

Specter	Thompson	Wellstone
Stevens	Thurmond	Wyden

NAYS—25

Abraham	Grams	McConnell
Ashcroft	Helms	Nickles
Brown	Hutchison	Roth
Coats	Inhofe	Santorum
Coverdell	Kempthorne	Smith
Craig	Kyl	Thomas
Faircloth	Lott	Warner
Feingold	Mack	
Gramm	McCain	

The amendment (No. 4027) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on Amendment No. 4012 as amended.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a concurrent resolution to the desk providing for a conditional adjournment of Congress and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 60) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 60) was agreed to as follows:

S. CON. RES. 60

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring).* That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, May 23, 1996, Friday, May 24, 1996, or Saturday, May 25, 1996, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader or his designee in accordance with this resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, June 3, 1996, Tuesday, June 4, 1996 or until such time on that day as may be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, May 23, 1996, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 1996, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

The Senate continued with the consideration of the concurrent resolution.

AMENDMENT NO. 4012, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on agreeing to Amendment No. 4012, as amended.

The amendment (No. 4012), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I think we have an understanding that Senator ROTH will proceed with his amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

Mr. EXON. Before Senator ROTH starts, I ask the chairman of the committee, we have how many amendments left that we are going to vote on? As I understand it, we have Byrd that requires a vote, Roth that requires a vote, and McCain, and final passage.

Mr. DOMENICI. Correct. That is what I understand.

Mr. EXON. What we have agreed to earlier, we are trying to get out of here for at least one-half hour, between 4 to 4:30. It seems to me that we could probably have final passage by no later than 5:15.

Mr. DOMENICI. I think that is probably correct, I say to the Senator.

Mr. EXON. Is that the assumption under which we are working, then? We have one more vote at least, and then go to a half-hour recess?

Mr. DOMENICI. Are we going to have a half-hour recess?

Mr. EXON. That is what I agreed to with both the majority leader and the minority leader.

Mr. DOMENICI. All right. If our leader agreed it to, I am all for it. I asked the Senator to ask him. That is fine. We are going to vote on Roth, and then recess for 30 minutes. All right.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 4025

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, the Roth resolution simply states that Congress would give Amtrak a secure and reliable source of funding for capital expenditures. The rail trust fund would be funded by transferring revenues from the 0.5-cent excise tax that is currently going into the mass transit account to a newly created rail trust fund.

While Amtrak would have \$2.8 billion for capital expenditure over 5 years, the existing \$5.4 billion surplus in the mass transit account—the mass transit would continue to have billions of dollars in excess of its anticipated appropriations.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Senator GRASSLEY wants to speak in opposition. I yield to Senator GRASSLEY 30 seconds.

Mr. GRASSLEY. This budget resolution, all 50 hours of debate and all the many hundreds of pages, is about balancing the budget, which is long overdue and it is something that we should do. The Roth amendment, the next amendment, establishes a whole new

entitlement, something we should not do.

OMB expresses concern that this new funding source for Amtrak is wrong and it takes money from your local mass transit for Amtrak, something we should not do. So why threaten the solvency of our mass transit accounts? Balance the budget. No more entitlements.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the amendment offered by the Senator from Delaware.

As my colleagues will recall, I offered a similar amendment last year on the budget resolution. Unfortunately, we lost by one vote. I have been pressing the concept of a dedicated revenue source for Amtrak for quite some time now and I welcome the opportunity to voice this support again.

Mr. President, the resolution before us is a sense of the Senate resolution that Congress should provide Amtrak with the revenue from one-half penny of the Federal gas tax that is now directed to mass transit.

This revenue will provide Amtrak with a steady, dedicated revenue source. This is very important if Amtrak is to be able to make long-term planning decisions that will enable it to become financially viable in the future.

Amtrak is a key component of this Nation's transportation system. In my home State of Montana, many residents rely on Amtrak's service to travel to and from the State. Amtrak means jobs. It means increased access and mobility for Montanans.

And for any of you who have ever traveled on the Empire Builder through the northern tier of my State, you know the tremendous beauty along the Montana hi-line.

Some will argue that redirecting the one-half penny from mass transit to Amtrak will adversely affect mass transit programs. That is simply not true. There is an over \$5.4 billion cash surplus in excess of obligations in the mass transit account. That is more than enough to fund mass transit programs for the foreseeable future.

Mr. President, rural transportation programs seem to be constantly under attack. Rural areas are struggling. We continue to see a decline in rural transportation options—funding for rural air service, rural transit and highway programs is declining. This amendment is one small step forward in turning back this trend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 4025.

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Might I correct my statement? I understand that all we have agreed to—we do not have to go in recess. The next vote will occur at 4:30.

Mr. EXON. After the Roth vote.

Mr. DOMENICI. The next vote after this one will occur at 4:30. I ask unanimous consent for that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 4025.

