

It is a bitter realization to know that 50 years after the Nazi Holocaust, the Jewish State remains under attack; anti-Semitism is growing in certain parts of the world, as in Russia; genocide is practiced and ignored, as in Rwanda and, on the European Continent drenched in Jewish blood, in Bosnia.

The Nazi Holocaust demonstrated a human depravity that many refused to believe was possible. We must never forget that men are capable of the most heinous destruction of their fellow men. The name of Auschwitz should forever echo in the memories and consciences of civilized people as one of the pinnacles of evil achieved in the 20th century. For it was in Auschwitz and the other concentration camps of the Nazi era that genocide was practiced as a tool of nationalism. And if we ever choose to ignore the shadows of such a loss, of such a despicable past, we do so at the risk of blindly allowing it to happen again.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KEMPTHORNE). Morning business is closed.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of House Joint Resolution 1, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 1) proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. HATCH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, we are happy at this point to have Senate Joint Resolution 1, the Hatch-Simon balanced budget constitutional amendment brought up. It is in the form of the House-passed amendment which is absolutely identical to the amendment that the distinguished Senator from Illinois and I and Members of the House, including CHARLES STENHOLM, from Texas, and, at that time, LARRY CRAIG back in the early days over in the House, who is now one of the leaders on the Senate floor, have been working on for years, ever since the 1982 balanced budget fight.

When I was chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee, we brought it to the floor and then to the leadership of Senator THURMOND, Senator DOLE, and Senator Baker at that time. We were able to pass it through the Senate.

This is slightly changed from then, but the basic principles are the same. Basically, there are three things that the general public needs to know are

very worthy reasons for passing this balanced budget amendment that is now in the form of the House resolution that was passed by 300 votes to 132 last Thursday evening.

No. 1 is that if this amendment is passed by the requisite two-thirds vote of the Senate and is ratified by the requisite three-quarters of the States, then from that point on, it will take three-fifths of both bodies in order to increase the deficit.

That is a supermajority vote, and the reason we have done that on the deficit is because the deficit is going out of control and we would have to have a supermajority vote in order to have real considerations as to whether or not we want to continue to expand the deficit.

So, No. 1, you would have to have a three-fifths vote if you want to increase deficit spending. No. 2, if you want to increase taxes to pay for the costs of Government, then you no longer can do it by a simple majority vote.

Some of the media in this country have had the idea that this amendment just has a simple majority vote. It is not true. It has what is called—and we put it into the 1982 amendment that passed the Senate by 60 percent but died in the House, then led by Tip O'Neill; he beat us over there—but we came up with the idea of a constitutional majority requisite vote in order to increase taxes.

Let me just explain that a little bit more. If this amendment becomes the 28th amendment to the Constitution, then in order to increase taxes, you are going to have to have 51 percent—a majority of the whole body of both the House and the Senate. So to put that in perspective, we could pass anything in this body as a general rule by a majority vote if we have a quorum of 51 Senators. We can pass anything by a vote of 26 to 25, if that is how close it was.

Under a constitutional majority, we cannot increase taxes without, No. 1, a vote and, No. 2, without getting at least, no less, than 51 U.S. Senators to vote for it and in the House at least no less than 218 Members of the House.

So those are two very important reasons for voting for this: No. 1, in order to increase the deficit, this amendment says you are going to have to have a three-fifths vote of both bodies, the Senate and the House. No. 2, if you want to increase taxes, you are going to have to have a constitutional majority to do so. And No. 3, you have to vote.

Right now, many times when we increase the deficit in this country, we do not vote at all. We just have a voice vote. Nobody knows who are the people that have put us into debt or put us into further debt. From here on in, in both cases, that of increasing the debt or increasing taxes, we are going to have to have rollcall votes. Those are the three pivotal and most important aspects of this amendment.

Let me just put it in further perspective, with regard to the constitutional majority necessary to raise taxes. If the President's fiscal stimulus bill had come up, as it came up last year, was passed the way it was, the Senate was equally divided 50-50. There were 50 who voted for it and 50 who voted against it. It took the Vice President to break the tie, and it passed 51 to 50.

If this amendment passes, my contention is it will take at least 51 Senators, regardless of the way the Vice President votes, in order to increase taxes.

So it will not be easy to increase taxes, although we have had many votes in the history of this body where we have had 51 votes for taxes.

I believe it will become the focal point from that point on. I believe the three-fifths vote will become the focal point on increasing the deficit.

Why are we even talking about a balanced budget amendment? I have talked to many of my constituents and there was more than one person who came to me and who said: "What kind of a legacy are we leaving to our children? How can I and my generation continue to spend us into bankruptcy and leave our children high and dry?"

I have had a number of people on Social Security all over my State come to me and say, "Look, Senator, if you don't get spending under control, our Social Security isn't going to be worth anything. We won't be able to survive because that is all we have to live on."

If we do not get spending under control, they say, they are going to not get many benefits out of Social Security.

These people put the correct issue first: Are we going to live within our means so that our dollar is worth something, so that we do not ultimately have to monetize the debt, devalue the dollar, and make even Social Security less worthwhile for people? And they are the first to admit that we need a balanced budget constitutional amendment to make it necessary for Congress to choose among competing programs.

I have had people in the military say, "What are we going to do? Military spending keeps going down." If we start getting into a range of inflation, because interest against the national debt is now over \$300 billion a year and going up exponentially and will be over \$400 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office, after the first of the year, how are we going to keep our country safe and clear? And that is based on current interest rates. Will inflation not go up even more? The answer to that is probably so.

They said to me, as much as we want the military to be strong and our Nation to be secure, you are going to have to pass the balanced budget amendment.

The average person out there understands this. They do not get all caught up in the special interest concerns of the day. People who think clearly