

rural areas, more than 21 million are in locations that don't have enough health care professionals to meet their needs. Moreover, the study found that 2,000 primary care doctors are needed in rural areas.

The elements of this bill were supported by both sides of the aisle in last year's debate and were contained in several health care proposals put forth by both Republicans and Democrats. Thirty-three Democratic Senators have rallied around a sound set of principles for health care reform and invited our Republican colleagues to join us in addressing this important issue. These principles include: Insurance market reform, 100 percent health insurance tax deductibility for the self-employed, affordable coverage for children, assistance for workers who lose their jobs to keep their health coverage, and a wide range of accessible and affordable home, and community-based options for families caring for a sick parent or a disabled child.

I believe these principles are ones we, as Members of the Senate, and representative of our constituents, can support. S. 7 and the Democratic principles for reform are a sound starting point. I remain committed to working for reform of our health care system, and I hope we can work together to provide working American families with the quality health care they deserve, at a price they can afford.

I would only say, Mr. President, that if we ignore health care in this body, we are ignoring the No. 1 cost issue facing people all across America. And before we stop hearing the words "balanced budget" and all the debates that took place in that regard, let us not forget about health care. If we are ever going to address the deficit that accumulates yearly in this country, we must be concerned with health care or we will never handle the problem.

Mr. EXON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The Senator from Nebraska.

If I may interrupt the Senator from Nebraska, under the previous order, morning business was to expire at 11:05.

Mr. EXON. I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended for at least 5 minutes, for the purpose of brief remarks by the Senator from Nebraska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to extending morning business by 5 minutes?

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I would just like to say a few words with regard to the bill that was introduced today.

As the body well knows, I favored the constitutional amendment to balance the Federal budget. I am sorry that it did not pass. But now that it has failed, we need to press ahead to build what discipline we can into the budget process.

We are introducing today a statutory requirement that would have most, if not all, of the teeth that the constitutional amendment to balance the budget would have instituted.

The bill requires the Budget Committee to report out a resolution that shows us when we will get to a balanced budget without using the Social Security trust funds.

The practical effect of this requirement would be to require the Government to run surpluses in the unified budget, surpluses that would start to reduce—and I emphasize, reduce—the debt held by the public and prepare us for the financial needs of the next century.

Our bill enforces this requirement with a 60-vote point of order against budget resolutions that do not show how we get to balance.

The bill allows for waiver in wartime and in recessions, using the same mechanisms that Congress put in the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law.

As for the schedule, the Budget Act requires the Senate Budget Committee to report a budget resolution by April 1.

The Budget Act requires the Congress to complete action on the budget resolution conference report by April 15. I hope we can meet that deadline.

Last year, the Senate Budget Committee reported the budget resolution on March 18.

The year before last, when Congress enacted the deficit reduction bill that has reduced the deficit by over \$600 billion, the Senate Budget Committee reported the budget resolution on March 12, and Congress completed action on the conference report on April 1.

We look forward to working with the Republican majority to expeditiously fashion a budget resolution that shows us how we will get to a balanced budget and get on with the obvious work in this area that we must do.

I reserve the remainder of my time and I yield the floor.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES!

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, for about 3 years I have been making daily reports to the Senate regarding the exact Federal debt as of the previous day.

We must pray that this year, Federal spending will begin to be reduced. Indeed, if we care about America's future, Congress must face up to its responsibility to balance the Federal budget.

As of the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 8, the Federal debt stood (down to the penny) at \$4,848,281,758,236.20, meaning that on a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,404.16 as his or her share of the Federal debt.

It's important to note, Mr. President, that total Federal debt a little over 2 years ago (January 5, 1993) stood at \$4,167,872,986,583.67—or averaged out, \$15,986.56 for every American. During the past 2 years (that is, during the 103d Congress) the Federal debt has escalated by more than \$6 billion, which illustrates the point that so many politicians talk a good game at home

about bringing the Federal debt under control, but vote in support of bloated spending bills when they get back to Washington.

If the Republicans do not concentrate on getting a handle on this enormous debt, their constituents are not likely to overlook it 2 years hence.

ATTACKS IN PAKISTAN

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, yesterday we learned of the attack on three Americans on their way to work at the United States Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan. While they were stopped at a traffic light, gunmen jumped out of a yellow taxi and opened fire with AK-47 assault rifles.

Two of the Americans were killed: Jackie van Landingham, a secretary; and Gary Durell, a communications technician. And I know I speak for every Senator when I extend our deepest sympathy to the friends and families of these two Americans who were killed in service to their Nation in a changing and often dangerous world.

Mr. President, the third American, a young man from Framingham, MA, Mark McCloy, who worked in the consulate's post office, was injured in the attack and was taken to Agha Khan Hospital. He is now in stable condition. Last evening I spoke with his mother, Muriel McCloy, in Massachusetts, and I have assured her that the United States is doing everything we can to bring those who are responsible for this terrorist act to justice; and I assured her that we would do everything we can to bring her son home safely.

Mr. President, this attack reminds us of the dangers that exist in the world and the courage of those who choose to serve their country in spite of those dangers. We cannot underestimate the commitment of foreign service personnel who serve at a time when the post-cold-war world realigns—and the national, regional, religious, and cultural interests of peoples in every country are put to the test of sovereignty and self-determination. The courage and contribution of the men and women of the foreign service in this new world deserve our admiration and our respect.

So, Mr. President, though we are saddened by this tragedy, we are also strengthened in our appreciation of the contribution of those who serve. To the thousands of Americans around the world who have suffered the separation from families and home, from friends and loved ones, to embark on a great adventure to promote peace, understanding, and the principles of American foreign policy—in the name of those who have paid the ultimate price—we salute you.

Mr. President, for Jackie van Landingham and Gary Durell the adventure came to an end in a distant land, but for those of us at home who reap the benefits of their sacrifice, their memory will never die.