

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes in morning business.

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

THE LINE-ITEM VETO

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, this has been a very interesting year in Congress with the change in control in both the House and the Senate; in some ways refreshing, in some ways very disappointing. This is the year of reform and change. Many of the changes and reforms are useful and interesting. Many others are just downright nutty. I will give you an example of some.

The notion that when the Soviet Union is now gone we should start to build star wars with money we do not have at a time when this project clearly is not necessary. In my judgment, that's a nutty idea.

We stick \$9 billion into defense that the Department of Defense says it does not want or does not need. That makes no sense to me. That is not reform or change.

Maybe, as one had suggested, charge admission to tour the U.S. Capitol. In other words, charge the American citizens admission to take tours in the U.S. Capitol in order to raise money to reduce the deficit? It seems to me that qualifies as a nutty idea.

Provide laptop computers for poor kids at a time when you are cutting school lunches? Another nutty idea.

I have said there are a lot of goofy ideas. There are some good ideas, some of which I have supported, one of which is the line-item veto. I want to ask some questions about that this morning.

On February 6 of this year, this Senate passed a bipartisan proposal on the line-item veto. I happen to think, and have thought for a long while, it makes sense for a President to have a line-item veto. Most Governors have it. The President ought to have it.

We passed a line-item veto here in the Senate on March 23. The House passed it on February 6. It is now over 120 days, and the question is, where is the line-item veto?

Today we are going to start on our first appropriations bill. Soon those appropriations bills will go to the White House. My guess is that those who wrote the Contract With America and included the line-item veto in the contract, those who were so urgent about the need for a line-item veto as they spoke on the floor of the Senate and the House, are now less interested in really having a line-item veto if it means that a Democratic President in the White House has a line-item veto to get rid of Republican pork in appropriations bills.

I noticed yesterday, in a newspaper, "Gingrich Gets \$200 Million in New Pork," it says in the headline. I do not know what this is about. It is just "pork" in an appropriations bill—"Gingrich Gets \$200 Million in New Pork," in an appropriations bill.

I am going to go to a markup in 10 minutes, in which I know there are about five or six provisions in this authorization bill that represent special little projects in someone's State.

So what happens to the line-item veto? Why do we not have a line-item veto moving so that the President might sign the bill and have the authority to remove this pork with a line-item veto in appropriations bills this Congress is going to pass?

I think I know what has happened to it. The House of Representatives 120 days later has not even appointed conferees to go to a conference with the Senate on the line-item veto. Why have they not appointed conferees? Because I do not think they really want a line-item veto. I do. I voted for it. I voted for it many times in Congress. And I felt in March of this year when the Senate passed it, and the month before when the House passed it, that maybe those who said it was an urgent priority on the other side of the aisle were serious. It now appears they were not serious at all. It now appears to me they were much more interested in producing pork than producing a line-item veto bill.

If there is a lost and found department in the Congress, I hope someone will call and ask, where is the line-item veto bill?

One of our colleagues has treated us to a big yellow sign every day which says, "Where is Bill?"—which is not in my judgment a very respectful reference to the President. But "Where is Bill?"—asking, "Where is the President's budget?"

I guess, if I were inclined with that sort of approach, I could bring a chart here that says, "Where is the bill?"—and hang up "120 days" on the chart to ask the question, "Where is the line-item veto bill?"

We passed it. The House passed it. And there is no conference because the House has not even appointed conferees. Is the reason they have not appointed conferees because they want to lard up the appropriations bills with pork, \$200 million in pork by the Speaker of the House and they do not want a Democratic President to veto the pork out of these bills? If that is the reason, they are wallflowers when it comes to fighting the deficit.

Let us decide to cast this line-item veto bill, get it through conference, and get the President to sign it. Let us have a bite at these appropriation bills right now with this deficit. If you care about public policy and about the line-item veto, if you voted for it in the Senate, as I did, if you voted for it in the House, as the majority did, I hope they would start asking the question, "Where is the line-item veto?" Why do we not expect the Speaker to appoint conferees? Why do we not have a conference report, bring it from the House, have the Senate pass it, and get it back to the President so that he can exercise the line-item veto on these bills?

THE ORGANIZATION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to go to one other subject today briefly. It is one that almost no one knows anything about, including the Presiding Officer. It is called the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development or OECD. It is an international organization that we pay 25 percent of the total cost. I do not think anybody in here really knows much about it. There are a lot of international organizations.

This year the United States will contribute about \$62 million to fund the OECD. We are a member of the OECD. I am told that they meet in the finest places in the world and are headquartered in Paris. When they hold a meeting, they hold a meeting in a fine, great hotel in one of the great cities of the world. Folks come from all over the world to attend OECD meetings, the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development.

One of the things they did recently is approve a report, a document statement, in which this country participated and signed, that talked about how you apportion the tax burden of international corporations among the countries in which they do business.

This little document said the OECD, with the United States signing the document, rejects something called global formulary apportionment. It does not mean much to anybody. But what it means to me is this country signs on a dotted line, along with the other member countries of the OECD, saying the United States is willing to give up or forgive about \$15 billion a year in taxes that ought to be paid to America that will not be paid.

Seventy-three percent of the foreign-based corporations doing business in the United States pays zero in Federal income taxes, despite the fact they earn hundreds of billions of dollars here. There are companies that sell cars, VCR's, television sets, and other products—whose names you would recognize instantly—that do business here every day earning billions of dollars and pay zero in U.S. income taxes. Not pay a little bit—pay nothing in Federal income taxes.

Why is that? It is because the IRS is stuck with an outdated tax enforcement system which the foreign corporations love, and which foreign governments love as well. It is called the arm's-length method, which is used to evaluate transfer pricing that exists between related corporations. Tens of thousands of foreign corporations do business in the United States through U.S. subsidiaries that they own and control. These integrated companies sell things to themselves back and forth, and establish their own prices on those transactions. That is why we have examples of tractor tires being sold between corporations that are related for \$7.50 for a tractor tire; a piano