

That is making them absorb inflationary increases, additional workload. That is tough, but that is doable.

But take a look at what happens to this spending when CBO implements its cuts. It drops from over \$850 million down to just below \$700 million, just above \$650 million, by the year 2000. This is, I would say, about a 30 percent cut in the Food and Drug Administration. That is 25 percent. This is in the body that is supposed to keep our food supply safe and make sure we get good quality, reliable, efficacious drugs. That is something I challenge. Can we afford to cut the FDA that much? I do not think so.

Let us take another one. This one is very important. We are talking about the research that is done to deal with diseases and promoting cures for many of the diseases we have and the things that are of great concern to many people—the National Institutes of Health.

The President starts off with a nice little increase, but you can see by the year 2000, that has to fall off the table. That is almost a \$2 billion cut in the budget of NIH to reach balance by the year 2002. Overall it is a 14 percent cut. Are we not going to need the research done by the National Institutes of Health in the year 2001 and 2002? I think we will. I am optimistic that we are going to discover cures. But I do not think we are going to make all the progress we can possibly make and then be able to shut down research at NIH. So I question the priority of slashing the NIH budget.

How about some of the other priorities? I have a responsibility for acting on, in our appropriations subcommittee, the budget for EPA. You all heard a great deal about the President and his support for EPA. Who would have believed just a few months ago that the President's budget would leave EPA with less money 6 years from now than it got from Congress last year, and well below the budget proposal we are presenting this year? As I have said many times over, numbers do not lie.

This is what happens to funding under our Senate-passed budget resolution. We hold EPA at a flat line. We want to work to improve the way that EPA does its business. We think that there are new ideas that are being developed both within EPA and by groups supporting EPA that can give us tremendous progress as we shift more responsibilities to State and local governments and maintain a vitally important monitoring function at the national level and using more flexible means of achieving goals.

The President said it well in his budget: "If industry can come up with a better way, a cheaper way of doing it, let's do it the most effective way." We can live with it. But take a look at what happens to the President's budget under the numbers presented by the President and as scored by CBO. This EPA budget takes a very sharp drop from just above \$7.2 billion to below \$6.4 billion by the year 2002.

This is a tremendous slash for the environment. He said, I thought, in his message in here that one of his priorities is making sure we take care of the environment. I do not think his budget does that. He says, "We need to invest in education, training, the environment, science and technology." I think our budget does a lot better job of doing that than his does.

Oh, yeah, by the way, science and technology. Our subcommittee also finances the National Science Foundation. We provide funding for it. Look what happens to the funding in the National Science Foundation. The Senate budget includes a slow but steady upward path. The President's budget gives us a little bump up here and then it drops off the table again because it has to. The President himself ordered that cuts be made to bring the budget in balance in the year 2002. Under CBO scoring that is the only way it is going to get to balance.

Finally, I addressed yesterday the budget of the Veterans' Administration, the agency which provides care to the medically indigent veterans and those veterans who have been injured in the service of their country, a very, very important group of people who depend solely on the Veterans' Administration.

These people would see the money devoted to their health care cut by almost 25 percent. The Clinton budget cuts \$12.9 billion out of the VA budget by the year 2002. We maintain essentially level funding. That is a cut that the veterans of this country cannot live with, and we in good conscience cannot live with.

I mentioned to this body yesterday that the President's people have said, "Don't believe these numbers." The Secretary of the Veterans' Administration, Jesse Brown, when he testified before my subcommittee, said, "The President has assured me that these will not be the numbers. He is going to negotiate with us." A representative of the White House Office of Management and Budget was quoted in the papers in our home State saying these numbers that are being presented, we are misrepresenting, because we took the numbers out of the book and out of the CBO. He said, "Those are just rough general guidelines. Don't believe them."

So it is the official policy of the administration not to believe the official policy. Until they send us up new numbers, send us a new budget, that is what we have to work with. That is what the priorities are: Cutting veterans, cutting national science, EPA, NIH.

Mr. President, that is not the way to get to the balanced budget we need. We can do so by following the plan outlined by Chairman DOMENICI. I urge all my colleagues to look at the contrasting numbers and make up their mind. I hope they will support the budget supported by the Senate Budget Committee.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 3:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:30 p.m., recessed until 3:30 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. KEMPTHORNE].

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BOB DOLE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I just had the opportunity to listen to the majority leader make his announcement of his future. I wanted to come to the floor this afternoon to salute BOB DOLE's 35 years of dedication to this institution and to his country. No one has given more, and no one has greater admiration in this body than does BOB DOLE.

I congratulate him on his decision. I believe it was the right one. Obviously, it is never easy to leave this institution. But he does so with our good wishes. While we will have the opportunity to serve with BOB DOLE for at least the next several weeks, we wish BOB, his wife Elizabeth, and his daughter, Robin, well as they pursue their future.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of the quorum.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, as a matter of fairness, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent that the time be charged equally to both sides.

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

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SENATOR DOLE'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I just watched Senator DOLE make his announcement. I want to join with Senator DASCHLE in his comments. I have worked with BOB DOLE from my days in the House and have come to have great respect for the huge contribution he has made here in the Senate and to our country. I think sometimes we get so partisan here that we forget the contributions that people are making.

Let me add one other thing, because media coverage is so negative all the