statements in the RECORD and make a unanimous consent request. This should not take very long at all.

Mr. BUMPERS. My pleasure, Mr. President.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Senator.

TRIBUTE TO SAM ADCOCK

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding staffer and dear friend of mine, Sam Adcock.

For the past 7 years, Sam has served not only as my national security advisor, but as one of my most-trusted and able advisors. Sam is moving on to other challenges, but it is my privilege to commend him for the service he has provided me and the Senate as a whole.

The youngest of four children born to Pat and Larry Adcock, Sam was born in Baton Rouge, LA, and although Sam was not a native Mississippian, he assured me he had relatives in the Magnolia State.

I am not sure what effect being the youngest in such a large family had on Sam, but I think it must have played some part in cultivating his competitive nature.

It is this, combined with a gut instinct for effective legislation, which has made Sam Adcock such an important part of my team.

Sam joined my staff as a full-time employee in 1990, after serving for a year as a military liaison. He served as my legislative assistant while I was a member of the Armed Services Committee, and quickly sank his teeth into the complicated process of military appropriations.

Mississippi's shipyards and military bases owe Sam Adcock a debt of gratitude for the countless hours he spent arguing on their behalf.

During the 1991, 1993, and 1995 Base Realignment and Closure [BRAC] procedures, due in large part to Sam's hard work, Mississippi was the only State that had no bases closed.

Among the many areas where Sam's expertise was invaluable to me were the development of the LHA and LHD programs. Perhaps one of our greatest legislative triumphs was working in 1995 to help Ingalls Shipbuilding of Pascagoula, MS, win the $1.4 billion contract for LHD 7.

Sam worked around the clock to help Ingalls win this contract so important to the men and women of Jackson County, MS, but that was not unusual for him. I know Mississippians would be proud to know how relentlessly Sam pursued what was in their State's best interests.

The country, too, should be proud to have had such a champion of strong military ideals fighting to preserve our Nation's military prowess. I could always count on Sam to go into a meeting for me and come away with the best possible deal for Mississippi and our country as a whole.

In addition to his service as my armed services advisor, Sam was promoted to the position of legislative director. He has always been a take-charge kind of guy, and he ensured that my office's legislative staff was prepared and proactive. As effective as Sam's leadership was, he was also one of the most well-liked members of my staff.

While those who have worked against Sam know what a formidable opponent he is, those who have worked with him know what a pleasant and approachable man he can be.

As Sam Adcock moves on to a new and exciting position as vice-president for government operations at Daimler Benz, I wish him, his wife Carol, and their young son Austin, the best of luck.

Sam exemplifies all that is good in the congressional staffers who work so hard here on Capitol Hill. He is honest, industrious, intelligent, and talented.

My office will be poorer for his departure, but the people of this country are richer from his time as a Senate staffer. For his loyal and dedicated service, I thank him.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO JIM GRAHNE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to express the gratitude of the Senate to Jim Grahne, the director of our Senate Recording and Photographic Studios. Jim is retiring this week after 27 years of dedicated service to the Senate.

Jim Grahne has been one of our most talented technical and management professionals in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

He is an engineer by training and profession and has used his skill, creativity and expertise to shepherd the Senate through nearly 30 years of broadcast and photographic technology. I am referring to the television, radio and photographic services on which we as members, and as an institution, so readily rely.

It was Jim's leadership that made technically possible the broadcast of the proceedings of the Senate floor.

While that accomplishment may be one of his professional highlights, he always sought ways to improve products and services to members.

Some of the recent successes of Jim and his staff include the installation of a fiber optic network for the broadcast of committee hearings, CD-Rom and on-line photo data base services for members' offices. Jim and his staff have also pioneered the use of closed captioning text, audio and visual technologies.

This year the studios released full text and audio search and retrieval of floor proceedings. Offices may now search for and download any speech or debate text and audio with 15 minutes of its being given.

