

unanticipated events, both domestic and foreign. I would suggest that it is an impossible task for any person to estimate the budget and to estimate the national debt on a 10-year basis. I would offer as my basis for that statement a look-back just 5 years, not 10 years, which this legislation proposed.

In January of 1993, the Congressional Budget Office estimated what the national debt would be 5 years hence, in the fiscal year 1998, which ended September 30, 1998. Their projection was that the national debt on that date would be \$4.863 trillion. At the same time, in January of 1993, the administration made an estimate of what they thought the national debt would be 5 years hence. Their projection was \$4.576 trillion. The actual number was \$3.720 trillion. So the CBO was off by over a trillion dollars. The administration was off by \$856 billion. That was a 5-year projection.

What we are proposing in this legislation is to use 10-year projections and to give those the sanctity of almost biblical correctness, because they would become the basis upon which our future budgets would be predicated.

Mr. President, seeing my time is about to expire, I offer these amendments as an indication of the direction which I think we should be proceeding in as we strive together to achieve a very important goal, which is to protect the Social Security surplus for its intended purpose of meeting the obligations that we have for this and future generations of Americans. I believe the amendments I will offer will help both assure that the money is protected before it goes into the vault, and that the vault itself is a reasonable and secure place in which we can place those funds.

Protecting Social Security for our children and grandchildren is one of the highest goals of the Federal Government. We can make the lockbox stronger, and we can and should control emergency spending so there will be money to put in the lockbox for future generations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. BREAUX addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

VIOLENT CRIME

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I rise to make comments about the very unfortunate situation that occurred in Denver, CO, yesterday at Columbine High School. I know that our entire Nation mourns and grieves for the students and the teachers who lost their lives in the very tragic occurrence that happened just yesterday.

I, and I know all of my colleagues, hope for a day when the young people, our Nation's children, will never again have to fear for their safety anywhere in this country—but especially in their own schools that they attend each day. I certainly want to join with others who have extended their sympathies

and condolences to the families and friends of those children who lost their lives. We hope for the very best for their families as they deal with this very tragic situation. I express my desire that they know our prayers are with them and their families.

As I, along with millions of Americans, watched on television yesterday the carrying out of something that used to be only in theatrical performances and in the movies—the tragic situation—I was drawn to the men and women of the Denver Police, Colorado law enforcement officials, members of the SWAT team, and the emergency medical personnel who were all working so diligently to spare people from suffering grave damages that were being inflicted on the victims in that community. They were doing everything they could to minimize the loss of life and human suffering and misery that was being brought about by the tragic actions of two apparently very disturbed and deranged young students who carried out these dastardly deeds.

I was also reminded of all of the people in my home State of Louisiana who, at the same time, have been working every day, night, week, and month to try to do something about the abnormal crime rate that has affected my own State of Louisiana. I report to my colleagues and to the people of our State that there is, indeed, some good news. The good news is contained in a report I saw just yesterday while this tragic event was going on in Colorado. The good news was that violent crime in the city of New Orleans, for example, has fallen 21 percent just since the month of January. This is the 11th consecutive quarter in which total crime—and particularly violent crime—was down.

This is not something that just happened. It happened because of the joint efforts of Mayor Marc Morial and the city council, along with the police force and, in particular, the superintendent of police in New Orleans, Superintendent Richard Pennington, and all the men and women of the New Orleans police force who have been working very diligently in a joint and cooperative effort to try to reach the success that now is becoming more and more apparent.

Since Chief Pennington took over the New Orleans Police Department, violent crime has dropped 55 percent. Overall, crime has fallen 33 percent. Murders are down 30 percent. Armed robberies, which numbered 1,200 every quarter, are now down to the 390s. Assaults are down 15 percent compared to the first quarter of 1998.

The New Orleans story is truly a real success story in confronting violent crime and doing something about it and doing something that has been enormously successful. Chief Pennington has said this success is a result of “saturating the streets with more officers and putting them in key places” and improving the investigations of repeat offenders.

I remember, for many months, we talked about President Clinton's proposal that the Congress adopted regarding community policing. This is a real example of the fact that community policing does in fact get the job done when you have people who believe in it. This administration can be justifiably proud of their proposal, and the States that implemented it and benefited from it can justifiably be pleased with the results. Chief Pennington has not only worked with Mayor Marc Morial and the city council to hire more people, he has been able to use the COPS program to hire 200 additional officers. New Orleans has received \$8.6 million through this Federal program, dollars that have paid the salaries of extra and new police officers—obviously, money that has been well spent. Also, Chief Pennington has installed Comstat, which uses block-by-block data to track crime and find so-called hot spots in the community.

Using this data, the chief and his enforcement officials can move his offices from quiet areas to those areas that need more attention and need more police presence.

Obviously, the bottom line is these strategies and community policing programs are working. We now see actual indications and statistics which say that New Orleans is today a much safer place than it used to be, so that the thousands and thousands of people who regularly visit our cities for the numberable festivals, activities and celebrations which are part of our Louisiana culture, and particularly part of the New Orleans culture, can come to our city knowing it is a much safer place than it used to be.

I am particularly reminded of the next two weekends. We celebrate the jazz festival in New Orleans, and literally thousands of people from all over this country and literally from all over this world will be visiting our city. The good news is that they now know that when they visit these cities it is much safer than it has been in the past because of the actions of so many people who are dedicated, just as the people in Denver, to making their communities a safer place.

While we remember the tragedies in one city today in our Nation, we can also take great pride in knowing that activities by dedicated people are making a difference and that things in most communities are getting better. New Orleans is one example of that.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NATO'S STRATEGIC CONCEPT

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, as we approach the 50th anniversary Summit