

Nation higher taxes and bigger government as the solution. Well, with the support of his congressional allies, President Clinton got his tax increase, but his big-government approach to health care crashed and sank on the rocks of old-fashioned American common sense.

That was the last Congress. What plan has the President offered during the 104th Congress to balance the budget? In the words of Senator DOLE, President Clinton has been AWOL on the budget—"absent without leadership." I just don't understand it. Every time that President Clinton stares a balanced budget in the eye, he blinks. First, he actively fought against the balanced budget amendment, and then he refused to offer his own plan for bringing the Federal budget into balance. Moreover, when his cabinet informed him that we are facing an imminent Medicare crisis, the President did nothing. Perhaps, that is what he does best: nothing.

When President Clinton does meekly act to fulfill his constitutional responsibilities, such as proposing his own budget plan, even his own party cuts and runs. Last week the Senate rejected the Clinton budget by a vote of 99 to 0. No one voted for the Clinton budget. No responsible Member of Congress would dare vote for a budget which would have increased the deficit from \$176 billion this year to \$276 billion in the year 2000 by which time we would have added \$1.2 trillion to the national debt. And yet this is what President Clinton proposed.

President Clinton may be content to sit in the Oval Office at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue and blithely ignore the current budget crisis and the daily mounting debt, but I for one did not leave 45 years of hard work in the private sector to come to Washington and turn a blind-eye to our Nation's fundamental problem. That is why I have come to the Senate floor today to assure my colleagues that I am wholeheartedly committed to working with them to balance the budget, and go beyond that to paying down the principal on our \$4.7 trillion national debt.

A child born today would have to pay \$187,500 over his or her lifetime just to pay interest on the national debt. For those concerned about the impact of the proposed budget on children, this per child cost imposed by the national debt should be the real focus of our concern for children.

We all know that the steps necessary to balance the budget will not be easy. It will require each of us to summon up the courage to cut or eliminate government programs which in times of a budget surplus we might otherwise support.

I recognize that such questions about government programs are difficult, but as the national debt continues to grow out-of-control at a rate of \$20 million per hour, the questions only become more difficult. That is why last week I

introduced a welfare reform bill which addresses the root causes of welfare dependency and runaway welfare costs. It is also why I agreed to co-chair the Senate Task Force on the elimination of federal agencies which today will announce plans for abolishing the Department of Commerce. Plans for eliminating the Departments of HUD, Energy and Education are in the offing.

We must not lack the courage to act together to take bold actions such as limiting the growth in welfare spending, abolishing unnecessary agencies, and reforming Medicare. To do otherwise, will be to tell our children and grandchildren that the generation which fought and won World War II and the cold war has now chosen to abdicate its generational responsibility. A legacy of debt is grossly inconsistent with the self-reliant pioneer values which have built this great nation and made it the world's lone superpower.

When debate time on the budget resolution has expired and the time for voting occurs, the eyes of the world and our children will be focused on the United States Senate. They will wait to see whether, like the House of Representatives, Members of the Senate possess the courage and vision to support a resolution which provides for a balanced budget.

We have already seen the reaction of the world's financial markets when the balanced budget amendment died in this Chamber not long ago. If we repeat that profile in cowardice we will no doubt reap the whirlwind. We will signal to the rest of the world and more importantly to our children that nothing has changed in Washington—the business as usual spending spree continues and we have no intention whatsoever to make serious spending cuts.

I commend Chairman DOMENICI for his outstanding leadership in drafting a long overdue plan to end our Nation's experiment with fiscal irresponsibility. In my short career in the Senate, I can think of no vote more important than this one. Our votes on this budget resolution will clearly define where each of us stands on the most important issue facing our Nation. I intend to stand with those who want to balance the budget by 2002. I intend to stand with those who believe that America's families are desperately in need of tax relief.

The people of North Carolina who sent me here expect and deserve no less.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO COL. JOSEPH W. CORNELISON

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the dedication, public service, and patriotism of Col. Joseph W. Cornelison, U.S. Army, on the occasion of his retirement after 26 years of faithful service to our Nation. Colonel Cornelison's strong commitment to excellence will leave a lasting impact on the vitality of our modern war fighters, commanding admiration and respect from his military colleagues and Members of Congress.

Colonel Cornelison, a 1969 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, is serving his last day of a 21 month assignment as the special assistant for Environment and Installations, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

He holds a master's degree in public service from Western Kentucky University, and has his juris doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center.

From April 1970 to August 1971, Colonel Cornelison was a forward observer, fire direction officer, and artillery liaison officer, 173d Airborne Brigade, Republic of Vietnam. He ensured the effective delivery of direct artillery support to an infantry unit in combat. He then served as battery commander, assistant division personnel officer and assistant battalion operations officer for 101st Airborne Division [Air Assault] in Fort Campbell, KY. As commander, he conducted a tactical standdown of a field artillery battery in Vietnam and redeployed its personnel and equipment to the United States. In the personnel position, was a key player in the assignment of several hundred officers and undertook review of an array of regulatory requirements to identify those that could be eliminated because of redundancy, obsolescence or insufficient value. He also organized and executed an advanced training program for newly assigned personnel.

From August 1977 to July 1978, Colonel Cornelison was the law clerk to the Hon. Oliver Gasch, judge of U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. He assisted the judge in management of his civil docket which included hearings, researching and briefing issues and drafting opinions. He then served as trial counsel, chief of administrative law, and officer-in-charge of Bamberg Branch Office for the 1st Armored Division in the Federal Republic of Germany. In these three positions, he progressed from serving as prosecutor in criminal trials to providing legal support on issues associated with command to serving as city counsel to a major military community.

