

[Mr. SIMON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1632, a bill to prohibit persons convicted of a crime involving domestic violence from owning or possessing firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1641

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1641, a bill to repeal the consent of Congress to the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, and for other purposes.

S. 1755

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1755, a bill to amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to provide that assistance shall be available under the noninsured crop assistance program for native pasture for livestock, and for other purposes.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNITION OF NORTHERN TELECOM FOR RECEIVING THE CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AWARD

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a distinguished corporate citizen of my home State of Texas. As you may know, Northern Telecom [Nortel], a telecommunications equipment manufacturer based in Richardson, TX, recently received the first annual Corporate Citizenship Award from the Committee on Economic Development [CED].

The CED is an independent, non-partisan educational research organization of 250 top business, leaders, economists, and university presidents. CED represents no single industry or special interest group, nor does it lobby. For more than 50 years, CED's recommendations have played a major, often decisive, role in critical policy areas such as American competitiveness, government and business management, energy security, education, and job creation. The CED's Corporate Citizenship Award was created to salute those companies that have demonstrated both an active involvement in the policy dialog and a carefully considered commitment to the communities in which they operate and society at large.

Nortel received the award in recognition of the principles of corporate and civic responsibility that have guided the company throughout its 100-year history. The award cited Nortel's investment in research and development, the training and education of its workers, the quality of its management, as well as the company's strong and ongoing commitment to education, the preservation of the arts and culture, and community service.

With over 5,000 employees, Nortel is a global telecommunications leader. It is with much pride, Mr. President, that I urge my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the Nortel family on this much-deserved distinction.●

##### 1997 BUDGET RESOLUTION VOTES

• Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their support of the Kerry-Simpson-Nunn-Brown-Robb long-term entitlements amendment. My colleagues and I were a mere 14 votes away from passing legislation to begin the process of changing our entitlement laws. The support for this type of long-term reform is unprecedented, due in no small measure to our persistence on this matter.

I am particularly gratified because the reforms we advocated did not simply tinker around the edges of our budgetary dilemmas. Our adjustment to the Consumer Price Index would have saved the country \$126 billion over 7 years; the phasing in of the Medicare eligibility age to 70 would eventually, by 2030, in 1 year alone save \$41.1 billion in 1996 dollars; and our provision would have given more than 120 million working Americans the chance to start accumulating their own wealth through personal investment plans.

Mr. President, the fiscal imbalance of entitlements versus discretionary spending threatens our implicit intergenerational compact to leave a prosperous and growing economy to the next generation of Americans. The great demographic shift that will occur over the next 20 or 30 years—when the baby boom generation reaches retirement age—will largely shape our Nation's future. Accordingly, these changes must be met with new assumptions, different rules, and a fresh perspective.

That is what my colleagues and I offered. With growing support from both sides of the aisle and increased public awareness, perhaps soon we will get the votes we need to pass long-term entitlement reform. So, I am encouraged.

Accordingly, I would also like to briefly comment on other amendments offered to the budget resolution which I chose to vote against.

Several amendments were offered to the Republican budget resolution to restore funding to education, Medicaid, and the environment. While I agreed that the spending cuts to these programs in the budget resolution, particularly education, were severe and counterproductive—I could not vote for the add back amendments as they were written. In order to balance the budget and according to budget rules, amendments which add money back to programs in the budget resolution must be offset by cuts in other areas of Government spending. Each of the add back amendments I voted against used unspecified cuts to corporate welfare to pay for them. I realize that this might look like a good idea to the average citizen—cuts to corporations to fund education—but it's not always that simple.

"Corporate welfare" can be a very loosely defined and overused term. The reality is that most of us support—and more importantly benefit from—something that someone could call corporate welfare. The home mortgage deduction is a prime example. Some peo-

ple would say it qualifies as corporate welfare for the real estate industry. However, if Congress ended the program today, we would hear the furious cry of the people claiming that we had increased their taxes. The self-employed health insurance deduction is another example. So is the research and development tax credit—and the list goes on. These obviously were not the programs my colleagues had in mind. But I felt I needed a better sense of what they did have in mind before I joined them in support of these amendments.

Please do not misunderstand, I believe there are many places where Government can cut back on spending—including unfair tax breaks for corporations. But we cannot use cuts to corporate welfare as a panacea to cure all our budget ills. I believe we must examine each program for its merits before deciding to eliminate it. Had the add-back amendments in the budget resolution been more specific on which items were to be used as offsets, my votes may have been cast quite differently.

Moreover, as I mentioned earlier, the most responsible way to solve our budget problems is not to tinker on the edges, cutting slices from corporate welfare or discretionary spending. We must address the unsustainable growth of entitlement spending if we want to bring our budget into long-term balance. The support for our long-term entitlement amendment was an important first step to getting us there.●

#### SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, this week is Small Business Week, during which we honor and express our appreciation for the men and women who, by dint of hard work and risktaking, help keep the American economy going strong and create jobs for millions of their fellow citizens.

The life of a small business owner is not easy: Long hours, uncertain finances, competition, the very real chance of failure. Add to these burdens Federal taxes and regulations, and you have a rough road indeed. Many small business people will tell you that the Federal tax and regulatory burden is an obstacle to growth, and that the Federal Government's excessive interference poses a threat not only to their growth, but in some cases to their very survival. It's time the Government got off the backs of small businesses, and stopped throwing obstacles in the way of their success.

Because small businesses are so vital to our economy, and because so many American workers benefit from employment in small businesses, Congress is working to relieve some of the tax and regulatory burdens on small business owners so that they may be free to grow, create jobs, and contribute even more to the economy.