attention back to the ANWR discussion.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CONRAD. Yes, without losing my right to the floor. We are up against the 2 o'clock time limit.

Mr. REID. I would like to get this amendment accepted.

Mr. CONRAD. Would the Senator from South Carolina, including his modification, accept that?

Mr. HOLLINGS. That would be acceptable.

AMENDMENT NO. 274, AS MODIFIED

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we accept the amendment of the Senator from South Carolina, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. DOLE). The Senator has a right to modify his amendment. The amendment is so modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

On page 79, after line 22, add the following:
SEC. 308. SOCIAL SECURITY RESTRUCTURING.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

- (1) Social Security is the foundation of retirement income for most Americans;
- (2) preserving and strengthening the long term viability of Social Security is a vital national priority and is essential for the retirement security of today's working Americans, current and future retirees, and their families;

(3) Social Security faces significant fiscal and demographic pressures;

(4) the nonpartisan Office of the Chief Actuary at the Social Security Administration reports that—

(A) the number of workers paying taxes to support each Social Security beneficiary has dropped from 16.5 in 1950 to 3.3 in 2002;

(B) within a generation there will be only 2 workers to support each retiree, which will substantially increase the financial burden on American workers;

(C) without structural reform, the Social Security system, beginning in 2018, will pay out more in benefits than it will collect in taxes;

(D) without structural reform, the Social Security trust fund will be exhausted in 2042, and Social Security tax revenue in 2042 will only cover 73 percent of promised benefits, and will decrease to 65 percent by 2077;

(E) without structural reform, future Congresses may have to raise payroll taxes 50 percent over the next 75 years to pay full benefits on time, resulting in payroll tax rates of as much as 16.9 percent by 2042 and 18.9 percent by 2077;

(F) without structural reform, Social Security's total cash shortfall over the next 75 years is estimated to be more than \$25,000,000,000,000 in constant 2003 dollars or \$3,500,000,000 measured in present value terms;

(G) absent structural reforms, spending on Social Security will increase from 4.4 percent of gross domestic product in 2003 to 7.0 percent in 2077; and

(5) the Congressional Budget Office, the General Accounting Office, the Congressional Research Service, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security have all warned that failure to enact fiscally responsible Social Security reform quickly will result in 1 or more of the following:

(A) Higher tax rates.

(B) Lower Social Security benefit levels.

(C) Increased Federal debt or less spending on other federal programs.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the President, the Congress and the American people including seniors, workers, women, minorities, and disabled persons should work together at the earliest opportunity to enact legislation to achieve a solvent and permanently sustainable Social Security system; and

(2) Social Security reform—

(A) must protect current and near retirees from any changes to Social Security benefits;

(B) must reduce the pressure on future taxpayers and on other budgetary priorities;

(C) must provide benefit levels that adequately reflect individual contributions to the Social Security system.

(D) must preserve and strengthen the safety net for vulnerable populations including the disabled and survivors.

(3) We should honor section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senators yield back their time on the amendment?

Mr. CONRAD. Yes, we are prepared to yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Time is yielded back. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 274, as modified.

Without objection, the amendment, as modified, is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 274), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, the agreement we had that I be recognized now should be vitiated. It is not necessary.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is vitiated by this action.

AMENDMENT NO. 272

Mr. CONRAD. Parliamentary inquiry: Are we now in the circumstance that we are back on the debate on ANWR for 1 hour preceding the vote at 3 o'clock?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. Who yields time?

Mr. CONRAD. Time is equally divided during that time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time? The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I believe we have an hour equally divided at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I yield such time as my colleague from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI, desires. Does she need 10 or 12 minutes?

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Ten minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair. Madam President, the discussion about ANWR is more than just pictures. It is more than statistics, numbers, and barrels of oil that might be recoverable. ANWR is about real people, real jobs, and real opportunities, and that is what we need to be focusing on. We do not need to get caught up in the hype of the pretty pictures. I will be the first to tell you that my State is absolutely drop-dead gorgeous, and I want to keep it that way. I would not be supporting anything, and I would not be standing on the floor of the Senate suggesting that we should do anything to despoil that.

I want to talk briefly today about three points and what ANWR means to us in Alaska. It is jobs, it is protection of the environment, and it is also about economic security—three common-sense, basic issues.

Let me talk quickly about the environment because it is these attacks that I think first and foremost have kept ANWR from being developed for the past 20-some years, all the concern of the development of oil and gas reserves on the North Slope, on the Coastal Plain. It was intended and identified as early as 1960 by President Eisenhower that this area had great potential for oil exploration and drilling and should be utilized as such.

We do care for the environment. We have shown that through construction of our 800-mile Trans-Alaska pipeline that carries the oil safely, bisecting the State from top to bottom. We have done a darn good job, and the scientific studies and reports, including the National Academy of Sciences' report that came out 2 weeks ago, dem-

onstrate that. We do a good job. We care for our environment in Alaska.

The environment and development are not mutually exclusive terms. We have demonstrated time and again that they are not mutually exclusive. For those who will take the time to visit our oilfields up North, I think they will be amazed at the technology, the innovation we utilize when it comes to the extraction of our natural resources.

The good Senator from New Mexico stood in this Chamber earlier and talked about the directional drilling and the technique that is now available to develop our oil. I think he used the number 4 miles; that we can snake this oil well down across a 4-mile area of terrain. He used the analogy of a child with a straw and a milkshake and that straw could go 4 miles. That is a pretty vivid image. Actually, the good chairman of the Energy Committee is incorrect; we can actually go 6 miles. The technology has come so far in the 30 years since we have been drilling on the North Slope.

We talk about the footprint. The footprint has been described in so many ways. You can fit six of the oil development areas in the size of Dulles Airport. It is the size of the Pinehurst golf course. The visuals are there, but what we need to impress upon people, what we have to impress upon people is that the footprint is practically negligible in the context of the whole Coastal Plain and certainly in the context of the whole of ANWR and even more certainly in the context of the entire scope of our State.

What we are talking about, first of all, is very small. But even if it is small, we still need to do it responsibly, and we do that through the technology. The State of Alaska is the first to make sure the environmental standards are met and the permitting requirements are met. Nobody wants to rape, spoil, or ruin the land.

Madam President, I am third generation Alaskan. I am the first person serving in Congress for the State of Alaska who was actually born in the State. I was born in the territory. I am the last person to suggest we should do anything that would spoil our environment, my environment, the environment in which I choose to raise my family. My boys, my husband, and I live for fishing, hunting, camping, and backpacking. This is the part of Alaska we want to preserve. So let us do it right. We know how to do it right.

I will talk a bit about the jobs. We have talked about jobs repeatedly on this floor. Last night, we demonstrated through the testimony and the charts that we are talking about some 575,000 jobs across the country. We need to remember that when I talk about jobs, I do not want people to think that Alaska is interested in opening up ANWR just because it means jobs and opportunity for my constituents, for the people in my State. It does. It means that, and it means more. It means roads, hospitals, schools, and facilities. It en-

ables people in my State to live, but it also means jobs across America.

As I said, this means 575,000 jobs across the country. If we look at the numbers, they are all over the board: The State of New Jersey, 178,000 jobs; the State of Pennsylvania, 27,000; the State of Ohio, 25,000; the State of Kentucky, 10,000; the State of Texas, 47,000; the State of California, 63,000 jobs. We are talking about real jobs for real Americans across the country.

We are considering the economic stimulus package that the President has put forth. There is no better economic stimulus than jobs and job opportunity. We can provide that for America through ANWR, and they are good-paying jobs.

I made the point last night—and it is compelling—that the job opportunities right now for Alaska are approximately 11,000 jobs within the petroleum industry. If we were to accept this amendment, if we were to strip ANWR from the budget resolution, what these other States would be saying is that it is OK for us to have petroleum-based jobs in our States but, Alaska, we do not want you to have any more. We are cutting you off. In other words, Massachusetts could keep its 20,000 petroleum-based jobs, New Jersey could keep its 27,000 petroleum industry jobs, and New York could keep its 37,000 petroleum industry jobs, while Alaskans should look for alternatives.

The impression I get as an Alaskan, looking from the inside out, is that the lower 48 would just as soon lock us up, not allow us to have good-paying jobs that will feed our families and allow us to live in the State we want to live.

But, no, the jobs we should have are jobs such as carrying the bags for the tourists who come to our State. Yes, we want tourism but we also want real jobs, and these petroleum-based jobs are jobs that are real for Alaskans.

It is one thing if the residents of the State of Alaska said we do not want this and Congress was trying to shove it down their throats, but Alaskans have said yes. We have said we will accept responsible oil development and production in our backyard. We will take it, and we will do it responsibly. We promise we will be responsible.

This gets to my last point, which is economic security and basically plain old common sense. There is kind of an 800-pound gorilla sitting in the Chamber now. We are literally at the brink of war. We do not know what is going to happen in Iraq. We do not know if Saddam Hussein is going to torch the oil fields. We have no idea. What we do know is that in the past several months, we have increased our imported oil from Iraq. We have doubled our imports from Iraq in the past couple of months. We have sent billions of dollars to Iraq. I am not quite sure how the paper trail goes, but I do not think it is too farfetched to assume that we send billions of dollars to Iraq to Saddam Hussein, who in turn sells us the oil that we place in our aircraft or our

air carriers and we send our men and our women over to defend no-fly zones, to put them in harm's way, when we could be producing domestically. If that does not keep us awake at night, I do not know what will. It does not make sense at this point in time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask for an additional minute.

Mr. STEVENS. One additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator may continue.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I have placed on each Member's desk a copy of Review & Outlook from the Wall Street Journal that ran this morning. I urge each Member to review that, because it does speak exactly to the issue I addressed.

I conclude by reminding members of some very pertinent facts. ANWR has more oil in it than the State of Texas. These are not made-up facts. This is Department of Interior, USGS. This is not insignificant quantities we are dealing with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used her minute.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I yield myself 5 minutes.

I ask the Senator from Alaska, is it OK upon my completion of 5 minutes that Senator FEINGOLD address the Senate for 5 minutes, and then we would turn it back to the time of the Senator from Alaska? Is that all right with the Senator?

Mr. STEVENS. Yes.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, let's be clear. Ninety-five percent of Alaska's North Slope is open for drilling. That is a fact. We are talking about the last 5 percent. The debate is whether that should be opened as well.

Clearly, this is going to be a very close vote. I have great respect for the Senators from Alaska, but I would welcome it if they wanted to help preserve the environment in my State.

As far as jobs are concerned, there was a report done by the Joint Economic Committee on March 14, 2002. They issued a report that said there would be 65,000 jobs nationwide by 2020, an employment gain of less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the U.S. workforce, and CRS—that is the Congressional Research Service—Report No. R.S. 21030, October 1, 2001, said under the most likely scenario, full development in the Arctic would result in 60,000 jobs.

I am not one to say 60,000 jobs are no jobs—that is a lot of jobs—but the more than 2 million jobs we have seen go down the drain in the last 2 years, that is a bigger debate.

I also want to make the point that for those of us in California who defend and protect our coastline from oil com-

panies every day of the week, we made a choice. Yes, we know there would be jobs developed there, but it would destroy that coastline and have the potential for horrific accidents and problems because we have experienced those.

So I say to my friends from Alaska, I hope they will understand the people in this country who support keeping this 5 percent of the North Slope in its pristine environment are doing so because we think it is good for the soul of this country, and we believe there are more jobs to be created through other means.

The reason I have this photograph—and it was challenged not by my colleagues from Alaska at all but by others—this is clearly in the development area—and also by Secretary Norton, who is quoted in the newspaper as saying the image of flat white nothingness is what one sees the majority of the year. This is the reason I felt compelled—and I was glad to see my colleague from Alaska say she agrees, it is magnificent, and I wish every Member could have the chance to take a look at this beautiful book, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Seasons of Life and Land. It is a photographic journey by this incredible photographer through all the seasons. Some of the most beautiful scenes are in the winter. I know my colleagues cannot see this, but it shows the birds and the snow and all the rest. It is quite beautiful.

I guess beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Maybe Secretary Norton looks at this and comes away with another point of view, and I respect that. I just do not happen to agree with it.

In April—I think it is April 10—there will be an exhibit opened at the Smithsonian on the Mall which will show these photographs, and more. So I hope people will take a chance to look at it, because it is quite breathtaking to see.

I want to reiterate that I printed in the RECORD last night a letter from the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council. They have asked me to make a point of this letter they have written, in which they say:

We urge you to reject . . . any other proposals to authorize oil exploration and development of the birthplace and nursery of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, the coastal plain and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

They talk about they support the Gwich'ins to seek permanent protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I know the Gwich'in people are here. I also know there are other tribal people here as well, and I say that I have met with them many times and have been touched and moved with their testimony. They are very proud the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council that represents 187 tribes is with them, and they asked me specifically to put this letter into the RECORD.

Let me finish by saying the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a beautiful Web site and they say on it:

The Arctic refuge is among the most complete, pristine and undisturbed ecosystems on Earth . . . a combination of habitats, cli-

mate and geography unmatched by any other northern conservation area.

This is a quote from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This is very clearly the point of view of most people, and I hope that we would honor this God-given treasure today and vote to strip this language from the bill and take a stand in favor of keeping this area pristine.

I look forward to the remarks of Senator FEINGOLD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I rise today to support this amendment which is similar to one I offered in the Budget Committee. It would strike the reconciliation instruction to the Energy Committee contained in the budget resolution before us.

This instruction requires the Energy Committee to produce \$2.15 billion by reporting out legislation by May 1, 2003, with the assumption that they open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

Management of the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain has been hotly debated for many years. Some Senators, like myself, believe that this area should be designated as a Federal wilderness area. Other Senators believe that this area should be explored for its oil potential.

I support this amendment because I believe that the fate of the coastal plain of the Arctic refuge is a question of Federal National Wildlife Refuge management, not budgetary policy. If a Senator believes that oil reserves which may be located under the coastal plain are needed today, or 20 years from now, for reasons of enhancing this country's energy security, then the fate of the refuge is a question of energy policy, not budgetary policy.

No matter where a Senator might consider himself or herself in the discussion over the fate of the refuge, and this issue was debated at length during the Senate's consideration of the energy bill last year, no Senator has said that the primary reason to change the management of the refuge was because we just needed the revenue.

In fact, the chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. NICKLES, again stated, when I offered my amendment in committee, that these instructions are included in the budget resolution because Arctic drilling is needed to stimulate the economy, create jobs, and produce oil, not for purposes of revenue.

I know there are strongly held views on this topic, and I do not intend here to go into all the reasons why I have concerns about the possibility of oil drilling in the refuge. Other Senators who join in offering this amendment will be making that case and making it effectively.

I feel that the fate of the coastal plain of the Arctic refuge is too important to become a number in the budget process.

I also think that, for several reasons, Senators who support drilling in the

refuge should support this amendment and object to using the budget resolution and reconciliation to achieve that goal.

As Senators know, debate on a reconciliation bill and all amendments, debatable motions, and appeals related to it is limited to a total of 20 hours. After 20 hours, debate ends. Consideration of amendments then may continue without any debate.

I am concerned that using a fast track procedure like reconciliation to open the refuge exposes the Senate to criticism that we are using the refuge revenues in part for tax cuts, or to authorize new spending programs.

Particularly, the Senate may be accused of dispensing refuge revenues in unrelated accounts to gain political support for refuge drilling. Our constituents may also be concerned that we will have to spend a great deal to implement a drilling program in the Arctic refuge because much of the infrastructure needed to bring oil from the refuge to the rest of the country does not exist today.

As well, I am concerned that some Senators are supporting drilling in the refuge because they feel that it can be done in an "environmentally safe" way or they feel that it should be done jointly with energy efficiency, oil savings, and alternative energy programs to reduce our dependence upon foreign oil.

Reconciliation limits the way in which Senators who are concerned about these issues, and who do not serve on the Energy Committee, are able to address those issues on the floor. "It" cuts it off. You cannot have a real debate about what should be done. It is simply a budget number.

The Congressional Budget Act explicitly prohibits the offering of non-germane amendments to a reconciliation bill. If a Senator felt that the Energy Committee's reconciliation bill opening the refuge did not go far enough to regulate environmental impacts associated with Arctic drilling, or to promote alternative energy in light of Arctic drilling, the Senator may not be able to offer amendments on the floor to improve the bill.

Such amendments, which might improve the bill from an environmental standpoint, might well be considered extraneous because they do not raise revenue.

I would caution all members of the Senate who have committed to support Arctic drilling only in certain cases, or only if certain other legislative or regulatory actions take place, to think seriously about whether reconciliation serves their interests and their constituents' interests.

Finally, I oppose using reconciliation because I believe it is being used to limit consideration of a controversial issue. The American people have strongly held views on drilling in the refuge, and they want to know that the Senate is working to pass legislation to manage the area appropriately in a forthright and open process.

That will not be achieved if reconciliation instruction on the Arctic refuge is included in the resolution before us. I urge support for my amendment.

Mr. STEVENS. I yield myself 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, the Senator from California could not be more in error about the amount of land on our north arctic shoreline. It is not 95 percent open. There is the naval reserve No. 4. That is 52 percent of the coastline closed. She knows it is closed.

Beyond that, the Senator from California comes in with a letter from the Inter-Tribal Council of Alaska. That is a group of dissidents in Alaska, as far as I am concerned. The 100,000-member group of Alaskans known as the Alaska Federation of Natives—my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI had printed in the RECORD last night their Resolution 9505 absolutely supporting opening of this area to oil and gas drilling.

The main thing is, in 1985 it was drilled pursuant to a law passed in 1980 to drill a test well to see if the area could produce oil and gas. The exact results have been classified, but we know it does have the largest basin on the North American continent. If it is drilled, we expect it to produce enormous amounts of oil. One estimate I have before me is the total expected reserves for oil and gas in nongas liquids from Alaska, not taking into account the price per barrel, is 32.5 billion to 69.36 billion barrels.

When they first told us about the discovery in the Arctic known as Prudhoe Bay, they said the estimate was about a billion barrels. Last year, we produced the 17 billionth barrel, and it is still producing. As a consequence, we face a process of discrimination. We are crying to be treated equally. In California, they have four refuges. Three of them produce oil and gas: Hopper Mountain, Seal Beach, and Sutter. The fourth has a producing well and did not produce until 2000.

The Senator from California says, protect the pristine wildlife refuges. This is an enormous area. Her area is less than 100,000 acres, and they are drilling it. It comes down to the question, How much are you influenced by the extreme environmental movement in the United States?

This comes down to a question of jobs. It is jobs. There are many Alaska Native people in the gallery now. They need jobs. This is their area. This is a chart showing how many of the wildlife refuges in the United States have oil and gas drilling: California has 4, two northern States have 4 each, Illinois has 4, and there are 17 in Louisiana. Louisiana has proved you can have oil and gas drilling and compatible protection of wildlife at the same time.

All we are seeking is to be treated equally. We have a whole series of points that have been made in the last few days. And when I have this de-

bate—there have been a lot of debates here since 1980. The commitment was finally made by two friends of mine who are now deceased, Senator Jackson and Senator Tsongas. After they made their pledge, I helped them to get the whole bill passed, over 100 million acres.

There were newspaper ads: Ted Stevens, come home; you made a mistake. If we lose today, I probably did make a mistake because I trusted the Senate. I trusted the Senate to follow the law. I hope the time comes when other people face the same proposition and they can rest assured.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am finding the source for the comment I made that Senator STEVENS took issue with that the 5 percent of the North Slope was available for drilling. That comment was made by the Interior Secretary to the Senate in the committee. That statement was made in 1995. I am putting my hands on the exact words.

I yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Connecticut who has been a real leader in this fight, Senator JOE LIEBERMAN.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I thank my friend from California for the steadfast and spirited advocacy she has made of this amendment.

We come in about half an hour to another moment of truth. President Bush said earlier in the week that we were at a moment of truth with regard to Iraq and Saddam Hussein and weapons of mass destruction. I agreed with him. In half an hour we come to a different kind of moment of truth in the long, ongoing battle about whether we will preserve the magnificent natural gift we received from our Creator in the Arctic Refuge known as the American Serengeti and inhabited by so many magnificent species of wildlife, for a very small amount of oil.

This question, this moment of truth also raises the question about whether we will accept a contention of the Bush administration that somehow, by doing this, we are solving America's energy problem. With all respect, there could not be a more ridiculous contention.

The facts are clear. If drilling occurs by the year 2020, our dependence on foreign oil, as a result of the oil from the Arctic Refuge, will be reduced from 62 percent to 60 percent. That is not the road to energy independence.

Those of us on both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, who oppose drilling in the Arctic Refuge support new domestic energy production, including new fossil fuel energy production. In fact, it is worth pointing out that the previous administration leased more land for energy development than either of the preceding two. But it opposed drilling for oil in the Arctic Refuge. Those decisions need not be hazardous to our environment. They need not destroy precious places. Each must be evaluated in light of the

specific environmental consequences of the exploration, and our most important shared environmental treasures must be placed off limits.

The Arctic Refuge, in my opinion, is one such place. We simply would not gain enough in oil or energy independence to justify long-term harm to this place. The facts in that regard are clear. Setting up the intricate infrastructure required to pump oil out of the refuge will despoil the land and its ecosystems forever. After hundreds of pin pricks, the refuge will be in that sense bleeding, its wildlife will be reeling. We will never be able to get it back to where it was.

Supporters of drilling insist on numbers that grossly overestimate the benefits and underestimate the cost. Could the drilling in the refuge coexist with wildlife? Not by a long shot. The USGS, part of the administration, confirmed that development of the refuge would result in substantial environmental destruction.

Do we want to tear up this magnificent piece of America for such a tiny reward, when harnessing American technology to improve conservation and efficiency and developing alternative energy sources could reap many times the benefit? To me, the answer is clear. Oil drilling in the refuge is not a path to energy independence. It is not a path to economic security. It is, in fact, a road to ruin, environmental ruin of this wildlife refuge. The oil that would be gained will come and go in almost no time. But the destruction will last forever.

This is an unsettled time in our Nation's history. People feel insecure about so much—about the war in Iraq, about terrorism, about economic insecurity. It does seem to me that the decision we make today relates to that. There have to be some places, some things, some values, some natural treasures that do not change, that we have to protect, particularly at this moment. This is a place from which we gain strength, from which we gain purpose, from which we gain tranquility. Let us not, in the pressures of the moment, let it be destroyed forever.

I quote, finally, the words of Theodore Roosevelt, who may be considered in his time to be an extreme environmentalist. In 1916 TR said:

The greatest good for the greatest number applies to the number within the womb of time, compared to which those now alive form but an insignificant fraction. Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations.

The final sentence from TR, President Teddy Roosevelt:

The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all of our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose, and method.

Those are timeless words which come home to us almost a century later as we face the moment of truth for today and for tomorrow in this vote. I urge

my colleagues, please support the best of America. Vote for this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. STEVENS. I yield myself just 1 minute while the Senator from Connecticut is here. We have 77 percent of all the wild refuges in the United States in Alaska. We are talking about 2,000 acres out of almost 90 million acres of land.

I don't understand people who stand here and say save this pristine part of the United States. I invite all of them—I will take them up there right now and let them see the Arctic Slope. It is frozen tundra. Look at this map. That shows how much of this area is withdrawn. The Senator from California says it is 95 percent—look at it. If you go from the coast on the Arctic coast of Alaska, it is not open. The only part of Federal land that is really open now is 1.5 million acres that was left open by the Jackson-Tsongas amendment. The rest of it is closed.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mrs. BOXER. Parliamentary inquiry: Could you tell me how much time remains on the Senator from Alaska's side and how much on my side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California has 12 minutes 29 seconds; the Senator from Alaska has 13 ½ minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask the Senator, what is your preference? Senator CHAFEE would like to speak, but if you would like to take some time?

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I was waiting for Senator DOMENICI. I think Senator CHAFEE was waiting for time.

Mrs. BOXER. I was just asking my colleague if he preferred Senator DOMENICI to go since he just spoke.

Mr. STEVENS. We will wait.

Mrs. BOXER. I yield 5 minutes for Senator CHAFEE. I want to say he is a leader on this issue, and he is one of six Republicans who signed a letter saying don't deal with this issue in the context of a budget resolution. I look forward to hearing his 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I accepted an offer last August to go to ANWR, to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Since I have been here for 3 years, I have heard a lot of debate about it, and I assumed I heard a lot of exaggeration also. I wanted to go myself and so I accepted the invitation.

I took a bush plane from Fairbanks over the Brooks Range, as you see here. The Brooks Range is very desolate, almost devoid of any sign of life, any sign of vegetation. It is quite a trip over the Brooks Range. As we cleared that mountainous terrain, stretching out before the Arctic Ocean, the Beaufort Sea, was the most gorgeous grasslands, the last thing I expected to see that far north.

We banked around with our bush plane and you can see here where we

landed. As we banked in for a landing, scurrying through the brush was a big, brown, cinnamon-colored beast, a grizzly bear.

We got out of our plane and immediately were covered with tremendous amounts of mosquitoes. It was quite an experience. We pulled the nets on our hats over our heads and set up our tents, which we can see here. We had some chow and then that night it snowed. We came on the Brooks Range earlier, and they had no snow on them, but the snow came that night. Thankfully, we never saw another mosquito, so we had the great experience of having mosquitoes but then had 2 days—3 days in order to hike around the area. Every day we would hike for as much as 4 or 5 hours, then come in for lunch, and go out and hike for the afternoon another 4 or 5 hours.

In August, it is just as light at 3 in the afternoon as it is at 3 in the morning, so it is quite an experience that far up.

I will have to say, Senator STEVENS, this is the most beautiful place. I have been in 49 out of 50 States. The only one I have not been in is Hawaii. This is the most beautiful place I have ever been.

Mr. STEVENS. The oilwells are just 25 miles away; does he know that?

Mr. CHAFEE. Yes. I will conclude in that direction. Not only did we see the grizzly bears and one caribou—the caribou migration had gone through, but we did see one caribou—but we saw all kinds of life: Ground squirrels, prairie chickens—I think they call them ptarmigan. We also saw all sorts of birds and saw also the signs of life—musk ox droppings. We didn't see musk ox, but we saw the droppings all over the place. So obviously they had been there. All kinds of caribou droppings were everywhere you went.

What a surprise it was to go this far north and see such beautiful country. It is like the plains of Wyoming or Montana. And it was a great surprise to me.

So all the environmentalists who talk about it being the Serengeti of America, they are right. This is unique. It is special. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment for that reason.

On the trip, we then had an opportunity to go to Prudhoe Bay. And what a change it is, as you go west from the 1002 area, which is where we were camping, to Prudhoe Bay. Before we leave the 1002 area, here we are, as shown on this picture. There I am, my wife Stephanie, the small band of us up there braving the elements, experiencing the 1002 area.

When we went to Prudhoe Bay, it was a change in the topography. It gets much more pockmarked with water. It is a lot different from what we saw here in ANWR. And it seems more suitable for man's incursion and for drilling as you get closer to Prudhoe Bay.

We landed in Prudhoe Bay. We went to the hotel, which was a collection,

really, of trailers put together. And the proprietor of the hotel at Prudhoe Bay said: Be careful. There is a grizzly bear in town. His name is Toby. When you walk around, just be careful. You never know. You don't want to surprise him and have him attack you. So just keep your wits about you.

We had a great tour of Prudhoe Bay. And after we left and came back to the States, about 2 months later, I saw, in the New York Times, a little filler article, that Toby was getting into the inn where we were staying and they had to put him down. So it made the New York Times, Toby getting into the inn and having to be put down.

But the point is, there should be places for the Tobys of the world. And then there are other places where we should drill. And, obviously, they are incompatible. No one wanted to harm Toby, but it just came to that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 5 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator may continue.

Mr. CHAFEE. I thank the Senator.

Madam President, that is the point. There should be areas of the world for man and drilling, and then there should be areas of the world for the Tobys of the world. And if we are going to proceed with drilling in ANWR, absent any effort at conservation—and many of the Senators who are going to vote in favor of drilling in ANWR did not vote for raising the CAFE standards that would save much more of our resources in natural fuels—that is a bad policy and a wrong direction to go.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I yield myself 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I am delighted the Senator from Rhode Island has gone to our State and seen it in August. I would invite him to come up and join me right now, and go take a look at that same place.

But what I would really like for him to do is to remember, if I had not changed my vote in 1980, there would have been no refuge at all. It was a wildlife range. My colleague wanted to block it entirely, and I associated myself with Senator Jackson and Senator Tsongas and got the job done, and got it withdrawn, so we could proceed with development. And now the colleagues you have joined want to renege on the commitment that was made to me as a Senator by two distinguished leaders of the Senate, the Senator's father included.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. STEVENS. How much time remains, Madam President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska has 13 minutes; the

Senator from California has 6 minutes 13 seconds.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I yield the Senator from New Mexico 5 minutes.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, fellow Senators, I come from New Mexico. New Mexico is right next to Mexico. Mexico has oil underground, God made. Do you know what they call it? They call it their patrimony. It is so important that they claim it is theirs and it is their future—not locked up under the ground—to use. It is their patrimony. In fact, in Spanish, they say: "El patrimonio del pais es el petroleo." That is how important it is.

Now, for all of those who have been here giving speeches about making sure we protect the ANWR wilderness, look at this picture. Look at this picture with me. You see this big, blue picture? I am going to go around the edges for you. Isn't that big?

Senator, do you want to take a look? That is drawn to scale. That is ANWR. Unless you have very good glasses, very good eyes, you can't see, from your seat, where ANWR's drilling sites will be, because it will be that big, Senator. Can you see that little spot?

Mr. CHAFEE. Yes, I can.

Mr. DOMENICI. That is how big the development for oil for America will be out of this wilderness.

Now, anybody who blesses this floor piously about preservation is ignoring the reality. America cannot live without oil. I wish we could.

Alaska is America. Oil in Alaska is our patrimony, just like oil in Mexico is the patrimony of the Republic of Mexico. To say that using that piece of property—see it. I am not sure our TV cameras are showing it to Americans, that is how big it is.

