House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2003, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

Monday, May 12, 2003

The Senate met at 2:03 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable John Cornyn, a Senator from the State of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today’s prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Charles V. Antonicelli, of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church on Capitol Hill.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God, we acknowledge You as the source of all blessing and goodness. We thank You and we praise Your name. We see Your wonder and Your power in the beauty of our created world. Help all in our country who have been affected by the devastating weather we have experienced.

We pray in a special way this day, Lord, for former Senator Russell Long, whom You have called back to Yourself. Grant him eternal rest and comfort his grieving family and friends.

Bless the Members of this Senate and their staffs. Grant them Your gifts of wisdom and courage, so that they may be good and faithful stewards of the resources You have placed in their care for the good of all whom they serve.

We ask this in Your holy name.

Amen.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable John Cornyn led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. Stevens).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable John Cornyn, a Senator from the State of Texas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

Ted Stevens,
President pro tempore.

Mr. Cornyn thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. Thomas. Mr. President, momentarily the Senate will begin consideration of the jobs and economic growth reconciliation bill. Under the previous order, there will be up to 2 hours for debate on the bill today with no amendments in order. There will be no rollcall votes during today’s session.

On Tuesday, the Senate will begin the amendment process with respect to the jobs and economic growth reconciliation bill. There will be busy sessions throughout the week as the Senate considers and completes the jobs and economic growth bill.

Later in the week, the Senate will also consider the bipartisan global HIV/AIDS bill and the debt limit extension legislation. In order for the Senate to complete action on these measures, late nights and rollcall votes should be expected throughout the week. On behalf of the majority leader, I advise my colleagues to make the necessary scheduling arrangements.

I also alert my colleagues that there may be a possible weekend session, since these are must-pass items and there are only a few remaining days before the Memorial Day recess. The majority leader will make further announcements regarding the schedule as we make progress on the items that I have just mentioned.

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

The Acting President pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The Acting President pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

*This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.*
ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, what we would like to do is allocate 15 minutes to the Republicans, 15 minutes to the Democrats, 15 minutes to the publicans, and 15 minutes for the Democrats, for a total of 1 hour as in morning business.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, on our side we ask that the ranking member of the Finance Committee go first on our time, and the ranking member of the Budget Committee go second on our time.

Mr. THOMAS. Following the hour, I will be recognized to lay down the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I think when the hour is up, we will just revisit what we are going to do.

Mr. THOMAS. I have no objection.

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

Mr. THOMAS. I yield to the Senator from Arizona.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH RECONCILIATION

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, this will be the beginning of the debate on the legislation the Senate will be considering this week on an economic growth and jobs package. The legislation that came out of the Senate Finance Committee will be debated, as will other proposals and amendments. That will all be laid down a little bit later, but actually we will begin the conversation right now.

I will begin by noting something rather political, and that is that over the weekend talk shows I noticed a lot of pundits talking about what was good for the economy and what was good for the President. It got me thinking a little bit about the difference between some of our colleagues on the Democratic side and most of us on the Republican side who support the President's proposals for economic growth and job creation.

The point is this: Those pundits were saying if the economy is in pretty good shape next year, the President should have a pretty good chance of being re-elected, but if the economy is not good, then it will be more difficult for the President to be re-elected. That is not exactly rocket science, but it makes the point that many of us on this side have been making: The President would not propose a package for economic growth and job creation if he did not think was not going to work. The whole point of his package is to help get the economy growing, to create jobs so people will be in the mood to re-elect him President.

Obviously, he wants to do good for the country, for the people of this country, for the senior citizens, for the economy at large, for American families. If he can get re-elected, that would be a good thing. My point is that the President is not proposing something he thinks is going to be bad for the economy, because that would be the worst possible thing for him to do in terms of his re-election possibilities.

So it struck me that he really believes what he is proposing will work, and so do I. So do the majority of us. We would not be proposing this if it was not obvious to us that the best way to get the economy moving again, the best way for economic growth and job creation, is to reduce taxes in those areas of the economy which would provide the best economic growth with that tax relief.

