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## Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, May 15, 1995)

The Senate met at 8:29 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Lord of history, we gain perspective on the perplexities of the present by remembering how Your power has been released in response to prayer in the past. We think of Washington on his knees, of Franklin asking for prayer when the Constitutional Convention was deadlocked, of Lincoln praying for wisdom in the dark night of our Nation's divided soul. Gratefully, also we remember Your answers to prayers seeking Your strength in struggles and Your courage in crises. Most of all, today we remember those times when Your guidance brought consensus out of conflict, and creative decisions out of discord.

In the midst of the continuing discussion and debate over the budget, once again we need Your divine intervention and inspiration. Watch over this Senate during this strategic week. May the Senators be united in seeking Your best for the future of our Nation. Give them strength to communicate their perception of truth with mutual respect and without rancor. We are of one voice in asking for Your blessing on this Senate as it exercises the essence of democracy in this vital debate. You have been our guide over the 206 years of the history of the Senate of the United States, and we trust You to lead us forward today. In Your holy name. Amen.

### RESERVATION OF LEADERSHIP TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 13, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for the fiscal years 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

The Senate resumed consideration of the concurrent resolution.

Pending:  
Rockefeller amendment No. 1112, to reduce the tax cut and apply the savings to Medicare and Medicaid.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Who yields time?

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, does the Senator from Wyoming desire to speak on the pending amendment or the resolution?

Mr. THOMAS. Yes, I do wish to speak on the pending amendment.

Mr. DOMENICI. How much time would the Senator like?

Mr. THOMAS. Ten minutes.

Mr. DOMENICI. I yield 10 minutes to the Senator.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate the opportunity to talk some about the budget considerations that we will have this week. We have had a good deal of discussion about it prior to now, both in the dis-

cussion of a balanced budget amendment and more specifically on the budget resolution that is before this Congress. We have talked, of course, in great detail and should and will continue to do that.

Mr. President, I think it is also useful perhaps to take a moment during the course of this discussion and go back to the real basic issue, and that is the question of whether or not it is morally and fiscally responsible for this Congress and this country to operate under a balanced budget, whether or not we can continue to go forward with endless budgets that are \$200, \$250 billion in arrears.

So, Mr. President, I would just like to talk a minute about the basic issue. Americans, it seems to me, quite clearly voted in 1994 for change. They voted for many changes. I think they voted with the notion that this Federal Government is too large and costs too much. I do not think there is any question about that. I think they also voted in terms of change for a balanced budget. We have not had a balanced budget for a whole generation, 25 years at least.

So I think people say, why should the Government not be fiscally responsible as we are expected to be in our families or in our businesses? Americans voted for change in 1994 and they want us to be fiscally responsible. Some say, "Well, the deficit does not matter, it is just a small percentage of the total." It does matter. It does matter to each of us. It matters to us currently. It matters to us in terms of the cost of interest which will soon be the largest single line item in the budget, interest on a budget that will soon be expanded to \$5 trillion, and each of us each day must pay the interest on that debt.

It matters because it takes dollars out of the economy to finance this debt, dollars that could otherwise be spent for investments in business and

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



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