It is now said, that is all you need to drill for oil—to do what?—to produce as much oil as the State of Texas produces. There are even environmentalists who say, in their literature, it is an irrelevant amount of oil, it is not needed.

Well, Madam President, as I crossed America, looking to find comparisons, as soon as I got to Texas, I asked, how much oil is there? They told me, it is almost the exact amount of billions of barrels of reserve as is in this tiny piece of property as big as the properties at Dulles here in Virginia.

So if this is irrelevant to America, I assume we should not have drilled in Texas. How much oil might it produce? About the same amount as California per year. I ask Senator NICKLES, is one to say California's production is not needed? We are so rich and arrogant about our wealth that we can throw away this huge amount of oil? We don't need it for America?

I believe to turn this down is not an insult to Alaska; it is not reneging on something to TED STEVENS; it is an ab-

solute denial to the American people of the increased prospect of reasonably priced oil for the future.

If you are worried about the future high prices of oil and you want to blame someone, I say, blame the vote this afternoon. If this is defeated, you can put it right up there along with any other country that you assume is out to raise prices on the American consumer. Because that vote, denying the right of Americans to produce this oil, will just as assuredly result in the prospect of increased costs of oil to Americans.

I wish we could stand on the floor and say: Americans, we have a plan. We are going to dramatically reduce the number of automobiles.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask the Senator, could I have 1 additional minute?

He said yes.

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

Mr. DOMENICI. Let me just say, I wish we had a plan that said: In the future, we do not need all this; we do not need all these cars; we can get by with far less. But, frankly, I believe, under any scenario, for the next 25 to 30 years, our children, our way of life, our standard of living, demand that we do right and that we use that tiny piece of real estate without doing damage to this gigantic wilderness to produce energy for our great country.

I thank Senator STEVENS for yielding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, parliamentary inquiry: How much time remains on each side, please?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California has 6 minutes 13 seconds; the Senator from Alaska has 7 minutes 25 seconds.

Mrs. BOXER. I would like to retain my time to close debate, if it is all right with the Senator from Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. STEVENS. I yield my colleague 2 minutes, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, it has been suggested in the past few minutes and last evening that instead of opening ANWR, we need to look to conservation; we need to discuss CAFE standards; we need to look to alternative fuels.

We need to keep ANWR in context. This is not an either/or debate. These concepts are not mutually exclusive. We have to have increased conservation efforts, of course. That is reasonable. But as the Senator from New Mexico has stated, we will never be entirely free in our reliance on oil, on petroleum products.

When you look at what we get from petroleum products, it is not just the gasoline that goes in our vehicles. That is not the only issue. We use it in our

plastics. We use it for Band-Aids, for perfume, for so many things that you can't even imagine. We will continue to need gas. We will continue to need oil. These are necessary for us as a society.

To suggest that we are going to conserve our way out of reliance on petroleum is not reasonable. It is not feasible. We have to accept both. We need the domestic energy sources that only ANWR can provide to us. We have heard it repeated time and time again today and yesterday and in the years throughout the debate, this is where the energy reserves are. We can't deny that. We can't be put off or led astray by looking at nice pictures and thinking that somehow or other in order to preserve this area, we have to give up development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's 2 minutes have expired. Who yields time?

Mr. STEVENS. How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska has 5 minutes 24 seconds. The Senator from California has 6 minutes 13 seconds. Who yields time?

Mr. STEVENS. I yield 1 minute to the Senator from Oklahoma.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, momentarily we will be voting on the Boxer amendment. I urge my colleagues to vote no. I compliment my colleagues, Senators STEVENS and MURKOWSKI. I listened to the debate last night and today. If people are interested in the facts, they happen to know the facts. They live there. They have been there. A lot of people are pointing out pristine pictures of wildlife.

That is not the 1002 area that would be drilled. I have seen that. We can do drilling in that area in a very environmentally sensitive and sound way. We can do it. Our country happens to need that million barrels per day of domestic oil that can be produced. We need it. If not, we will be buying it from Iraq. We will be buying it from the Middle East. We will be buying it from areas that are a lot more vulnerable than Alaska. This way we can keep the jobs in the United States. This way we can keep production and our dollars in the United States.

We have a tradition in the Senate that we listen to home State Senators in areas that concern their State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. NICKLES. I yield myself an additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Alaska yield?

Mr. STEVENS. Certainly.

Mr. NICKLES. For people who live outside the State and have never been in this area to try to dictate that we should never drill there, without living there, and override and superimpose their will over the two home State Senators, I find to be almost incredible. It is denying Alaska a chance to

grow. It is denying our country a chance to grow.

I urge my colleagues to listen to Senator STEVENS, to listen to Senator MURKOWSKI, and let's allow some environmentally safe and sound production that our country desperately needs.

I thank my colleagues from Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. STEVENS. I ask the Chair to let me know when I have 1 minute left.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair will notify the Senator.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, this is a diagram of the 1002 area. I pointed out previously that in 1958 there was a well drilled just east of Kaktovik. It is still classified as the result of overwhelming interest by the oil industry after that to conduct seismic in this area. This is the Marsh Creek anticline. East of that area is where this enormous reservoir is. To the west going over to the river, where this is the Prudhoe Bay area, that has all been very prolific. There was a well drilled off shore in Camden Bay. There has been a series of wells drilled offshore. The only well that has been drilled onshore was in 1985.

This is an area, as I said, a million and a half acres that in 1980 was kept open for oil and gas exploration by the Tsongas-Jackson amendment. The balance of this area is wilderness. This has never been wilderness. We heard repeatedly about wilderness.

I have now been here 35 years. I have trusted the Senate quite often. The one time I really trusted Senators was when I decided to work with Senators Tsongas and Jackson to get this bill passed, get it done. We thought we had a substantial concession in the fact that the Arctic Slope would continue to be open for oil and gas exploration as it was intended by President Eisenhower, as it was intended entirely up until 1980.

Through the period of the discussion of this matter, since 1980, I have had a series of Senators tell me, I will be with you if you need me. They know who they are. This is the day that I need them. This vote is going to be very close. It represents a vote that culminates some substantial period of my life because I started working on this area in 1956.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. STEVENS. I will save it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I yield 1 minute to the Senator from New Jersey, Mr. LAUTENBERG.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I thank the Senator from California. In a short statement I would like to identify what has happened since 1989 when the *Exxon Valdez* ran aground, since the period of time when the court said that ExxonMobil should pay \$9 billion in punitive damages for the havoc it created

in Prince William Sound. Lest we be fooled that these environmental stewards are going to take good care of our assets, of our natural resources, let's look at what happened.

The fine is now down \$4 billion. This is since shortly after 1989. And who is paying the tariff here? Well, the Anchorage Daily News on August 4, 1998, reported "Apparently Delay Pays."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 1 minute.

Mrs. BOXER. I yield an additional 1 minute.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Exxon is earning \$90,000 an hour, about \$2 million a day, or nearly \$800 million a year, on the same \$5 billion as long as the case drags on. And the money stays in its coffers. They are not even paying for it. In fact, what they are doing is making money, interest on that money which belongs to the citizens of the country and for the protection of our environment.

What we are looking at is a corporate behavior that should be unacceptable under any standard and where they are using this opportunity to cash in on delays by skillful lawyers instead of paying their obligation as it fell upon them through the courts.

It is an outrage. We cannot trust these people to take care of this environment of ours for our children and our grandchildren. I hope the Boxer amendment passes.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 4 minutes 5 seconds.

Mrs. BOXER. I would like to be told when I have a minute left.

We are reaching the end of a tough debate. It is a very close vote, no doubt about it. The Vice President, I understand, is on his way over in case it is a tie vote. I want to pick up on something Senator NICKLES said when he kind of cast aspersions on those who live outside of the State of Alaska and are speaking up in favor of this Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

Let me be clear. I come from a State that has millions of acres of wilderness, thousands and thousands of acres of beautiful Federal land. We are very proud of it. We have forests, desert, wetlands, and the rest, including Yosemite National Park. Let me be clear. I welcome the support of my colleagues. I don't shun it. I welcome them to help me preserve those acres for the people of California and the people of the country and, indeed, the people of the world. In our State, we consider these treasures not only to be God-given resources, but we look at them as God-given resources that we, the people of this planet, have to protect.

I am interested in Senator DOMENICI's presentation. It was well done. He has a big chart and he has a dot on the chart. He says: Look at this, it is a dot on this chart. Well, if you go up into space and you look at the Earth, it looks like a little marble. Does that

mean we should not care about what happens on God's Earth?

So I think we are getting to the point at which we have to make a choice. Do we want to change the policy and go into this beautiful refuge or do we want to look at other ways to get more energy—I underscore, much more energy?

Look, if we just close the loopholes on SUVs—by the way, I represent a lot of soccer moms and let me tell you, they want their SUVs, and they want to get better fuel economy from them. I live in a community where almost every other car is big because I live in suburbia. They want to have the option to drive those cars and not have to spend \$100 every time they fill up the tank. If we were just to close that SUV loophole, we would save, by 2030, 10 billion barrels of oil. This is what we are talking about. That is far more than you would get out of the Arctic. If you moved up the fuel economy just to 35 miles a gallon—listen to this—we would be 43 percent less dependent upon foreign oil. With ANWR, it is 2 percent.

Vote for the Boxer amendment. I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 1 minute remaining.

The Senator from Alaska has 1 minute 2 seconds.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, again, I think this is the most important vote in the history of my service in the Senate. I worked on this with President Eisenhower. Our people were about ready to go to war. He said in World War II that our ships, our planes, and our tanks must have oil. That will continue on into the future. Opening this area will not give our people oil now but will assure that we have a greater reserve in the future.

My last comment is this. In the time I have served here, many people have made commitments to me, and I have never broken a commitment in my life. I make this commitment: People who vote against this today are voting against me, and I will not forget it.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, this is a country of laws, not men. This is a country that treasures its God-given gifts—from the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam. God bless America, my home sweet home.

This isn't about us being here for 2 years, or 6 years, or 10 years, or 20, or even 50. We will be gone. But we need to think about the future. We can do more for our troops were we just to increase fuel economy. We will save far more doing that than by drilling in a pristine area that has wildlife that looks like this picture.

Mr. STEVENS. Regular order.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I hope we will stand with the environment and vote for the Boxer amendment.

I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the Boxer amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 272. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 59 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Baucus	Dorgan	Lincoln
Bayh	Durbin	McCain
Biden	Edwards	Mikulski
Bingaman	Feingold	Murray
Boxer	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Byrd	Fitzgerald	Nelson (NE)
Cantwell	Graham (FL)	Pryor
Carper	Harkin	Reed
Chafee	Hollings	Reid
Clinton	Jeffords	Rockefeller
Coleman	Johnson	Sarbanes
Collins	Kennedy	Schumer
Conrad	Kerry	Smith
Corzine	Kohl	Snowe
Daschle	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Dayton	Leahy	Wyden
DeWine	Levin	
Dodd	Lieberman	

NAYS—48

Akaka	Dole	Lugar
Alexander	Domenici	McConnell
Allard	Ensign	Miller
Allen	Enzi	Murkowski
Bennett	Frist	Nickles
Bond	Graham (SC)	Roberts
Breaux	Grassley	Santorum
Brownback	Gregg	Sessions
Bunning	Hagel	Shelby
Burns	Hatch	Specter
Campbell	Hutchison	Stevens
Chambliss	Inhofe	Sununu
Cochran	Inouye	Talent
Cornyn	Kyl	Thomas
Craig	Landrieu	Voinovich
Crapo	Lott	Warner

The amendment (No. 272) was agreed to.

Mrs. BOXER. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DURBIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. NICKLES. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have been authorized by the manager of the bill to yield 20 minutes to the Senator from West Virginia, Senator BYRD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

AMERICA'S IMAGE IN THE WORLD

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I believe in this great and beautiful country. I have studied its roots and gloried in the wisdom of its magnificent Constitution and its inimitable history. I have marveled at the wisdom of its Founders and Framers. Generation after generation of Americans has understood the lofty ideals that underlie our great Republic. I have been inspired by the story of their sacrifice and their strength.

But today I weep for my country. I have watched the events of recent months with a heavy, heavy heart.

No more is the image of American one of strong, yet benevolent peace-keeper. The image of America has changed. Around the globe, our friends mistrust us, our word is disputed, our intentions are questioned.

Instead of reasoning with those with whom we disagree, we demand obedience or threaten recrimination. Instead of isolating Saddam Hussein, we seem to have succeeded in isolating ourselves. We proclaim a new doctrine of preemption which is understood by few but feared by many. We say that the United States has the right to turn its firepower on any corner of the globe which might be suspect in the war on terrorism. We assert that right without the sanction of any international body. As a result, the world has become a much more dangerous place.

We flaunt our superpower status with arrogance. We treat U.N. Security Council members like ingrates who offend our princely dignity by lifting their heads from the carpet. Valuable alliances are split. After war has ended, the United States will have to rebuild much more than the country of Iraq. We will have to rebuild America's image around the globe.

The case this administration tries to make to justify its fixation with war is tainted by charges of falsified documents and circumstantial evidence. We cannot convince the world of the necessity of this war for one simple reason: This is not a war of necessity, but a war of choice.

There is no credible information to connect Saddam Hussein to 9/11, at least up to this point. The twin towers fell because a world-wide terrorist group, al Qaida, with cells in over 60 nations, struck at our wealth and our influence by turning our own planes into missiles, one of which would likely have slammed into the dome of this beautiful Capitol except for the brave sacrifice of some of the passengers who were on board that plane.

The brutality seen on September 11th and in other terrorist attacks we have witnessed around the globe are the violent and desperate efforts by extremists to stop the daily encroachment of Western values upon their cultures. That is what we fight. It is a force not confined to territorial borders. It is a shadowy entity with many faces, many names, and many addresses.

But, this administration has directed all of the anger, fear, and grief which emerged from the ashes of the Twin Towers and the twisted metal of the Pentagon towards a tangible villain, one we can see and hate and attack. And villain he is. But he is the wrong villain. And this is the wrong war. If we attack Saddam Hussein, we will probably drive him from power. But the zeal of our friends to assist our global war on terrorism may have already taken flight.

The general unease surrounding this war is not just due to "orange alert." There is a pervasive sense of rush and risk and too many questions unanswered. How long will we be in Iraq? What will be the cost? What is the ultimate mission? How great is the danger at home?

A pall has fallen over the Senate Chamber. We avoid our solemn duty to debate the one topic on the minds of all Americans, even while scores of thousands of our sons and daughters faithfully do their duty in Iraq.

What is happening to this country—my country, your country, our country? When did we become a nation which ignores and berates our friends and calls them irrelevant? When did we decide to risk undermining international order by adopting a radical and doctrinaire approach to using our awesome military might? How can we abandon diplomatic efforts when the turmoil in the world cries out for diplomacy?

Why can this President not seem to see that America's true power lies not in its will to intimidate, but in its ability to inspire?

War appears inevitable. But I continue to hope that the cloud will lift. Perhaps Saddam will yet turn tail and run. Perhaps reason will somehow still prevail. I along with millions, scores of millions of Americans will pray for the safety of our troops, for the innocent civilians—women, children, babies, old and young, crippled, deformed, sick—in Iraq, and for the security of our homeland.

May God continue to bless the United States of America in the troubled days ahead, and may we somehow recapture the vision which for the present eludes us.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Expressions of approval or disapproval are not permitted.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to use time under the resolution.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I observed the comments of the distin-

guished Senator from West Virginia concerning the events which are about to transpire within the next hour or so, or days. I did not really look forward to coming to the floor and debating the issue. It has been debated. It has been discussed in the media. It has been discussed at every kitchen table in America. But I felt it would be important for me to respond to allegations concerning the United States of America, its status in the world, and, in particular, what happens after this conflict is over, which I do not think we have paid enough attention to, perhaps understandably, because our first and foremost consideration is the welfare of the young men and women we are sending in harm's way.

But to allege that somehow the United States of America has demeaned itself or tarnished its reputation by being involved in liberating the people of Iraq, to me, simply is neither factual nor fair.

The United States of America has involved itself in the effort to disarm Saddam Hussein, and now freedom for the Iraqi people, with the same principles that motivated the United States of America in most of the conflicts we have been involved in, most recently Kosovo and Bosnia, and in which, in both of those cases, the United States national security was not at risk, but what was at risk was our advocacy and willingness to serve and sacrifice on behalf of people who are the victims of oppression and genocide.

We did not go into Bosnia because Mr. Milosevic had weapons of mass destruction. We did not go into Kosovo because ethnic Albanians or others were somehow a threat to the security of the United States. We entered into those conflicts because we could not stand by and watch innocent men, women, and children being slaughtered, raped, and "ethnically cleansed." We found a new phrase for our lexicon: "ethnic cleansing." Ethnic cleansing is a phrase which has incredible implications.

The mission our military is about to embark on is fraught with danger, and it means the loss of brave young American lives. But I also believe it offers the opportunity for a new day for the Iraqi people.

Madam President, there is one thing I am sure of, that we will find the Iraqi people have been the victims of an incredible level of brutalization, terror, murder, and every other kind of disgraceful and distasteful oppression on the part of Saddam Hussein's regime. And contrary to the assertion of the Senator from West Virginia, when the people of Iraq are liberated, we will again have written another chapter in the glorious history of the United States of America, that we will fight for the freedom of other citizens of the world, and we again assert the most glorious phrase, in my view, ever written in the English language; and that is: We hold these truths to be self-evi-

dent, that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The people of Iraq, for the first time, will be able to realize those inalienable rights. I am proud of the United States of America. I am proud of the leadership of the President of the United States.

It is not an easy decision to send America's young men and women into harm's way. As I said before, some of them will not be returning. But to somehow assert, as some do, that the people of Iraq and the Middle East are not entitled to those same God-given rights that Americans and people all over the country are, that they do not have those same hopes and dreams and aspirations our own citizens do, to me, is a degree of condescension. I might even use stronger language than that to describe it.

So I respectfully disagree with the remarks of the Senator from West Virginia. I believe the President of the United States has done everything necessary and has exercised every option short of war, which has led us to the point we are today.

I believe that, obviously, we will remove a threat to America's national security because we will find there are still massive amounts of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Although Theodore Roosevelt is my hero and role model, I also, in many ways, am Wilsonian in the respect that America, this great Nation of ours, will again contribute to the freedom and liberty of an oppressed people who otherwise never might enjoy those freedoms.

So perhaps the Senator from West Virginia is right. I do not think so. Events will prove one of us correct in the next few days. But I rely on history as my guide to the future, and history shows us, unequivocally, that this Nation has stood for freedom and democracy, even at the risk and loss of American lives, so that all might enjoy the same privileges or have the opportunity to someday enjoy the same privileges as we do in this noble experiment called the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO).

The Senator from Washington.

AMENDMENT NO. 284

(Purpose: To fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act in 2004 and reduce debt by reducing tax breaks for the wealthiest taxpayers)

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of myself, Senators KENNEDY, HARKIN, BINGAMAN, KERRY, MIKULSKI, JOHNSON, SARBANES, EDWARDS, and CLINTON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY], for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HARKIN,

Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. KERRY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mrs. CLINTON proposes an amendment numbered 284.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the amendment I offer is the one I spoke about earlier today. Clearly, we are in a very important day in the history of this country, and really of this world, as we wait to find out what is going to happen in Iraq. All of our thoughts and prayers are with the young men and women who wait, as we do, to see what is going to happen. Certainly our country is anxious and on edge, and we all hope they are successful. We all hope this endeavor leaves us where this country needs to be. But certainly a lot else is going on as well.

Here we are on the floor of the Senate debating a budget resolution that has been put forward by the majority party.

I am one of those who come to the Chamber to express my serious concern that the budget before us does not include any funds to pay for the war in Iraq, nor does it pay for the peace we hope will ensue afterwards. We do not know what the cost is going to be. Yet hidden inside this budget is a major tax cut that will make it impossible for us to be able to provide what is important for the country, whether it is a war in Iraq or, as my constituents are worried about, a conflict in North Korea, if one occurs there as well.

Also, in this budget we are looking at tremendous cuts to the education of our young children. It is especially important today, as we face the uncertain future of where we go from here, that we give some certainty to the children in our classrooms, because now more than ever we need to make sure they have a solid education, that they are capable of making it through school with the skills they need so they can help get our economy back on track and make us strong for whatever future conflict the country may find itself in, but also so they can be productive adults.

Not very long ago this body passed a bill called No Child Left Behind. It was a promise from the President and all of us who worked on it that we would put in place for the first time strong accountability rules for the public education system. We would hold schools, teachers, and principals accountable to make sure our students met the high standards we were setting. But that was not all the legislation promised. It also promised that we would fund what was necessary to help our children reach those goals.

It promised that every classroom would have a high-quality teacher.

That is a problem in our country today where many teachers are in classrooms where they don't have the skills they need to teach the subjects they are required to teach. It requires in this bill that we have a highly qualified teacher in every classroom. That doesn't just happen. It happens because we make sure the resources are there to do it. Without the money to make that happen, we have passed on an unfunded mandate to the States.

We said in No Child Left Behind that children will be in an environment where they can learn. Far too many children are in classrooms that have 35 or 40 children in first, second, and third grade classrooms. There is no way those children who come to class, many of them in very difficult situations, have the ability to learn basic math, science, English, writing skills because they don't have the time of a teacher when there are too many kids in the classroom. We need to make sure we help provide the resources so we don't set kids up to test but that we actually provide the resources so they are in a small enough classroom with a highly qualified teacher.

The budget before us does not provide funds for this. It only comes through with half of the promise we gave to our children several years ago that we would leave no child behind. It leaves the promise of testing, but it does not fulfill the promise of funding.

The amendment I have sent to the desk will fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act. It says it is a priority of our country that we will not just pass an unfunded mandate on to States but that we will assure that children have afterschool programs so they can get the extra skills they need to catch up and pass the tests we are requiring them to take. It means we will fully fund title I funding so that 6 million of our most disadvantaged students will not be left behind. It provides funds for English language acquisition and safe and drug free schools and, importantly, rural education.

The Presiding Officer knows, as I do, that in many of our rural school districts we have a difficult time attracting qualified teachers. They often leave to go to urban or suburban schools where it is easier to teach. We want to make sure that even if there are only 40 kids in a school building, that they get the same help and instruction and qualified teachers so they can learn the skills they need to pass the tests we have required of them. My amendment will make sure that we fund the rural education programs.

If we don't do this, we are passing an unfunded mandate on to States at a time that they cannot afford to take it. My State legislature is facing a \$2.5 billion budget deficit right now. They are struggling to come to some difficult decisions. It is extremely unfair of us at the Federal level to tell them, while they are struggling through these budget decisions, that they now have a new unfunded mandate of making sure

children pass tests; otherwise, their schools are failing and not providing the funds to make sure that happens.

Our State legislators do not have the funds to fund a Federal mandate. If we will not follow through with the funding, we cannot keep the first half of No Child Left Behind that says that schools have to be held accountable. I don't want to lower the standards. I don't want to take that accountability away. But I also do not want to pass on an unfunded mandate to schools today when they are struggling with fewer resources because our own State legislatures are having difficulty in these tough economic times giving them the tools they need. I hope we don't fail at No Child Left Behind by not providing funding but providing the mandates.

It will be imperative for this Congress to come back and revisit this if we don't provide the funds because I assure you every school board member—and I was a school board member at one time—will be back here screaming about unfunded mandates. We will end up having to take steps backward in accountability in order to accommodate them. I don't think that is where any Member here wants to go.

The amendment I sent to the desk will help us reach that goal by fully funding the No Child Left Behind Act so we can keep both sides of the promise that we made to the children and to the parents and to the school employees and to the districts across the country that when we said No Child Left Behind, we said accountability, but we also said resources.

I stand here terribly conscious that Senator Wellstone no longer sits behind me because of the tragedy that occurred right before the election of last year. I know if Senator Wellstone were here, he would be walking up and down this aisle yelling about the fact that we can't educate kids on a tin cup budget.

I will tell you, the Republican budget that is before us today is a tin cup budget. It is a budget that does not provide the resources that our young people need in order to be able to learn, in order for teachers to educate our children, and for them to be a success.

It would be a tremendous setback for this country in terms of education if we don't pass this amendment and assure that our schools are funded.

It is a difficult day for all of us to be in the Senate debating these critical issues. We all know that hanging over us is a war that could possibly begin at any time. Our hearts are heavy with what could occur in the next few weeks and months. But it is also a time that we cannot abandon our young children. They are counting on us as the adults to make the right decisions for them and not to forget them in this time of crisis. If we don't pass this amendment and fully fund No Child Left Behind, it will send a message to every child that we have forgotten them. I will not do that. I will work hard every day to make sure we fund the important education structure and give our kids the

opportunity to learn and succeed. That is a commitment every one of us should take as a tremendous responsibility.

I know there are other Senators who wish to speak on the amendment. I will yield the floor in a few minutes.

I want to make a few more comments before I do that. I see Senator GREGG is here as well. I know we have to debate what is full funding and what should be our responsibility. But I think the outlines of No Child Left Behind are fairly clear in what our commitment is to young people. If we don't fully fund title I to give disadvantaged students the opportunity to learn, we are requiring them to take a test and not giving them the resources they need, coming from a disadvantaged background, to be able to pass those tests. I think that is a pretty sorry statement in the Senate.

The amendment I am offering has \$8.9 billion in funding for Function 500, so it will fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act. As I stated earlier, the programs that it will fully fund are title I, teacher quality, class size, English language acquisition, after-school centers, and rural education. It also includes sufficient funding to restore the President's cuts that are in the Republican budget before us for programs such as smaller learning communities and dropout prevention programs.

The amendment also includes \$8.9 billion for deficit reduction. I think both the education and deficit reduction funding are extremely important right now. This is all taken from the dividend tax cut.

I know we are going to have a tax debate later on, but I have talked to many of my constituents across the State of Washington, and when they are given the choice of whether or not to have a tax cut that actually doesn't benefit many of the residents of the State of Washington or this country or the opportunity to provide a good education for young children who are in school today, they all choose that their money be spent on young children so they can have an opportunity.

Bill Gates is a constituent of mine. He is a wonderful success story. He will benefit tremendously from the tax cut in the Republican budget. But I think he and most of my constituents agree that they would benefit much more from a citizenry that is left behind that is educated and capable of producing and capable of producing another Bill Gates in the future.

If we rob our children of an education, we are also robbing ourselves of future entrepreneurs who can be successful businessmen, businesswomen, and be in walks of life that help create new jobs for the future. It is very shortsighted to not fully fund No Child Left Behind for the future of the country.

We will have other amendments, I know, during this budget debate, to fully fund IDEA. That is an issue this

Senate has taken up and talked about many times. We actually had hoped to fully fund IDEA not that long ago, but we were told we had to wait for reauthorization. We are still waiting for the reauthorization bill to come over, and we still have not fully funded IDEA.

I know Senator KENNEDY is on the floor as well. He has been a staunch proponent of fully funding education for our young children and is even concerned about the Pell grants and their funding in this budget. We have many students in college who are struggling to pay their tuition and are finding themselves taking out loans of tremendous size just to get through school, and they are graduating with thousands of dollars in loans. It is really important that we don't leave a generation with huge debt, trying to pay them off, if we want our economy to get back on track.

Senator KENNEDY will talk later on the importance of increasing the Pell grant funding so that we leave fewer students with tremendous loans in the future. I know Senator DODD will be out here also to talk about Head Start and day care and other issues affecting young people.

Let me conclude by saying that there are thousands of young children in this country who are waiting anxiously to see if the U.S. Senate can live up to the obligations of the No Child Left Behind Act that was passed not long ago. Today, we will have an opportunity with the amendments that I have to let the young kids know that we in this country are ready to stand by them.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we vote in relation to the Murray amendment at 5 o'clock this evening, with the time until then equally divided. I know my colleague from Washington spoke, but I say the time divided equally on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I am trying to understand the amendment. I have not looked at it totally. The Senator's amendment would increase funding in this education function by \$8.9 billion for fiscal year 2004?

Mrs. MURRAY. The Senator is correct.

Mr. NICKLES. We have a 10-year budget. Do you increase funding in 2005 or 2006 or any of the outyears?

Mrs. MURRAY. This just sets the appropriations level for this year and 2004.

Mr. NICKLES. You also increase taxes, or decrease the tax cut—which ever language you want to use—by an amount of how much?

Mrs. MURRAY. The amount in the amendment reduces the tax cut by \$17.8 billion.

Mr. NICKLES. Now, what percentage of an increase in the—\$8.9 billion is

what percent of an increase over the money being spent this year?

Mrs. MURRAY. It is approximately an 8-percent increase.

Mr. NICKLES. My calculation is that it is closer to 40 percent.

Mrs. MURRAY. Well, I am happy to doublecheck to answer the Senator, but I would be astounded—I believe it is an 8-percent increase over the funding level.

Mr. NICKLES. Will the Senator yield further?

Mrs. MURRAY. Yes, absolutely.

Mr. NICKLES. Doesn't your amendment deal only with No Child Left Behind?

Mrs. MURRAY. It ensures that we fully fund No Child Left Behind for fiscal year 2004 and the programs within the No Child Left Behind.

Mr. NICKLES. Correct me if I am wrong, but isn't that figure \$23.6 billion, and so you would increase that amount by \$8.9 billion, and isn't that closer to 40 percent?

Mrs. MURRAY. You are talking about the overall education funding. I am talking about the No Child Left Behind Act.

Mr. NICKLES. We will have to debate that. I believe I am talking about the No Child Left Behind. I believe you are increasing that by about 40 percent, which is kind of hard to understand.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I am happy to yield to my colleague from Massachusetts. I want to clarify that the vote that will occur at 5 o'clock will be on the amendment that I have offered; is that correct?

Mr. NICKLES. On or in relation thereto.

Mrs. MURRAY. No amendments will be in order prior to the vote.

Mr. NICKLES. I am reserving the right to table the amendment, and no amendment prior to that vote. We still would have the option for a motion to table, and if a motion to table wasn't successful, to offer a substitute amendment.

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield to the Senator from Massachusetts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the budget that is before us at this present time is about one basic and fundamental issue, and that is the issue of priorities, the issue of choices, how we are going to allocate scarce resources in this country.