We know, for example, that one of the best ways to get reinvestment is for people to have more of their money to invest, obviously. The best way for them to have more money is not to pay so much to Uncle Sam in taxes. That is what tax relief is all about.

Two years ago the tax relief President Bush suggested, but we phased it in over time. What the President is now proposing is, let's accelerate those tax reductions, those marginal rate income tax income tax reductions, so they take effect immediately. If, as the President said, a good idea to do it in 2 years, it is an even better idea to do it now when we need that money in our pockets to invest so our businesses can create jobs and help with economic growth.

The first point of the President's plan is to take those tax breaks off the income tax marginal rates for each of the brackets we were reducing, and reduce them this year rather than waiting 2 years from now. It makes great economic sense. It will help families, it will help small businesses, and it will enable those businesses to take that money that is being saved and invest it in new jobs and in new business.

The second feature of the President's plan is to eliminate the double taxation on dividends. The corporation still pays the tax, but it is not taxed the second time around. That is to say, to invest, obviously. The best way for them to have more money is not to pay so much to Uncle Sam in taxes. That is what tax relief is all about.

The third side benefit of this elimination of the double tax on dividends is the impact it will have on corporate governance. We all know the problem that was revealed over the course of the last couple of years about certain corporations, not corporations that were paying dividends but corporations that were putting money into the hands of their executives, in some cases in a very bad way. Fortunately, the President cracked down hard on them, as did the Congress, with the Sarbanes-Oxley legislation. The idea is to create transparency, to let the stockholders know what is going on in corporations, and to give them an incentive not to create more debt but to finance their expansion through equity; that is to say, through offering stock to the public, which the public then buys, the money then enabling the corporation to invest in expansion of the business, hiring more people, for example, rather than going to the bank to borrow the money to do that.

Today, our Tax Code gives the incentive to go borrow because corporations can deduct the interest on the money they borrow. That is the way corporations treat that when they pay the income tax. We need to give them at least an equal incentive and perhaps a greater incentive to finance their corporate expansion through borrowing but, rather, through the issuance of stock, which then Americans can acquire.

What is one way to do that? By ensuring that if they pay dividends on that stock, the purchasers of the stock are not going to have to pay a tax on the dividends they receive. It is a way of providing an incentive for the corporations to finance their expansion through equity.

For all of these reasons, the economic models we have talked to are pretty clear that eliminating the double tax on dividends would provide a real spurt of investment in new business, would enable the businesses to expand, would create something like 500,000 jobs this year, 1.4 million jobs next year. That is real job creation.
There are those on the other side who say that is impossible. There are not going to be that many jobs created. The economy is not going to get better with the President’s proposal.

I go back to my first point. The President presented you with a personal reason to worry about the economy, as well as the good of the country, when he talks about a program that will really improve the economy. He wants to be reelected. He would not be doing this if he thought it would be bad for the economy.

There is a misperception by some that this recession we are in right now is a recession that should be dealt with by allowing businesses to have more money to reinvest to create jobs; that is to say, it is not a capital deficit problem but, rather, it is a matter of consumer spending. If only we would give more money to people, they would spend it and that would make everything better. Create more demand for products, they would buy more, and so on. That just does not happen to be true.

Here are the statistics. Consumer spending has been going up. It went up 3.1 percent in the year 2002, 2.5 percent the year before that; disposable personal income has increased, up 4.3 percent last year.

The problem is this recession is not a consumer recession. That is the first capital asset deficit recession. It is not a consumer recession. This is a capital asset recession. It is not a consumer or demand recession. This is the first 21st century recession, the consumer or demand recession. This is the first capital asset deficit recession. This is not a consumer recession. That is why I understand those who are stuck in the last century in looking at this as a consumer or demand recession. This is the first 21st century recession, the first high-tech recession, and it is the first capital asset deficit recession. It is not a consumer recession.