Mr. ROTH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The question occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 4025. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 154 Leg.]

YEAS—57

Akaka	Exon	Mikulski
Baucus	Feingold	Moseley-Braun
Bennett	Feinstein	Moynihan
Biden	Ford	Murkowski
Bingaman	Harkin	Murray
Boxer	Hatch	Nickles
Bradley	Hollings	Pell
Breaux	Inouye	Pressler
Bryan	Jeffords	Pryor
Bumpers	Johnston	Reid
Burns	Kennedy	Robb
Byrd	Kerrey	Rockefeller
Chafee	Kerry	Roth
Cohen	Kohl	Sarbanes
D'Amato	Lautenberg	Simon
Daschle	Leahy	Snowe
DeWine	Levin	Specter
Dodd	Lieberman	Wellstone
Dorgan	Lott	Wyden

NAYS—43

Abraham	Gorton	Mack
Ashcroft	Graham	McCain
Bond	Gramm	McConnell
Brown	Grams	Nunn
Campbell	Grassley	Santorum
Coats	Gregg	Shelby
Cochran	Hatfield	Simpson
Conrad	Heflin	Smith
Coverdell	Helms	Stevens
Craig	Hutchison	Thomas
Dole	Inhofe	Thompson
Domenici	Kassebaum	Thurmond
Faircloth	Kempthorne	Warner
Frist	Kyl	
Glenn	Lugar	

The amendment (No. 4025) was agreed to.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAMS. 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. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 12 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. GRAMS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. Grams pertaining to the introduction of S. 1805 are

located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GRAMS. Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. 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. KENNEDY. I would like to be able to proceed for 4 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GREGG). Without objection, it is so ordered.

### INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today's action by the House of Representatives removes one of the Republican's obstacles to successful action on the minimum wage. An overwhelming majority of House Republicans, 81 percent, tried to kill the increase by attaching a "poison pill" to exempt all workers of small business, but 43 courageous Republicans stood up to the extremists in their party and spit out the poison pill.

As the price for accepting an increase, House Republicans tried to deny any minimum wage at all for millions of men and women who work for small business. It was a Republican sneak attack on the minimum wage, and it did not deserve to pass. The minimum wage is supposed to be a floor. It is wrong for Republicans to try to turn that floor into a trap door.

The Republican philosophy seems to be the only good minimum wage is no minimum wage. It is bad enough that in today's economy, America has to compete with sweatshop labor overseas. If the Republicans have their way, American workers and American employers will have to compete with sweatshop labor right here in our own backyard. How very Republican. Every previous Congress that dealt with the minimum wage voted to expand coverage and give the benefits of the law's protection to more and more Americans. Now is no time to roll back that progress. It is time to end the Republican war on hard-working American families, and I am confident the Senate will also reject any Republican scheme to roll back the minimum wage. No one who works for a living should have to live in poverty.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRAIG. 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. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak in morning business for no more than 5 minutes.

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

### FOREST HEALTH

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, within an hour or so, we will be adjourning and out for the Memorial Day recess. But when we return, it is my plan to mark up legislation in the Public Lands and Forestry Subcommittee that I chair, dealing with forest health, the health of the forests of our country.

For well over a decade now, we have studied the issue of how to manage our forests in light of the recurrence of wild storm style forest fires that continue to devastate our forests across the Pacific Northwest and across the Southwest every time we get into a dry period, especially the kind the Southwest, New Mexico and Arizona and Colorado, are experiencing at this moment.

What we have found, Mr. President, is that in our great ability to put out fires, we have allowed to build up on our forest floors, massive amounts of fuel in the form of dead and dying trees as a result of bug kill, as a result of fungus, or simply as a result of the overpopulation of our trees and therefore their death because of lack of moisture. In my State of Idaho and across the inland West, where before man came to that region we had tremendously healthy forests and populations of trees of 40 or 50 or 60 trees per acre, now, because of our ability to put out fires, we are finding that we have 300 and 400 trees per acre. Of course, there is only so much moisture. When we get into a drought cycle, there is not enough moisture to keep all of those trees alive.

What we are finding is that before we had this tremendous ability to put out fires, fires would come along on a relatively regular basis, caused by lightning strikes or actually caused by native Americans who saw the useful tool of fire. It would burn at a low rate, at a low pace, burn off the shrubbery and the brush, allow the mature trees to stand and allow young trees that had reached a certain age to survive. That kept the forests, primarily of the West, in a very productive and rather pastoral form.

But that changed and it has changed dramatically over the last 50 years, as we learned to put out fires. But we did not go in and do what Mother Nature was doing, and that was to thin trees or to take down the underbrush. As a result of that, we have had a massive fuel loading in many of the forests of the West and Southwest.

Mr. President, you and I have witnessed, in the last several months, fires in New Mexico and Arizona and now in Colorado that, by our forest scientists'