The fact is that the Republican budget has said we will add \$1.6 trillion in additional tax breaks, most of which will go to the very wealthy individuals in this country.

The Senator from the State of Washington says, no, let's just take \$8.9 billion of that and designate that for the No Child Left Behind Act, and then let's take another \$8.9 billion towards reducing the deficit that we are additionally creating with the \$1.6 trillion in additional tax reductions.

The question is very simple: Do we want to educate the children of this country, or do we want more tax breaks for the very wealthy? That is the issue before the Senate.

It is going to be clouded up with a lot of other kinds of rhetoric, but it is a choice. Do you want to educate the children, or do you want more tax breaks? That is the issue. That is the issue.

Mr. President, I will use figures from the Department of Education. The Department of Education—this is their document—for the year 2003, the total figure for education is \$53 billion. And now the President's request is \$53 billion. There it is. That is the Republican President's request on No Child Left Behind—effectively flat funding. Flat funding.

Now, we know the President of the United States worked with the Congress—Republicans and Democrats—to enact the No Child Left Behind Act. That added important reforms and accountability—accountability for the children to perform, accountability of the schools to teach, accountability for the teachers to learn and to be well-qualified, accountability for the parents to become involved, accountability on the local communities to have responsibilities. It also had accountability for the Congress of the United States to fund that program, and this administration has abandoned that accountability. It has abandoned it. The documents from the administration's Department of Education show that.

At this hour, the Senator from Washington is saying: We do not want to abdicate our responsibility. Maybe the administration does, but we do not, and the Senate will have an opportunity at 5 o'clock to indicate whether they prefer to give additional hundreds of millions of dollars to the wealthiest individuals, or to meet our fundamental commitment to children and parents, 55 million of them across this country, and make sure they have a well-qualified teacher in their classrooms, make sure there are going to be after-school programs to assist these children, make sure they have a sound curriculum, make sure that the tests are going to test those children on that curriculum, and that if a child falls behind, they are going to get the supplementary services they need. This is all at a time when the States are in deficit of \$90 billion. A third of that money is education; 75 percent of that is for K through 12.

The children are being put through the wringers. They are being put through the wringers in all 50 States. I will not take the time to read from letters from teachers and superintendents of schools or school boards, but that is the message they are sending.

We made a commitment, a promise to those children and to their parents. The choice is very simple: Are we going to meet that commitment in supporting the amendment of the Senator

from Washington, or are we going to give additional tax breaks to the wealthiest individuals? It is as simple and fundamental and basic as that, Mr. President, make no mistake about it. I hope later on we will have a chance to do something about that.

Finally, on the President's proposal for education, if we look over the period to the year 2010, with the requests that are being made in the President's budget there are still 5.6 million children left behind. There it is under this administration. I remember when the administration wanted the title "No Child Left Behind," and we talked about that in our conference. As we talked about that, we said: Are we really going to leave children behind, or is this going to be a commitment? It was clear to me that Republicans and Democrats in the conference said: This is going to be a commitment.

Unless we accept the amendment of the Senator from Washington and unless we are going to start on a glide-path towards funding No Child Left Behind, we are going to leave millions of children in this country behind. Which is it, Senate of the United States: billions more for tax breaks for wealthy individuals or investing in the children who are out there tonight, today, this evening, studying hard, trying to make a go of it and finding out that instead of having maybe 15, 18, 20 pupils in a class, this year there are going to be 25 or 30 in it? And we can go down the list. Every Member knows that.

It is a question of priorities, and the Murray amendment is as clear as can be. I hope when the time comes, the amendment will be accepted.

I reserve the remainder of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, what is the status of the time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma retains 26 minutes. The Senator from Washington retains 10 minutes 40 seconds.

Mr. GREGG. I ask to be yielded 15 minutes.

Mr. NICKLES. I yield 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, first, I always enjoy hearing the Senator from Massachusetts and the Senator from Washington discuss education, especially the Senator from Massachusetts. I appreciate the fact we put microphones in the Chamber because that certainly helps me hear him as we go forward.

I wish to start, however, with the question of the budget. I thought I would bring along the budget on education that we passed last year when the Democratic membership controlled the Senate. So I did, and here it is.

You may be asking, Where is it? It did not pass. The budget on education was not even brought to the floor last year. An epiphany has occurred. Suddenly, they are concerned about education. Suddenly, they are interested

in education enough to debate it in this budget. But where were they last year? Where were they? They were not on the floor of the Senate promoting a budget to promote education. This is their budget last year on education. A blank page.

We have to go back in history to find out what the position of the membership of the other party is relative to the issue of funding education in comparison with what this President has done.

This President has dramatically increased funding for education, and if we compare his commitment to education to the prior administration's commitment to education in the years when the prior administration proposed education funding, we will see that in the last year of the Clinton administration, there was \$42 billion being spent on education. This year, a proposed \$66.5 billion is being spent on education by this President.

President Bush's commitment to education has been the second largest factor of increase in the Federal budget over the last 3 years. It has meant real dollars going to the issue of education.

Now let's turn to the question of title I, which is the purpose of this amendment, which is the No Child Left Behind issue. Let's look at all the issues for a moment. Let's compare what the Democratic leadership did when they controlled the Senate versus what we have done under Republican control of the Senate over the last few years.

From the period 2001 to 2004, when we had Republican leadership in the Senate, the red bars reflect increases in education funding for title I, for IDEA, Pell grants, and total discretionary education. Increases from the Democratic side of the aisle during this same period were minuscule; in fact, one was even a negative in the Pell grant area during that same period. There are dramatic increases coming from this President.

Let's look at title I because this is the most stark, dramatic, and I think precise chart we have to reflect what is really being done.

Since the Republicans took control of the Senate and the Congress, we see these huge increases in funding for title I: \$1 billion a year since President Bush has been in office. Every year, \$1 billion, \$1 billion, \$1 billion on top of the prior amounts, as compared with 1993 through 1995. In fact, if we went back further, it would be worse coming in from the prior administration. So the commitment has been there.

If we look at the history of title I increases, which is what this amendment is about, and compare what President Clinton did when the Democrats were in control to what President Bush has done since he has been in charge, during the 1994 to 2001 period, over the 8-year period, President Clinton proposed \$2.4 billion in increases in title I funding; in 3 years, President Bush has proposed \$3.9 billion in increases in funding.

It is very easy to come to the floor in a difficult fiscal time when we are facing a war, when there are a lot of pressures on us because of a deficit, and say you have no responsibility because you do not produce budgets that you are willing to increase spending ad infinitum, which is what this amendment essentially does. It is a little more difficult, however, in a time of deficits, when we are at war, to come forward and actually increase spending, which is exactly what President Bush did.

I note, during this period, 1994 to 2001, we were running surpluses. The opportunity was there to increase spending without a great deal of choice in the area of priorities. Today it is a much tougher situation, and the choices on priorities have been made, and President Bush is committed to that funding.

Now I will go to one other chart, which I find absolutely startling because I think this shows some of these amendments we are going to be getting from the other side, especially on the issue of education, are taking advantage of the fact that the other side does not have to produce a budget.

Let's look back when they did, theoretically, have to produce a budget. Of course, they did not. We could go back to their budget, which was a blank page, but they did produce an appropriations bill, which they never passed. In fact, they never even called it to the floor of the Senate. It took the Republican Congress 2 weeks to pass it. The other side had a whole year. They were not able to do it, but we were able to do it. I will get into the numbers there, but the fact is when they produced their budget, or their appropriations bill, what did they have in their numbers for funding? They had \$11.8 billion. What was the authorization level? It was \$16 billion. So by their own terms, the last time they had control, the last time they had the opportunity to do the job of governing, they underfunded the title I account by \$4 billion—by their terminology, not by mine.

How many children did they silence, to use the term of Senator KENNEDY? How many are added up in that \$4 billion figure? I do not know. Personally, I do not think that is a proper way to address it, but if those are the terminologies one is going to use, then what is good for the goose is good for the gander. The fact is they were \$4 billion short of their own goal. So a lot of what we are hearing today is tilting with straw dogs when it comes to the issue of how much is being spent and who is spending what.

Let's look a little bit, though, at what this President has done—a 145 percent increase in education funding, as compared with health, as compared with defense, a huge increase.

The argument is being made that title I has not been fully funded because the authorization levels have not been met. That, of course, goes to this chart. If we were to fully fund every bill that has been authorized by this

Congress—well, just by our committee—we would be talking trillions of dollars. We all recognize that authorization level is not the level at which we end up. We end up at an appropriated level. And the question becomes: How do different accounts compete within those appropriation accounts? Who is being successful, who is not? Where are the priorities? Where are the choices being made?

The point this chart unalterably makes is that as far as this administration is concerned, the priority is education—a billion dollars of new funding for title I every year since this administration has been in office—in fact, \$1.5 billion one year, I think, and \$1 billion for special education funding every year since this administration has been in office, which compares rather starkly, as I mentioned, with the Clinton years in the area of title I, where essentially there were very little funding increases. Over 7 years, it was \$2.4 billion as compared with \$3.9 billion for the Bush administration.

The issue of whether or not this is an unfunded mandate is a total misrepresentation relative to No Child Left Behind. The fact is the funding that is flowing into the States to support No Child Left Behind is flowing in before the States and the communities have an obligation to do things under No Child Left Behind. We are actually prefunding many, if not all, of the obligations which the States are assuming under No Child Left Behind to the extent we ask them to do things.

For example, testing regime. In the State of New Hampshire it costs about \$300,000 to produce a test. Under No Child Left Behind, we have asked that instead of testing three grades, they are going to have to test three more grades, a number of more grades, actually, but they do not have to have those tests up and running for awhile. However, we are giving them the money today to design the tests. Not only are we giving them money, but on the average we are giving New Hampshire at least \$500,000 to develop new tests. It only costs them \$300,000 to do the test. They are making \$200,000 per test that they develop, and that is true across the country.

It is also true of the basic funding regime relative to issues, for example, like teachers. We heard a little talk about teachers. The President's commitment for funding for teachers is up 35 percent over what the prior administration did, a \$726 million increase coming into this year.

More importantly, under No Child Left Behind, we no longer put strings behind those dollars. We say to the local school districts, instead of having to use this new money, the 35 percent increase in funding for education for teachers and for teacher support, instead of having to use that money to hire more teachers, you, the principal, can make the decision to use that money to hire more teachers, if that is what you need, to pay your best teach-

ers more, if that is what you think is going to get you good teachers to stay there, to give your teachers better education by sending them out to schools and getting supplemental education for them, by giving them technology support. You have the choice. You, the school district, are going to get this extra money. Plus, you are going to get it without strings. You are going to have flexibility as to how to use it so you can make that dollar go further.

So to represent that the teacher side of the No Child Left Behind bill has not only been underfunded but is not being adequately managed is just inaccurate. The fact is, it has been funded, it has been increased, and it is a dramatically more liberal use of the dollars at the discretion of the local school district. I know they are going to get more for the dollars spent.

Now I guess we are going to have time later on—I ask the Chair how much time I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Two minutes.

Mr. GREGG. The record on special education is even more dramatic. Where the Clinton administration essentially flatlined special education for 8 years, this administration has increased it, by historic levels, over a billion dollars a year every year—dramatic increases for special education.

We will get into that. We will get into the issue of the Pell grants, where the numbers are equally stark, where this administration has made huge commitments in comparison to the time when the responsibilities for funding education actually fell into the hands of our colleagues across the aisle. But what we have today, unfortunately, is an attempt to use the lack of responsibility to have to produce a budget to throw out numbers which are irresponsible and claim that they are responsible.

The last budget the Democrats produced on the issue of education was a blank. That is what they brought to the floor on the issue of education last year, whereas the President of the United States stepped up to the plate and increased title I funding by \$3.9 billion in 3 years. That is real commitment to the kids of America.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator DODD be listed as a cosponsor on my amendment.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield 2 minutes to the Senator from Massachusetts and then 4 minutes to the Senator from New Mexico.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask unanimous consent that the Department of Education's fiscal year 2004 President's budget be printed in the RECORD.

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

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2004 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

(In thousands of dollars)

Office, account, program and activity	DIM	2002 appropriation	2003 President's request	2003 appropriation	2004 President's request	Change from 2003 appropriation
Contributions (DEOA, section 421)	M	485	0	0	0	0
Outlays	M	469	85	0	0	0
General fund receipts:						
1. Perkins loan repayments	M	(39,041)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	0
2. CHAFL downward reestimate of loan subsidies	M	(27)	(27)	(27)	0	27
Total		(39,068)	(50,027)	(50,027)	(50,000)	27
Outlays, Total		(39,068)	(50,027)	(50,027)	(50,000)	27
Budget authority total, Education Department		55,747,031	60,403,502	60,962,382	63,626,734	2,664,352
Discretionary funds	D	² 49,505,598	² 50,309,879	² 50,868,759	² 55,383,203	4,514,444
Mandatory funds	M	6,241,433	10,093,623	10,093,623	8,243,531	(1,850,092)
Outlays total, Education Department		46,285,284	59,379,318	59,753,542	58,864,922	(888,620)
Discretionary funds	D	41,305,647	50,039,352	50,272,152	51,170,323	898,171
Mandatory funds	M	4,979,637	9,339,966	9,481,390	7,694,599	(1,786,791)

¹ Excludes funds for increased agency pension and annuitant health benefits costs, which are currently paid from a central Office of Personnel Management fund: \$23,728 thousand in fiscal year 2003 and \$22,528 thousand in fiscal year 2004.

² Excludes a total of \$15,011,301 thousand in advance appropriations that becomes available on October 1 of the succeeding fiscal year.

³ Excludes a total of \$17,255,301 thousand in advance appropriations that becomes available on October 1 of fiscal year 2004.

Note: Appropriation totals displayed above reflect the total funds provided in the year of appropriation, including advance appropriation amounts that do not become available until the succeeding fiscal year. The total budget authority reflects funds that become available in the fiscal year shown, which includes new amounts provided for that fiscal year and amounts advanced from the prior year's appropriation.

Note: This budget replaces the table prepared when the fiscal year 2004 President's Budget was transmitted to Congress on February 3, 2003, prior to enactment of the fiscal year 2003 appropriation. The fiscal year 2003 appropriation has since been enacted and is included in this table. The fiscal year 2004 President's budget remains the same as requested on February 3.

Mr. KENNEDY. What it shows is the appropriations for 2002, \$49 billion; the President's request is \$50 billion. They added \$400 million. Then the appropriations went up \$3 billion because of the activity on the floor of the Senate. The next year the administration asked for \$26 million—an increase of 5/100th of one percent. Let us look at the point my good friend, Senator GREGG, left behind. The point he has not disputed is we have 6.2 million children who are left behind. Let's forget what happened to the Republicans, let's forget what happened to the Democrats, and say let's accept the Murray amendment that will include 3 million more children. Let's not argue about the past. Let's argue about the future.

This amendment will increase by 3 million the number of children who will be covered. We have a chance to do that tonight. We have a chance to do that at 5 o'clock. That is what we are asking the Senate to do, instead of having additional tax breaks for the wealthiest individuals in this country.

Put the children first. That is what the Murray amendment would do.

I hope my good friend from New Hampshire will join us hand in hand together and support the Murray amendment, and we will cut in half the number of children being left behind.

Mr. GREGG. Will the Senator from Oklahoma yield a couple of minutes to respond?

Mr. NICKLES. I yield 4 minutes to my colleague.

Mr. GREGG. The Senator from Massachusetts argued it might have credibility and might have legs were it not for the fact there is presently—because of the huge amount of money the President of the United States, George Bush, has put into this account—there is presently unspent title I dollars representing billions.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. GREGG. Is this a question?

Mr. KENNEDY. Yes. The Senator is not surprised on that because they always commit that money in July of the next year. You can use all the

charts you want; it is committed and it is expended in July. Everyone understands that.

Mr. GREGG. I appreciate the Senator's question, and I am sure it was a question, although I never really actually heard the question.

But I make the point this is 2001 money, 2 years ago; August has already come and gone for 2001; and 2002 is fast approaching.

The fact is, we are putting so much money in the pipeline so fast because we are prefunding this issue, as we should be, that we are not creating an unfunded mandate. We are actually creating a situation where many States are, for at least the moment, not making money but seeing a significant surplus in the amount of money coming in relationship to the amount of money they are having to spend to reach the goals of No Child Left Behind, which, as we all know, is to give low-income kids a better shot at the American dream by educating them properly.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, let me speak for the 4 minutes I was allocated by the Senator from Washington to support the amendment Senator MURRAY and Senator KENNEDY have put forward. I compliment them on the leadership they provide on education issues and this amendment in particular.

I heard my colleague from New Hampshire talk about how we cannot just increase funding ad infinitum, that what this amendment would do is throw out numbers that are irresponsible. That was one of his phrases.

As I understand the amendment, and the reason I am cosponsoring the amendment, this amendment proposes to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act. All it is saying is we made an agreement on a bipartisan basis. The President participated in that agreement. We told the people of our States and our school districts that we were going to provide a certain level of sup-

port to help them implement the No Child Left Behind Act. The budget before the Senate does not do that.

The suggestion is made that the reason it has not done that is because there is surplus money that has come into the State and we prefunded things and they have not been able to spend the money in the pipeline. This is news to the school districts in my State and to the people involved with trying to educate the children in my State. In fact, when I go home, what I hear from people in my State is that we have these new requirements, we need assistance, we need resources. If you want us to train teachers' aides, which we want to do, if you want us to raise the level of qualifications of our teachers, which we want to do, please help. Please come through with the resources that were committed in the No Child Left Behind Act. That is exactly what this amendment tries to do.

The other comment I heard was we cannot fully fund every bill that is authorized in this Congress. That is not what the Senator from Washington and the Senator from Massachusetts are proposing. They are saying, let's just fully fund this bill. Let's take education and recognize that it needs to be a priority.

In this budget resolution, we have over \$1.3 trillion in tax cuts. Now, is it too much to say that \$8.9 billion of additional funds should go into education? I don't think that is an unreasonable request. I think, clearly, the priorities of the American people would be with us, and they would agree, let's fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act before we start cutting taxes.

We all know we have enormous other expenses that are coming at us as a result of the war that is imminent in Iraq. I certainly intend to support those expenditures, but to suggest that we do not have enough money left to pursue our education funding, to keep the promise we made to the American people at the time the No Child Left Behind Act was signed into law, is very unfortunate.

I participated with the Secretary of Education when he came to my State and had something of a rally in Albuquerque to talk about No Child Left Behind and what a wonderful thing it was for the State. I supported that legislation. I supported it all the way through. I worked with my colleagues to try to be sure it made good sense and fit the circumstances of our State. But I did so always on the assumption that we would then come along and provide the Federal support to the States for local school districts to implement those improvements.

I think it is essential we do that. I think it is essential we adopt the Murray-Kennedy amendment. I hope our colleagues will support this amendment and keep faith with the young people of our country.

Everyone in this body gives speeches talking about how the future lies with the children of the country. We need to do right by them and adopt this amendment and make education a priority in this budget.

The pending budget simply sets the wrong priorities by providing over \$1.3 trillion in tax benefits to the wealthiest while cutting education funding.

This budget abandons the promise to leave no child behind by cutting funding for the No Child Left Behind Act—legislation repeatedly embraced by the Administration and passed by a strong bipartisan vote just last Congress—by \$700 million.

Under this budget, Title I—the program targeted on districts and schools with large numbers of disadvantaged students—would be approximately \$5.8 billion short compared to the levels agreed to on a bipartisan basis in the No Child Left Behind Act. As a result, over 6 million poor children will be left behind.

In addition, over 500,000 children will lose access to after school services under these funding levels.

The budget before us also contemplates eliminating funding for key education programs—again enacted on a bipartisan basis last Congress.

For example, the budget contemplates eliminating funding for the dropout prevention program, at a time when the pressure is greater than ever to push at risk students out so they do not negatively impact school performance.

The budget also contemplates cutting existing programs that provide research-based strategies for schools to improve academic achievement and reduce dropout rates. For example, the smaller communities program provides funds to schools seeking to create personalized learning environments that research proves will increase student academic achievement, reduce dropout rates, and increase school safety. It is exactly the type of reform effort that we endorsed and indeed required in the No Child Left Behind Act. It is the type of program that we should expand, rather than eliminate.

If we truly intend to leave no child behind, education funding—particu-

larly funding for the programs targeted toward the most disadvantaged children—must be our top priority, not our last.

The funding provided in this amendment would achieve that goal by providing funding sufficient to serve another 2 million needy children under the Title I program. In addition, every one of the 10,000 schools currently identified as not meeting the standards provided in the No Child Left Behind Act will be able to implement research-based school reform models.

We also will be able to maintain the current level of after-school services while expanding after school programs to another 1.3 million latchkey children.

We would be able to make substantial contributions to the quality of instruction by providing enough funding to hire 50,000 fully qualified teachers and provide professional development to 200,000 teachers.

Finally, we will be able to continue key programs such as the dropout prevention program and smaller learning communities programs.

This amendment can make a real difference for our states and local districts.

As my colleagues know, State cuts to education caused by “the most ominous fiscal crisis since World War II” make Federal support ever more crucial for local communities. States face a cumulative \$80 billion budget deficit, with a dozen States cutting k–12 spending last year and another 11 poised to do so this year.

States and communities across the Nation are being forced to cut services due to increased demands and reduced resources. For example, in Oregon school districts are carving weeks of instruction off the school year. One thousand teacher positions have been lost in Oregon so far this year. The schools in Arkansas, Louisiana, South Dakota, and Colorado are cutting back to a four-day week to trim costs. In Alabama, the schools are being forced to raise the class sizes, cut back extracurricular activities, and lay off 2,000 teachers and support staff. In Kentucky, 1,000 teacher and support positions have been cut and their technology programs have been slashed. In Massachusetts, dozens of school nurses have been laid off.

As a result, it is not a surprise that a bipartisan poll recently demonstrated that a majority of Americans support increased Federal support for education and more voters name education as their top budget priority for next year than any other issue. Education ranks more than 10 points higher than the next 2 highest budget priorities—health care and terrorism/security.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment and thank my colleagues again for their leadership.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I express my strong support for the amendment offered by Senators Murray and

Kennedy to increase funds for the No Child Left Behind Act by \$8.9 billion, fully funding this critical legislation. The amendment also includes \$8.9 billion for deficit reduction. Both the education and deficit reduction funding are taken from the dividend tax cut. It is imperative that Congress send a strong message in support of education that is accompanied by equally strong funding.

The budget resolution we consider today fails to provide sufficient funding for education programs at all levels. Despite the Administration rhetoric that places great importance on improving educational opportunities for all Americans, President Bush's budget underfunds a variety of programs—early childhood education, elementary education, vocational education, and higher education—that are especially important to families given the weak economy.

States are struggling with budget shortfalls, rising student enrollment, and an increasing number of students with limited English proficiency. At the same time, States are working to meet the new requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. I supported the No Child Left Behind Act because I agreed with its principles—all public school children should be able to achieve and all schools should be held accountable when their students fail to do so. I believed the President when he said education would be a priority. But now we face a budget that does not make education a priority. Instead, we are asked to support a budget that somehow finds the money to provide a tax cut for the wealthiest individuals, but cannot do so for the education of our Nation's children.

This budget provides only a 2 percent overall increase for education programs, and some increases such as those for both Title I and IDEA, are largely paid for with cuts to other valuable education programs. Funding for the No Child Left Behind Act is cut by \$700 million below fiscal year 2003 levels. It shortchanges Title I funding by \$5.8 billion below the authorized level. Title I could reach only 40 percent of eligible low-income children at this level. This budget also cuts funding for teacher quality programs, after school programs, and eliminates 46 education initiatives.

The No Child Left Behind Act places a variety of new requirements on States and local school districts, including annual standardized testing and increased teacher certification. While we can expect our educators to do all within their power to improve our schools, we cannot expect this landmark legislation to be effective if they are not given the resources to implement these programs. If this amendment passes, over 2 million additional needy children will be served by Title I, after school opportunities would be extended to an additional 1.3 million latchkey kids, and 50,000 new teachers could become fully qualified.

I find it unconscionable that we can consider a tax cut aimed at the wealthiest Americans while purporting to be unable to adequately fund education programs. Now is the time to move beyond the rhetoric and show teachers, parents and students that we are sincere in our efforts to help them. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Murray-Kennedy amendment.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of Senator MURRAY's amendment to the budget resolution that will fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act. I regret that I will not be present for the vote, but if I were present I would vote for the Murray amendment to increase education funding by \$8.9 billion.

Unfortunately, both the budget resolution that we are debating and President Bush's proposed fiscal year 2004 budget do not fulfill the funding commitment that Congress made when we passed the No Child Left Behind Act into law. In fact, the budget resolution contains a \$700 million cut in funding for the No Child Left Behind Act compared to the fiscal year 2003 levels.

The budget resolution's title I funding leaves more than 6 million disadvantaged children behind. There is no increase for teacher quality funds, even though nearly 40 percent of title I children are taught by teachers without a college degree in their primary instructional field and our schools will need to hire 2 million new teachers over the next decade. While 6 million latchkey children currently go without afterschool programs, this budget cuts afterschool funding for more than 500,000 children. And it eliminates all funding for rural education, dropout prevention, preparing tomorrow's teachers in technology, and smaller learning communities among other things.

We have said it time and again during debate on No Child Left Behind and since it became law: new reforms and stronger accountability systems are not going to work if we don't provide resources to ensure that all children can learn to high standards. That means providing the full authorized amount of title I funding, it means helping schools meet the major new requirements for teacher quality that the law imposed, and it means increasing not slashing funding for afterschool programs. I hope all of my colleagues can support this important amendment.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would first like to thank Senator MURRAY for this critical amendment to deliver on the promise we made to the Nation's children by fully funding the No Child Left Behind Act.

It has been over 1 year since the approval of the No Child Left Behind Act. But we are not fulfilling the promise made in that law and are, in fact, leaving millions of kids behind. The Nation has made little progress toward improving the quality of our children's education. In fact, we have taken a

huge step backward by actually cutting funding for the education reform law that was enacted.

The Murray amendment will not only alleviate the fiscal crisis in our schools so that they can provide a high-quality education for our children, but it will provide funding to keep our children safe in afterschool programs.

As the author with Senator ENSIGN of the bipartisan afterschool program that President Bush signed into law as part of the No Child Left Behind Act, I want to emphasize how important the Federal afterschool program is to children and families across America. Dozens of respected, independent studies tell us that afterschool programs keep children safe, reduce crime and drug use, and improve academic performance.

However, despite strong evidence that keeping children safe after school can reduce juvenile crime and prevent children from engaging in risky behaviors, the administration's budget for fiscal year 2004 slashes Federal funding for afterschool programs by 40 percent.

This unprecedented cut would result in over 81,000 children in California and almost 600,000 children nationally being pushed out onto the streets after school. Furthermore, by not fully funding afterschool programs at the level that we promised in the No Child Left Behind Act, we will be leaving over a million more children not just behind, but home alone.

We cannot afford to neglect our commitment to our Nation's children. The time for rhetoric has passed and now it is time to act. It is time to fully fund afterschool programs and the entire No Child Left Behind Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. NICKLES. How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma has 10 minutes and the Senator from Washington has 4 minutes.

Mr. NICKLES. I yield 4 minutes to the Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I congratulate the Senator from New Hampshire and other Senators who have been working hard on the Leave No Child Behind legislation.

I am a new Senator and was not here when it was done. I watched it from a distance as a former Education Secretary, to see how the Federal Government, which contributes about \$650 or so out of the \$7,000 or so we spend per student in this country on K-12 education, could make a difference.

The principles of flexibility and accountability and the addition of more options for parents and significant additional funding have been a very good bipartisan start. The funding, which is the area at issue today, has been generous.

When I look at my own State of Tennessee, for example, we can always use a little more of the Federal dollars to help do what needs to be done, but the

amount that has come in has been very helpful. For example, in fiscal year 2000—and this follows to a great extent what the Senator from New Hampshire said—and then in fiscal year 2001, President Clinton asked for \$8 billion and then \$8.3 billion. In fiscal year 2000, the Congress appropriated roughly what the President requested, and in fiscal year 2001, it appropriated \$8.7 billion. Tennessee got \$137 million in fiscal year 2000 and \$141 million in fiscal year 2001 for title I funding, the largest federal program that helps low-income children. This is the money that focuses on leaving no child behind.

When President Bush came in, he asked for \$9 billion and the Congress appropriated over \$10 billion, and the share of title I funding for Tennessee went up to \$152 million. In the budget we just finished in January, the President asked for \$11 billion, and Congress provided \$300 million more, and Tennessee's share went to \$164 million. With the newest recommendation from the President, an increase of \$1 billion, Tennessee is up to \$174 million. These increases in title I funding are moving more rapidly than other parts of the federal budget.

Could it be more? Maybe I will suggest over time we spend more. But we need to recognize these are significant increases in spending to fund the new programs from the Federal Government, while staying within a reasonable budget.

In Nashville last week, I picked up an article about teachers, which you do not see that often, that talked about how much they appreciated the additional federal funding for ESL, English as a second language, and how it was helping and how the new money for this year, which we just finished appropriating a few weeks ago, is making its way into the school system. One of the teachers said this was the first year for major funding and it should really improve services.

So I stand here today to say that I compliment President Bush, and this Senate, and this Congress, for what they have accomplished in the last 2 years—significant increases in funding for title I and the IDEA program over what was being spent when President Bush took office, even in a time when we have a budget under stress and are considering a war. Education funding is growing at a more rapid rate, as it should, I believe, than virtually any other part of the budget. I am glad to see that.

I ask unanimous consent that the article from the Tennessean be printed in the RECORD, and I yield the floor.

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

[From the Tennessean, Mar. 17, 2003]

FEDERAL FUNDING HELPS DEFRAY LOCAL COST OF ESL PROGRAMS

(By Claudette Riley)

Students with limited English skills who enter Tennessee schools will now find classrooms that are better equipped than ever to meet their needs.

This year, the state received more than \$2.24 million in federal funding to help public schools meet the needs of students served in English as a Second Language, or ESL, programs.