Colonel Cornelison went to serve as assistant to the General Counsel, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC from June 1982 to December 1983. He developed improvements to debarment and suspension procedures and increasing emphasis on

contract fraud discovery and avoidance. He contributed to studies of spare parts procurement and of ways to improve contracting for major weapons. His next position was as chief, Special Litigation Branch (Environmental), Office of the Judge Advocate General, Washington, DC from December 1983 to January 1985. He organized a team of five attorneys and two engineers to assist Department of Justice in a lawsuit filed against Shell Oil under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. He then served as General Counsel [SJA] for U.S. Army South and Joint Task Force Panama from July 1985 to June 1989. He managed the delivery of all legal services within the command.

Colonel Cornelison's next assignment was as special counsel to the Assistant Attorney General (Civil Division) for Department of Justice from July 1989 to June 1990. He was selected to serve in this capacity under a fellowship through the Army War College. He represented DOJ on an interagency group responsible for implementing a Presidential executive order calling for a drug-free, Federal workplace, serving as liaison to the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, and advising on settlement of litigation. He served as chief, Environmental Law Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General for the Department of the Army from June 1990 to March 1991. He managed the Army's environmental litigation and provided legal advice to the Army staff and executed the Army's environmental program. From March 1991 to September 1993, he was executive to the Judge Advocate General for the Department of the Army. Served as personal advisor and executive assistant to the Army's senior military lawyer. He managed an office of 74 lawyers and 47 support personnel, \$3,000,000 budget, and assisted in providing legal support to the Army worldwide.

Colonel Cornelison currently is serving as assistant for Installations and Environment, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. He serves as a liaison between Congress and the Office of the Secretary of Defense and as an advocate of the Department's legislative program.

Our Nation, the U.S. Army, his wife Ella and his family, can truly be proud of the Colonel's many accomplishments. A man of his extraordinary talent and integrity is rare indeed. While his honorable service will be genuinely missed in the Department of Defense, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Col. Joseph Cornelison before my colleagues and wish him all of our best wishes in his new and exciting career.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS HURWITZ

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to Louis Hurwitz of Sioux Falls, SD, on his retirement after 57 years as executive secretary of the Sioux Falls Jewish Welfare Fund, a branch of the United

Jewish Appeal. His tireless efforts in assisting the education, well-being, and happiness of countless Jewish refugees worldwide is admirable.

To understand the depth of Lou's love for and dedication to the happiness of others, one need only review his constant involvement in and uncommon generosity to the Sioux Falls community. His persistently positive impact on others and his continuous commitment to making a difference cannot be overstated. For six decades, Lou has been recognized repeatedly for his hard work on behalf of the Sioux Falls community. His efforts in reaching across religious lines to work with persons of all faiths deservedly has earned the respect and affection of many people, including myself. I extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Lou Hurwitz for his selfless service to the people of South Dakota, the Sioux Falls Jewish community, and thousands of others elsewhere.

Mr. President, Lou's extraordinary dedication to helping others mirrors the teachings of the Hebrew scholar, Maimonides. According to the teachings of Maimonides, the highest level of charity is to enable other human beings to help themselves. I am proud of Lou's efforts in that regard. He has enabled countless Jewish refugees around the world to become stronger. I congratulate Lou for all he has accomplished. He has left a legacy that always will be a source of pride to all South Dakotans. I join with Lou's friends and family members in wishing this extraordinary man the very best in all he has yet to achieve.

IS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the impression simply will not go away: Today's \$4.8 trillion Federal debt is a grotesque parallel to the energizer bunny we see, and see, and see on television. The Federal debt keeps going and going and going—up, of course—always to the added misery of the American taxpayers.

So many politicians talk a good game—when, that is, they go home to talk—and “talk” is the operative word—about bringing Federal deficits and the Federal debt under control.

But, sad to say, so many of these very same politicians have regularly voted for one bloated spending bill after another during the 103d Congress and before. Come to think about it, this may have been a primary factor in the new configuration of U.S. Senators as a result of last November's elections.

In any event, Mr. President, as of yesterday, Monday, May 22, at the close of business, the total Federal debt stood—down to the penny—at exactly \$4,883,843,317,167.73 or \$18,539.15 per man, woman, child on a per capita basis. Res ipsa loquitur.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent the Senate immediately proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 124 through 143, and all the nominations on the Secretary's desk en bloc. I further ask that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, that any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION

Eugene Branstool, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Karl N. Stauber, of Minnesota, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

AIR FORCE

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, United States Code, Section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Billy J. Boles, 000-00-0000, United States Air Force.

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, United States Code, Section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John C. Griffith, 000-00-0000, United States Air Force.

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, United States Code, Section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Lloyd W. Newton, 000-00-0000, United States Air Force.

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of general on the retired list pursuant to the provisions to Title 10, United States Code, Section 1370:

To be general

Gen. Charles G. Boyd, 000-00-0000, United States Air Force.

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of general on the retired list pursuant to the provisions to Title 10, United States Code, Section 1370:

To be general

Gen. John M. Loh, 000-00-0000, United States Air Force.

The following-named officer for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, United States Code, Section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. John S. Fairfield, 000-00-0000, United States Air Force.