

I am not saying, "I told you so." I am just saying, it was so obvious at the time and everyone is on record and the President is on record and John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is on record and Secretary Perry is on record, all of them assuring it was going to be 12 months, and now we know it is not going to be 12 months.

As I said yesterday, we have to serve notice on the administration that when they try to extend that time, we in this Chamber will do everything we can to support our troops who are over there, but they are going to have a fight in keeping our troops over there for an undetermined period of time.

THE BUDGET

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, if I could have just a minute or so more, I want to mention the budget resolution that was passed yesterday. I did not like it. I did not say anything about it at the time. I have to say publicly, on the record, now, the only reason I did support it is I think that is the only way we could have anything at all for defense.

There is a very distinguished House Member from Oklahoma, Congressman WATTS. I think he feels the same way, that this is the only way we can do it. It is not a lean enough budget. It is not one that is as good as I would like. But, nonetheless, we went ahead and passed it.

I think that brings up the other point, and that is our discussion last week on the balanced budget amendment. I do not know how people can have such a change of heart. I think there are six Democrat U.S. Senators who openly supported the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution in 1994, and they voted for it. This is the resolution that they voted for in 1994, Senate Joint Resolution 41, and they turned right around and actively opposed the same exact language in a balanced budget amendment that failed to pass by a couple of votes last week. They tried to say it was different. They said this had the Nunn amendment that addressed judicial review.

I would like to read something into the RECORD, just to make sure no one tries to use that to make people think this is not the same resolution that they voted for 2 years ago and then voted against this last week. This is right out of the RECORD, Senator NUNN speaking. He said:

Mr. President, as I noted last Thursday, adoption of the balanced budget amendment to me is very important, but I also noted that without a limitation on judicial review, a limitation which was accepted during our 1994 debate, when offered by Senator Danforth of Missouri, we could radically alter the balance of powers among the three branches of government that is fundamental to our democracy.

So those Senators that we actively debated with, those very honorable

Senators from West Virginia and North Dakota and Kentucky—these are exactly the same thing. I think maybe it was a mistake that was made. A better way to approach this would be to come up and say, "We did make a mistake, I did not know it was the same thing," and perhaps we would have a chance, still, of passing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. Because until we do this, until it is in the Constitution so we do not have any choice, we are going to continue to play this game where we are going to put all of our cuts in the outyears and we are not going to be able to pass a balanced budget.

A balanced budget amendment is the only other way, and I hope those six Senators who voted for and supported a balanced budget amendment in 1994 would reconsider. With those votes, we would be able to pass one and send it to the States for three-fourths of the States to ratify. I have no doubt in my mind they would ratify it in a very short period of time.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. COVERDELL. I commend the Senator from Oklahoma for bringing up the issue of Bosnia creep. I am not going to talk about it, but I am sure we are going to hear a lot about that in the near term. Not only is the time in which the troops are there being expanded, but the mission is being expanded as well.

If you remember, during all the testimony when that decision was being made, it was a very narrow mission. Now we are talking about chasing down war criminals, expanding the mission significantly, as well as the time.

I have to tell you that I never felt it possible that you could have a 12-month commitment, moving a division like that into an area. It sounded like you would spend the first 6 months getting there and the second 6 months leaving. So I am not surprised by this dilemma that we found ourselves in.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I want to go back, if we might, to this issue we are confronted with on health care reform. The situation we are in is this. There are three motions that must be approved in order to get the conferees selected, and they are all debatable and can be filibustered. The Senator from Massachusetts has suggested to us that the filibuster would be put into play.

So, in a sense, he is blocking the ability for a conference to come together

and deal with legitimate health care reform.

It has not been mentioned here this morning, but it needs to be mentioned that the administration has a hand in this, too. The administration, for whatever reason—and the Senator from Oklahoma is just as baffled as I—does not like medical savings accounts.

We know that medical savings accounts will lead to an increase of those insured among the young. As the Senator from Texas said, young people sometimes feel immortal, and the cost of health insurance is very high, taxes are high, savings are down and people look for things they can do without. Young people feel, "Well, this is something I can do without."

So by putting a product such as the medical savings account into the marketplace, we know that what will happen is that many of these uninsured will take advantage of this opportunity, this unique product.

The other point I want to make about MSA's is for a large number of people who use them, they will increase their disposable income, because those premiums that are not utilized for health purposes are in the checking account of the person, not somewhere up here in the bowels of the Treasury or in an insurance company's coffers. It is in the family's checking account. So they have access and will have access to financial resources that they can use to pursue their own dreams.

Here we have a situation where the President and First Lady came forward with a massive takeover of medicine by the Government. It would have created the largest entitlement in world history, which I have always found puzzling, because it was right at the same time all of us, including the President, was being told that entitlements are out of control. We have had a report that Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Federal retirement, and the interest only on our debt will consume 100 percent of the U.S. Treasury within a decade. And their response to that was to create a new entitlement, the largest one.

America took a look at that—new entitlement, massive Government spending, new taxes, more intrusion by the Government, more dominance over our lives on very personal matters—and they said, "No, we don't want that." And it went down in flames.

Frankly, there is a lot of conjecture about what the 1994 elections were all about. I, frankly, think it was a referendum on that health takeover by the Government. I think that had as much to do with the change in the Congress. Americans said, "Now, look, we're not for a greater Federal Government. It is already too big."

Then we come to the 104th Congress, and in response to that, recognizing there are issues that need addressing in health care in our country, we put forward a new proposal.

We eliminated job lock to allow workers to move from one job to the