Our gratitude for Jim is not limited to his understanding and appreciation for technology. Because he came to the Senate from the commercial news and broadcast industry, he understands the importance of the press and of the role played by visual and sound images.

Every day that the proceedings of the Senate are made available to the press here and around the world, it is an affirmation and practical example of democracy in action. That goal has been an important part of Jim's motivation.

Mr. President, our Senate family wishes Jim and Linda, his wife of 34 years, and their children—Mark, Lena, and Karen—the very best and hope he gets some time to spend on that sailboat with his granddaughter, Megan. But, knowing Jim as we do, we can expect his sleeves will be rolled up and into another challenge in the very near future.

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT AMENDMENTS

MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the consideration of Calendar No. 27, S. 104, the nuclear waste bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on behalf of colleagues on this side of the aisle, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the nuclear waste bill and send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 104, a bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982:

Trent Lott, Larry Craig, John Ashcroft, Dan Coats, Tim Hutchinson, Sam Brownback, Mitch McConnell, Conrad Burns, Frank Murkowski, Jon Kyl, Connie Mack, Spencer Abraham, Chuck Hagel, John McCain, Don Nickles, and Gordon Smith.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I regret the objection from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I know the Senator from Illinois was objecting on behalf of other Senators that could be directly affected by this issue. I have filed a cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the nuclear waste bill. So I now ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote be at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, and the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. In light of this agreement to conduct this cloture vote on Tuesday, April 8, I now announce that there

will be no votes during the session of the Senate on Monday, April 7, the day that we return, although there will be debate on that day. I expect debate to occur on the pending motion to proceed to the nuclear waste bill on that Monday, and the Senate may be asked to consider other legislative or executive items on that Monday. I will be discussing Monday's schedule further with the Democratic leader and will inform the Senate as to what other items the Senate may consider when it reconvenes following the Easter recess period.

I thank all my colleagues for their attention. I now withdraw the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, just in conclusion, I want to recognize the Senator from Arkansas, who is in the Chamber at this time. I thank him again for his courtesy in allowing me to do this and recognize that he is a member of the Committee of Energy and Natural Resources that reported this legislation. I think it is very important legislation. I understand that the Senators from Nevada will have to make their points in opposition to what it would do, but I do think it is just absolutely essential that this country face up to the need to deal with our nuclear waste. There is no easy way to do it. There is no perfect solution for all 100 Senators. But we passed it last time through the Senate and it died aborning in the House. I am told this time that we will, when we pass it, the House will also pass it, and this time we hope we can get it to the President. And we hope we can get it to the President in a way that he feels he can sign it.

We must do this because it is an issue that will not go away. Nuclear waste is sitting in cooling pools and barrels all over this country from South Carolina to Vermont, from the banks of the Mississippi River to the shores of the Pacific Ocean. We must deal with this problem, and so that is why I take this procedure to make sure that we get it up for consideration and for debate when we return from the Easter recess.

I thank the Chair. I thank the Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BUMPERS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, let me say before I begin my remarks on a separate subject, that the majority leader is absolutely right when he talks about the necessity for developing a system of disposing of high-level nuclear waste in this country from our nuclear powerplants.

I, when I was Governor of Arkansas 22 years ago, wondered how on Earth we were going to deal with that. That was the reason I was always opposed to building more nuclear plants when we had not figured out how we were going to decommission the ones that we had and dispose of the nuclear waste that was coming out of them. So it is one of the most difficult, knotty problems I have ever faced.

I am ranking on the Energy Committee and we have wrestled with this at length over the years. This is no time to debate it, except to say it is one of the most awesome, difficult problems I have ever been confronted with.

FORGO TAX CUTS UNTIL WE BALANCE THE BUDGET

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to my colleague in the House, Speaker GINGRICH. For those of you who think that I must need a saliva test for saying that, here is why. It was earlier this week in a press conference, that Speaker GINGRICH made a very responsible statement. He said that this Congress should forgo tax cuts until we balance the budget—an eminently sensible, unassailable proposition insofar as I am concerned.

