

this and we're protecting that. We can't do this." We have to balance the budget. And this administration has done what I think is the most selfish thing, and that is to play the political game at the expense of American families.

The President has not done anything to bring about real change. In 1993, we had the largest tax increase the world has ever known. But spending continued to go up, and we have not balanced the budget. He has proposed two budgets this year, neither of them balanced. Neither of them got any votes in this Senate. He now proposes to bring up another one today. We will see. But he is going to do it without CBO numbers, without real numbers.

Now, people say, what is CBO? What is OMB? What is the difference? I can tell you what the difference is. CBO is real numbers. You can balance the budget, if you fool with the projections, without really balancing the budget. Raise the projections out here 7 years from now when you are no longer President and it is painless to do it in the meantime. It is also phony. We cannot do that.

We see this leadership in this administration trying to patch the walls of a crumbling welfare state. Talking about the Great Society, we spent \$5 trillion in these welfare programs and they have not worked. You cannot expect different results if you continue to do the same thing. You need real welfare reform. We need to guard and protect Medicare. And we need to think about what kind of country we want as we go into the 21st century. The balanced budget is the way to proceed.

Mr. President, there are a number of principles that need to be followed. First of all, if we are going to have a balanced budget, we have to start with honest numbers. Certainly, you can argue about the projections, but you have to start with real numbers and be willing to make the changes that are necessary to make that balance. You have to reduce Washington spending, which is as important as balancing the budget. You could balance it, I suppose, by raising taxes. But we need to bring down spending. We have to ensure Medicare solvency. We have to make some changes to do that. We have to have real welfare reform. Welfare reform without results is not what we want. We have to change that. We have to put some more power in the people in the States and move government closer to the people, and we must do it now.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. CRAIG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 2076

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, before I yield to the Senator from Alaska, I ask unanimous consent that debate time on the Commerce, State, Justice appropriations conference report, H.R. 2076, be limited to the following: Senator

GREGG, 2 hours; Senator HOLLINGS, 2 hours; Senator BIDEN, 2 hours; Senator BUMPERS, 20 minutes. Further, that following the expiration or the yielding back of the previously mentioned debate time, the Senate vote on the adoption of the conference report with no intervening action or debate.

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

Mr. CRAIG. I thank the Chair.

Now let me yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Alaska, to speak on the President's veto of the budget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank my colleague from Idaho. I wish the President a good morning.

PRESIDENTIAL VETO OF THE
BALANCED BUDGET

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, yesterday, President Clinton, with a great deal of fanfare and theatrics, vetoed the first balanced budget legislation sent to any President in the last three decades. Think about that a moment, Mr. President. The first balanced budget legislation sent to any President in nearly three decades was vetoed yesterday by President Clinton.

What is the accumulated debt of this country? It is \$4.9 trillion. That occurred as a consequence of prevailing Democratic control of both the House and Senate during those decades.

The veto was very well orchestrated, with the President deciding to use the same pen that the late President Lyndon Johnson used to sign the original Medicare legislation back in 1965. However, in what may be a metaphor for this President, when he put pen to the paper, nothing happened; the pen was out of ink, just as the President is out of ideas and just as Medicare is out of money.

Mr. President, the American public deserves better. Throughout the entire year, Republicans in Congress have worked night and day to develop and pass a real balanced budget along with family tax relief. There were some Democrats who worked with us. And what has the President done this year? Absolutely nothing. He has spoken empty rhetoric about wanting to balance the budget.

Mr. President, there is a difference between wanting and doing. President Clinton has submitted two budgets this year. The first one—think about this—the first one did not receive a single vote, Democrat or Republican, when we voted on it in the Senate, not one single vote, because the President's first budget would have led us to unending deficits and a sea of red ink for the indefinite future.

He came along and said his second budget would balance in 10 years. But like everything else with this President, rhetoric and reality are inconsistent. It is what the polls say that motivates the actions down at the White House.

When the Congressional Budget Office scored the President's second budg-

et, they again found endless annual deficits—in excess of \$200 billion. Now the President says he is going to send us a third budget, and this one will be balanced in 7 years. I am a little cynical simply because I have been there before. I am from Missouri—maybe—when in reality I am from Alaska, but the same point is applicable. After two false starts, I wish to see something real.

I hope the President does send us a balanced budget, but I have had an opportunity this morning for a preview of what we anticipate is his effort, and it does not balance. It simply does not balance. So as a consequence, I fear we are facing a third situation where the President has sent us something that is totally unacceptable.

I hope that the President will be willing to recognize and give the American family the relief they need from taxes. I hope he will give Americans incentives to invest in our future and save. I hope that he would give Americans an opportunity for hope—hope that Government can be downsized, more efficient, more responsive. And I hope he will give America the economic security that will come from allowing oil exploration to proceed in ANWR, which I note in his veto statement he rejected.

On that point, I would like to defer to his veto statement where he suggests, under title V, the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas threatens a unique, pristine ecosystem in hopes it will generate \$1.3 billion in Federal revenues, revenues based on wishful thinking, and outdated analysis.

Mr. President, the wishful thinking is in the eyes of some of America's environmental community that focuses on this as a cause for membership and a cause of raising dollars at the expense of our national energy security, and at the expense of our jobs and at the expense of American technology.

Geologists have indicated that this area is the most likely area in North America where a major oil discovery could take place. And to suggest the arguments that prevailed against Prudhoe Bay 20 years ago are now being applied to the opening up of ANWR are not realistic is really selling American technology and ingenuity short. This could be the largest single job producer in the United States for the remainder of the century. It could be the largest contributor, if you will, to an increase in tax revenue for the Federal and State governments. The consequence of the President's shortsightedness in dismissing this really underestimates the capability of America's can-do spirit and advanced technology.

Mr. President, I think it is fair to say the American public today is fed up with this lack of leadership. The American public wants a balanced budget