In recent years, local districts have shouldered the cost of providing the required services, with limited help from state funding or grants.

"This is the first year for major funding. It should really improve services," said Carol Irwin, ESL coordinator for the state Department of Education. "It should put more professional development in place, pay for materials and technology, and hire more tutors and translators."

Tennessee and other states with a steady influx of families from other countries are benefitting from a shift in the way federal ESL funds are allocated. National education officials used census data to determine how much each state would receive for this school year.

"It's made a tremendous difference. We went from a teacher and a half to a teacher with two full-time educational assistants," said Vivian McCord, director of federal projects for Dickson County schools. "We meet with the children on a daily basis now, and they are given tutoring."

Of the \$2.24 million in federal funds allocated to Tennessee this year, nearly \$1.8 million went directly to school districts, \$112,000 was pulled out for administrative costs and another 15%—or \$336,000—was awarded as grants to the school systems with the highest need.

"It's just encouraging for districts to know they'll have some financial help," Irwin said. "The districts have been struggling to get this done."

Based on existing numbers, the state will get \$2.65 million in federal funding for ESL during the 2003–04 school year and nearly \$3 million the next year, officials said.

"The numbers keep rising, and so we're getting more money," Irwin said.

The extra money is welcome news for the state's 138 school districts, many of which have reached deep into their own pockets to put the ESL programs in place.

The federal funding is helping us," said Sayra Hughes, coordinator of ESL for Metro schools, which received nearly \$600,000 from the new funding. "It's just an added bonus. It has assisted—the local funding is still there."

The federal funding isn't expected to replace local contributions, but school officials said it would help them provide more staff and better services and materials.

Tennessee has 15,007 students in ESL programs, and 28.5% of them—4,283—are in Metro schools. The district received the largest chunk of the new federal funds.

"We've been able to purchase a lot of additional materials," Hughes said. "We were able to increase the services provided by the tutor translators."

Jan Lanier, chairwoman of the ESL department at Metro's Glenciff High School, said she would like to eventually put in a language laboratory and provide students struggling to learn English with better research materials and bilingual dictionaries.

"We have some, but we don't have enough for every class to have a full set."

While district officials say the extra federal money is welcome, some note that it won't cover the cost of operating ESL programs.

We did have more money this year, but it didn't come close to covering what we spend on staff," said Andy Brummett, director of Lebanon Special School District. "The majority of the money we spend to serve these children is local."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to add Senator REED of Rhode Island as a cosponsor, and I yield him 2 minutes of my time.

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, the choice before us is very clear: Are we going to devote \$8.9 billion to tax cuts, most of them favoring the very rich, or are we going to devote \$8.9 billion to the children and the schools of America? The choice is much more clear since the No Child Left Behind Act was passed because we made significant commitments to improve the quality of education in the United States while imposing significant responsibilities on the schools. The schools are expecting this money. The suggestion that there is a lot of money in the pipeline is interesting, but I would be shocked because that suggests the Department of Education is inept in getting money that is there to the schools that desperately need it.

There are 10,000 identified failing schools in this country. There are scores of children being taught by teachers without a college degree in their primary field of instruction. All of that needs remediation, help, and resources, but instead the budget before us provides billions in tax cuts when our schools desperately need that money.

It is not a question of what we did last year, it is a question of what we will do this year. It is a question of whether we will meet the needs of the American students and whether we will keep the promises of the No Child Left Behind Act. We are not keeping those promises in the budget that is presented to us by the Budget Committee. We should keep those promises, and by doing so, we will do something I believe every American wants more than tax cuts that favor very wealthy Americans. We want to see every child in this country have a decent education, succeed, contribute, and be part of this great country. That is what the Murray amendment does.

The choice before us is clear, compelling, emphatic: Put the money with the schools and the children, and our economy will be better, and our schools and students will be better. We can afford it because if we do not commit the funding to the children, it will go to tax cuts primarily to upper income Americans.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. NICKLES. How much time remains on both sides?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Six minutes for the Senator from Oklahoma, 2 minutes for the Senator from Washington.

Mr. NICKLES. I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. President, when we marked up our budget, we put in a couple of billion dollars actually over the President's request. I mentioned to my col-

leagues then: No matter what we put in, there are going to be amendments on the floor to increase education.

I might show our colleagues—Senator GREGG did this far better than I—education funding under this President as compared to President Clinton has exploded. It has gone up dramatically. Title I, which addresses the issue we have before us on No Child Left Behind—if you look at the rate of growth we have in title I grants, it is a dramatic increase.

The Senator from Washington has an amendment. This might even show it better. It shows that the spending level basically in the last few years, under this President compared to the previous President, has had a dramatic increase. As a percentage, I might mention, it went up in title I percentages of 10.3, 18.1, 12.9, 8.6—big increases.

The Senator from Washington has an amendment that says let's do No Child Left Behind and let's go from \$23 billion—let's add another \$8.9 billion, which would be a 38.7 percent increase for 1 year. It says \$8.9 billion. It doesn't sound like much. Most of the figures we are dealing with are over 10 years. This is 1 year. We only increased non-defense discretionary spending by \$10 billion. This is \$9 billion for education, and not all education, just part of education. I understand there will be amendments later to deal with IDEA, and we put in an additional \$1 billion for IDEA, we put in an additional \$1 billion for title I at the request of the chairman of the HELP Committee, who was a strong leader and made an excellent presentation.

No matter what we do, no matter how high the percentage increases we have, even if they are double digits, there are amendments that will say let's do more. This amendment says let's do 38.7 percent more. I think it is irresponsible, and I will urge my colleagues at an appropriate time to support a motion to table the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, we are about to vote on a very important amendment. Not very long ago, the Members of this body voted to pass a bill called No Child Left Behind. The budget that is put forward to us today will leave thousands of children behind if we do not fulfill the commitment we have made.

I have listened to the arguments on the other side. I have seen the charts and graphs. If there is one thing I have learned here in the Senate, it is that you can have a chart or graph to show whatever you want it to show. But what I do know is Senator KENNEDY showed on the chart behind us, 3 million more children in this country, 3 million more children need more funding if they want to meet the obligations of No Child Left Behind; 50,000 fully qualified teachers need to be hired; we need to provide training for 200,000 teachers. The numbers are really clear.

If you look at the Republican budget itself, their document shows 46 programs that have been eliminated in their budget: Adult education, community technology, dropout prevention, elementary and secondary school counseling, foreign language, physical education, rural education, vocational education. These are programs listed in their budget that they cut.

We can put up charts and graphs, but I can tell you one thing: The children in our schools, the parents who take their children there, the teachers who teach there, the community members who work in our schools all know when we pass a bill and say we are going to test our kids at the Federal level and we do not provide the resources to make sure those children can learn, we pass on an unfunded mandate that is irresponsible to our States that are struggling today.

The amendment we are about to vote on fully funds title I. It continues the effort to hire 100,000 qualified teachers. It helps to put high-quality teachers in the classrooms and continues to make sure we fulfill our obligations.

Tougher accountability without adequate reform is not reform, it is politics. We know our children need books, they need teachers, they need the programs, and they need the Federal Government to live up to its responsibility. That is what this amendment does.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. I yield the remainder of our time to the Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. There have been a lot of representations here, but we need to go back to the fact that on our side of the aisle we had to produce a budget—and we did, something that didn't happen last year from the other side of the aisle relative to bringing it to the floor.

When the other side of the aisle was talking dollars, they were willing to give up on \$4 billion relative to children in title I. That was their gap last year in their appropriating bill. For them to come forward this year and say suddenly that gap is an unacceptable event and inappropriate and inconsistent with everything that is right about taking care of our children in this country is truly a bit of an inconsistency, to be kind.

The issue of balancing this against a tax cut I find difficult. Tax cut for the rich? Sixty percent of the people who get the dividends cut, should we actually put it in place, are going to be senior citizens. It is their money. It is their money.

The issue is, how do you prioritize spending? The President of the United States has prioritized spending. He has put education right at the top of his priorities, at a much higher level than President Clinton put it—in fact, at a level so much higher than President Clinton put it that it represents a factor of two or three times what Presi-

dent Clinton did during his time in office.

He has done it at the same time as he has limited overall spending of the Federal Government. The spending on education in this bill significantly exceeds the overall spending of the Federal Government in all accounts except possibly defense, because we are at war. That is a hard commitment, and it translates into real dollars, \$1 billion of additional money every year since he has been President for title I, for IDEA, over \$3 billion of new money—\$3.9 billion—for title I. Those are hard dollars, real dollars, done in a responsible budgeting way.

Mr. President, is my time up?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes. All time has expired.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I move to table the amendment and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to table amendment No. 284.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), are necessarily absent. I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) would vote no.

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

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 60 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Domenici	Miller
Allard	Ensign	Murkowski
Allen	Enzi	Nickles
Bennett	Fitzgerald	Roberts
Bond	Frist	Santorum
Brownback	Graham (SC)	Sessions
Bunning	Grassley	Shelby
Burns	Gregg	Smith
Chafee	Hagel	Snowe
Chambliss	Hatch	Specter
Cochran	Hutchison	Stevens
Coleman	Inhofe	Sununu
Cornyn	Kyl	Talent
Craig	Lott	Thomas
Crapo	Lugar	Voinovich
DeWine	McCain	Warner
Dole	McConnell	

NAYS—48

Akaka	Dayton	Leahy
Baucus	Dodd	Levin
Bayh	Dorgan	Lieberman
Biden	Durbin	Lincoln
Bingaman	Feingold	Mikulski
Boxer	Feinstein	Murray
Breaux	Graham (FL)	Nelson (FL)
Byrd	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Campbell	Hollings	Pryor
Cantwell	Inouye	Reed
Carper	Jeffords	Reid
Clinton	Johnson	Rockefeller
Collins	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Conrad	Kohl	Schumer
Corzine	Landrieu	Stabenow
Daschle	Lautenberg	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Edwards

Kerry

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. GREGG. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, for the information of our colleagues, this is Wednesday night. I ask the Parliamentarian, how many hours are left on both sides?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On the majority side, there are 10 hours 17 minutes remaining. On the minority side, there are 11 hours 42 minutes remaining.

Mr. NICKLES. For the information of our colleagues, this is Wednesday. We are working very aggressively to finish this bill. I have tried to see if we could not advance a lot of the major amendments, including the 350 amendment. I have been trying to get that up all day. I have not been successful, but I understand we will have that up tomorrow.

Several people have been asking about this amendment. This is the amendment that would reduce the growth package from \$725 billion to \$350 billion. I suspect we will have votes on that tomorrow. It is my expectation tonight, for the information of my colleagues, as long as the majority leader is willing, we will stay in until midnight tonight. Several people said they did not want to have votes tonight, that they have other things to do.

I have consulted with my friend and colleague from North Dakota who has been a pleasure to work with on this resolution, and we both know we have a lot of amendments with which we need to deal. I urge my colleagues to work with us and not surprise us with their amendments, show us their amendments, and we will see if we can agree to them or work out a time agreement on them and see if we can finish this resolution in a timely, orderly fashion, in a way we would be proud to function. Sometimes the Senate does not do that when we handle budgets.

It would be my expectation that we would stay in at least until midnight tonight and consider several amendments. I believe we now have three amendments in order. Senator KYL has an amendment dealing with the death tax; Senator GRAHAM of Florida has an amendment dealing with prescription drugs; and Senators COLLINS and ROCKEFELLER have an amendment dealing with assistance to States.

We are willing to consider all those amendments and additional amendments tonight. I will yield the floor. It is our expectation there will not be any additional rollcall votes tonight, but that does not mean the Senate will not be considering amendments.

I urge my colleagues, if they have amendments, please work with Senator CONRAD and myself to have those amendments timely considered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, let me rivet a point that the chairman of the budget committee is making. We have three additional amendments lined up, but we should do more amendments tonight. If we are serious about avoiding a vote-arama at the end, where we do not have a chance to describe amendments, we just have to vote on amendment after amendment, the way to do that is not to do our work now.

I say to some colleagues who have said they have to make a change in amendments, it is not convenient for them to come tonight, if we are going to get this done, they have to put aside convenience and get over here and offer their amendments. There is a limited amount of time remaining to debate and discuss amendments, and people are going to lose their opportunity—let me make that very clear on our side—to have time to debate their amendment. They will get a vote because the rules allow that, but they are going to lose their chance to debate and discuss it. So this is the time, if they want to debate an amendment, to get over here and offer the amendment.

Mr. DORGAN. If my colleague will yield for a question?

Mr. CONRAD. Be happy to yield.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask my colleague, and perhaps Senator NICKLES and the majority leader as well, I fully agree with the notion we need to move along, address these amendments, try to get through this budget resolution, but I also understand, as do most of my colleagues, that the potential of military action is imminent—perhaps hours, perhaps a day, perhaps two days, I do not know, but my expectation would be when military action is commenced and our sons and daughters of America are ordered to military action and in the field, almost every Senator will want to address and discuss that issue. My hope and expectation would be at that moment, when we see what is the most serious decision faced by our country, that is, sending our young men and women to combat, that we would want to leave the budget and have an ample amount of time for every Member of the Senate to address that issue.

I inquire of my colleague and others who are managing this bill whether that interval will be made available to Members of the Senate?

Mr. CONRAD. I respond to my colleague by saying I hope that would be the case if we find ourselves at war,

that there would be an ample opportunity for Senators to address that. My own belief is that would be appropriate for the Senate to do, to turn its attention to a state of war. My own belief is it would be inappropriate for us to continue on with business as usual when we have our sons and daughters in harm's way.

I am very hopeful if it comes to that, during this period while we are debating the budget, that it would be set aside for a time so there would be a discussion in the Chamber and the Senators have a chance to express themselves.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I have a couple of objectives. First and foremost will be an appropriate response to military action if our women and men are engaged in combat. There will be an appropriate response in terms of support for our Commander in Chief, as well as the military personnel, which will be discussed on the floor. There will be an opportunity to do that. At this juncture, we do not know when that will occur, if it will occur. In all likelihood, it will occur at some juncture. I think the fact we are hearing from both sides of the aisle that it is important to do—yet the time is uncertain—means I need to go back to the first point the chairman and ranking member made, and that is we have a lot of work to do; that the clock is ticking. The clock is ticking in terms of the budget process itself, in terms of the number of hours on both sides of the aisle. It is critically important that Members of this body come to the floor to offer amendments, to come up with specific language, to debate it and discuss it. That is the reason we are going to be here for the next 6 hours to give that opportunity to Members. We will start in the morning at an early hour in order to fulfill our responsibilities in terms of the budget. That is the plan.

We will finish the budget this week. It may be tomorrow or tomorrow night. It may be Friday morning, it may be Friday afternoon, it may be Friday night, but we will finish this budget this week.

Mr. DORGAN. Will the majority yield for one question?

Mr. FRIST. Yes.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I, of course, think the response by the majority leader is perfectly appropriate. We do want to finish this bill. We ought to make progress and try and get it done. My only inquiry was if there is military action and if, in fact, our soldiers are in the field in hostile action, I agree with my colleague, Senator CONRAD, that I would not want us to be going through a vote-arama for 6, 8, 10, 12 hours with business as usual. I would very much want us, and I think most Members of the Senate would want us, to move off what we are doing and rec-

ognize that this Senate will want to express itself on these issues, not to be critical but I think to be supportive, supportive of our troops and supportive of this country's interests. We want this to go well and we want to express ourselves on it.

I am satisfied with the majority leader's response. I wanted to say I feel strongly, as do many others in this Chamber, about the desire to address our support for those troops who are ordered to action, if that is the case.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. As we talked about this morning, a resolution of support for President Bush, and the men and women, our troops, who will be in the field, is being developed in concert with the minority leader, myself, and others. We are working on that language, as the Senator well knows, as we speak.

If and when military action occurs, that will be brought to the floor in short order, with an opportunity to express that very important support.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. HARKIN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. NICKLES. I will be happy to yield to my friend for a question.

Mr. HARKIN. Let me ask a question on process. A lot of us would like to offer amendments. This thing gets plugged up and goes on hour after hour. If the Senator wants to be in until midnight, that is fine. I have an amendment I would like to offer, but should I offer it at 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12? I would like some idea of where I am going to be in the queue, but just to say come and offer amendments is not very conducive to an orderly process. So if there is some kind of queue, will there be time limits put on these amendments so we have some idea of when we should come over to offer our amendments? Since we are not going to have any votes, it would be nice to have some idea of when we could come over and offer our amendments.

Mr. NICKLES. I will be happy to respond. Most of the amendments have been offered on the minority side, and we are happy to consider amendments. I have been urging people to offer amendments dealing with the growth package. We need to find out if the growth package is going to be zero, if it is going to be 350, if it is going to be 725. So I would encourage those amendments. We had those amendments in committee. We ought to have them on the floor. If we are going to have them, let us have them.

I have also encouraged other amendments. Members can work with our colleague, Senator CONRAD, as far as trying to prioritize which amendments might be next on the minority side. I think that would be the likely outcome.

Colleagues on this side have been consulting me as far as who would be next on our side, and so at that point I think we might be better served to

begin considering amendments. Right now we have three amendments in the queue. I believe Senator KYL's amendment will not be debated too long tonight, maybe 30 minutes.

Mr. KYL. At most.

Mr. NICKLES. Thirty minutes for his. I believe Senator GRAHAM of Florida is going to discuss the prescription drug amendment. That is a pretty big amendment, a couple hundred billion dollars, I believe, and so that may take a little longer discussion. Then I believe there is also a resolution to be offered by Senator ROCKEFELLER and Senator COLLINS. That may take maybe an hour, maybe less than an hour. We will be available for consideration of additional amendments. We may set aside a lot of amendments tonight and stack those amendments that require a rollcall vote. Maybe most of these will not require a rollcall vote, but we are willing to stack some of these for votes for the convenience of all Members.

Mr. SARBANES. Will the chairman yield on that very point?

Mr. NICKLES. Be happy to.

Mr. SARBANES. When does the chairman intend to vote on the amendments that are going to be offered and considered this evening?

Mr. NICKLES. I would expect that will be tomorrow afternoon. I will make that decision after consulting both the majority leader and the ranking member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. SARBANES. Presumably, then, if it is tomorrow afternoon, there would be added to the list other amendments that will be offered tomorrow morning, is that the procedure?

Mr. NICKLES. That is correct. I say to my colleagues, for their information, I did consult with Senator BREAUX and Senator SNOWE, and I believe they are planning on offering the 350 amendment in the morning. That is a very significant amendment, just so people will know that will also be in the queue tomorrow morning.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. NICKLES. Be happy to yield.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask the Senator from Oklahoma, has anyone suggested a time limit on the debate on each of these amendments of no more than half an hour so more amendments can be debated? We know where we are headed. We are going to run out of time and some of the amendments will not even have 1 minute of debate if we are not careful.

Is it possible we could have a unanimous consent request to limit the debate to no more than half an hour on each amendment?

Mr. NICKLES. Responding to my colleague, it depends on the amendment. I don't know if we can agree to a half an hour agreement on an amendment that would increase spending on prescription drugs by \$200 billion. That does not fit for a 30-minute discussion. Possibly other amendments might. So we will have to do an amendment-by-amendment basis.

The resolution says each amendment would have up to 2 hours. I am happy to shorten that when appropriate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. I wonder if, on the next three amendments, we might arrive at a time agreement for the convenience of our colleagues. The Senator from Arizona has been very generous. He has said we can have 30 minutes equally divided, something like that. Would that be appropriate?

Mr. NICKLES. We are not prepared to enter into that on that amendment yet, nor on the Graham amendment. Possibly on the Rockefeller-Collins and possibly after Senator COLLINS' amendment we might agree to some of these. But I don't think we are ready just yet.

Madam President, I yield to the Senator from Arizona for the purpose of introduction of an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

AMENDMENT NO. 288

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I have an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. KYL] proposes an amendment numbered 288.

Mr. KYL. I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide financial security to family farm and small business owners by ending the unfair practice of taxing someone at death)

On page 3, line 9, decrease the amount by \$200,000,000.

On page 3, line 10, decrease the amount by \$5,200,000,000.

On page 3, line 11, decrease the amount by \$10,200,000,000.

On page 3, line 12, decrease the amount by \$34,600,000,000.

On page 3, line 13, decrease the amount by \$31,600,000,000.

On page 3, line 14, decrease the amount by \$34,100,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, decrease the amount by \$36,600,000,000.

On page 3, line 16, decrease the amount by \$31,100,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, decrease the amount by \$33,700,000,000.

On page 3, line 18, decrease the amount by \$58,100,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, decrease the amount by \$63,900,000,000.

On page 3, line 23, decrease the amount by \$200,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, decrease the amount by \$5,200,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, decrease the amount by \$10,200,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, decrease the amount by \$34,600,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, decrease the amount by \$31,600,000,000.

On page 4, line 5, decrease the amount by \$34,100,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, decrease the amount by \$36,600,000,000.

On page 4, line 7, decrease the amount by \$31,100,000,000.

On page 4, line 8, decrease the amount by \$33,700,000,000.

On page 4, line 9, decrease the amount by \$58,100,000,000.

On page 4, line 10, decrease the amount by \$63,900,000,000.

On page 41, line 22, decrease the amount by \$85,000,000.

On page 41, line 23, decrease the amount by \$85,000,000.

On page 42, line 2, decrease the amount by \$4,692,000,000.

On page 42, line 3, decrease the amount by \$4,692,000,000.

On page 42, line 6, decrease the amount by \$9,406,000,000.

On page 42, line 7, decrease the amount by \$9,406,000,000.

On page 42, line 10, decrease the amount by \$33,617,000,000.

On page 42, line 11, decrease the amount by \$33,617,000,000.

On page 42, line 14, decrease the amount by \$30,324,000,000.

On page 42, line 15, decrease the amount by \$30,324,000,000.

On page 42, line 18, decrease the amount by \$32,408,000,000.

On page 42, line 19, decrease the amount by \$32,408,000,000.

On page 42, line 22, decrease the amount by \$35,018,000,000.

On page 42, line 23, decrease the amount by \$35,018,000,000.

On page 43, line 2, decreased the amount by \$28,750,000,000.

On page 43, line 3, decreased the amount by \$28,750,000,000.

On page 43, line 6, decreased the amount by \$2,515,000,000.

On page 43, line 7, decreased the amount by \$2,515,000,000.

On page 43, line 10, decreased the amount by \$336,000,000.

On page 43, line 11, decreased the amount by \$336,000,000.

On page 43, line 14, decreased the amount by \$347,000,000.

On page 43, line 15, decreased the amount by \$347,000,000.

Mr. KYL. In the spirit of the day, I was going to take 30 minutes. I will take exactly half that time, 15 minutes, and perhaps later we can agree to a time limitation. We certainly should not need a great deal of time on this amendment.

This amendment is very simple. It simply moves forward 1 year the time for repeal of the estate tax or what is known as the death tax. As my colleagues know, we repealed the death tax permanently in the year effective January 1, 2010. This amendment moves that to January 1, 2009.

The reason for this is we can establish the proposition with this amendment that we do need to permanently repeal the estate tax. The budget that has been crafted by Senator NICKLES and his committee has accounted for 3 years of permanent repeal. So that is already accounted for in this budget. This amendment would bring that forward 1 more year, so we would have a total of 4 years of repeal of the estate tax accounted for in our budget.

We would still have to accomplish this, of course, by amendment or legislation. We cannot do it as part of the budget itself. This would create the opportunity for us to do that. That is the reason for my amendment.

Now, there are a lot of reasons we decided to repeal the estate tax, and I

don't think we need to repeat all of those tonight. The majority of this body supports repeal of the estate tax. We have passed repeal of the estate tax. There were good reasons for doing so, primarily because it is an unfair tax.

In addition to that, it hurts small business. If you have a business of, say, 25 employees and you have to sell your assets, your equipment, in order to pay your estate taxes, not only have you had to disband your business but you have also put 25 people out of work.

At this time in our economy where we are concerned about joblessness, where we want to create more jobs, not see more jobs disappear, knowing the estate tax is going to be permanently repealed even sooner than we anticipated will help businesses stay alive to provide the jobs and the economic growth we need.

We know by far and away the vast majority of the jobs in this country are created by small business.

There were a number of sponsors of our original repeal. I anticipate we will have a number of sponsors of this amendment.

I ask unanimous consent Senator SESSIONS be added as an original cosponsor of my amendment.

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

Mr. KYL. Rather than restating all the arguments for repeal, since we have already voted to do that, I will bring my colleagues up to date on some current research about what the American people believe about the estate tax.

A poll was conducted early this year between January 16 and 21. It was a poll of about three times as many people as are ordinarily interviewed. Over 2,500 registered voters were interviewed for this survey by a research company. Its findings ought to be of significant interest to my colleagues.

The bottom line is with respect to the estate tax. The conclusion of the poll is that the American people simply oppose, on principle, the concept of anyone being taxed on the death of their parents or their spouse.

I thought I would share just four specific results from this survey. When it comes to stimulating the economy, the poll confirmed that Americans overwhelmingly believe tax relief is more effective than increases in Government spending. This goes to the general proposition that is being debated between those who believe we should spend more to help our economy and those who believe we should provide tax relief.

The question was, Which is better for the Federal Government to stimulate the economy, increase economic growth, and create new jobs? And they were given two choices. One was the tax cut option, and the other was the spending option. Fully 68 percent chose the tax cut option, whereas only 20 percent said increased Government spending was the best for economic growth and the creation of new jobs.

Two of the subgroups are particularly fascinating. Among Democrats surveyed, the ratio in favor of tax cuts over increased spending is a healthy 2 to 1, 57 percent to 28 percent. I do not have it broken down by State, but among Democrats, if it is 2 to 1, I dare say among Republicans it is even more than that.

Among those with incomes below \$30,000, 65 percent back the tax cut approach to improving the economy, while only 19 percent prefer increased Government spending. This is a significant finding in the survey.

If there is going to be a tax cut, the question is, Should everyone get something back or should we wait until we have a budget surplus? In other words, what of this argument that will be contributing to the deficit?

When given a choice of three options, even with the debate about the ballooning deficit, just one in four Americans, 24 percent, believe there should be no tax cuts for anyone until we have a budget surplus. Let me restate that. Only 24 percent of Americans believe it is improper to cut taxes while we have a deficit.

For those who believe the majority of Americans do not want to cut taxes until we are in a surplus situation, this survey demonstrates that is incorrect. Only 24 percent of Americans believe that.

To the third point, tax fairness. This is where we get into the death tax repeal specifically, but it relates to other taxes, too. As a general proposition, one expects people tend to favor taxes on someone else and to oppose taxes that affect them directly. And that is, as a general proposition, true. But what this survey of over 2,500 Americans just a couple of months ago confirms is that there is a very strong consensus that there are a couple of taxes that are absolutely unfair and it does not make any difference what demographic category you are in. Whether you are rich or poor, the overwhelming majority believes there are two taxes that are absolutely unfair, and there is an overwhelming consensus they should be repealed.

What are those two taxes? These are the two at the top of the list to the question, What tax do you think is completely unfair or completely fair? The two taxes people would repeal with the biggest majority are the Social Security benefit tax and the death tax.

Remember the tax that was imposed in the early Clinton years to actually tax Social Security benefits? That is very unpopular. Five percent of the people think it is completely fair; 62 percent think it is completely unfair.

With the death tax, 7 percent think it is completely fair and 62 percent also think that tax is completely unfair. Sixty-two percent of all Americans think it is completely unfair to have a death tax, and only 7 percent think it is completely fair.

All other taxes—marriage penalty tax, long distance phone tax, savings

account tax, all the way down to stock dividends, payroll income tax, property tax, gas tax, sales tax, right down the list, and they get increasingly popular. The marriage penalty, 60 percent of Americans think that is completely unfair. We are doing away with that in the tax package we will present as part of the budget. Long distance phone tax, 38 percent of the people think that is unfair. Capital gains tax, 23 percent think it is unfair. Stock dividend, more think it is completely unfair than completely fair, 23 to 21, the payroll tax, and so on. You finally get down to an alcohol and beer tax. That is pretty unpopular. Only 8 percent think that is a bad deal; 57 percent think it is fine. It is pretty much the same number for the cigarette tax.

The bottom line is in this very recent extraordinarily large survey what we find is the two taxes the American people would repeal first and foremost are the tax on Social Security benefits and the estate tax. Fully 62 percent of the American people believe that tax to be completely unfair.

With regard to the death tax in particular, you would think that this would be a tax that rich people would really like to get rid of and poor people would like to keep. After all, by its very nature, if you have a business or family farm or have some wealth to pass on to your heirs, repealing this tax would benefit you more than someone who has absolutely nothing. What does the survey show?

Fully 65 percent of those with incomes below \$30,000 believe the death tax is completely unfair. By comparison, a very interesting statistic, only 59 percent of individuals with incomes above \$60,000 label the death tax unfair.

Ironically, more people at the lower end of the economic spectrum view this tax as completely unfair than when you get to be higher in the economic spectrum. The fact is, another poll, a Gallup poll, demonstrated the same phenomenon. Even though most people understood that repeal of the death tax would not benefit them personally, an overwhelming majority still favored repeal of the death tax. Why? Because they understand it is unfair.

One of the great things about this country and the American people is they have an innate sense of fairness. Even if something doesn't benefit them directly, they understand if it is wrong they are willing to support its repeal.

There are some other interesting survey results in terms of arguments against the death tax. I thought some of these were fun, and then I will close this out. If you ask certain questions about the death tax, for example, if you remind people that the highest rate of taxation for the death tax is 50 percent, then 79 percent of the people agree that is unfair and the tax should be repealed.

When you remind people that the inheritance tax represents double and triple taxation, again 79 percent believe it should be repealed.

With some of the arguments that are actual statements of fact with respect to the inheritance or estate tax, when reminded of that, the American people are even more strongly in support of its repeal than if they are not reminded of that. Also, when you remind people that the tax is unfair because it singles out those who save and invest, for no reason other than the fact that they became successful and then died—of course, the exact thing we try to teach people, save your money, invest it, try to pass it along to your kids. It is the American dream to make the next generation better off than your generation; if you live the American dream, you get punished. If you are broke, you don't get punished. Of course the American people, when reminded of that, are even stronger in favor of repeal.

