Nation. If it passes, we will begin a process of doing what we were elected to do in the first place—of determining priorities, of establishing ways in which the taxpayers' dollar can be spent in effective, efficient ways. We will have to go into every program, every program of Government, to ask ourselves the fundamental question: Is this the best way we can spend this money? Is this the highest priority for this money? Is there a more efficient way to do it? It is a question, as Jefferson said, of such consequence to place it among the fundamental principles of Government.

It is wrong. It is wrong for us to continue this course.

We have a choice before us tomorrow evening that will fundamentally alter the way we do business. We have proven our incapacity to be careful stewards of the Nation's debt, careful stewards of the Nation's earnings, careful stewards of the future of this country for our children's sakes, for our grandchildren's sakes, for future generations' sakes.

Let us do what we all know we need to do—save us from ourselves. Give us a tool which will allow us to balance that budget and once and for all end this practice of saddling posterity with our debts.

Mr. President, I yield the floor

Mr. 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. LEAHY. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to continue as though in morning business.

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

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield briefly for an inquiry?

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield.

Mr. BYRD. Am I still to be recognized for 1 hour as under the previous order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is correct, that would be the order. The Chair has just recognized the Senator from Vermont for an extension of morning business.

Mr. BYRD. That would not interfere with my hour?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will be no interference.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair. I thank the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I assure the Senator from West Virginia that I will not be long. I had not realized that he had that order.

CHILD NUTRITION CONCERNS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I was concerned over the weekend as I read some of the items on both the balanced budget amendment and the pending resolution, House Joint Resolution 1.

I was in a debate over the weekend on this balanced budget amendment on television and other areas. I have been asked questions about some of the issues involving child nutrition.

Now, the area of child nutrition, Mr. President—I may or may not have expertise in some areas in this body—I do believe I have an expertise in that area. As both chairman and as ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and before that as a member, I have had a primary responsibility handling our child nutrition programs. I have done this in Republican administrations and Democratic administrations. I have done it with both Republican and Democratic cosponsors.

In fact, I might say that since the Truman administration, both Republicans and Democrats have strongly backed the School Lunch Program. The distinguished occupant of the chair may recall when this program began. It began right after World War II. President Truman realized that thousands of military recruits were turned down, even at a time of war, because of malnutrition and nutrition-related medical problems.

Now, I am afraid, Mr. President, the House Republicans want to end this 50-year tradition. They want to repeal the School Lunch Act. Actually, I believe they want to do that as part of this overall Contract With America, which includes the balanced budget amendment and others.

In fact, in committees last week, the Republican majority in the House repealed free lunches for school children who cannot afford a meal ticket. They turned their back on the program supported by Republican and Democratic Presidents since the time of Harry Truman. They eliminated national nutrition standards for healthy school lunches. Now, that will not make parents of grade school children very happy, but it will make a fortune for soft drink bottlers and their PAC's and their lobbyists.

Now, Republicans also have taken steps to cut thousands of children off child care food programs. They are dismantling the WIC Program. Millions of pregnant women, infants and children could be thrown off the WIC Program. In fact, it is the height of hypocrisy when they speak of having the Contract With America and the American family when they move to cut the Women, Infants and Children Program, something that feeds pregnant women and feeds their children when they are first born.

Not only that, I would say to my colleagues; they removed the so-called Leahy amendment which required competition among infant formula makers. This competition saved the American taxpayers $975 million a year and allowed more children, more infants, and more pregnant women to go on this program. They eliminated that.

What does it do? It tells the American taxpayers that that $975 million, instead of feeding poor hungry children, will go to four major drug companies. It is welfare for the wealthiest. It is denying food to the neediest. It is hypocrisy at its worst, and it is a giveaway to major political contributors in the most obvious sense.

These people have reduced dramatically the chance of low-income families to get off welfare. Their cuts in day care funding may mean that thousands of day care homes go out of business. They know the children are not old enough to vote, so what they have done is target the School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the child care programs, and WIC. They put back in Meals on Wheels because they suddenly realized that went to older Americans who do vote and may contribute. So they put that back in, but they cut out the children who do not vote.

The fine print in the Contract With America is really a contract against children. It is a contract against mothers and fathers. I believe it must be stopped. The contract is antichild, antifamily, and false advertising.

I believe, Mr. President, that we ought to look at what they have done. They say they will pass this out in block grants. Of course, they do not put out money for the block grants, and if they do, we know what will be the first thing to be cut. In fact, I must say that one of the best arguments against block granting child nutrition programs have come from Speaker GINGRICH and Congressman WILLIAM GOODLING, but, in the past, not when they are here with this unholy contract.

Speaker GINGRICH has done a complete about-face on these issues. He cosponsored a resolution in 1982 stating that the ''Federal Government should retain primary responsibility for the child nutrition programs and such programs should not be included in any block grant.''

The reasons child nutrition programs should not be included in block grants is best stated by Congressman WILLIAM GOODLING, who is now chairman of the House committee. He said that ''a child's basic nutrition needs should not vary from State to State,'' and yet we now find that what was true then apparently is not true today when you have a Contract With America to fulfill, no matter how hypocritical it is, no matter how many giveaways to huge campaign contributors and wealthy interests there are.

Mr. President, I feel, as does the distinguished senior Senator from West Virginia, that I have one contract with America, and like him, I carry that with me. It is the Constitution of the United States—the Constitution of the United States. This is so good, we have only had to amend it 17 times since the

Bill of Rights. It has been the framework of the most powerful democracy known to history. It has been the framework of a democracy that, if it keeps to its basic tenets, can last for hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of years.

