

Senator MOYNIHAN and others, his leadership has been instrumental in ensuring some modicum of balance in our funding for mass transit as opposed to roads and highways. He has been a leader in the ongoing effort to support Amtrak and the important cause of commuter and intercity passenger rail service, which can do so much to reduce traffic congestion and keep our air clean.

And no one has done more to promote transportation safety, on the road as well as in the air. FRANK LAUTENBERG authored the law to establish 21 as the legal drinking age, and to ban smoking on airplanes. And he is responsible more than anyone else for the landmark provision in this year's transportation appropriations bill lowering the legal standard for intoxication to .08 percent blood alcohol content. The drinking age law alone has saved an estimated 12,000 lives since its enactment in 1984. It's estimated that his ".08" measure will save an additional 600 lives each year in this country.

FRANK LAUTENBERG also understood that we must do more to protect law-abiding citizens from the scourge of gun violence. He authored the bill to close the gun-show loophole. He has fought for child-proof handguns. And his support for measures like the Brady bill was instrumental in bringing about a nationwide reduction in gun violence over the past 7 years.

Lastly, as ranking member of the Budget Committee, FRANK has played a valuable role in bringing about an end to budget deficits and putting our nation on the path to paying off our national debt. He has also worked to strengthen the solvency of Medicare and Social Security.

I said a while ago that FRANK LAUTENBERG proved to be a very successful businessman. He accumulated great financial wealth. No one would have faulted him if he just retired, having made that achievement and contribution for the private sector.

I think all of us, regardless of party and political persuasion, admire people who want to give something back and who are willing to jump into this arena of public life, running the risks that we all do when we place our name on ballots all cross this country. The fact that FRANK LAUTENBERG decided at the end of his private life to become a public citizen and make a significant contribution to his country stands as a wonderful model for others who have done well to follow and when they want to give something back.

Not everyone runs for public office, nor should they, but there are ways in which people can make contributions every day to improve the quality of life for people. FRANK LAUTENBERG is a living embodiment of that concept and that principle.

The colleagues I have talked about, the wonderful colleagues who have served so admirably and so well, DICK BRYAN, BOB KERREY, FRANK LAUTEN-

BERG, and my friend, Stan Israelite, are examples of public servants who I will miss terribly every day. These are good Americans who have made a difference in the lives of all of us as citizens in this country.

I will find time to talk about my good friends, CONNIE MACK and PAT MOYNIHAN, but I see my colleagues on the floor. I thank them for their indulgence. I talked a little longer than I anticipated. I thank the Senators for their patience.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). The Senator from Oklahoma.

CONSULTING ON U.S.S. "COLE" ACTION

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, many on the Senate Armed Services Committee have been quite distressed over some of the uncertainties, some of the things that happened in conjunction with the tragedy of the U.S.S. *Cole*. Even though it is a delicate thing to talk about, there are people still around who believe that the President took some actions, such as sending the cruise missiles into Afghanistan and the cruise missiles into Sudan, without consultation with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, without consultation with the Intelligence Committee, the Senate Armed Services Committee, the House Armed Services Committee, something that was done and nobody knew it was going to happen. There are a lot of people who believe that might have been politically motivated.

I think it is very appropriate tonight to urge the President that if something should happen that we would have to take some kind of action in the next few days, in that there are only 13 days until a national election, make sure there are no suspicions out there. I want to get on record urging the President to work closely on any proposed action that could take place as a result of the U.S.S. *Cole* tragedy, to work closely on the matter, in full consultation with all members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with the top service commanders in chief, as well as the members of both the Senate Armed Services Committee, the House Armed Services Committee, and the Intelligence Committees. By doing this, we could preclude any types of suspicions, allowing us to participate in what would have to be a major decision.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

FISCAL DISCIPLINE

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, one of the main reasons I ran for the Senate was to bring fiscal discipline to Washington. As the 106th Congress winds down this week, I look back with mixed feelings at the actions that have been taken over the last 2 years toward bringing our financial house in order. While for the first time we are not

spending the Social Security surplus or the Medicare Part A surplus, I believe we could have done a much better job in reining in Federal spending.

Indeed, one fact that does not seem to draw too much attention is the fact that Washington increased overall non-defense domestic discretionary spending in fiscal year 2000 to \$328 billion. That is a 9.3-percent boost over the previous fiscal year, and the largest single-year increase in nondefense discretionary spending since 1980. And I fear we will have another big increase in fiscal year 2001.

However, there is actually some good news to celebrate since the beginning of this Congress. As my colleagues may recall, President Clinton said in his State of the Union Address in 1999 that he wanted to save 62 percent of the surplus and spend the other 38 percent. Well, at the time, the entire surplus was the Social Security surplus.

It was Members on this side of the aisle in both the House and the Senate who exposed the President's plan as just another spending gimmick. We were also the ones who got busy advocating and fighting for a lockbox for Social Security and Medicare. For all intents and purposes, we were successful in fiscal year 2000 in doing so, and we will do the same in fiscal year 2001.

Now the Vice President is out there on the campaign trail bending the truth and taking credit for lockboxing Social Security and Medicare. Everyone should be aware that it was the Clinton-Gore administration that sent a veto threat to the Senate regarding the Social Security lockbox amendment that the Senate considered in April of 1999.

Let me recite the direct quote from the veto threat:

If the Abraham-Domenici amendment or similar legislation is passed by the Congress, the President's senior advisors will recommend to the President that he will veto this bill.

I suspect that senior advisors would include the Vice President.

Although Congress has agreed by consensus not to use the Social Security and Medicare surplus for more spending, Congress still has not been able to pass lockbox legislation. I am fearful, if things get tight in the future and we have a blip in the economy, Congress will revert to its old ways. So I am hoping next year that on a bipartisan basis we can pass lockbox legislation for the Social Security and Medicare surplus.

Probably the best news from fiscal year 2000 is that despite all the supplemental spending we did this past summer, we still achieved an \$87 billion on-budget surplus in fiscal year 2000. That is a lot more than the \$1 billion on-budget surplus we had at the end of fiscal year 1999. Without question, though, the American people are responsible for this surplus, and their success continues to generate better than expected revenues. However, Congress would have spent considerably