

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nebraska [Mr. EXON], for himself and Mr. DASCHLE, proposes an amendment numbered 373 to amendment No. 347.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 5, strike lines 14 through 17 and insert:

"(A) estimated by the Joint Committee on Taxation as losing revenue for any one of the three following periods—

"(1) the first fiscal year covered by the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget;

"(2) the period of the 5 fiscal years covered by the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget; or

"(3) the period of the 5 fiscal years following the first 5 years covered by the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget; and".

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, we have debated this amendment already so I will be very, very brief. This amendment would apply the line-item veto to tax loopholes that lost money in the 6th through the 10th years. I believe there is broad bipartisan support for this amendment and I urge its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment? If there be no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 373) was agreed to.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MCCAIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I wish to inquire of the distinguished majority manager if he is ready to proceed with the Feingold amendment regarding emergency spending that I understand has been cleared on both sides. Is that correct?

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would say to my friend, we are just about there. I think in about 1 or 2 more minutes. I think the Senator from South Carolina was waiting to make remarks and I think we will be ready by the time he is finished with his remarks.

Mr. EXON. I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Nebraska for his amendment. I think it helps the bill. I am glad we were able to agree on it.

Mr. EXON. I thank my friend from Arizona. I appreciate his cooperation.

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I thank the able Senators, and the managers of the bill.

Mr. President, I rise in support of the Line-Item Veto Act, which is presently

before this body. For many years, I have been a supporter of giving authority to the President to disapprove specific items of appropriation presented to him. On the first legislative day of this Congress, I introduced Senate Joint Resolution 2, proposing a constitutional amendment to give the President line-item veto authority.

Presidential authority for a line-item veto is a significant fiscal tool which would provide a valuable means to reduce and restrain excessive appropriations. This proposal will give the President the opportunity to approve or disapprove individual items of appropriation which have passed the Congress. It does not grant power to simply reduce the dollar amount legislated by the Congress.

Mr. President, 43 Governors currently have constitutional authority to reduce or eliminate items or provisions in appropriation measures. My home State of South Carolina provides this authority, and I found it most useful during my service as Governor in the late 1940's. Surely the President should have authority that 43 Governors now have to check unbridled spending.

It is widely recognized that Federal spending is out of control. The Federal budget has been balanced only once in the last 34 years. Over the past 20 years, Federal receipts, in current dollars, have grown from \$279 billion to nearly \$1.3 trillion, an increase of \$978 billion. In the meantime, Federal outlays have grown from \$332 billion in 1975, to over \$1.4 trillion last year, an increase of over \$1.1 trillion. The annual budget deficits have risen to over \$200 billion each year, with the national debt growing to over \$4.8 trillion.

Mr. President, it is clear that neither the Congress nor the President are effectively dealing with the budget crisis. The President continues to submit budgets which contain little spending reform and project annual deficits of nearly \$200 billion. I am hopeful that this year Congress will undertake serious efforts to restrain Federal spending by reducing or eliminating funding of ineffective programs.

If we are to have sustained economic growth, Government spending must be significantly reduced. A balanced budget amendment and line-item veto authority would do much to bring about fiscal responsibility. I regret that earlier this year the Senate failed to pass the balanced budget amendment.

Mr. President, it would be a mistake to fail to pass this measure. It is my hope that this Congress will swiftly approve the line-item veto and send a clear message to the American people that we are making a serious effort to get our Nation's fiscal house in order. Finally, Mr. President, we must get on with the serious business of reducing spending. I thank the Chair.

Mr. EXON addressed the Chair.

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

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed as if in morning business for a short period of time to accommodate the Senator from New Jersey.

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

## CRIME IN AMERICA

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Nebraska for yielding the time, and particularly the distinguished Senator from Indiana for interrupting the flow of the discussion, because there are matters of great importance that are under review.

But I would like to talk for a minute about an incident that took place in the last couple of days that has been across the newspapers in this country and through all means of communication—television, radio, and so forth. It is about an incident in Montclair, NJ, which is where my home has been since 1968. My children were brought up in this community, all four of them, and there is still a Lautenberg house in the town. The community is shocked by the turn of events—four people killed, four innocent people, two who worked in the post office, long-time employees, and two residents of the community, one I am told, 38 years of age, and one 59 years of age, customers of the post office. They were on an innocent piece of business, and suddenly carnage broke out. It is established that a 9 mm weapon was used, and the culprit has been captured and is now in custody. This afternoon, the U.S. attorney and other law enforcement people will be making a full statement.

Mr. President, we have seen violence all over this country ourselves, gun violence, people shot randomly. As a matter of fact, unless it gets to be in your neighborhood or your community, or you know someone who is the victim, it is almost greeted with a yawn. We watch the incredible spectacle of Colin Ferguson, the man who murdered and assaulted people on the Long Island Railroad, make a fool out of the system, and he is ready now perhaps this day for sentencing.

But I watched in shock as some of the victims' families addressed this individual, trying to describe their pain and their anguish, including one person that I know, also from New Jersey, a man named Jake LaCicero, who lost his daughter, Amy, on that train. She was in her late twenties, innocently traveling back and forth to work from where she then lived, and she died needlessly.

And not too long ago, at a post office in Richwood, NJ, a quiet, high-income community, principally commuters, people who took pride in their community and people who believed so deeply in America and the American way—the town that I am talking about now, Montclair, NJ, is a fairly high-income