The bottom line is every subgroup and fully 58 percent of the electorate as a whole, including, as I said, a majority of every subgroup, would vote for a candidate who advocates repeal of the death tax. Only 32 percent would vote for the candidate who supported maintaining the death tax.

The bottom line of all this research is it seems to me we would not be keeping faith with the American people unless we are willing to move forward the date that the death tax is repealed.

In the interim period of time, we are reducing the rate and we are also increasing the amount of income that is exempted from the inheritance tax. Both are good. But it seems to me, given this fact, that it is not too much to ask my colleagues to accelerate by 1 year the date that the tax is actually repealed. There will be some who say we cannot afford an immediate repeal today. To that I say, if that is your view, fine. That is not what we are doing here. I would prefer to do that.

I think we can compromise and agree that moving the repeal date forward 1 year is both something that is affordable and something that should be done.

This amendment is very straightforward. That is the long and short of it. I think I pointed out the American people would support this. I hope since the Senate has already gone on record by repealing the estate tax in the year 2010, that we would not be bashful about moving that forward by 1 year, to 2009.

I guess my question to the body when we finally bring this to a vote is, Did you mean it when you said we should repeal the estate tax? If so, let's move that repeal date forward by 1 year.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, might I ask the author of this amendment what the cost is?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I will try to get the exact number here in just a moment. I am informed that the estimated cost is \$46 billion.

Mr. CONRAD. It is \$46 billion?

Mr. KYL. Correct.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I say to my colleague—

Mr. KYL. Might I add one more thing, that, in our amendment, is accounted for within the budget because the money is taken from another account so it is not added on to the expense of the budget.

Mr. CONRAD. That was going to be my next question, if I could, to the Senator. What is the way the Senator pays for this \$46 billion?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I tell my colleague the function in the budget is No. 920. That is the source of the funding for this amendment.

Mr. CONRAD. Could the Senator tell us what constitutes 920?

Mr. KYL. That is a general fund for Finance Committee action at some specified date in the future.

Mr. CONRAD. I would say to my colleagues and the Senator from Arizona, it strikes me as ill-timed to come before the body and ask for another \$46 billion when we are already deep in debt. We now know we are going to be facing deficits this year of \$500 billion; the deficits as defined by law of over \$300 billion every year for the next 10 years. We are going to be taking virtually every penny of the Social Security surplus under the chairman's mark. Now the Senator offers \$46 billion, which he funds by reducing function 920. Function 920, of course, is a general governmental function, which is a popular place to reduce around here.

I say to my colleagues, it seems to me that a wiser course than full repeal, which costs, combined with this amendment, \$207 billion over the period of this budget, when we are already running deficits under the chairman's mark of \$1.7 trillion, that a wiser course would be, instead of waiting until 2009 to have an elimination of the estate tax, to have people waiting all of that time between now and then and having an exemption of \$1 million currently, instead of that, we could go to a \$3 million exemption per person, \$6 million per couple, have it take effect now, and only cost \$33 billion for the whole thing, a fraction of the cost of complete repeal. We would continue to have a functioning estate tax but fundamentally reform it: Change it, don't end it. Change it to say an individual would have \$3 million completely sheltered; a family would have \$6 million completely sheltered. With planning, they could do substantially more than that and have that effective now, have that effective in the first part of the budget year that we are discussing. That would have a cost of \$33 billion instead of the cost of permanent repeal of \$207 billion, especially given the fact we are already in deep deficit.

At some point I hope colleagues will begin to consider alternatives, to reform the estate tax, to change it, to make it more fair, and to fundamentally buttress the economic security of the country by not compounding these record deficits we already have.

Mr. DORGAN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CONRAD. I am happy to yield to my colleague for a question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. I say to my colleague, Senator CONRAD, I am unfamiliar with this notion of a tax on death. My colleague from Arizona spoke at length about the death tax.

I am wondering, would it not be true that should a Member of the Senate, perhaps a married Member of the Senate, die, God forbid, in the coming week or so, that the spouse of that Member of the Senate would inherit, would have all of their property immediately with the spousal exemption, so that death would incur no tax, there would be no tax?

So if there is a death in which there is no tax—which is the case with respect to the spouses, a 100-percent exemption—and all the property goes to the spouse, with no tax consequence, then exactly what is the death tax the Senator from Arizona is referring to? Is it, in fact, the tax on inherited wealth that exists in our law?

And if it is on inherited wealth, of course, that is a different discussion which we should have. But if it is the death tax—which is a term that was created by pollsters to evoke a certain response—is it not the case that there is not a tax on death, that many deaths in this country means the estate is probated, and all of the assets of that estate go immediately to the spouse, with no tax under any circumstances? Is that not the case?

Mr. CONRAD. That is the case. In fact, there is no death tax in America. That is a good rhetorical line, but there is no tax at death in America. Only 2 percent of estates currently are taxed, and they are taxed because they have amounts of value in the estate of over \$1 million.

Now, under current law, in 2009, only three-tenths of 1 percent of estates will be subject to tax. That would mean 99.7 percent of estates would not be taxed.

I might say, under the proposal I am suggesting tonight, we could go to that level next year. Why wait to have estate tax reform? Why not go to a \$3 million exemption per person, \$6 million per couple, and not wait until 2009?

Mr. NICKLES. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CONRAD. I want to complete my thought and complete my exchange with my colleague. Then I will be happy to yield.

The thing that strikes me is we have gotten off on a debate here that really is detached from reality. It is detached from reality because the cost of full repeal in the next 10 years is \$207 billion. How is that going to be financed? It is going to be financed by borrowing the money. It is going to be financed by taking it out of the Social Security trust fund surpluses. That is how it is going to be financed.

Now, does that make any sense? I would say no. I would say to borrow

the money to give a big tax cut to the wealthiest Americans really does not make a whole lot of sense.

Does that mean the current estate tax ought to be retained? No, it should not. It ought to be reformed, not repealed. It ought to be altered, as I suggest, so that a couple could exempt \$6 million dollars. That costs a fraction of repeal and would give immediate relief.

I am happy to yield to my colleague.

Mr. DORGAN. If the Senator will yield further for a question, is it not the case that the majority last year passed a tax plan that had the following rather comical circumstance: It said we will sequentially increase the exemption on the estate tax to the point where in 2010 it is repealed, but in the year 2011 it actually comes back again?

And if that is the case—I believe it is—I think historians will look back at this and say, well, who on Earth could have thought of that? Well, they thought of it, all right. That is what they put in the tax bill.

Now, if that is the case, isn't it also the case that the amendment being offered today says let's make it even more farcical: Let's decide we will increase the exemption up until 2009, and we will have a 2-year repeal of the estate tax, to have it come back in 2011?

We laughed a little last year about estate planning. There are going to be a lot of people on life support in 2009 because they have to wait until 2010 to die to get the total exemption, total repeal that was offered by the majority party.

Now they are going to offer a 2-year window for death, apparently, and then the estate tax comes back in 2011. It is the most Byzantine, preposterous amount of nonsense. You would not put 10 people in a room with a six-pack of beer and come out with a worse result than they came out with last year on this estate tax issue.

But to get back on the final point, it was passed as a repeal of the death tax when, in fact, there is no tax on death. There is a tax on inherited wealth.

I ask my colleague, isn't the remaining question for this Senate, do we want to have some basic taxation on the largest estates—on the largest estates—of \$1 billion, \$10 billion, \$20 billion, many of which have never been subjected to any kind of a tax because they were built with inside buildup and built with growth appreciation and have never been subjected to tax?

Is the final argument, final debate, and final question, do we want to retain at least some basis of an estate tax for the very largest estates?

Mr. CONRAD. It would seem to me really almost self-evident that the wiser course here would be immediate reform of the estate tax. Let's go to \$3 million for an individual, \$6 million for a couple. It would cost \$33 billion over the next decade, but that is a fraction of the over \$200 billion it would cost to fully repeal it.

My colleague is quite correct, in estates of over \$10 million, fully 56 per-

cent of the value of those estates has never been taxed. This is according to a study by Poterba and Weisbenner, that finds that is as a result of unrealized capital gains and as a result of buildup of property values never subjected to tax at all.

So the question is, what is going to be the way we share the tax burden in this country? What is the most fair and equitable way to do that?

I would suggest completely eliminating the estate tax for very wealthy individuals, which is of necessity going to force others—middle-class people, lower-middle-class people—to pay more in order to foot the bill, is not fair. It is not equitable.

It would really make more sense to fundamentally change the estate tax, to give a much larger exemption than we currently have. Currently, it is \$1 million. Instead, we should raise that to \$3 million for an individual, \$6 million for a couple, and do it immediately. It costs a fraction of repealing it all. We would still have wealthy individuals in this country who would have an opportunity to contribute and not shift that tax burden onto middle-income taxpayers.

Mr. NICKLES. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. CONRAD. I am happy to yield to my colleague.

Mr. NICKLES. I thank my friend and colleague.

I heard your proposal that would increase the exemption. I did not hear you address rates. Would you leave the rates at the present 50-percent rate for estates that would be taxed?

Mr. CONRAD. What I just described, I say to the Senator, I don't know if you had a chance to hear.

Mr. NICKLES. I will be happy to look at it.

Mr. CONRAD. It is to have a reform of estate tax. Instead of the \$1 million exemption currently, to go to \$3 million for an individual, \$6 million for a couple. In this calculation, it costs \$33 billion. I don't—

Mr. NICKLES. What is the tax rate?

Mr. CONRAD. I was going to get to that.

I think this is at the 50-percent rate. I would certainly be open to an adjustment of that rate as well in order to try to arrive at a conclusion that was equitable and that is not as costly as full repeal.

Mr. NICKLES. I thank the Senator.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator from North Dakota yield for a question?

Mr. CONRAD. I am happy to yield.

Mr. REID. I have been sitting here listening to this debate. Under the proposal offered by the distinguished Senator from Arizona, it is my understanding that Warren Buffett, who is worth \$38 billion, I was told—

Mr. CONRAD. How much?

Mr. REID. Worth \$38 billion.

Mr. CONRAD. That is real money.

Mr. REID. If he passed away, under this amendment offered by my friend from Arizona, he would pay no estate taxes.

Mr. CONRAD. That is correct. He would pay no estate tax.

Mr. REID. What would happen to his accumulated wealth?

Mr. CONRAD. Well, it would go as directed under his will. I am not privy to what distributions he has determined to make.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator from North Dakota yield for another question?

Mr. CONRAD. I am happy to yield.

Mr. REID. I wanted to confirm that the Senator from North Dakota has listened to Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, Sr., and George Soros. I have heard those three people state that they think it is ridiculous, senseless to have them pay no estate tax. Have you heard these three very wealthy men say this?

Mr. CONRAD. I have. In fact, I have heard all three of those gentlemen and other wealthy individuals—George Soros, of course, who is a multibillionaire; Mr. Buffett, a multibillionaire; Mr. Gates, Sr., I don't think he himself is a multibillionaire, although he is obviously a very wealthy individual—say they believe it is un-American not to have an estate tax; that an estate tax was put in place first of all to raise revenue during a war, interestingly enough. That is how we initially got the estate tax, was to help pay for a war.

Here we are on the brink of another war, and instead of figuring out how to pay for it, we are trying to figure out how to have trillions of dollars of additional tax cuts going primarily to the wealthiest among us. It really is kind of baffling. We are asking young men and women to be prepared to sacrifice everything, and we are prepared to sacrifice nothing, apparently.

There are many wealthy individuals who believe the estate tax ought to be modified. I would strongly support that. I don't think a million-dollar exemption anymore is realistic or very relevant in light of the economy today. I believe it ought to be dramatically increased. I think we ought to go to \$3 million for an individual, \$6 million for a couple, and we ought to do it now. I would also be open to a reduction in rates. I think 50 percent is too high. But repealing it all is unaffordable, it is unfair, and it is fundamentally a long-term mistake. Why? Because I think it will lead to the concentration of wealth in the hands of fewer and fewer people.

If you look back to the establishment of the estate tax, one of the foremost advocates was a Republican President, Theodore Roosevelt. Theodore Roosevelt said it is a profound social mistake to allow wealth to accumulate in the hands of a handful of people who, by inheritance, become enormously powerful; that our society is a society based on merit and a society based on what an individual achieves, not what they inherit; and that if we want to become like Europe and have inherited wealth assume a greater and greater

role in society, then eliminate the estate tax, because in very short order you will have enormous wealth and power accumulate in the hands of a few.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CONRAD. I am happy to yield.

Mr. REID. In my previous question to the Senator from North Dakota, I talked about three very successful men, all of whom are senior citizens. I want to relate to the Senator from North Dakota that about 2 months ago I had dinner in Las Vegas with a man I had never met before. His name is Pierre Omidyar. Pierre is the founder of eBay. As a young man, he had this idea and on his computer developed eBay which is now a fantastically significant part of our economy. It is his. He, in spite of the stock market dropping, is worth \$3 or \$4 billion. He is 34 years old.

The whole purpose of his dinner with me, just the two of us, was to explain to me how he hoped I would work as hard as I could to make sure the estate tax is not repealed. Here is a man who is happily married, has two little children, and is one of the wealthiest men in America. He is not an old man; he is a very young man. And he believes, as does the Senator from North Dakota, that acquired wealth in large amounts is not good for America.

I don't think I have given this story to the Senator from North Dakota, have I?

Mr. CONRAD. No.

Mr. REID. But if we have these very successful people talking about why they believe it is bad—I have been present when Mr. Gates, Mr. Buffett, and Mr. Soros all talked about their belief that by a roll of the dice, a roulette wheel, they were born in America. They said they could have their entrepreneur genius—those are words I am using, not theirs—and if they were born anywhere but in the United States, it wouldn't amount to much. They believe as a result of their having been born in America, they owe that to America.

The Senator has heard those statements, has he not?

Mr. CONRAD. I have.

Mr. REID. Would the Senator agree that those three older men and the young man have a concept of what the Senator from North Dakota is saying: Change the estate tax, raise it if it is appropriate. I believe it is appropriate. Would the Senator agree that we have tried to do that? We have asked unanimous consent. We have offered amendments that have been defeated. I want the Senator from North Dakota to see if he agrees with me. I think people want the political issue more than they want to change the estate tax. Would the Senator agree with that?

Mr. CONRAD. I hope that is not the case. We have an opportunity now to resolve the estate tax for a long time. If we would reform it without repealing it, we would do something that is im-

portant and valuable. At \$1 million, the estate tax is biting at much too low a level. Most of us in this Chamber would certainly degree with that statement. The economy has changed. The world has changed. We have not made a significant enough adjustment in the estate tax. We have not modernized the estate tax in a way that makes any sense.

One million, it has been raised to that, but that has not kept pace with what has happened in the real world. As a result, it is putting too much pressure on small farmers and small business people. We could do something right now. We could raise that exemption to \$3 million for an individual and \$6 million for a couple. With planning, it could be substantially more than that. That would shield the vast majority of small businesses, the vast majority of individuals. At the same time, we would not have the extraordinary cost associated with repeal.

We have to have current events inform our decisions. The hard reality is, we are in record deficit. We have deficits as far as the eye can see. And the situation is going to get worse when the baby boomers retire. From where is the money going to come? If you repeal the estate tax, that burden is going to have to shift somewhere else. It is going to raise taxes on middle-income people. That is where most of the taxes are paid. I don't think that is the appropriate outcome.

I do think we ought to reform it. We ought to raise this. I would even be open to what the chairman of the committee has referenced as the tax rate itself, which at 50 percent seems unreasonably high as well. Perhaps in the time remaining here we might get together and come up with something that would really be a contribution to the country and a valuable change.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as I understand it, the Senator from Arizona had offered an amendment. We had discussed, prior to his offering the amendment, that Senator GRAHAM, I, and Senator STABENOW would offer an amendment on prescription drugs. I would ask the manager about the circumstances. Do we need to set aside the amendment that is now pending in order to offer the amendment on prescription drugs for Senator GRAHAM, myself, and Senator STABENOW?

Mr. NICKLES. The Senator is correct. We need to set it aside. I think a couple of us want to speak on the amendment that is pending before we set it aside.

I think the debate has been on the one side for the last 25 minutes.

Mr. DORGAN. I understand. We were told that the presentation of that was going to be 5 minutes, and we were going to move to that amendment. That has not quite happened. I wonder when we might expect to move to this amendment.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I encourage my colleagues to go through

the Chair for parliamentary procedure. I didn't make that point, but I think it is important.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. NICKLES. If the Senator is finished with his inquiry, I yield to the Senator from Alabama 10 minutes. Would that be sufficient?

Mr. SESSIONS. That would be sufficient.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I send a modification to the desk on behalf of Senator KYL, which he failed to file earlier.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, is the Senator proceeding on a modified amendment?

Mr. SESSIONS. My understanding is that it has been agreed to previously.

Mr. CONRAD. There has been no request to modify the amendment.

Mr. SESSIONS. I withdraw that request at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama has the floor.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, there is a death tax. I had in my office 2 days ago Professor Harold Apolinsky, from the University of Alabama. He is indeed a brilliant professor. He has dedicated his life to the elimination of the death tax. He feels so strongly about it that he has given an incredible amount of his time and effort and resources into seeking its elimination.

I recall just how much of an impact it can have. A lady I know told me the story of her grandfather. President Reagan had been in office in 1981, and they passed an amendment that changed the death tax a little bit.

Do you know what it was then when they changed it? The rate was 70 percent on estates over \$175,000. Four Members in this body voted to keep it at that rate. They reduced it to 55 percent. Big deal.

They were home for Christmas and the family was gathered. He had cancer and he was dying, fading fast. She told the story that every morning he asked what day it was. He died at 10 a.m. on January 1, the day the law took effect—his last great act for his family to protect a little bit more of the farm that he had built up over all those years.

I believe we are in agreement on the modification now; is that correct?

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama has the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 288, AS MODIFIED

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I reoffer the modification on behalf of Senator KYL. I think maybe we have an understanding now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

Mr. CONRAD. Reserving the right to object, and we will not object, we are happy to have the amendment modified

so that Senator KYL's actual intention is embodied in the amendment. We are happy to allow that modification to be made.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment will be so modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

On page 3, line 9, increase the amount by \$115,000,000.

On page 3, line 10, increase the amount by \$508,000,000.

On page 3, line 11, increase the amount by \$595,000,000.

On page 3, line 12, increase the amount by \$783,000,000.

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$1,076,000,000.

On page 3, line 14, decrease the amount by \$3,909,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, decrease the amount by \$12,218,000,000.

On page 3, line 16, decrease the amount by \$28,750,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, decrease the amount by \$2,515,000,000.

On page 3, line 18, decrease the amount by \$336,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, decrease the amount by \$347,000,000.

On page 3, line 23, increase the amount by \$115,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$508,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$595,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$783,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$1,076,000,000.

On page 4, line 5, decrease the amount by \$3,909,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, decrease the amount by \$12,218,000,000.

On page 4, line 7, decrease the amount by \$28,750,000,000.

On page 4, line 8, decrease the amount by \$2,515,000,000.

On page 4, line 9, decrease the amount by \$336,000,000.

On page 4, line 10, decrease the amount by \$347,000,000.

On page 4, line 14, increase the amount by \$115,000,000.

On page 4, line 15, increase the amount by \$508,000,000.

On page 4, line 16, increase the amount by \$595,000,000.

On page 4, line 17, increase the amount by \$783,000,000.

On page 4, line 18, increase the amount by \$1,076,000,000.

On page 4, line 19, decrease the amount by \$3,909,000,000.

On page 4, line 20, decrease the amount by \$12,218,000,000.

On page 4, line 21, decrease the amount by \$28,750,000,000.

On page 4, line 22, decrease the amount by \$2,515,000,000.

On page 4, line 23, decrease the amount by \$336,000,000.

On page 4, line 24, decrease the amount by \$347,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$115,000,000.

On page 5, line 5, increase the amount by \$508,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$595,000,000.

On page 5, line 7, increase the amount by \$783,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$1,076,000,000.

On page 5, line 9, decrease the amount by \$3,909,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, decrease the amount by \$12,218,000,000.

On page 5, line 11, decrease the amount by \$28,750,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, decrease the amount by \$2,515,000,000.

On page 5, line 13, decrease the amount by \$336,000,000.

On page 5, line 14, decrease the amount by \$347,000,000.

On page 41, line 22, increase the amount by \$115,000,000.

On page 41, line 23, increase the amount by \$115,000,000.

On page 42, line 2, increase the amount by \$508,000,000.

On page 42, line 3, increase the amount by \$508,000,000.

On page 42, line 6, increase the amount by \$595,000,000.

On page 42, line 7, increase the amount by \$595,000,000.

On page 42, line 10, increase the amount by \$783,000,000.

On page 42, line 11, increase the amount by \$783,000,000.

On page 42, line 14, increase the amount by \$1,076,000,000.

On page 42, line 15, increase the amount by \$1,076,000,000.

On page 42, line 18, decrease the amount by \$3,909,000,000.

On page 42, line 19, decrease the amount by \$3,909,000,000.

On page 42, line 22, decrease the amount by \$12,218,000,000.

On page 42, line 23, decrease the amount by \$12,218,000,000.

On page 43, line 2, decrease the amount by \$28,750,000,000.

On page 43, line 3, decrease the amount by \$28,750,000,000.

On page 43, line 6, decrease the amount by \$2,515,000,000.

On page 43, line 7, decrease the amount by \$2,515,000,000.

On page 43, line 10, decrease the amount by \$336,000,000.

On page 43, line 11, decrease the amount by \$336,000,000.

On page 43, line 14, decrease the amount by \$347,000,000.

On page 43, line 15, decrease the amount by \$347,000,000.

MR. SESSIONS. Mr. President, this is a big deal in real life. We are talking about taking half of somebody's accumulated estate. That is a lot. It does happen when people die, and there are professionals out there who do this business, and they try to manipulate and avoid and delay, and sometimes they are successful, sometimes they are not. I want to talk about it in a little bit different vein tonight.

I want to talk about what I think is a major problem in America. I know Senator CONRAD is concerned about it. It is a collapse of smaller businesses and a trend toward larger and larger consolidation of business.

I know an individual in Alabama—I met him at a town hall meeting. He and his father spoke to me. They told me they are paying \$5,000 a month for life insurance on their father's life. They own three motels. They would like to expand motels. That \$5,000 a month would probably help them buy a fourth motel. But they have to pay it for no other reason than if something happens to their father, they would have to pay an estate tax, and it would come out of their small business and they would lose it.

Remember, this little chain of three motels is competing against Ramada,

Holiday Inn, Marriott, and they are getting savaged every generation by a 50-percent tax on what the value of that family's estate is. That tax is not paid by the broadly held corporations, the international corporations. They never pay this tax. Think about it. It is a tax that falls on small businesses and individuals. It does not fall on big businesses.

I know an individual who owns several thousand acres of land. He is very fortunate and very generous with ball teams and schools and charitable organizations and is a wonderful person. Some might say he is wealthy. But the big paper companies own millions of acres of land. They don't ever pay a death tax. He is competing, really, with them.

I know International Paper owns 2 million acres of land. They are never impacted by the death tax.

Ask yourself, why is it that banks in towns all over America are closing? In Mobile, AL, we had four local banks. They are all gone today. One or two came back, but all of them were sold out to the big ones. Why? Because the people who owned them got up in years and they were facing a confiscatory tax on what they had accumulated. They didn't have the cash to pay it. Everything they owned was in the bank, the business they built up. They had to get out and get liquid and create a situation in which they could avoid some taxes, perhaps, and have the cash to pay the tax because if they had to sell off the business all at once to pay the tax, it would collapse.

I am saying, with absolute confidence, this death tax is a driving force behind the collapse of small businesses. Think about funeral homes. I know the occupant of the chair, who is from Tennessee, knows that the people running those funeral homes are usually good business people. As the population grew and more people came to the end of their life, they have done well in their business, but they are then facing the death tax. Maybe they have stock or bought some property, and they may have a home that has appreciated in value. All of a sudden they are looking at a big hit.

Now funeral homes are being brought up by chains—broadly held corporations now have these funeral homes. They will never pay the death tax. It will never impact them.

How do you with a \$3 million company compete with Holiday Inn? We want to encourage \$50 million companies, \$100 million companies, and \$200 million companies to compete against billion-dollar companies. We are chopping them off.

A vision I have is that you go out in the woods and there is a little pine tree trying to grow and compete with the taller trees. But just as it breaks in and gets sunlight, somebody comes in and chops the top off and takes half of it. It will never be able to compete.

We are putting them at a disadvantage. It cannot be overcome. I believe

it is unhealthy. If we care about small business, about encouraging innovation and competition and growth in America, we need to think about this. So I think there are a lot of reasons we ought to consider the elimination of this tax. It is certainly an unfair tax. People have paid their taxes, and then at the time of their death, they are taxed again in a way that savages the ability of a business to remain competitive.

I note that the taxes are only a percent or two of the income to this Government. It is not critical to our revenue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used his 10 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. We voted to eliminate the death tax once before. It is time to complete the job. I support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I know there are colleagues who want to offer the prescription drug amendment. I will make a few comments on elimination of the death tax.

A couple of people said there is no tax on death. I disagree. I can say that from experience. My father died, and there was a significant death tax. His death was a taxable event. If he had not died, there would not have been a taxable event. To say there is no death tax—maybe it is something the pollsters came up with—is something about which I totally disagree.

Under current law, if you die, if your estate is above a certain amount, your survivors will have to pay a tax. I call that a death tax. It can be called an inheritance tax, an estate tax, whatever one wants to call it.

We did pass an exemption in 1981 that exempted surviving spouses from the death tax. I was one of the principal sponsors of that legislation in 1981. I worked to put that in the big bill. That was one of the big tax bills. I was a freshman Senator and I really wanted to put that in the bill because I learned the hard way.

My father passed away. My mother had five kids, and she inherited a business. The Government came in and said: We want about half of the business. We negotiated, struggled, and agonized. I say we, I was a child. My mother struggled for years over what the size of this company was, how much of it the Government was entitled to—were they entitled to half of it, a third of it. Eventually, something was settled but she had to pay the Government. I guess I did, too. Survivors who wanted to keep the business had to pay a lot of tax. Why? Because my father died. So if somebody says there is not a death tax, I disagree.

They say: We exempt spouses. That does not make any difference. If you want to pass your business on to your son, the Government says: We want half.

Somebody said it only applies to 1 percent or 2 percent of the estates.

What tax rate is right? Fifty percent? I appreciate the fact that my colleague from North Dakota said the rate is too high. It is too high. Why would we tax estates, a death tax, in excess of the personal tax rate? The maximum personal tax rate hopefully will soon be 35 percent. The maximum corporate rate is 35 percent. Why should a taxable event caused by death be as much as 50 percent?

Frankly, if we do not extend the law, it could go back to 55 and 60 percent. In present law, the maximum is 50 percent. But if the 2001 law expires—if we go back before we made the changes in 2001, then the maximum tax rate returns to 55 percent, and on a taxable estate between \$10 million and \$17 million, there is an additional 5 percent surcharge. It will go back to 60 percent.

I hear some colleagues say: We should exempt not just \$1 million, but maybe \$2 million or \$3 million, maybe twice that amount for spouses. But above that, we still would have a rate of 50 percent. That is way too high. Why is that? Why in the world if somebody passes away should the Government take half? If somebody builds a business and let's say they build up the business, and maybe they are employing thousands of people, should the Government come in and take half? Whoever inherited the business has to sell it and pay taxes. The Government wins and the employees lose—they lose their jobs.

What about George Soros? He is a billionaire. Or Mr. Buffett? My guess is—I do not know—my guess is they have foundations, they have great tax accountants, and they were able to set up foundations that do not pay tax, period.

They do not pay tax on their earnings. They are tax exempt, and they do not pay death taxes. They built up these enormous foundations. Great, I am proud of them.

There are a whole lot of people who own family farms and businesses that they are trying to grow and expand, and they are not big enough to hire attorneys and have foundations, and they are liable for a death tax. That hangs as a heavy cloud over a lot of businesses that decide not to grow because they know if they grow, the Government is going to get half.

We did work in 2001 to bring that down. We gradually brought it down to, I think, 45 percent. It goes to zero in the year 2010, and then presumably if we do not pass a bill to change it, by 2011, it will pop back up to 55, maybe even as much as 60 percent.

Senator KYL says let's expand that zero bracket. The resolution before us presumes—presumes—that Congress will extend the provisions in the 2001 tax bill, so it would extend the repeal of the death tax for the year not only 2010, but also 2011 and 2012. Senator KYL's amendment says it should be for the year 2009. That will be 4 years with a zero tax on the taxable event of death.

If somebody says they pay no tax, they do not understand Senator KYL's amendment. They do not understand the law we passed. Senator KYL's amendment and the present law says a taxable event is moved from death to the sale of the property. What does the sale of the property mean? It means capital gains. What is the tax rate on capital gains? It is 20 percent.

Also in that provision we passed in 2001, it says we eliminate or stop the step-up in basis over a certain amount. What does that mean? It means if George Soros has a net worth of \$38 billion and he passed away, if he has not paid capital gains on that net worth and there is no step-up in basis and the initial investment was much less than that, then he would be taxed at 20 percent on that incremental value.

Maybe if he had initial investment of, let's say, \$18 billion—I doubt it would be that much; maybe a lot less—he would pay 20 percent on the incremental difference between the carry-over basis and what it was at the time of sale. If somebody in his company did not sell the business, there would not be a tax.

I like to think of this more in the vernacular of a small business. If a small business wants to pass it on to their kids and the kids do not sell the business, they do not pay a tax. But when and if they do sell, they pay a tax. There would be capital gains on a carried-over basis.

It is interesting, the people who have scored some of these amendments, Joint Tax, sort of forgot to account the offsetting additional income that would be generated from the sale of operations, the capital gains that would be measured.

The law we passed in 2001 says: Let's change the taxable event from death to when the property is sold. If someone receives property as a result of someone's death and they sell it, then they pay capital gains. If they do not sell it, then there is no capital gains. The taxable event would no longer be death; it would be when the property is sold. It makes eminent good sense.