I expected him to get the reception he got. Some of his very best friends in the House jumped on him and said, ''You have betrayed us.'' Thirty House Members sent him a hot letter, saying, ''What on Earth are you thinking?''

I don't know what he was thinking, but I assume he was thinking the same thing I was thinking, and that is that the snake oil of cutting taxes and balancing the budget makes no sense whatever. We have tried it. Ten years from now or 20 years from now, when memories have faded a little further, I would rather expect people to say, yes, we can cut taxes and balance the budget. But we are, really, only 4 years away from the end of George Bush's tenure as President; we are 16 years away from 1981 when the U.S. Senate took leave of its senses and passed a massive tax cut on the proposition that if we would do that and simultaneously balance the budget, which was at that moment $87 billion out of kilter, that we could balance the budget by 1984 if we just bought into this proposition that we needed to cut taxes monumentally to stimulate the economy.

But I am again happy to report to my colleagues I did not buy that snake oil. There were 11 Senators—believe it—11 U.S. Senators who said, ''This is crazy. It will never work. It makes no sense whatever. It violates economic principle, violates normal sanity.'' But we went ahead and did it, and I will never forget that fall day when President Reagan, at Rancho Mirage, signed the bill in front of about 100 television cameras, saying, ''You have given me the tools. Now I'll do the job and nobody will be left behind.''

Here is what happened. Twelve years later, we had accumulated $2.5 trillion in additional debt to go with the already $1 trillion debt that we had incurred during the first 200 years of this country's history—actually less than that. But from the date we adopted and ratified the Constitution in 1789, until the day we passed that tax cut in 1981, the debt had accumulated to less than $1 trillion. Twelve short years later, we had increased that trillion-dollar debt by $3 trillion, and the national debt at that time then became $4 trillion, and we have been striving to dig ourselves out of that hole ever since.

Mr. President, 3 or 4 weeks ago I was walking out that door to go back to my office and one of the most conservative Republican Senators in the U.S. Senate, who happens to be a good friend, came over to me and he said, ''I'll tell you, DALE, confidentially, I've never seen things better. The economy is as good as it ever gets. A lot of things are going right in this country.'' I almost fainted. I said, ''I could not agree with you more.''

I sometimes wonder why people are not dancing in the streets. Since 1992 we have taken the deficit from $290 billion to $107 billion in 4 short years. The unemployment rate in this country is the lowest in years. Some economists say you you cannot get it much lower than 5.3 or 5.4 percent. Interest rates are at a manageable level. And this morning, everybody who read the Washington Post saw a feature story about how the deficit is continuing to go down.

Let me back up. The President sent his budget over here and he said: In 1997, the deficit will be about $127 billion. It will be about the same in 1998. This morning the newspaper reports that because of this economy, enjoying the longest sustained growth since Dwight Eisenhower was President, even CBO, which is very conservative in their projections, says the deficit this year is going to be down to $115 billion. But other very reputable economists say, no, you are underestimating the taxes the people of this country are going to pay this year because the economy is doing just fine.They say, we believe the deficit will be under $100 billion.

I am the eternal optimist. I like to believe that last statement, that the deficit will be below $100 billion, turns out to be true, in which case we will have done something that is unprecedented in this country. We will have had 5 sustained years of deficit reduction.

Do you want the economy to continue as it is now and have this sustained growth that we have been enjoying? I will tell you a simple way to do it. You send a message to the American people that the U.S. Congress has come to its senses, and decided to forgo tax cuts of any kind until the United States budget is in balance.

Then tell them, on top of that, this year's deficit is not going to be $99 billion; we're going to further reduce it to $90 billion or $85 billion. I can tell you, Wall Street will jump with joy.

Why would we be considering tax cuts of $193 billion, almost $200 billion? Why would the U.S. Senate be considering a $200 billion tax cut over the next 5 years and $508 billion over the next 10 years? Why are we considering that when we know that a tax cut of that magnitude is going to stimulate