The problem is this recession is not like the old recessions, and that is why I understand those who are stuck in the last century in looking at this as a consumer or demand recession. This is the first 21st century recession, the first high-tech recession, and it is the first capital asset deficit recession. It is not a consumer recession. That is why it does not do any good, as the Democrat leader’s plan essentially does, to just keep the job market open. It is the problem. That is going to help. What we need is for those businesses to acquire capital so they can expand, create jobs, and therefore the economy can grow and we can all benefit. We need those who want to demagog the issue, and I would never accuse colleagues on the other side of the aisle of this, but I have seen folks on TV say that is giving money to the rich, to the elites. First of all, over half of the American people today are investors. Senior citizens, in particular, are very large investors, and a significant amount of the tax relief the President’s plan provides to seniors. As a matter of fact, under the President’s jobs and economic growth plan, 13 million elderly taxpayers would receive an annual tax cut of $1,394 this year. One of every two seniors files individual returns and as a group seniors receive half of all the taxable dividends paid to shareholders. So elimination of the double taxation of dividends provides average relief of $991 for the more than 9 million seniors who include dividend income on their tax return in the year 2003. That is a real benefit to the seniors in our society. It is a real benefit to the American taxpayer at large.

I will have more to say on this subject later, but I appreciate my colleague from Wyoming allowing me to open this debate, and I look forward to hearing from my colleagues on the subject.

The Acting President, pro tempore, under the presiding officer, the Senator from Montana, is recognized.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, although we are in morning business, I begin by thanking the chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator Grassley, for the way he has approached putting this bill together. He has been a very fair, very honest, and very decent man, a man who keeps his word. Regrettably, he is not in the Chamber at this moment, but he will be spending a lot of time in the Chamber this week. I want the Senate to know how much this Senator regards the chairman of the Finance Committee. He has done a masterful job. He has a very difficult job. Believe me, I know; I have been in that position, and he has always conducted the committee’s business and the Senate’s duties very appropriately, fairly, with courtesy and civility. I deeply appreciate that, and I know I speak for the members of our committee and the Senate Finance Committee as well as Members of this body.

The Finance Committee of the Senate works best when we work together. We then get a better product with broader support from both sides. The Finance Committee has a long and deserved reputation for working together cooperatively.

It is with great sadness I note today the passing of the former chairman of the Finance Committee, Russell Long, just a couple days ago. He was well known for not only his willingness but his desire to work hard with both sides of the aisle.

I served with Senator Long a good number of years ago, and I think he set the model. On occasion, the committee has deviated slightly, and every time it has, I think it has been a mistake. The tradition of bipartisanship has served the committee very well.

I know that is Chairman Grassley’s inclination as well. I also know that...
circumstances have not allowed him to
carry out this role on this bill as much
as he would like. It appears some in the
committee have made nonnegotiable
demands for what they say “must” be
in this bill. Rather than pass a bill that
would include all terms with which
we can agree or at least most of us
some insist that the bill must, for ex-
ample, include tax cuts for dividends.
That is an insistence that some mem-
bers of the committee are making and
do not want to negotiate. Some insist
this is the result of a demand for anac-
tomy of the tax rates for the 1 percent
of American elite with income greater
than $311,000. That is something they
insist on or there is no bill; that is,
rather than pass a bill with over-
whelming support and seek a bipar-
tisan vote.
The Senate often works because of
willingness to compromise. Senators
give up what they consider perfect in
order to get in the end what will be
good enough. I know Chairman GRASSLEY
works to get things done in that way,
and so does this Senator. Without com-
promise, we will get less done. Without
compromise, the result will command
less popular support. It will be more
tenuous, more fragile, and without
compromise the Senate will be a much
more partisan place, a place that is not
much fun in which to work.
But this is only Monday. It is early
in the debate and there is still time,
even at this late date. I believe it is not
too late for us in the Senate to work in
the Senate’s best traditions; that is,
work together.
Let me take a few moments now to
discuss why we are here today. I will
also discuss the President’s proposal
and the congressional reactions to it.

Why are we here today? In the first
instance, we are here because the budg-
et resolution directs us. The budget
resolution expressing the will of the
Congress tells us that this month we
shall consider a reconciliation bill, so
we are carrying out our duty under the
budget process. We are also here be-
cause the times demand it. The times
demand action.