There are other ways of doing this, but the present law in taxing estates and taxing inherited property or taxing a business or a farm or a ranch just makes no sense whatsoever. The big boys are able to figure out ways to get around it through fancy accountants and foundations, and they do not pay the tax. A lot of middle-income people and smaller businesses pay a lot of tax. It really does inhibit their growth.

I compliment my colleague from Arizona for his amendment. I am intrigued by the interest of my colleagues from North Dakota and Nevada in maybe trying to do something. I think we can do something, and we have the opportunity to do it. It will not be done in this bill. We did not put in a reconciliation instruction dealing with this provision, but it is something we can deal with and this Congress ought to deal with. There is some money on the table

to make that available. We should have a tax rate on a taxable estate or inherited property in the neighborhood of 20 percent. You might generate some money.

Right now this tax is counter-productive in so many ways. I will give one example. Our business did not grow because we were thinking at that time that the Government would take so much, so why would anybody expand if the Government is going to come in and take it? And how could you pass property on from one generation to another generation to another generation if the Government wanted to come in and take half every time? It just does not work. It is very difficult for a privately held business, if they want to pass it on from the second and third generation, to do so if the Government is going to take half. That business may be more than \$3 million. That business may be \$20 million. It may be \$100 million. Think of some great companies that might be privately held. If the owners pass away, should the Government take half? I do not think so. I would hope not.

I am intrigued by the ideas that different colleagues have.

I encourage an open dialogue. I think my colleague from Arizona is to be complimented for his work in this field. I am intrigued and encouraged by some of the debate I am hearing. I would love to see us come up with a bipartisan, permanent resolution on how to address the estate tax. The present law is not satisfactory. It needs to be amended. It needs to be addressed, and I would love to see this Congress this year pass something we could all be proud of that would be a significant and positive reform for businesses and individuals all across the country.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. NICKLES. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. REID. Would the Senator, the manager of the bill for the majority, on the next amendment which will be offered, which will be prescription drugs, allow a time of 40 minutes on each side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. I cannot agree to a 40 minute time limit—

Mr. REID. I withdraw the request.

Mr. NICKLES. On an amendment that deals with \$200 billion. That would be so many billion dollars per minute. That might be a little expensive. I will be happy to work with my colleagues.

If no other Senators wish to speak on the underlying amendment, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment so an amendment offered by the Senator from North Dakota and the Senator from Florida can be offered at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from North Dakota.

AMENDMENT NO. 294

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of

myself, Senator GRAHAM of Florida, and Senator STABENOW, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN], for himself, Mr. GRAHAM of Florida, and Ms. STABENOW, proposes an amendment numbered 294.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide a meaningful prescription drug benefit in Medicare that is available to all beneficiaries)

On page 3, line 9, increase the amount by \$7,580,000.

On page 3, line 10, increase the amount by \$23,341,000,000.

On page 3, line 11, increase the amount by \$26,169,000,000.

On page 3, line 12, increase the amount by \$29,003,000,000.

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$32,406,000,000.

On page 3, line 14, increase the amount by \$35,710,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$39,465,000,000.

On page 3, line 16, increase the amount by \$43,508,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$47,687,000,000.

On page 3, line 18, increase the amount by \$52,440,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$58,514,000,000.

On page 3, line 23, increase the amount by \$7,589,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$23,341,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$26,169,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$29,003,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$32,406,000,000.

On page 4, line 5, increase the amount by \$35,710,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by \$39,465,000,000.

On page 4, line 7, increase the amount by \$43,508,000,000.

On page 4, line 8, increase the amount by \$47,687,000,000.

On page 4, line 9, increase the amount by \$52,440,000,000.

On page 4, line 10, increase the amount by \$53,514,000,000.

On page 4, line 14, decrease the amount by \$56,000,000.

On page 4, line 15, decrease the amount by \$6,750,000,000.

On page 4, line 16, decrease the amount by \$12,607,000,000.

On page 4, line 17, decrease the amount by \$2,089,000,000.

On page 4, line 18, increase the amount by \$11,134,000,000.

On page 4, line 19, increase the amount by \$13,388,000,000.

On page 4, line 20, increase the amount by \$18,051,000,000.

On page 4, line 21, increase the amount by \$23,189,000,000.

On page 4, line 22, increase the amount by \$28,020,000,000.

On page 4, line 23, increase the amount by \$33,135,000,000.

On page 4, line 24, increase the amount by \$39,338,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, decrease the amount by \$56,000,000.

On page 5, line 5, decrease the amount by \$6,750,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, decrease the amount by \$12,607,000,000.

On page 5, line 7, decrease the amount by \$2,089,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$11,134,000,000.

On page 5, line 9, increase the amount by \$13,388,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$18,051,000,000.

On page 5, line 11, increase the amount by \$23,189,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by \$28,020,000,000.

On page 5, line 13, increase the amount by \$33,135,000,000.

On page 5, line 14, increase the amount by \$39,338,000,000.

On page 5, line 17, increase the amount by \$7,645,000,000.

On page 5, line 18, increase the amount by \$30,091,000,000.

On page 5, line 19, increase the amount by \$38,776,000,000.

On page 5, line 20, increase the amount by \$31,092,000,000.

On page 5, line 21, increase the amount by \$21,272,000,000.

On page 5, line 22, increase the amount by \$22,322,000,000.

On page 5, line 23, increase the amount by \$21,414,000,000.

On page 5, line 24, increase the amount by \$20,319,000,000.

On page 5, line 25, increase the amount by \$19,667,000,000.

On page 6, line 1, increase the amount by \$19,305,000,000.

On page 6, line 2, increase the amount by \$19,176,000,000.

On page 6, line 5, decrease the amount by \$7,645,000,000.

On page 6, line 6, decrease the amount by \$37,737,000,000.

On page 6, line 7, decrease the amount by \$76,513,000,000.

On page 6, line 8, decrease the amount by \$107,604,000,000.

On page 6, line 9, decrease the amount by \$128,877,000,000.

On page 6, line 10, decrease the amount by \$151,199,000,000.

On page 6, line 11, decrease the amount by \$172,612,000,000.

On page 6, line 12, decrease the amount by \$192,931,000,000.

On page 6, line 13, decrease the amount by \$212,599,000,000.

On page 6, line 14, decrease the amount by \$231,903,000,000.

On page 6, line 15, decrease the amount by \$251,080,000,000.

On page 6, line 18, decrease the amount by \$7,645,000,000.

On page 6, line 19, decrease the amount by \$37,737,000,000.

On page 6, line 20, decrease the amount by \$76,513,000,000.

On page 6, line 21, decrease the amount by \$107,604,000,000.

On page 6, line 22, decrease the amount by \$128,877,000,000.

On page 6, line 23, decrease the amount by \$151,199,000,000.

On page 6, line 24, decrease the amount by \$172,612,000,000.

On page 6, line 25, decrease the amount by \$192,931,000,000.

On page 7, line 1, decrease the amount by \$212,599,000,000.

On page 7, line 2, decrease the amount by \$231,903,000,000.

On page 7, line 3, decrease the amount by \$251,080,000,000.

On page 29, line 6, decrease the amount by \$6,000,000,000.

On page 29, line 7, decrease the amount by \$6,000,000,000.

On page 29, line 10, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000,000.

On page 29, line 11, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000,000.

On page 29, line 14, increase the amount by \$2,498,000,000.

On page 29, line 15, increase the amount by \$2,498,000,000.

On page 29, line 18, increase the amount by \$17,195,000,000.

On page 29, line 19, increase the amount by \$17,195,000,000.

On page 29, line 22, increase the amount by \$20,630,000,000.

On page 29, line 23, increase the amount by \$20,630,000,000.

On page 30, line 2, increase the amount by \$26,482,000,000.

On page 30, line 3, increase the amount by \$26,482,000,000.

On page 30, line 6, increase the amount by \$32,751,000,000.

On page 30, line 7, increase the amount by \$32,751,000,000.

On page 30, line 10, increase the amount by \$38,644,000,000.

On page 30, line 11, increase the amount by \$38,644,000,000.

On page 30, line 14, increase the amount by \$44,787,000,000.

On page 30, line 15, increase the amount by \$44,787,000,000.

On page 30, line 18, increase the amount by \$52,013,000,000.

On page 30, line 19, increase the amount by \$52,013,000,000.

On page 40, line 2, decrease the amount by \$56,000,000.

On page 40, line 3, decrease the amount by \$56,000,000.

On page 40, line 6, decrease the amount by \$750,000,000.

On page 40, line 7, decrease the amount by \$750,000,000.

On page 40, line 10, decrease the amount by \$2,607,000,000.

On page 40, line 11, decrease the amount by \$2,607,000,000.

On page 40, line 14, decrease the amount by \$4,587,000,000.

On page 40, line 15, decrease the amount by \$4,587,000,000.

On page 40, line 18, decrease the amount by \$6,061,000,000.

On page 40, line 19, decrease the amount by \$6,061,000,000.

On page 40, line 22, decrease the amount by \$7,242,000,000.

On page 40, line 23, decrease the amount by \$7,242,000,000.

On page 41, line 2, decrease the amount by \$8,431,000,000.

On page 41, line 3, decrease the amount by \$8,431,000,000.

On page 41, line 6, decrease the amount by \$9,562,000,000.

On page 41, line 7, decrease the amount by \$9,562,000,000.

On page 41, line 10, decrease the amount by \$10,624,000,000.

On page 41, line 11, decrease the amount by \$10,624,000,000.

On page 41, line 14, decrease the amount by \$11,652,000,000.

On page 41, line 15, decrease the amount by \$11,652,000,000.

On page 41, line 18, decrease the amount by \$12,675,000,000.

On page 41, line 19, decrease the amount by \$12,675,000,000.

On page 61, line 12, insert "on an equal basis with respect to benefit level regardless of whether such beneficiaries remain in the traditional medicare fee-for-service program

under parts A and B of such title or enroll in a private plan under the medicare program" after "prescription drugs".

On page 61, line 19, strike \$400,000,000,000 and insert \$619,000,000,000.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I will describe the general direction of this amendment. I will be followed by my colleague, Senator GRAHAM of Florida, who will talk in greater specifics about the particular approach dealing with a prescription drug benefit in Medicare. Following that, my colleague from Michigan will also speak.

This amendment would increase the amount of money available to put a prescription drug benefit in the Medicare Program. I think we are long past the point where the question is whether we should put a prescription drug benefit in the Medicare Program. The question is no longer whether. I think almost all Members of the Congress agree we ought to do that. The question is how. How do we do it? What kind of a prescription drug benefit do we put in the Medicare Program?

Senior citizens are 12 percent of the population in our country, yet they consume one-third of all prescription drugs. That is important to understand. As people grow older, they have more health challenges. They are able to access these miracle drugs, the new miracle drugs that extend life in so many areas, but miracle drugs produce no miracles if one cannot afford them.

At an age in life when people reach retirement and have diminished income, they discover that they cannot afford to buy the miracle drugs they need, the drugs their doctor prescribes, for someone who may have heart disease, diabetes, and several other maladies. We hear senior citizens say over and over again that they go to the grocery store with a pharmacy in the back, and they have to go to the pharmacy first to find out how much they are going to have left for food because they cannot afford all of their medicine and food.

If we had created Medicare last year, there is no question that we would have included in that Medicare Program a prescription drug benefit. Instead, Congress created it in the 1960s. Most of us were not here then. So there was no prescription drug benefit put in the Medicare Program because most of the lifesaving drugs that are now available were not then in existence. They are now, and senior citizens are living longer and better lives. Part of it is because we have these prescription drugs that can extend life.

So the question is, How do we now modify the Medicare Program to add a benefit for prescription drugs, to help so many senior citizens who simply cannot afford them?

I had a hearing in Dickinson, ND, one evening on the issue of prescription drugs in Medicare. An oncologist told me about his cancer patient, a woman on Medicare who had a mastectomy because of breast cancer. He prescribed a prescription drug for her. He said: You

need to take this prescription drug in order to reduce the chances of recurrence of this breast cancer. She said: What will it cost? He told her the cost of the drugs. She said: Doctor, I cannot possibly buy that prescription drug. I have no money. I will just take my chances.

We do not have to do that. Our amendment is very simple. The underlying budget proposed \$400 billion for a Medicare prescription drug plan. We propose that the portion of the tax cut in this budget amendment dealing with the tax cut for dividends be used instead of cutting taxes for dividends in the following manner: That \$219 billion be provided in this amendment in order to increase above the \$400 billion, so we would have then \$619 billion for a prescription drug plan in the Medicare Program. The additional \$251 billion in savings generated by this amendment would be used to reduce the Federal budget deficit.

We are doing two things: Making more money available so a decent prescription drug plan can be offered, and my colleague from Florida will more adequately describe exactly what kind of a program can be offered for that, and then in addition, reducing the Federal budget deficit.

I will make a couple of additional points. Our amendment also establishes a very important principle for a Medicare prescription drug benefit. Medicare beneficiaries who choose to remain in traditional fee-for-service Medicare should receive the same level of benefit for prescription drugs as do others. The President has proposed something that says we will provide a prescription drug benefit but we will do it only if someone leaves their fee-for-service type of care and goes to an HMO. That is not fair. That is not the right thing to do. Senior citizens ought to be able to go to the doctor of their choice and get the health care they need from the doctor they have always been seeing for their problems. Yet that will not be the case under the President's proposal.

So we say let's increase the amount of money so we can have a reasonable and a good prescription drug benefit in the Medicare Program. Let's do that at the same time we reduce the Federal budget deficit with the other money that we save from this tax change, and let's also establish the principle, as we do in this amendment, that all Medicare beneficiaries ought to have the availability of this prescription drug benefit, even if they choose to stay in a fee-for-service program. That is a very important issue.

Let me make one final point. As is always the case when we debate the budget in the Senate, we are confronted with a series of choices, difficult choices sometimes but nonetheless choices. We can make a decision about that. We can decide that it is far more important, as some have done in the Senate, to exempt dividends from taxation than it is to have a good prescription drug benefit in the Medicare

Program. I do not happen to share that choice. I think that is a terrible choice. That is a horrible choice to make in terms of priorities. So with this amendment we make a different choice. We believe that this is one of those circumstances that demands and certainly deserves the attention of the Senate. I think every Senator is on record as saying we ought to do something about this issue of prescription drugs in Medicare, but we have had difficulty trying to find the right approach.

We have all kinds of different plans. What we propose with this amendment is to have sufficient money, \$619 billion, to put together a plan of which we can be proud, to put together a plan that works, one that really helps senior citizens and one that does not force them all into managed care or HMO organizations as a price for them to be able to access prescription drugs that they need to continue to lead a good life. That is all this amendment is about. It is a simple choice. It is a lot of money, but it is a simple choice. Let's choose the right thing. Let's choose to do what all of us have said we want to do, and that is to put a good prescription drug plan in the Medicare Program.

My colleague, Senator GRAHAM from Florida, is going to describe in more detail exactly what that program could look like and how that program would work for senior citizens. I am very pleased to have worked with him, as well as the Senator from Michigan, on this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COLEMAN). Who yields time?

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I offer this amendment with my colleagues from North Dakota and Michigan so that when we come to debate the specifics of a prescription drug benefit for Medicare, we will be able to provide a real benefit, a real benefit with no gimmicks, no gaps, no hidden "gotchas."

Last year, 52 Senators voted for a plan that provides all Medicare beneficiaries with an affordable, comprehensive, and universal drug benefit delivered through Medicare. The proposal offered last year received 52 votes and was very direct. It provided that seniors would pay a \$25 per month voluntary premium. This program is not mandatory; seniors will decide for themselves whether they want to participate. There would be no deductible. Seniors would pay no more than a \$10 copayment for generic medications and \$40 for medically necessary brand-name medications. After \$4,000 was paid by the senior out of pocket, Medicare would pay the remaining expenses under a catastrophic position. Special consideration was provided for the low-

est income non-Medicaid elderly by picking up all, or a portion of, their monthly premiums and copayments.

The plan we offered last year that received 52 votes, with the inflation and with the change in the demographics of the elderly population, would cost, over the next 10 years, \$619 billion. The budget resolution which is before the Senate today would limit the expenditure for a prescription drug benefit to no more than \$400 billion. Removed from the \$400 billion would be the cost of any other changes to the Medicare system.

Our colleagues on the Budget Committee have adopted the \$400 billion from the President's framework for adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare. It is unclear precisely what we would be buying with \$400 billion, but let's talk about what we know of some of the principles of the President's prescription drug plan.

He would provide, for those Medicare beneficiaries in the traditional fee-for-service program, that there would be coverage of prescription drugs for the lowest income—the question mark as to what that demarcation would be. They would receive up to \$600 a year for their prescription drug benefits. I point out to the Presiding Officer and my colleagues, the average Medicare beneficiary last year paid \$2,100 for their prescription drugs.

Other than the lowest income, there would be no ongoing benefit and there would be a catastrophic benefit at a yet to be specified level. That is what 89 percent of the Medicare beneficiaries—those who have elected to stay in the traditional fee-for-service Medicare—would have available.

Mr. President, 11 percent of the 40 million Medicare beneficiaries are in some form of managed care. Under the President's plan, they would receive a prescription drug benefit, maybe one very similar to the one that 52 Senators voted for last year. We do not have the details to have a clear understanding of what that 11 percent would receive.

The only way you can fit an affordable, comprehensive, universal prescription drug benefit is by not making it universal, not covering seniors who are in the traditional Medicare Program unless they either have very low incomes or very high drug costs. For instance, if the catastrophic level were to be set at \$5,000, less than 3 percent of the Medicare beneficiaries would spend that much and therefore be eligible to participate in the catastrophic provisions of the President's plan.

The President's proposal buys a drug benefit for \$400 billion by providing a benefit—even that is undefined—only for those seniors who will enroll in some form of managed care. This has been referred to as a plan to herd seniors into managed care because their needs for a prescription drug benefit are so desperate. No one can argue a benefit like the one proposed by President Bush meets the goals of an afford-

able, universal, comprehensive drug benefit which is what America's seniors need.

The most fundamental reform we can make in the Medicare Program is to offer to all Medicare beneficiaries, including the 89 percent who have elected to enroll in the traditional fee-for-service Medicare, all beneficiaries—those as well as the 11 percent who have currently elected to participate in a managed care program—a universal, comprehensive, affordable prescription drug benefit. Why is this so important? In my opinion, it is so important because it is the fundamental reform which Medicare must make.

Medicare is a program of the 1960s. It is appropriately described as a sickness program. If you are ill enough to require a physician's attention or, even more, require hospitalization, Medicare will pay a substantial proportion of your costs. What Medicare will not pay is the cost to keep you out of the doctor's office and out of the hospital. Why? Because almost every preventive care program has as one of its key elements the use of prescription drugs. These are the modern miracles of medicine. They are almost always required if we are to be able to manage a condition before it becomes critical.

Thus, to have a Medicare Program which makes that fundamental reform from a sickness system to a system that promotes the highest level of health, it must have a prescription drug benefit. Certainly some seniors under the President's proposal will have no choice but to move from their current preference for traditional fee-for-service, where they have the maximum number of choices, into a managed care system, where their choices can be severely restricted.

As my colleague from North Dakota has already said, this debate is about priorities. Is the statement the Senate wants to make that we give greater importance to an oversized tax cut than we do to a real, affordable, comprehensive, and universal drug benefit for all seniors? I think the answer is clear.

In addition to providing adequate funding for a prescription drug benefit, this amendment will also provide \$177 billion over the next 10 years for deficit reduction, which would, in fact, become \$251 billion for deficit reduction by including the interest cost which we will have to pay for \$177 billion over the next 10 years. This is a needed remedy for the rapidly increasing deficits that we have experienced, almost as urgent as the needed benefit of prescription drugs for older Americans.

We are suggesting these two elements, a \$219 billion addition to the Medicare account in order to be able to fund an affordable, comprehensive, and universal prescription drug benefit, and \$177 billion for deficit reductions—we are suggesting it be paid by a reduction in the provision for tax reductions of \$396 billion. That number was not just chosen by accident. That is the amount

the President has proposed for his dividend tax cut, making dividends no longer taxable.

I believe the dividend tax cut should be reduced, first because it will do very little to stimulate our sluggish economy, and specifically because it will do very little to benefit America's seniors. I heard earlier today the argument made in support of the elimination of taxation of dividends, that it was a critical matter for America's seniors. Most American seniors will not benefit at all, and the average tax reduction for America's seniors, by eliminating the taxation on dividends, is estimated to be \$118 per year.

Contrast that minimal savings for seniors with the savings that seniors will secure through a comprehensive, universal, and affordable prescription drug benefit.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. This amendment will not only affect our seniors and our ability to provide them with a reasonable prescription drug benefit, it will also provide Congress the direction required to assure responsible spending of the taxpayers' money. This is a goal, not just for seniors, it is a goal which all Americans deserve.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator CONRAD, I yield one-half hour to the Senator from Michigan, Ms. STABENOW.

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

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I first commend my friend and colleague from Florida for his ongoing leadership on the issue of Medicare prescription drug coverage. I am very hopeful we will be able to put into place the bill he has described so eloquently that would greatly benefit all older Americans and the disabled. It is my pleasure to join with him and with my distinguished colleague from North Dakota, Mr. DORGAN, as well, who has also been an outspoken leader both on Medicare prescription drugs and also on issues relating to containing costs, opening the borders to Canada, and other issues that would lower prices.

It is my pleasure to join with both of them in what I believe to be one of the most important, if not the most important, amendment we will be addressing to the budget resolution.

As my colleagues have said, the budget resolution is about American priorities and values. We lay out for the year and then project for 10 years what our most important priorities are, just as a family does in their own budget. We on this side of the aisle have argued that, of course, safety and security is critical. Education and the opportunity for young people and adults to have skills and be able to be successful in our society is critically important. Also, health care, the ability to have health care for your family, and the ability for every senior and every disabled person to know that, in fact, Medicare will be strong and will

be there for them when they retire when they are eligible, and that it will reflect the way health care is provided today is also important.

We all know today prescription drug coverage is the primary way to provide health care, both for prevention, to be able to stop disease, and be able to monitor and keep us from having to have an operation or be in the hospital. Outpatient prescription drugs are a critical part of the way health care is provided today.

Medicare, which is a great American success story, simply needs to be updated in order to cover prescription drugs. That is what this amendment does. It says that as a value for our families and a priority for Americans, we choose to set aside dollars for a comprehensive, affordable prescription drug benefit for all seniors. We want to do that through Medicare, through strengthening, protecting, and preserving Medicare. It also says when we have to make choices, if we have to choose—as we always have to do in our own budget, in the Federal budget—between another tax cut for those earning millions of dollars a year, or putting dollars in the pockets of our seniors to help pay for their prescription drugs, their medicine, we choose prescription drug coverage for our seniors. We also choose paying down the debt to protect Social Security and Medicare for the future.

This amendment does two very important things: It guarantees that we will have enough resources to do a comprehensive Medicare prescription drug benefit. It also says the debt that is being accumulated by this country is absolutely unacceptable, and we need to be putting money aside to pay down that debt in order to make sure we can keep interest rates low to spur the economy so our families can buy homes and cars and send their children to college and not experience double-digit interest rates. We need to keep that debt down. That also allows us to protect Social Security and Medicare funds for the future for the trust funds. That priority, and a prescription drug coverage priority, is absolutely essential.

We also say something else that is very important. We need to make sure that traditional Medicare that has been there is there regardless of where you live. My great State is a huge State geographically, 9 million people plus. We need to make sure the seniors in Detroit or Marquette or Ironwood or Three Rivers or Benton Harbor or my home in Lansing all have the same ability and the same dependability in terms of Medicare prescription drugs. They will know the premiums are the same, their cost, their ability to choose their own doctor, their ability to choose their own medicines, to go to their own local pharmacy—that should be available regardless of where you live.

One of my great concerns is we have seen, unfortunately, more and more talk about reforming Medicare, which I

believe is a code word for privatizing Medicare. All we are seeing leads us to believe that the administration wants to privatize Medicare and require seniors, if they are going to get real health care coverage that includes prescription drugs, to go into private insurance systems; to go into an HMO or another kind of system.

The administration has indicated, if they stay in traditional Medicare where the overwhelming majority of seniors are, they are willing to offer a discount card that the GAO tells us would be about \$3.31 savings on a prescription. That is not very much if you are someone who is paying \$100 or \$150 or \$200 for a simple 30-day prescription.

Then they have said: If you accumulate thousands of dollars—we don't know exactly what the number would be, but have catastrophic needs—you would be able to get some kind of help. We don't know at what point they would designate that, but if you want to get real help with prescription drugs, if you want to be covered for prescription drugs, then you would have to go to the private sector to be covered.

That is absolutely unacceptable. Seniors of this country have already chosen between Medicare and going into the private sector. We have that now. We have traditional Medicare and we have something called Medicare+Choice that is a private sector HMO approach. It is your choice as a senior.

In fact, my mother chose to go into an HMO herself in Michigan, and had a good experience, but the Medicare beneficiaries were dropped from that HMO because they decided not to cover them anymore. And that has happened to over 41,000 people just in Michigan.

What we have seen is that when seniors are being given a choice between traditional Medicare and the HMO system, they have already chosen: They have chosen Medicare, traditional Medicare. But for the small percent who chose to go into the private sector, they found it was not dependable. For my own mother, who chose to do that, she found she could not count on it. It was not ultimately available to her. And now, in Michigan, only 2 percent of people who are on Medicare can even qualify, can even find a private insurer that will cover them, and they all are in the eastern part of our State. So if you live in Lansing or Flint or Saginaw or Grand Rapids or on up in Traverse City or on up in the upper peninsula, you don't even have that choice because there is nothing available.

So what we have said in this amendment is that seniors need to know the prescription drug benefit that everybody is talking about should not just be available if you choose a private insurance policy, private insurance model through Medicare; you should have the right to have a choice of traditional Medicare and have the very same prescription drug coverage.

That is what this amendment says. If we want to offer seniors choice, then

we need to make sure we offer them a real choice: the choice of Medicare as they know it, Medicare as they have been able to depend upon, as well as the other private sector models that have been proposed by the President and our colleagues.

This amendment, I believe, is exactly what the seniors of America are asking us to do: simply update Medicare, strengthen the system they count on, and make sure they have affordable prescription drug coverage. I strongly support this amendment. I am proud to be cosponsoring this amendment with my colleagues. The dual goal of having Medicare prescription drug coverage and a major payment on the debt is very important.

When we look at who the beneficiaries of Medicare are—our seniors—the majority of them are women. So I speak as one of the women of the Senate to say that the women of this country are counting on Medicare as well as Social Security. This is very real for the older women of our country. They are counting on us to fulfill the real promise of Medicare.

Mr. President, our seniors, as well as everyone who is involved with prescription drugs, are counting on us to do one other thing. I wish to speak to that for a moment. It relates to another amendment I will be offering later on in this debate that needs to be coupled with this amendment, and that is the question of lowering the price of prescription drugs.

We need to update Medicare to cover prescriptions. But at the same time, we need to lower the price through more competition, so that we can afford that coverage and be able to make it available to as many people as possible.

Along with my colleagues, Senator DORGAN and Senator SCHUMER, I am going to be offering an amendment the purpose of which is to reduce prescription drug prices for everyone, with the passage of legislation similar to S. 812, which passed overwhelmingly by the Senate last summer, a bill that contained provisions relating to generic drug reform, reimportation of prescription drugs from Canada—in other words, opening the border to Canada for our citizens—and State authority with respect to Medicaid drug rebate agreements. What that means is supporting our States that are being creative in finding ways to use their authority to lower the prices of prescription drugs for their citizens.

This amendment would take the approximately \$7.4 billion minimal of savings through the generic drug reform we passed last summer coupled with any savings—and as yet they have not been able to calculate the savings—that we know would be there from opening the border to Canada, and dropping prices in half. But we would take those dollars and put it into a fund that is already in the budget resolution—a \$50 billion fund for the uninsured—and we would add those budget savings to that fund for programs that

help individuals and small businesses obtain health insurance.

We know the majority of those without insurance—in fact, we are told that 75 percent of the people who do not have health insurance are working, and they are working for small businesses. So this issue of lowering prices is very important for all businesses, but I would say particularly small businesses, that have seen their premiums—at least in Michigan, we know, according to Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield, that premiums for small businesses have doubled, at least, in the last 5 years. And we know, when we look behind those prices, as well as the prices for the Big Three automakers, and for other major employers, that the major reason the price of health care is going up is because of the explosion in the price of prescription drugs. The average retail prescription drug increase for brand names is three times the rate of inflation—three times the rate of inflation. So we have seen an explosion.

By the way, this relates back to Medicare coverage because a majority of those who are uninsured who are paying those prices are our senior citizens. In fact, the people who pay the highest prices in the world today are Americans, predominantly our seniors, who do not have insurance and walk into the local pharmacy and need to buy their medicine. So there is an important partnership here of both Medicare prescription drug coverage and lowering prices for everyone.

Last year, on a bipartisan vote, I was very proud of this body, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, who joined together to, first of all, tighten up the rules and eliminate loopholes in relation to unadvertised brands, what we call generic drugs, that are supposed to be available when a patent runs out on a brand name. The formulas are supposed to be available so they can be manufactured at a much cheaper price, oftentimes 50 percent, sometimes as much as 70 percent less. We know by having more use of unadvertised brands, and they being more available on the market, we can drop insurance rates, we can drop prescription drug prices for our seniors and for everyone.

We also know if we simply open the border to Canada—I find this whole issue so amazing because we trade with Canada on everything except prescription drugs. In fact, in my great State of Michigan, right now we are seeing truckloads of trash coming in from Canada that we are told we cannot stop from going into Michigan landfills because we have open trade laws. So we can't stop the trash, but we can't bring in prescription drugs that would help our seniors and help our families be able to lower their costs, by bringing in American-made, American-subsidized prescriptions, that are sold in Canada at reduced prices.

