

What principle is involved in changing something that no one understands called section 956(a) of the Tax Code, that says, "Let us make it easier, and let us provide a better incentive for people to close their manufacturing plants in America and move the jobs overseas"? What possible principle is involved in making that adjustment for those few recipients, the largest corporations in the country, to be rewarded in something that is called a balanced budget?

I also note the story today in the newspaper that says, "Furloughs Fail To Ground Overseas Trips by Congress." I think those who are responsible for shutting down the Government and who now plan to leave on a congressional foreign trip should think better of it. Some of their constituents might see their actions of shutting down the Government and then leaving the country as leaving the scene of an accident. We ought not be talking about foreign trips. We ought to be talking about getting this Government up and running and reaching a budget agreement.

The Republicans are right. I have said it before and I will say it this afternoon, the Republicans are right for pushing for a balanced budget. I compliment them for it. They have energy and strength to say we ought to balance the budget. They are right about that. We ought to do it in 7 years. They are right about that. The Democrats are right in saying let us do it the right way, by protecting the priorities in this country. Let us not pull the rug out from under Medicare. Let us make sure we invest in education. The Republicans are right and the Democrats are right. Let us take the best of what both have to offer, rather than get the worst of what each party has to offer this country.

My hope is that, by the end of today or tomorrow, working together, all of us, we will find a way to end this Government shutdown, put people back to work, develop a plan to balance the Federal budget, do it in 7 years, and do it with the right priorities that still will make this a better country in the future and especially do it in a way that is sensitive to the needs of some of the most vulnerable people in our country.

The American people, it seems to me, at the end of 1995, deserve a government that offers some measure of confidence, not chaos. We find ourselves in this circumstance, at the end of this year, for a lot of reasons. This Congress did not pass its appropriations bills on time. It did not pass its reconciliation bill on time. It did not pass any appropriations bills on time. The fact is, we end the year in chaos.

We can, it seems to me, even by the end of this week—tomorrow, Saturday, Sunday, Monday—still make some measure of progress in doing the right thing. And the right thing would be to restore to those Federal workers the opportunity to come back to their jobs,

to restore, for the taxpayers, some sense of confidence that we are doing the right thing, and to provide for this country a budget that is balanced—yes, in 7 years; and, yes, in the right way.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

AGREE ON A BUDGET

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, continuing with the remarks I made earlier to Senator DOLE, urging him to follow up on what he was talking about doing, going to the President and urging the President to sign at least three of these bills—I hope that happens. I have before me the Interior bill and the President's veto message, and there is no reason the President should veto this bill. He has vetoed it. It has caused a lot of dislocation. It has put a lot of people out of work, not only hurt the Federal employees, but it has also hurt a lot of constituents. They have not had the opportunity to visit parks and museums. I think that is really unfortunate, when I looked at the reason why he vetoed the bill.

So I urge the President to agree with Senator DOLE and Speaker GINGRICH and sign this bill—maybe making a couple of changes. We can make those changes. We can agree, if the two leaders, in meeting with the President, agree on a couple of changes, modifications. I know he wants a little more money for a couple of items in the bill. But by and large, I think it was vetoed for the wrong reason. This could be signed, thousands of people could go back to work, and our constituents would have access to parks and museums all across the country. So I hope that happens.

The other couple of bills that the President could sign and hopefully will sign soon, Commerce, State, Justice, and VA/HUD—again, let us agree to make whatever compromises are necessary, compromises in a couple of areas. The differences are not that great. But the bill should be signed. Those employees should go back to work and constituents, veterans and others, could receive the services they expect and are entitled to.

But the most important thing that needs to really happen is that we need to come to a resolution and agree on a budget. My friend and colleague from North Dakota said it has been months and we have been behind on reconciliation, it has taken too long—though Congress has tried to do a lot of things. It tried to reform welfare. Unfortunately, the President vetoed that package. It tried to balance the budget. We have never done that before. I have been here 15 years, we have never passed a balanced budget. We have never curtailed the growth of entitlement programs. We are trying to do that now.

Unfortunately, we have not had any real support or help from the White

House, from the administration. Yes, it is a congressional initiative, and it is easier said than done, but most of the time, Congress and politicians make rhetoric, saying we want to balance the budget, but they do not follow through. Congress, now, is very intent, very sincere, very earnest in saying we want to balance the budget and we want to do it with real numbers.

We thought, 6 weeks ago, President Clinton had agreed and made that commitment that he would do so as well. In the last 6 weeks since the November 15 agreement to have the CBO budget in 7 years, the President has yet to submit one. I compliment my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have signed on to a budget that is balanced using real, honest numbers. At least a dozen Democrats have signed on. So we, at least, have a package. You can work and negotiate because you are both dealing with the same numbers. They go to a goal of a balanced budget.

Unfortunately, President Clinton has not. Maybe today he will. But the press reports are that he still refuses to submit a balanced budget, so we will have a budget that we can compare. Maybe he is just going to throw rocks at the budget we have. Maybe he is going to throw rocks at the budget the Democrats have. I do not know. But I am hopeful. I want to be optimistic. I think it is awfully important for the future of this country, for the future generations, that we do start, begin to live within our means.

So I urge the President to work with Majority Leader DOLE and Speaker GINGRICH today, work to find an agreeable compromise to where no one individual or party is a winner but the American people will be winners; so the White House can claim victory, the Congress can claim victory, but the real victors, the real winners in this entire process will be the American people and future generations. That would be something worth fighting for. It would be something worth working for. That would be a victory, I think, that all people could claim some credit for.

I hope that will happen. I do think it is possible. It is possible if the President wants to make it happen. Hopefully he will.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, at 12:38 p.m., the Senate recessed subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reassembled at 7:51 p.m., when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. NICKLES).