I do not like the Republican Contract With America. I think it would result in the largest transfer of benefits and entitlements from working-class families and the middle class to the rich of this country. I have seen reports that households with incomes over $200,000 would receive an average annual tax entitlement of more than $11,500 by the year 2002, and working-class America will lose. I will fight those changes in the Senate.

Since the Truman administration, Republicans and Democrats have strongly backed the School Lunch Program. The Lunch Program began because thousands of military recruits were turned down in World War II because of malnutrition and nutrition-related medical problems.

Now House Republicans want to end this 50-year tradition and repeal the School Lunch Act. The Republicans keep changing their minds on who they should pick on next—infants, toddlers, pregnant women, or school children?

In committee last week, the Republican majority repealed free lunches for school children who cannot afford a meal ticket.

They eliminated national nutrition standards for healthy school lunches. That will not make parents of grade school children very happy, but it will make a fortune for the soft drink bottlers.

House Republicans also have taken steps to cut thousands of toddlers off child care food programs, and they are dismantling the WIC Program. Millions of pregnant women, infants and children could be thrown off the WIC Program.

House Republicans have reduced dramatically the chance that low-income families can get off welfare—their cuts in day care funding may mean that thousands of day care homes go out of business.

This makes no sense whatsoever.

But, the Republicans know that children are not old enough to vote so they have targeted the School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, child care programs, and WIC.

The fine print in the Contract With America is really a contract against children, and a contract against mothers and fathers. This assault on America's families must be stopped.

The contract is antichild, antifamily, and false advertising. It promises limited block grants, but delivers big cuts.

The contract is antitaxpayer as well. The House Republicans on the committee voted down last week a provision that would save taxpayers $1 billion a year.

The WIC Program is required to buy infant formula under competitive bidding under a provision I was able to get passed in 1989. That provision puts an additional 1.5 million pregnant women, infants, and children on WIC at no extra cost to taxpayers—it does this by saving $1 billion.

Who wins under this Republican scheme? Four giant drug companies that make infant formula. Who loses? Taxpayers, and 1.5 million pregnant women, infants, and children.

At the same time House Republicans are throwing hundreds of millions of dollars at these corporate giants, they are proposing to cut free lunches to children who cannot afford the cost of a lunch.

The best arguments against block granting child nutrition programs have come from NEWT GINGRICH and Congressman WILLIAM GOODLING.

NEWT GINGRICH has done a complete about-face on these issues. He cosponsored a resolution in 1982 stating that the ''Federal government should retain primary responsibility for the child nutrition programs and such programs should not be included in any block grant.'' [H. Con. Res. 384, which passed on September 29, 1982.]

The reasons that child nutrition programs should not be included in block grants was best stated by Congressman WILLIAM GOODLING who is now chairman of the House committee that just approved the block grants of child nutrition programs. He said that ''a child's basic nutrition needs do not vary from State to State.'' [Cong. Rec., July 23, 1982, p. 17865.]

The report explaining that resolution, which was sponsored by NEWT GINGRICH, said that if you have ''50 distinct State programs, there is no guarantee that the needy child whose family income has fallen below the poverty line would be entitled to participation in a free-lunch program.''

The report concluded that Federal child nutrition programs ''should not be turned back to the states or diluted through a block grant at reduced funding.'' [Page 4, Hse. Rpt. 97–870, Sept. 24, 1982.]

The report explains that block grants do not increase to address recessions, and thus they throw children off the program just when the lunch program is most needed.

That was true then. It is still true today.

Why has NEWT GINGRICH changed his mind? To understand why you have to look at the whole contract.

The Republican Contract With America and the balanced budget amendment—taken together—would likely result in the largest transfer of benefits and entitlements from working-class families and the middle class to the rich in the history of this country. I have seen reports that households with incomes over $200,000 a year would receive an average annual tax entitlement of more than $11,500 by the year 2002. And the working class will lose.

I will fight these changes in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before contemplating today's bad news about the Federal debt, let's conduct that little pop quiz again: How many million dollars are in $1 trillion? When you arrive at an answer, bear in mind that it was the Congress of the United States that ran up a debt now exceeding $4.8 trillion.

To be exact, as of the close of business Friday, February 24, the Federal debt—down to the penny—stood at $4,838,340,257,340.71—meaning that every man, woman, and child in America now owes $18,366.42 computed on a per capita basis.

Mr. President, again to answer our pop quiz question—how many million in a trillion?—there are one million million in a trillion; and you can thank the U.S. Congress for the existing Federal debt exceeding $4.8 trillion.

REMARKS OF COMMISSIONER GEORGE W. HALEY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I would like to share with my colleagues the remarks of Commissioner George W. Haley, who was recently invited to speak at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, TX, in observance of Black History Month.

In his remarks, Commissioner Haley reminds us that the American experiment is indeed working today, despite all the divisions that beset our great Nation. Commissioner Haley's message is one of hope and optimism for the future. He understands that America is not perfect, but that injustice and imperfection should inspire us to work harder to ensure that the American dream can become a reality for all Americans.

Commissioner Haley comes from a military family. During World War I, his father was wounded in the Argonne Forest. His brother Alex spent 20 years in the U.S. Coast Guard. His brother Julius is a Korean war veteran. And Commissioner Haley himself served his country as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

We are proud of the Haley family, and we thank them for the important contributions they have made to our country.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Commissioner Haley's remarks be reprinted in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the remarks were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REMARKS BY HON. GEORGE W. HALEY, POSTAL RATE COMMISSIONER, IN OBSERVANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Martin Luther King, Jr., liked to tell a story about a minister who was very emotional and dramatic in his presentations. After one of his fiery Sunday morning sermons, a member of his congregation was commenting to one of his friends that afternoon on what a good sermon the minister had preached. His friend asked: ''What did he say?'' The parishioner replied: ''I don't know, but he sure was good!''