That was the second part of what we did last summer, to pass a bill that opened the border. And we know that

by doing that, licensed pharmacists could develop business relationships. Whether it is a pharmacist at the hospital, a pharmacist at the local pharmacy, a pharmacist working with health clinics or at a university, they could bring these back and make prescription drugs available. We ought to be doing that. It is very perplexing and frustrating that that is not happening.

In fact, to add insult to injury, the FDA has just informed us in the last week based on pressure from the pharmaceutical industry that not only are they not going to open the border, but they are going to begin enforcing the law against those who help our seniors. Whether it is an insurance company paying for reimbursement, whether it is others helping our seniors to go across the border to get their prescriptions at a lower price, working through a Canadian doctor and pharmacy, the FDA now says they will clamp down on that rather than working with us to open the borders in a safe way. This is the second part of how we lower prices.

The third way we lower prices is by supporting States that have been working to use their group purchasing power to negotiate with the pharmaceutical companies that do business with them on Medicaid, to negotiate with them to provide rebates and discounts for the uninsured in their State. A number of States have done that, and they have all been challenged, unfortunately, by the pharmaceutical industry. We want to make it clear that States have the ability on behalf of their citizens to advocate and to negotiate lower prices. That is the second amendment we will be offering.

Again, we will be offering an amendment that says we will reduce prescription drug prices. We will save dollars for the Federal Government, and then those dollars will be redirected into a fund and put aside to support small businesses to provide health care coverage for their employees.

The budget resolution is about priorities. We all know that. It is about values. It is about who we are as Americans. When I talk with people in Michigan, there is not a higher priority now than health care: Families struggling with the cost of medicine; seniors not having access to prescription drug coverage; businesses trying to figure out how to pay the bill; employees being told their pay will be frozen so their employer can pay the health care costs; those who are losing their jobs finding themselves in a situation where they are losing their health care. We even know that our reservists and members of the National Guard currently serving us in the gulf may find themselves not having health insurance for themselves and their families.

This is an issue that touches each and every one of us. Every year we talk about it. Every session we talk about it. It is complicated. It involves setting priorities on funding. Too much of the time, we set it aside to go on to something else. I hope we will not do that

this time, that we will make it clear, through this budget, that Medicare prescription drug coverage, that health care for small businesses and their employees, that lowering the prices of prescription drugs will be a top American priority. We can say, we will wait until next year, we will wait until the next budget resolution, but we can't say, we will wait until next year to get sick, to get cancer, or that a family will wait until next year until grandma or grandpa need a nursing home or their children get sick.

Health care for American families is an urgent matter. It is an urgent matter for everyone. It needs to be an urgent matter for all of us here in the Senate.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment on Medicare prescription drug coverage, and I urge my colleagues as well to join with us in the amendment to reduce the price of prescription drugs and support our small businesses that are struggling to provide health care for their employees.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, acting as the leader, I yield myself 7 minutes, with the understanding that following me, the Senator from Iowa will be recognized.

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

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I have listened to the debate and wanted to make a few observations. I understand the Senator from Iowa is prepared to perhaps be a little more erudite than I. But I have heard personal references, and I must come share a few personal references, not specifically on this amendment but on the subject of Medicare.

The statement has been made that Medicare is a great success story. Medicare is a disaster. Everybody who deals with it understands that except the Congress. We have to understand that Medicare, in order to work properly, is going to have to be overhauled from top to bottom as quickly as possible. Taking the assumption that the present Medicare system is working well and all we need to do is add a little here and add a little there will further compound the disaster.

Let me give two examples that I hope will help illustrate this. The first is a town meeting where a woman came to me and said: Can you do something to fix Medicare?

I said: Well, tell me what the problem is.

She said: I am a professional woman. I am a college graduate. I think I am fairly intelligent. I handle my mother's affairs. My mother is in her eighties. She is on Medicare. I have finally figured out how to deal with Medicare. I throw away everything unopened, and at the end of the month I call the Salt Lake clinic and say: How much do I owe you for my mother? Trying to

wade through the paperwork is so daunting, I can't even begin to understand anything they send to me. The assumption that my 85-year-old mother would be able to handle any of it is absurd. I tried. I struggled. I got the manuals. Finally, I discovered the way to deal with Medicare is to throw away everything unopened and once a month call the Salt Lake clinic and say: How much do I owe you for my mother?

This is a family and a circumstance where money is not a problem. Simply coping with the paperwork is overwhelming.

Second example: I have a daughter of whom I am enormously proud. She graduated with her master's degree from George Washington University after her bachelor's at Boston University. She got a job in a nursing home. She is a speech therapist. She is also a very enthusiastic young lady. She called me after about 4 days on the job.

Dad, she said—exploding over the telephone—you are a Senator. You have to fix Medicare.

I said: Now calm down. Tell me what your problem is.

She said: Medicare is a disaster. Medicare is terrible. Let me tell you my experiences.

And she began describing some of the problems she had in giving proper care to the people in this nursing home and always being told, no, you can't do that until you check to see whether or not Medicare will cover it.

She said: I thought that would be a fairly simple thing to find out. So I go down the hall and say: Will Medicare cover this procedure? It takes days to get an answer to that question.

Then she said: Dad, do you know who the highest paid person in this facility is—with a salary higher than the administrator, higher salary than the doctors, higher salary than the nurses, higher salary than any of the health professionals? It is the woman who understands Medicare. She gets paid more than anybody here because that skill is in greater demand and shorter supply than professional medical skills.

She called me back sometime later and said:

I have had patients die while we waited to get an answer as to whether or not Medicare would cover it. Their family said, "Don't touch my grandmother; don't do anything until we find out whether Medicare would cover it."

It was so arcane and difficult to work through all of the paperwork and come up with the answer—well, maybe they would have died anyway; they were old and in a nursing home. People die in nursing homes. But this was a very traumatic experience for my daughter, who was convinced that the kind of therapy she was trained to provide, she was prepared to provide, which could have extended the life of that particular patient.

So as we get carried away with the rhetoric around here about what we have to protect and not protect about Medicare, let us begin to understand

the truth about Medicare. Medicare is the best Blue Cross/Blue Shield fee-for-service indemnity plan of the 1960s—frozen in time. We don't practice medicine the way medicine was practiced in the 1960s when Medicare was created. We don't even come close anymore.

Yes, we need a prescription drug benefit because prescription drugs do things now that they had nothing to do with in the 1960s. But instead of pasting it on to the existing circumstance and creating a new set of forms and eligibilities and more demand for that highest paid person in the nursing home, let us as a Congress face the fact that we need to start from a clean sheet of paper, all over again, with all of the money we are putting into it—which is sizable—and say let's create a whole new system. This budget doesn't do that, but this amendment that is being offered will make things worse in that regard.

I only hope that somewhere along the line we can begin to face the fact that Medicare is 40 years old, whereas the practice of medicine is changing so constantly that we could say it is only 40 months old. Let's start with a clean sheet of paper. Let's not try this Band-Aid approach. Let's not just put this here, and put that there, and tell our constituents we are giving them something when, in fact, we are perpetuating an existing problem and ultimately making it worse.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I yield myself such time as I might consume. For the benefit of the people who are waiting to speak, I don't think I will take long on this subject.

I rise because I want to urge my colleagues to vote against the Dorgan amendment when the vote comes up tomorrow. I don't see anything wrong with the issue of Medicare being discussed because it is one of two or three of the most important issues this Congress will deal with. So it is very appropriate to have Medicare very much at the top of the agenda. It is very appropriate to have prescription drugs for seniors, as a part of strengthening and improving Medicare, be very high on the agenda. And it is very high on the agenda.

It is just a question, as it relates to the Dorgan amendment, of whether or not crafting a Medicare prescription drug program ought to be an issue on the budget, or whether you ought to let the will of Congress work and do that through the Senate Finance Committee.

We know Medicare is going to be a very important issue this year, not only because it has been very much an issue in the last election, but because the Senate majority leader has a long-time interest in Medicare and prescription drugs. He told me, as Chairman of

the Senate Finance Committee, that he would like to have the Senate Finance Committee put it very high on its agenda and have legislation prepared early for this summer's debate.

The Senate Finance Committee is going to meet that deadline. I hope Senator FRIST will be able to keep his own calendar and bring it up at that particular time. What we are talking about on this issue is whether or not the \$400 billion for prescription drugs in the budget resolution is enough and whether or not an extension beyond that \$400 billion is needed at this particular time.

I am here to say it is not needed at this particular time for two reasons. One, I think I can show that \$400 billion is an ample amount of money to present to the Senate a good prescription drug program; and two, taking money away from tax relief for working men and women, which this amendment does, to spend on Medicare is the wrong thing to do for the long-term benefit of Medicare. Because as the trustees of the Medicare and Social Security Program pointed out in their annual report, you see Medicare in a little worse situation this year than last year because there is less payroll tax coming in because the economy is not doing quite as well as it should be. If we want to preserve the long-term viability of the Medicare trust fund, obviously, the best thing we can do is create jobs. That is what the growth package, the jobs package, that we are going to be working on this spring—tax reduction for working men and women—is all about—the creation of jobs, to have the economy grow, so more payroll taxes will be coming into the Medicare fund.

Let me explain to my colleagues why we should vote this amendment down. I start with the premise that it is long past time for Congress to strengthen and improve the Medicare Program, and the No. 1 way in which we can improve and strengthen Medicare is the enactment of a prescription drug benefit for our Nation's seniors.

We all know that adding prescription drug coverage to the Medicare Program is an expensive endeavor. Given the rapidly rising costs of Medicare and the present challenge we have just to meet our current obligations in the program, adding prescription drug coverage must be done carefully and responsibly. You don't do it by just pulling a figure out of the air, reducing the tax relief package, and putting it over here in the Medicare trust fund.

As I have said, the Medicare trustees reported last year that the program already faces substantial challenges in the not-too-distant future. The Medicare trust fund will begin to run cash deficits in 2013 that grow larger and larger until the fund is bankrupt in the year 2026.

While we are working on adding a drug benefit to Medicare, prescription drug spending has grown an average of almost 15 percent annually from 1995 to

the year 2000. And the Congressional Budget Office predicts that Medicare beneficiaries will spend about \$1.8 trillion on prescription drugs over the 10-year budget window.

Now, is the \$400 billion in the budget resolution before us enough to spend on improving Medicare and adding a prescription drug benefit? Well, first of all, we have to recognize that Congress has come a long way in how much it has allocated to a Medicare drug benefit. For example, in fiscal year 2001, the budget resolution had \$40 billion over 5 years for a drug benefit. This budget, as I have said, proposes \$400 billion over 10 years and is yet \$100 billion more than we had in the last budget resolution, which was for fiscal year 2002, and had \$300 billion for prescription drugs over the 10 years.

I say to people on the other side of the aisle that we had a lot of support in arguing for a \$300 billion budget figure for prescription drugs in that fiscal year 2002 budget. Many of my friends on the other side of the aisle spoke in favor of that proposal on the Senate floor. These Senators believed then that \$300 billion would provide a good drug benefit for seniors and be affordable for taxpayers. Now we are proposing \$400 billion for Medicare and for a drug benefit. This amount is certainly adequate for developing a good Medicare drug benefit for our Nation's seniors.

I urge my colleagues to support the \$400 billion in funding for Medicare and vote against amendments such as the Dorgan amendment to dramatically increase the cost of that drug benefit.

I ask those very same Senators on the other side of the aisle who may want to support their colleague that if they thought 2 years ago \$300 billion was a good figure and they helped us get that passed, then they would think that \$400 billion is adequate as we start down this road, a road that is going to lead us to the successful passage of a drug benefit program for seniors.

As for a comparable prescription drug benefit, one of the directions that the Dorgan amendment would give the Committee on Finance—a requirement that traditional Medicare and whatever enhancement of Medicare we develop for seniors which would give them the right to choose between more than one benefit plan would have comparable prescription drug benefits—I want my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to know I will work with other members of the Finance Committee to make sure Medicare beneficiaries in traditional Medicare have a good prescription drug benefit, as well as those who may choose to go to a new, enhanced plan.

This amendment wants to tie the hands of the members of the Senate Finance Committee. The budget bill is not the place to craft a Medicare prescription drug benefit. That is the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee. The committee will have its opportunity to function under my

chairmanship, at the direction of Senator FRIST, our majority leader, who said he did not want to make the mistake of last year when then-majority leader Senator DASCHLE brought the issue right to the floor, bypassing the committee.

We can in this body develop bipartisanship not on the floor of the Senate but in the committees of the Senate. That is no more true than in the Senate Finance Committee which has such a reputation for bipartisanship.

I urge my colleagues to defeat this amendment and let the Finance Committee do its work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time? Who yields to the Senator?

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, how much how much time is the Senator seeking?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. There will be, I say to the Senator from North Dakota, three Senators speaking on behalf of the amendment. Forty-five minutes would be an outside number.

Mr. CONRAD. How much time would the Senator from West Virginia like?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Eight, nine minutes.

Mr. CONRAD. I yield 10 minutes to the Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask, through the Chair, the Senator from Maine, it is my understanding she has permission from the manager of the bill to have the pending amendment set aside to offer this amendment.

Ms. COLLINS. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. I should think that is what should be done now. Does the Democratic manager agree with that?

Mr. CONRAD. That will be the appropriate action to take at this point, if the Senator from Maine will make that request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the Senator from West Virginia, on behalf of the Senator from Maine, the Senator from Oregon, the Senator from Nebraska, and several cosponsors, is sending an amendment to the desk to ask for its consideration. I ask that the pending amendment be set aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from West Virginia.

AMENDMENT NO. 275

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 275 which is already at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER], for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. SMITH, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CORZINE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. COLEMAN, proposes an amendment numbered 275.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate concerning State fiscal relief)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING STATE FISCAL RELIEF.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) States are experiencing the most severe fiscal crisis since World War II.

(2) States are instituting severe cuts to a variety of vital programs such as health care, child care, education, and other essential services.

(3) According to the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, 49 States already have taken actions or plan to cut Medicaid before or during the current fiscal year 2003. Medicaid budget proposals in many States would eliminate or curtail health benefits for eligible families and substantially reduce or freeze provider reimbursement rates.

(4) In 2002, at least 13 States reported decreased State investments in their child care assistance programs.

(5) According to a forthcoming analysis of 22 States, at least 1,700,000 people are now at risk of losing their health care coverage under cuts that have already been implemented or proposed.

(6) Fiscal relief would help avoid adding even more Americans to the ranks of the uninsured while preserving the safety net when it is most needed during an economic downturn.

(7) Curtailing the States' need to cut spending and increase taxes is essential for true economic growth.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the Sense of the Senate that the functional totals in this resolution assume that any legislation enacted to provide economic growth for the United States should include not less than \$30,000,000,000 for State fiscal relief over the next 18 months (of which at least half should be provided through a temporary increase in the Federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP)).

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be added as cosponsors. Cosponsors already are myself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. SMITH, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mrs. CLINTON. I ask unanimous consent to add Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CORZINE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DEWINE, and the distinguished Presiding Officer, Mr. COLEMAN, as cosponsors.

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

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I will not talk long, although this is an extraordinarily important subject particularly affecting the stimulus package and affecting a lot of people in all of our States.

The sense-of-the-Senate amendment which we put before the Senate now—and it is that, a sense of the Senate—we did the same thing this past July in the form of an amendment, and it re-

ceived some 75 votes. It was very bipartisan. But this is a sense of the Senate. It is not an amendment per se.

What we are wanting to do is to add no less than \$30 billion over the next 12 months for the State stimulus relief package that should be included in any stimulus package. In fact, I would argue it makes no sense to do this without including the amendment which will then find its way to the Finance Committee where we will work with it.

It is interesting, in fact, that there are many who say the primary problem for our economy at this particular point is not the impending war with Iraq, but is, in fact, the plight of our State governments and our Federal Government—the deficits and debt, in the case of the Federal Government, and the deficits, in the case of the States. We have to address the State budget shortfalls in order for any growth package to be at all meaningful. It is not as colorful and does not have as much pizzazz, but it affects incredible numbers of people.

States obviously have to balance their budgets. Senator NELSON from Nebraska will be speaking shortly. He was a Governor, as was I. Nearly every State, if not every State, faces deficits. They are likely to grow in the upcoming year. The deficits are now \$70 billion to \$85 billion projected for 2004. This is on top of the \$50 billion in deficits that the States already have for 2003.

This constitutes a real crisis for them. They cannot print money, and they cannot do what we can do in the Senate: simply go into deficit and go on. They have to take action to close the deficit. Herein is the problem that affects the stimulus package, States, and people.

They have to cut programs or they have to increase revenues—neither important—but one of the difficulties and responsibilities of being a Governor is that you have to make those decisions—either raise revenues, cut programs, or you do both, which is why Governors often are not terribly popular at the end of 8 years.

It is about \$1 out of every \$8 of expenditures in the budget that these deficits represent. So it is a very large amount of money. Some 38 States, three out of four States, either cut spending in 2002, are projecting to cut spending in 2003, or do both. That is, raise revenues and cut spending.

One cannot talk about stimulating the States' economies without talking about Medicaid. Medicaid and Medicare—Medicare which we have just been discussing—between those two programs, which are both located in the same Government agency, it is a substantially greater amount of money than resides in the Department of Defense. People have to understand this, it is an enormous amount of money in Medicaid and Medicare.

Families USA, which is well respected, recently did a study on the

economic impact of Medicaid. I am not talking yet about people. This is the economic impact of Medicaid. One of their key findings was that in the year 2001, which was the last year their research could cover, States spent almost \$98 billion on Medicaid. But that was not the whole point. The point was that the Medicaid amount that they spent generated a threefold increase in the economic impact on the 50 States to the tune of \$279 billion.

I submit that is called fiscal stimulus of a large magnitude, because it gets into goods and services, increased business activities, and I do not think I have to go on. I am very happy to say that West Virginia was among the 10 States with the highest rate of return for every dollar spent on Medicaid. So for the State that this Senator represents, it was very meaningful.

This amendment specifies that no less than one-half of the amount; that is, \$30 billion, allotted for State fiscal relief must be devoted to a temporary increase in the Federal medical assistance percentage, or FMAP. That is what we voted on in July of last year. That is what passed 75 to 24—tremendously bipartisan.

This is a similar structure to the legislation that Senator COLLINS, Senator NELSON of Nebraska, and I introduced recently involving \$20 billion. It was a temporary increase in the Federal Medicaid matching rate, as well as increasing funding for the Social Security block grant.

As I indicated, the legislation is very bipartisan. It puts money into Medicaid, but it also puts money into the Social Security block grant, which, quite frankly, is very good because in the Finance Committee we have been discussing welfare reform. We all know there is a shortage of childcare. Governors have the discretion to take that money and spend it on local projects or on childcare or however they might wish. Obviously, there are restrictions.

This is strongly supported by providers and by—well, I will not go into that, but it is strongly supported. It did get 75 votes, and the National Governors Association wants this more than anything else the Congress can provide, with the exception of homeland security. This will then go on to the Finance Committee.

The stimulus that Medicaid provides to the States—aside from the stimulus, there are now 1,700,000 people who will lose their Medicaid if we do nothing about this problem, if we do not increase FMAP, the Medicaid match matter. There is nothing they can do about it. They will simply have to cut more people. I say to my colleagues, they should know that States have already cut a million people off of Medicaid.

Up until this point, if we do nothing they will then cut an additional 1.7 million people off Medicaid. When one does that, one understands that there are about 47 million people on Medicaid in this country and they are people

who are vulnerable. It is the second largest item in most States' budgets. It is always, therefore, a target for cuts. It cannot be otherwise, and Governors have to do that.

What I need to say more than anything, and more poignantly hopefully, is that Medicaid is an extraordinary safety net which was set up years ago for our most vulnerable Americans, which includes not only our low-income children and working families but also our disabled and our elderly.

This strikes me as an extraordinarily reasonable amendment. Some may argue that the Federal Government is already spending too much on Medicaid and the States need to do a better job, and I would come back vociferously and say that the States are doing a superb job. In fact, they have done as well or better than the private sector on this matter indeed, as Medicare only spends 2 to 3 percent for overhead costs in the administration of the program, in spite of all the fraud and abuse charges that are thrown at it.

Costs are rising in Medicaid because of prescription drugs and long-term care costs. Those are the two fastest growing items in health care. They both reside in Medicaid at this point. Medicaid has prescription drugs. Medicare does not. And so people seek it out.

In conclusion, this is a sense-of-the-Senate amendment. No less than \$30 billion of State fiscal relief should be included in anything which we call a fiscal stimulus or an economic growth package. This is the most important action we could take, and I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield whatever time she may consume to the distinguished Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from West Virginia for his comments. It has been such a pleasure to work with him. He is an eloquent and compassionate advocate for health care for low-income families. I am delighted to be his partner in this regard.

I also acknowledge the hard work of Mr. NELSON, the Senator from Nebraska, and Senator GORDON SMITH of Oregon. The four of us have worked very hard on this initiative for over a year. We are also delighted to have the Presiding Officer's critical support in this initiative.

States from Maine to Nebraska, from West Virginia to Oregon, are facing the most serious budget shortfalls in 50 years. The bipartisan amendment that we are offering tonight takes the first step toward providing States with a measure of much needed fiscal relief.

Regardless of the size of the tax cut, we believe it is imperative that the economic growth package include a significant amount for State fiscal relief. Therefore, our amendment expresses the sense of the Senate that at least \$30 billion of the economic growth

package be targeted to State fiscal relief over the next 18 months to help our States cope with an aggregate budget shortfall that is nearly four times that size.

This bipartisan amendment has been drafted in a way that is both budget and deficit neutral, and I stress that for the information of my colleagues. It neither increases nor decreases the amount provided for reconciliation in the budget resolution. Therefore, our amendment does not add to the deficit. It does not change the spending caps that are included in this resolution.

The attacks of September 11 on our Nation, coupled with the subsequent recession and resulting unemployment, have placed tremendous and unanticipated strains on Government services and resources. At the same time, the States, which are after all our partners in providing health care, education, and other essential services, are facing a dramatic and unexpected decline in Government revenues at precisely the time when the demand for Government services is the greatest because of the lagging economy.

State budgets are under siege. The combination of increasing demands for services and resources, coupled with the dramatic drop in revenues, is causing a fiscal crisis for States from coast to coast.

The State of Maine, for example, faces a budget shortfall over the next 2 years of approximately \$1.2 billion. Let me put that in perspective. The entire budget for Maine is only \$5.3 billion, which means it faces a shortfall of more than 20 percent. To put the plight of Maine into perspective, I point out if the Federal Government were facing a 20-percent shortfall, it would have to close a \$440 billion budget gap, and it would have to do so under its Constitution without borrowing a single dime. That is the dilemma facing our States.

The States have to balance their budgets. They cannot print more money. They cannot borrow more money. They have to balance their budgets. States have been using rainy day funds, delaying capital projects, cutting spending, increasing taxes. They are doing whatever they can to balance their budgets.

According to a February report by the National Conference on State Legislatures, States have been forced to cut a number of critical programs, ranging from education to corrections. Mr. President, 29 States have imposed across-the-board budget cuts, and at least 24 States are considering tax increases to help close those budget gaps.

Moreover, at a time when the number of people without health insurance is climbing, 49 States have either already taken action to cut their Medicaid Program, or are planning to do so. Medicaid provides medical care for 44 million low-income people nationwide, including 218,000 individuals in my home State. States are cutting benefits, increasing copays, restricting eligibility, or removing poor families from the

rolls because of soaring costs and plunging revenues. As a consequence, the National Governors Association estimates as many as 2 million low-income individuals across this country will lose their health care coverage as a result of the loss of Medicaid coverage.

Let me be clear, I am not saying Congress should bail out the States. I am not saying States should not have to make hard choices. I am not saying States should not cut their budgets, that they should not balance their budgets. The States do need to tighten their belts during these austere fiscal times, but the nature and the severity of the fiscal crisis facing our States has convinced me we simply must help. The consequences are too dire, otherwise, and too many very low-income individuals will suffer if we do not step in and help.

That is why I joined in this effort to provide for a temporary increase in the February Medicaid matching rate as well as some flexible funds that go to every State. Specifically, our amendment, which has strong bipartisan support, provides \$30 billion to the States, at least half of which would have to be provided through a temporary increase in the Medicaid matching rate.

Our amendment is strongly supported by a host of health care patient and consumer advocacy groups, including the American Hospital Association, the American Health Care Association, the Visiting Nurses Associations of America, the American Dental Association, Families USA, the Child Welfare League of America, the Alzheimer's Association, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the Children's Defense Fund, the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, and many other critically important organizations.

The support our proposal has received underscores how important it is we act now to provide assistance to the States at a time when many are looking toward further cuts in their health care programs to help balance their budgets.

We have focused particularly on Medicaid because of our concern about the impact on low-income families in America. But there is another reason it makes sense to target this assistance to the Medicaid Program; that is, Medicaid is the fastest growing component of State budgets.

While State revenues are stagnant or declining in most States, Medicaid costs are increasing at a rate of more than 13 percent a year. My home State of Maine is one of many States that has been forced to consider cuts in its Medicaid Program to compensate for its budget shortfalls.

Legislation enacted as a consequence of our amendment, I stress again, will not free States from making very painful and difficult choices in crafting their budgets for the year. But it will help prevent the most harmful cuts, those that would affect the families who can least afford them, those who

are already under strain as we see the number of uninsured continue to climb to 41 million Americans without insurance.

To Maine, our amendment could mean as much as \$190 million over the next 18 months for health care and social services that would help our most needy citizens. In other words, this is about helping those who are most vulnerable in our society. In addition, our proposal makes sound economic sense. Putting money into the hands of the States is a good way to stimulate economic growth.

After all, if we cut taxes in Washington only to have taxes increased in State capitals across this country, we will wipe out the good that we do by cutting taxes. We know if we get money into the hands of the States, they will put it directly into the economy, and that is just the kind of stimulus our economy needs.

Congress is most effective when it stands arm in arm, not toe to toe, with our partners, the States. Our States face a crisis of vast and still-expanding dimensions. We need to help. This amendment is a critical step forward in doing just that. I hope we will have another very strong bipartisan vote for our proposal so that we can ensure any fiscal relief is included in any economic growth package that we consider later this year.

I am happy to yield to my colleague from West Virginia.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I ask the Senator from Maine, in the summary before the vote tomorrow, opponents will no doubt ask what is our source of funding. That is a fair question to ask, and it has a very easy answer, in this case in a sense-of-the-Senate amendment.

Would the Senator from Maine be willing to clear up for our colleagues how we will pay for this?

Ms. COLLINS. The Senator from West Virginia raises an excellent question. Again, I stress that what our direction to the Finance Committee would say, when you report an economic growth package, fiscal relief up to at least \$30 billion should be part of that package.

So our sense-of-the-Senate amendment does not increase the deficit. It does not increase the overall spending in this resolution. It does not increase the budget caps that are in this resolution. All it says is, when an economic growth package is reported by the Finance Committee, it should include the \$30 billion in State fiscal relief.

So this proposal is budget neutral and it is deficit neutral. It does not have the impact that might cause some people otherwise to oppose it.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I thank the Senator and ask if she would further yield?

Ms. COLLINS. I am happy to yield to my friend.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. It would be natural, in the nature of this body, for people to come and say—the Senator

referred to this in her remarks—you are talking about making available \$30 billion to the States; we have enough problems of our own at the Federal Government level. I pointed out in my remarks the recession we are in right now is more a matter, not of war that we are in, but the State situation and the Federal Government situation.

So people would say just let the States go ahead and pay for this. If they have to make cuts, they have to make cuts. It is their fault they are in this kind of situation.

I was wondering how the Senator would reply to that.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would respond to that concern in two ways. First of all, the dramatic decline in revenues is not the fault of State governments. It is a product of the lagging economy we are in, and the lingering effects of the attacks on our Nation of September 11. The States have been prudent, have taken appropriate steps, but when you have 49 States, every single State but Wyoming, struggling to close budget gaps, it is clear it is not the result of profligate spending by one or two particular States but, rather, reflects our declining economy or our lagging economy.

What we have here is a confluence of the impact of September 11 and a recession with declining revenues that have caused these budget gaps in 49 States.

A second point is, despite our best efforts, the States are still going to have to make some very painful and difficult choices. In the State of Maine, we are facing a budget gap of over \$1 billion. Under our proposal, Maine would get a much welcomed \$190 million. There is still a long ways to go.

Our proposal will certainly help the States avoid some of the most harmful cuts, particularly in health care, which is our greatest concern, but it certainly does not mean States are let off the hook in any way.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. If the Senator will further yield, she leads directly to the question I wanted to ask her. That is, that there are many who have not worked in the bowels of State government, so to speak, who think Medicaid is sort of a gift from the Federal Government to the States. They do not understand that there is a very complex formula wherein all the States have to contribute, the formula is based upon their prosperity, and things of that sort.

So the concept that this is somehow the Federal Government turning over money to the States and there is no cost to them doesn't make any sense, does it?

Ms. COLLINS. The Senator is absolutely correct. Medicaid is a partnership between the Federal Government and our partners, the States, to provide health care to low-income families, the very poor individuals, to those who need it most. Medicaid is the fastest growing component in State budgets. So States certainly are contributing to this program. It has been a successful

partnership. We are suggesting a temporary increase over the next 18 months. I hope we will grant that.

I have several letters which I am going to have printed in the RECORD, which talk about protecting the States' ability to provide and deliver this health care, and points out, again, that these are health care services to the most vulnerable Americans we serve.

I ask unanimous consent that a letter from the National Association for Home Care and Hospice be printed in the RECORD.

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

HEMOCARE & HOSPICE,
January 22, 2003.

Hon. BOB GRAHAM,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR GRAHAM: On behalf of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC), the nation's largest association representing home care and hospice providers, caregivers and the patients they serve, I am writing to commend you on the introduction of S. 138, the "State Budget Relief Act of 2003."

As you are well aware, the current economic downturn has resulted in drastically lower state tax revenues. Moreover, the number of uninsured continues to grow as more and more people are forced from the labor market. This has resulted in states being forced to cut their Medicaid budgets at the exact time that there is a growing need for services.

Your legislation, by temporarily increasing the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) as a way to direct additional federal funding to state Medicaid programs, will protect states' health care delivery systems and ensure the continuation of health services for the most vulnerable of our population. Without this assistance, many communities will find themselves with providers that are understaffed, have crumbling infrastructures, lack current medical technology, or have reduced or eliminated certain services.

NAHC believes that home health and hospice services remain one of the remedies to the widespread concern over growing health care costs. In recent years, state Medicaid programs have increased their utilization of home and community-based long-term care services in lieu of institutional care through the use of waivers. In fact, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently reported that Medicaid spending growth levels for home care services more than doubled between 2000 and 2001—from 8.6 percent to 17.3 percent. Some of this trend reflects the growing desire to implement the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision to provide disabled individuals care in the least restrictive setting possible and the Administration's goals as set forth in its "New Freedom Initiative." This desirable trend is at risk of falling victim to the widespread cuts to the Medicaid program that states are being forced to implement due to budget shortfalls.

Once again, thank you for your leadership on this issue. Let me know if there is anything my staff or I can do to ensure the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,
VAL J. HALAMANDARIS,
President.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I thank the Senator from Maine.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today in support of this sense of the Senate amendment to provide funding for State fiscal relief.

States are suffering their worst fiscal crisis in over half a century.

Forty one million Americans live, work, and go to school without health insurance, and that number grows every single day.

I have been a strong supporter of State fiscal relief since the economy began to slow several years ago. Since then, the situation has only gotten worse. This is the third consecutive year of nationwide budget problems for the States.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 49 States and the District of Columbia have taken Medicaid cost-containment action this fiscal year; additional cuts are expected next year as States struggle to fill budget shortfalls of billions of dollars.

States are reducing or freezing provider payments, establishing or strengthening prescription drug cost controls, reducing benefits, increasing co-payments for Medicaid beneficiaries, and most significantly, States are increasing restrictions on eligibility for Medicaid.

What does this mean? Let me be clear: it means that the number of uninsured Americans will continue to grow.

According to the CDC, Medicaid and SCHIP provided coverage for 2 million children and 1 million adults who lost their health coverage last year. In addition to those who did qualify for these programs, many more did not; they joined the ranks of the uninsured. In 2001, 1.4 million people became uninsured, and this number is likely to be even higher for 2002 and 2003.

While we need to strengthen our economy in the long run, it is imperative that we address the immediate economic problems, particularly the state fiscal crisis. State fiscal relief is one of the most effective policies the Congress could and should enact as part of the economic stimulus/growth package.

There is no question that States will spend any additional Federal funds they receive quickly, putting money directly into the economy rather than curtailing economic activity. As many economists have noted, we need to increase demand in the economy—but State budget actions to balance their budgets right now are reducing demand significantly.

This is precisely the wrong medicine at the wrong time for our economy.

Last year, 75 Senators voted to provide State fiscal relief by boosting FMAP payments to States, but in the end, the legislation was not signed into law and State fiscal relief—needed now more than last year—has still not been delivered.

The magnitude of the State fiscal crisis is growing steadily worse. Oregon alone is facing a budget deficit of at least \$1 billion in the upcoming fiscal

year. Already, one in four Medicaid recipients in Oregon is experiencing service cuts, and more reductions are on the way. Districts in my State have the shortest school year of any schools in the country. Some teachers in my State have even agreed to work for free in order to keep the schools open! And things are so bad for Oregon schools that recently the Doonesbury comic strip dedicated a whole week of comics to the sad state of Oregon school funding.

This proposal would bring almost \$331 million to Oregon over the next 18 months, which would go a long way to maintain the fragile health care safety net for vulnerable Oregonians. Bipartisan support for our FMAP proposal has grown steadily. It is supported by groups representing the States, the elderly, the disabled, children, and Oregon's governor Kulongoski, among many, many others. It has support because it is a sound proposal. It provides temporary assistance to States in a very timely and efficient manner.

Several weeks ago, I was in Oregon for a series of town hall meetings with my colleague Ron Wyden. At every stop, we spoke to people who were being affected by the first round of budget cuts. I can tell you, as we listened to these good people tell their stories, there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

The pain is real. We have to do something and we have to do it now, and I urge my colleagues to support this fiscal relief amendment to the budget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time? Does the Senator from West Virginia yield time?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. How much time, might I ask the Senator, does he require?

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I estimate 5 minutes.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. The Senator is welcome to that.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, it is a pleasure to join with my colleague from the State of Maine. We have been working for a long time to bring about help for the States in the area of Medicaid and in the area of welfare reform and social services.

Our amendment makes it clear that the Senate recognizes the partnership between the Federal Government and the States, and is committed to helping the States see their way out of their dire budget situation.

How bad is this budget shortfall? The States are currently experiencing the worst fiscal crisis since World War II. States have accumulated \$26 billion in deficits this year on top of \$50 billion in deficits from last year. Even greater gaps, reaching upwards of \$70 to \$85 billion in deficits, are projected for the next fiscal year. It is, in fact, a crisis.

But the budget crisis is more than just numbers and dollars. This is about real people. And the people of our States have been hit hard by the tough economic times. Nearly every State is required to have a balanced budget,

even during a recession. The rainy day funds have run dry and funding for programs as critical as Medicaid have been cut to the bone. The only option left for many States is to cut critical programs even further or raise taxes.

Just last year, Nebraska reduced the number of low-income working families that were eligible for assistance with childcare. More than 2,000 Nebraska families have lost childcare assistance as a result of this change. Those hardest hit are families that have managed to stay off welfare for more than 2 years. These families who have slowly but steadily made progress to self-sufficiency may soon find themselves struggling to pay their childcare bills and returning to the welfare rolls. Childcare assistance is integral to any effort to move families from welfare to work and to keeping low-income parents employed. State fiscal relief will protect the progress we have made in welfare reform over the past decade from being undone.

Many of the other cuts are being considered in the areas of education, health care, social services, and corrections.

My office recently received a call from Sharon Walters of Omaha, NE. The message she relayed is a good illustration of how these proposed cuts are affecting real people. She wanted to make sure I know the importance of my efforts to provide State fiscal relief. She represents Bethphage, an organization that provides community-based services for people with disabilities. She was worried because much of their funding comes from Medicaid. Because of so many proposed cuts to the Medicaid program, Bethphage and other programs like theirs, may soon be forced to limit the good work they do if State budgets do not see some relief soon.

State fiscal relief is not only needed to protect education, health care, Medicaid and other social service programs, it is needed to stimulate our economy.

In discussing various jobs and growth proposals with my colleagues this year, I have repeatedly asked them to "Show me the Stimulus" and demonstrate how proposed tax cuts or spending will get our economy back on track.

Although economists differ on the stimulative effect of the varying tax cut proposals, I think there is little question that providing States with fiscal relief would be a boost to the economy. In fact, State fiscal relief may provide more "bang for the buck" than many of the other stimulus proposals being discussed. According to a recent study done by Mark Zandi at economy.com every dollar spent in State fiscal relief will create \$1.24 in demand the following year.

At a time when we are trying to get the economy back on track, it would be irresponsible for the Senate to turn its back on this nationwide crisis and do nothing.

It doesn't make much sense to cut taxes in Washington while States are

forced to raise them in Lincoln, Des Moines, Topeka, Pierre, Saint Paul, or wherever and other State capitals throughout the United States. State fiscal relief is a commonsense approach to getting our economy back on track. As well, it is the right thing to do. Not only will State fiscal relief shield the people of our States from some of the tough economic times, to some extent, it will also stimulate our economy and return individuals and States alike to financial security.

Again, I thank my colleagues—Senators COLLINS and ROCKEFELLER—for their work on this important effort and urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I thank my colleagues and thank the Presiding Officer for this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator CONRAD, I yield to the distinguished Senator from Maryland 20 minutes.

Mr. SARBANES. At most.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I intend to speak to an amendment which will be offered tomorrow. I take this approach because I am joined in sponsoring this amendment by Senator JEFFORDS, Senator MIKULSKI, and Senator BOB GRAHAM of Florida. And they will, presumably, be able to address the amendment as well on that occasion.

The amendment that we will offer will boost Federal funding for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds from the level that is recommended in the budget resolution, which is \$2.2 billion, to \$5.2 billion; \$3.2 billion of this for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$2 billion for the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Regrettably, the President's budget for fiscal 2004 and the budget resolution severely shortchange the funds needed by State and local governments to upgrade their aging wastewater and drinking water infrastructure.

The President's budget provides only \$1.7 billion for both State Revolving Funds, equally split. The budget resolution recommends a somewhat higher figure, a little over \$2 billion for both funds, but that is still far short of what is needed.

Despite progress over the last three decades, EPA reports that more than 40 percent of our Nation's lakes, rivers, and streams are still too impaired for fishing or swimming. Discharges from aging and failing sewage systems, urban storm water, and other sources continue to pose serious threats to our Nation's waters, endangering public health and both the fishing and recreational industries.

Of course, as we all realize, population growth and development are placing additional stress on the Na-

tion's water infrastructure and our ability to make sustainable gains in water quality.

Across the Nation, our wastewater and drinking water systems are aging. And, in some cases, systems currently in use were built more than a century ago and have outlived their useful life.

For many communities, current treatment is not sufficient to meet water quality goals. Recent EPA modeling indicates that municipal wastewater treatment facilities in my own State will have to reduce nitrogen discharges by nearly 75 percent to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries to health.

In April of 2000, the Water Infrastructure Network, a broad coalition of locally elected officials, drinking water and wastewater service providers, State environmental and health administrators, engineers, and environmentalists released a report, "Clean and Safe Water for the 21st Century." This report documented a \$23 billion a year shortfall in funding needed to meet national environmental and public health priorities in the Clean Water Act and in the Safe Drinking Water Act. And all of the studies have substantiated this gap. For example, in May of 2002—less than a year ago—the Congressional Budget Office released a report showing very large gaps for clean water needs and drinking water needs over the next 20 years.

The need for additional investment in wastewater and drinking water infrastructure is clearly documented. But States, localities, and private sources cannot meet the funding gap alone. Local communities already pay almost 90 percent of the total cost, or about \$60 billion a year, to build, operate, and maintain their drinking water and wastewater systems.

But as Administrator Whitman recently pointed out:

The magnitude of the challenge America faces is clearly beyond the ability of any one entity to address.

States are currently facing the worst fiscal crisis in 50 years and cannot afford to make new investments in clean water and drinking water infrastructure.

Clearly, water pollution is an interstate problem that requires, in part, a Federal response. In our own case, in Maryland, water flows into the Chesapeake Bay from six States. Other States need to make investments as well in order to clean up the watershed. It is vital that the Federal Government maintain a strong partnership with States and local governments in order to address this major environmental challenge.

The increases provided for in this amendment are the first step necessary to deal with this pressing problem. It represents an investment in the health of Americans and a clean environment, and is, I believe, an investment that will pay substantial dividends.

Wastewater treatment plants not only prevent billions of tons of pollut-

ants from reaching our rivers, lakes, streams, and coasts, they also help prevent waterborne diseases and make waters safe for swimming and fishing. In fact, the Water Infrastructure Network says that clean water supports \$50 billion a year in the water-based recreation industry, at least \$300 billion a year in coastal tourism, \$45 billion annually in commercial fishing and shellfishing, and hundreds of billions of dollars a year in basic manufacturing that relies on clean water.

According to the Water Infrastructure Network, clean rivers, lakes, and coastlines attract investment in local communities and increase land values on or near the water, and that, in turn, creates jobs, adds to the tax base, and improves revenues for local, State, and Federal governments. Some 54,000 community drinking-water systems provide drinking water to more than 250 million Americans. By keeping water supplies free of contaminants that cause disease, these water systems reduce sickness and related health care costs. They reduce absenteeism in the workforce. And they, obviously, add to our quality of life.

Investment in the infrastructure we are talking about here—sewer and water improvements—would also create substantial numbers of jobs through construction. It would provide an impetus to our economy at a time when it needs an impetus.

There is strong support for increased investment in infrastructure. Colleagues on both sides of the aisle have taken a lead on this issue over the years.

The case for the amendment is compelling. Maintaining clean, safe water remains one of our leading national challenges. This budget resolution should not and need not come at the expense of human health or a clean environment. I strongly urge my colleagues, when the amendment is presented, to support it and to begin to address this large funding gap that looms into the future with respect to this very important aspect of our domestic agenda. This is both good environmental policy and good economic policy. Support for this amendment will offer an opportunity to continue to make progress on clean water and safe drinking water. I commend the amendment to my colleagues when it is brought before them at the appropriate time.

Mr. President, I have a number of letters from organizations in support of the amendment. I ask unanimous consent to print them in the RECORD.

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

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES,
Washington, DC, March 19, 2003.
Subject: Support for the Jeffords/Sarbanes/
Mikulski/Graham SFR amendment.

DEAR SENATOR: The National Association of Counties (NACO) supports the Jeffords/Sarbanes/Mikulski/Graham amendment to boost funding for the Clean Water and Safe

Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) from the Fiscal 2003 enacted level of \$2.19 billion to \$5.2 billion.

Despite progress over the past 30 years, the Environmental Protection Agency reports that more than 40 percent of our nation's lakes, rivers, and streams are still too impaired to be utilized for their intended use. And, discharges from aging and failing sewage systems, urban storm water and other sources continue to pose serious threats to our nation's waters. Population growth and development only place more stress on the nation's water infrastructure and its ability to maintain current standards.

On September 30, 2002, the EPA released a Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Gap Analysis. This report discovered a \$535 billion gap between current spending and projected water and wastewater infrastructure needs over the next 20 years if additional investments are not made.

It is vital that the Federal government work with the state and local governments to prevent this massive projected funding gap and share the burden of maintaining and improving the nation's water infrastructure. An increase in funding for the Clean Water SRF to \$2 billion in fiscal year 2004 is the first step necessary to meet these funding requirements.

Additionally, each billion dollars invested in water infrastructure creates an estimated 40,000 jobs. So this amendment is both pro-environmental policy and pro-economic policy. Thank you for offering this timely and important amendment.

Sincerely,

LARRY NAAKE,
Executive Director.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES,
Washington, DC, March 19, 2003.

Hon. PAUL SARBANES,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: On behalf of the National League of Cities and the 18,000 cities and towns across the nation we represent, we would like to express our support for your efforts, along with those of Senators Mikulski, Graham and Jeffords, to increase funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

As you know, our cities and towns are facing a \$23 billion funding gap annually to repair and replace aging infrastructure for these critical, but unseen, services, despite annual local expenditures of more than \$60 billion for wastewater and drinking water. We also agree that investments in our water and wastewater infrastructure can serve as a job creation component of an economic stimulus initiative.

We applaud and appreciate your efforts and offer any assistance we can to help you attain your objective.

Sincerely,

DON BORUT,
Executive Director.

ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN WATER AGENCIES,
Washington, DC, March 19, 2003.

Hon. PAUL S. SARBANES,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: On behalf of the nation's largest public water suppliers, thank you for your efforts to increase funding for the drinking water and clean water state revolving funds (SRFs) to \$5.2 billion in fiscal year 2004. If this increase is appropriated, the benefits will be safer water sup-

plies, cleaner rivers and streams, and a stronger economy.

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies represents the nation's largest publicly owned drinking water providers. ANWA's members serve safe drinking water to more than 110 million Americans.

Sources including the Water Infrastructure Network, EPA, GAO and the CBO confirm that water systems face multi-billion-dollar gaps in funding, as water facilities, particularly underground distribution systems, reach the end of their useful lives. According to WIN, the gap between what utilities currently invest and what they will need to invest over the next 20 years is \$23 billion per year. Water systems themselves pay the majority of infrastructure costs, but federal help is needed, especially for metropolitan systems.

Twenty-one States provided no assistance to systems serving 100,000 or more people between 1996-2002. Thirteen more States provided assistance to only one or two of these systems. Only a substantial boost in funding will provide the opportunity to better help our nation's largest public water systems.

Thank you for supporting drinking water and wastewater infrastructure funding.

Sincerely,

DIANE VANDE HEI,
Executive Director.

WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION,
March 19, 2003.

Hon. PAUL SARBANES (D-MD),
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: It is our understanding that you and other Senators plan to offer an amendment during consideration of the FY 2004 Budget Resolution that would substantially increase funds available for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water state revolving funds (SRFs). The Water Environment Federation, an organization whose members are directly involved in the implementation of clean water programs, strongly supports this amendment.

The need for increased investment in water infrastructure is well documented. In September 2002, the Environmental Protection Agency released a Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Infrastructure Gap Analysis which found that there will be a \$535 billion gap between current spending and projected needs for water and wastewater infrastructure over the next 20 years if additional investments are not made. In May 2002, the Congressional Budget Office released a report that estimated a spending gap for drinking water between \$132 billion and \$388 billion over 20 years and the spending gap for drinking water needs at between \$70 billion and \$362 billion over 20 years.

WEF, founded in 1928, is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization with members from varied disciplines who work toward the WEF vision of preservation and enhancement of the global water environment. The WEF network includes more than 100,000 water quality professionals from 79 Member Associations in 32 countries.

Sincerely,

TIM WILLIAMS,
Managing Director,
Government and Public Affairs.

ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE AGENCIES,
Washington, DC, March 19, 2003.

Hon. PAUL SARBANES,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JIM JEFFORDS,
U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BARBARA MIKULSKI,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BOB GRAHAM,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: On behalf of the nearly 300 publicly owned wastewater treatment agency members who provide treatment to a majority of Americans, the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA) offers its support for your amendment to the Fiscal 2004 Budget Resolution. Your amendment would boost funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) from its current funding level of \$1.35 billion to \$3.5 billion in fiscal year 2004, an increase which AMSA believes would mark an important first step toward developing a long-term, sustainable solution for the wastewater infrastructure funding gap.

As your March 14 Dear Colleague letter aptly states, "It is vital that the Federal government maintain a strong partnership with states and local governments in averting this massive projected funding gap and share in the burden of maintaining and improving the nation's water infrastructure." Your amendment demonstrates that water quality remains a high priority for the 108th Congress and helps bring the significant goal of overcoming the clean water funding gap within reach.

AMSA's overarching goal is to ensure America's clean water progress. Once again, we thank you for your support of the nation's publicly owned treatment works and for your help in meeting this critical national objective. AMSA looks forward to working with you on a long-term, sustainable funding solution for the nation's core wastewater infrastructure. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202/833-2672.

Sincerely,

KEN KIRK,
Executive Director.

ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES
Washington, DC, March 19, 2003.

Hon. PAUL SARBANES,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JIM JEFFORDS,
U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BARBARA MIKULSKI,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BOB GRAHAM,
U.S. Senate Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) strongly supports your proposed amendment to the fiscal year 2004 Budget Resolution to increase funding for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs).

Throughout the United States, these programs provide indispensable resources to rural areas and municipalities alike for projects that enable compliance with drinking water standards, protection of waterways, sanitation, environmental preservation and more. The SRFs are the backbone of our water infrastructure, and with increasingly severe demands on water supplies, the Funds

will become more important in the years ahead.

Last year the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency acknowledged a multi-billion dollar need for reinvestment in our water infrastructure, and this "funding gap" is the ongoing subject of bipartisan legislation.

ACWA represents 440 public water agencies in California collectively responsible for more than 90 percent of the water delivered for residential and agricultural use.

Thank you for your efforts to increase funding for water infrastructure in the 2004 budget, and we look forward to working with you to advance this worthwhile goal.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. REYNOLDS,
Director of Federal Relations.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
CIVIL ENGINEERS,
Washington, DC, March 19, 2003.

Hon. PAUL SARBANES,
*Hart Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: I am writing on behalf of the 130,000 members of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to support passage of your amendment to increase funding for the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) programs for fiscal year 2004.

Two years ago ASCE released its 2001 Report Card for America's Infrastructure. At that time, we found that the nation's aging wastewater and drinking-water systems received an overall grade of D. These systems are quintessential examples of aged systems that need to be updated. For example, some sewer systems are 100 years old. Many older drinking-water systems are structurally obsolete.

The annual funding shortfall of \$11 billion for drinking-water and \$12 billion for wastewater only accounts for improvements to the current system and do not even take into consideration the demands of a growing population.

The amendment that you propose would help make an important down payment on the necessary investment in our long-neglected water systems.

If ASCE can be of any assistance in this important endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Pallasch at 202-326-5140 or Michael Charles at 202-326-5126.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS L. JACKSON, P.E.,
President.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA,
McLean, VA, March 19, 2003.

Hon. JAMES M. JEFFORDS,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. PAUL S. SARBANES,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. BOB GRAHAM,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATORS JEFFORDS, MIKULSKI, SARBANES, AND GRAHAM: I am writing on behalf of the more than 2,000 members of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) to express our strong support for the proposed amendment you plan to offer today during consideration of the FY 2004 Budget Resolution, which would increase funding for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) from the Fiscal 2003 enacted level of \$2.2 billion to \$5.2 billion.

CMAA is an industry association of firms and professionals who provide program and construction management services to owners in the planning, design and construction of capital projects of all types. CMAA's mission is to "promote professionalism and excellence in the management of the construction process."

As you are well aware, America's water infrastructure systems are aging, deteriorating and demanding attention. Reports show that municipal sewer systems overflow some 40,000 times annually. In addition, approximately 42 million Americans are served by old sewer systems that don't even separate storm water from waste. The need for improvement is clear, and growing.

According to a 2001 report published by The Water Infrastructure Network (WIN), of which CMAA is a member, wastewater systems faced a daunting capital investment shortfall of approximately \$12 billion each year over the next two decades. A similar report by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) concluded in 2002 that "costs to construct, operate, and maintain the nation's water infrastructure can be expected to rise significantly in the future." The CBO conservatively estimated that the needs would be \$13 billion annually for wastewater systems over the next 20 years.

An increase in funding for the Clean Water SRF to \$3.2 billion and for the Safe Drinking Water SRF to \$2 billion in fiscal year 2004, as proposed in your amendment, would help address this massive water infrastructure funding gap.

Once again, CMAA offers its strongest support for this important amendment and commends you for your leadership in helping to address our nation's water infrastructure funding gap. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Aronson, our Director of Government Affairs, at 703/216-3248.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

Sincerely,

BRUCE D'AGOSTINO,
Executive Director.

THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL
CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA,
Alexandria, VA, March 18, 2003.

Hon. PAUL SARBANES,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: As you consider the Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Resolution, the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) urges you to support the Jeffords-SARBANES-MIKULSKI-Graham amendment to boost funding for the Clean and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. The amendment would increase funding from the Fiscal Year 2003 enacted level of \$2.19 billion to \$5.2 billion.

AGC is proud of the role the construction industry has played in improving water quality. However, the needs facing our nation's wastewater and drinking water systems are tremendous. The EPA reports that more than 40 percent of our nation's lakes, rivers, and streams are still too impaired for fishing or swimming. Discharges from aging and failing sewage systems, urban storm water and other sources continue to pose serious threats to our nation's waters, endangering not only public health, but also fishing and recreation industries. Population growth and development have placed additional stress on the nation's water infrastructure and its ability to sustain the water quality gains realized since the inception of the Clean Water Act. Today, maintaining clean, safe water remains one of our greatest national and global challenges.

In May 2002, the Congressional Budget Office released a report that estimated the

spending gap for clean water needs between \$132 billion and \$388 billion over 20 years and the spending gap for drinking water needs at between \$70 billion and \$362 billion over 20 years. In September 2002, the EPA released the Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Gap Analysis which found that there will be a \$535 billion gap between current spending and projected needs for water and wastewater infrastructure (combined) over the next 20 years if additional investments are not made. When the analysis was released Administrator Whitman pointed out, "...the magnitude of the challenge America faces is clearly beyond the ability of any one entity to address."

The funding included in this amendment will improve our water systems, the environment, and also create tens of thousands of jobs. Please support the Jeffords-SARBANES-MIKULSKI-Graham amendment.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN E. SANDHERR,
Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. NICKLES. Will the Senator yield for a brief question?

Mr. SARBANES. I am happy to yield.

Mr. NICKLES. I missed the opening part of his comments. Can the Senator tell me how much money is involved and over what period of time?

Mr. SARBANES. The amendment has another \$3 billion for these purposes, both for the Clean Water and the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. These are the moneys that go into the State Revolving Funds. Then, of course, they have to be matched by the States and often the localities. So the amount of money is leveraged significantly beyond what the Federal contribution would be.

Mr. NICKLES. So there would be a total of \$3 billion over the 10-year period of time.

Mr. SARBANES. Another \$3 billion, that is right.

Mr. NICKLES. I thank my friend. Am I correct it would be offset, reducing the tax reductions that are in the proposal?

Mr. SARBANES. The bill has room in it for \$726 billion worth of tax cuts. Obviously, this raises the question of priorities. Is it more important to give these particular tax cuts, which, of course, I believe strongly are heavily weighted towards the wealthy, as opposed to making some investment in programs of this sort? We have to connect the two. I am willing to look at doing reasonable tax cuts, but I think what is in the resolution, as the chairman knows from my statements in committee, is far too excessive. If it were up to me, I would reduce that amount. I would use a limited portion of it to fund some of these priority programs. I would use the remainder of it to hold down the deficit so we are not projecting such large deficits out into the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for offering his amendment. We will consider the amendment tomorrow. We have already had three or four amendments that are in the queue tomorrow. I understand there

will be others. We have asked other Senators to come forward tonight to offer their amendments. The Senator from Maryland is doing that and explained it. I appreciate his explanation of the amendment. I am sure we will try to get that in the queue. I know Senator CRAPO has an interest on this issue as well.

It is 8:45, and we have requested colleagues if they had amendments to bring those to the floor. I am concerned about having a vote-arama or having so many people saying: Wait a minute, I didn't have a chance to offer my amendment.

We have been saying all along that we would be in session very late tonight to receive amendments. We will be in session very late tomorrow tonight to dispose of amendments. I would like to see if we can't work out some amendments, accept some amendments, voice vote some amendments, and work toward completing this bill and avoid the crash at the end, the vote-arama where we have votes on amendments without having the slightest idea what is in them. We have done that in the past. That is not a good way to legislate. I would like to avoid that if possible.

I thank my colleague from Maryland for coming late tonight and offering the amendment. I wish more Senators would have. I look forward to working with him tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent that the time be charged equally.

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

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 4 p.m. on Thursday, the Senate proceed to a series of votes in relation to the following amendments: Kyl amendment No. 288; Dorgan amendment No. 294; Rockefeller-Collins amendment No. 275. I further ask unanimous consent that no second-degree amendments be in order to any of the preceding amendments prior to the vote, and that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided prior to each vote.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask if the Senator will modify his unanimous consent request that there be 10 minutes between the second and third votes.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to limit the time on the last two amendments to 10 minutes.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business.

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

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred on September 12, 2001, in New York, NY. Five teenagers attacked an Arab-American candy store owner. The teenagers stopped in front of the small store and asked the owner, who stood in the doorway, "Do you feel sorry for America?" Without waiting for a response, one teen punched the owner, sending him reeling backwards onto the floor, bleeding heavily. The assailants were able to flee from the scene before witnesses could catch them.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ZORAN DJINDJIC

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the cold-blooded assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic is a tragedy not only for Serbia, but for the other former Yugoslav republics whose futures are so closely linked. I knew and admired Prime Minister Djindjic from our meetings in Washington, and I want to express my deepest sympathy to his family and to the Serbian people.

Zoran Djindjic was a charismatic and courageous leader who recognized that Serbia's best hope, after years of nationalist-inspired ethnic hatred and war destroyed Yugoslavia and caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent people, was to follow the path of democracy and the rule of law. This was not an easy choice, as it required confronting the forces of corruption and evil which, despite the overthrow of Slobodan Milosevic, have sought to preserve the status quo.

It was Prime Minister Djindjic who, at considerable personal risk, obtained Milosevic's arrest, after President Kostunica refused to cooperate with the Hague tribunal. Turning over Milosevic was a key step, but Mr. Djindjic understood that it was only the first step toward a formal break with the failed policies of the past.

For the past 3 years, the Congress has provided substantial aid to support economic and political reform in Serbia. However, we have also made clear in legislation and in discussions with Serb officials, that continued cooperation with the Hague prosecutor is essential for continued United States aid to Serbia. There were times in our discussions when Serb officials complained bitterly that the United States and the Hague prosecutor were pressuring them too hard to apprehend and transfer suspected war criminals. In fact, they did so even before the arrest of Milosevic. We responded that while we did not expect them to apprehend all the indictees in Serbia overnight, the United States cannot provide millions of dollars in aid unconditionally to a government that harbors indicted war criminals.

Since the arrest of Milosevic, the Serb Government's cooperation with the Hague tribunal has been sporadic. Mr. Djindjic wanted to move faster, while Mr. Kostunica stood in the way. While some indictees have been turned over, 18 remain at liberty and access to witnesses and documents necessary to the prosecution of these cases has been unsatisfactory. Moreover, there has often been no cooperation until just weeks or days before the deadline in U.S. law for the cutoff of aid.

I mention this because immediately after Prime Minister Djindjic was gunned down some Serb officials blamed his assassination on the pressure exerted on Serbia by the United States and the war crimes prosecutor. I understand that reaction. It is convenient to blame others rather than to acknowledge the difficult but essential task at hand—to remove from the security forces those Milosevic loyalists involved with and protecting organized crime figures and war crimes suspects. But I believe that had the Serb Government moved faster, and more aggressively—as Prime Minister Djindjic urged for the benefit of the Serbian people and the survival of democracy—to arrest those who made no secret of their efforts to thwart reform, this tragedy might have been avoided.

Zoran Djindjic's death has kindled an outpouring of sympathy. Millions of Serbs have taken to the streets to express their support for the policies he fought for. Let us hope that just as millions of Serbs joined together three years ago to oust Milosevic from power, Zoran Djindjic's death will be the catalyst for a renewed and unrelenting effort to destroy the remaining vestiges of the Milosevic era. The United States stands ready to strongly support that effort. There is no alternative, if Serbia is to take its place in today's democratic Europe.

HONORING AMERICAN SOLDIERS

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise to honor our brave soldiers fighting in the global war on terrorism. We recently passed the first anniversary of Operation Anaconda, a critical seven-day