On a Montana ranch, when the grass
has burned dry and there is just dust in
the air, the rancher has to take steps
to feed and protect his herd. And when
ranches are telling me they are not
investing, despite what the Senator
from Arizona just said on the floor, be-
cause of so much uncertainty and too
much overcapacity. Consumer con-
findence has dropped. Simply put, there
is a lot of uncertainty out there.
The reason the investment curve has
dropped is very simply because the
bubble burst. That bill that was run up
in the 1990s, whether in the high-tech
sector or the telecommunications sec-
tor—generally that bubble burst. The
price-to-earnings ratio was way too
high. Everyone knew it but said maybe
they would get on the gravy train,
knowing it would not last forever, but
trying to stay on as long as it would.
Unfortunately, so does overcapacity.
The economy didn’t collapse, but we fell into re-
cession.

As a consequence, there is amazing
business overcapacity. Businesses are
saying they have a lot of capacity; they
have overcapacity. They cannot fully use
the capacity they now have because
people are not buying as much as they
once did. That is why investment is
down.
The chart the Senator from Arizona
pointed out to us a few minutes ago
may be interesting. It has two lines on
it, but his explanation for the lines is
totally inaccurate. It is totally falla-
cious. There are other reasons to ex-
plain why the investment curve is
down, and I just explained the main
reason it is down.

There is a lot of uncertainty in the
economy. There is a lot of uncertainty
because there are fewer jobs and the
long-run uncertainty is so high and there
is also an increased need for unemploy-
ment benefits.
We have to increase investor con-
findence. They tell me, as I am sure they are
telling you, as I am sure they are
telling you, over and over again, they are un-
willing to invest now. They don’t want
to take that step to invest. They are
afraid. They are a little nervous. Why?
Because there is no pricing power.
They cannot get people out to buy
more of their products. The economy is
stalled out. There is no great demand.
Consumer confidence has fallen off,
too, actually. But the main reason for
businesses not investing is people
won’t buy their products. They are
waiting for consumers to buy more of
their products. That is what is happen-
ting today. At least that is what all
businessmen are telling me. I talk to
Republicans and Democrats, Independ-
ents and liberals; I don’t care who they
are. What is going on? What do we need to do?

I always get the same answer when I
talk to people where the rubber meets
the road; that is, business people, not
theoretical economists. I don’t mean to
disparage the economists, but we all
know economic prognoses and eco-
nomic predictions are all over the lot
because people are people. What really
counts is those financial statements
that the business people face the payrolls and the cost struc-
tures that business people face. That is
what really counts.

Business people are telling me they
are not investing partly because they
have overcapacity. They can’t
use what they have; second, because
there is just no great demand.
I also say that after looking at the
economy today it is important for us
to look at specific goals we think any
tax bill, any economic growth bill
should contain. One major point about
any growth package is that it should
take effect as soon as possible. That is
what we are talking about here. We are
talking about an economy that is still
stalled out, so any tax bill that is pre-
sented before us should take effect as
soon as possible. It is an obvious point
but one I make because the legislation
before us fails totally on that point. It
does not take effect soon at all.
I also look at our long-term
fiscal situation; that is, our debt. We
should not add needless debts, addi-
tional burdens on our children and our
grandchildren. We must avoid action
today which may have the effect of
raising interest rates, particularly
mortgage interest rates, not far down
the road.

I remind my colleagues that this is
only May 2003. Things can change.
Things can happen very quickly. Where
are we going to be a year from now?
Where are we going to be 2 years from
now? What actions are we taking today
that will have an effect on long-term
interest rates? We are lucky that infla-
tion is low, but I can remember when
inflation was high and interest rates
were very high and that day, unfortu-
nately, will happen again. We don’t
know when, but we should not take ac-
tions that can exacerbate that or make
it more likely that interest rates will rise
more quickly.
We should also address a third goal;
that is, the way we should spread the
benefit of the tax reduction among all taxpayers. We are
all Americans. We all should
benefit, not just the special elite.

I turn now to the President’s pro-
posal. The President proposes a
budget, but under the Constitution
Congress legislates. We do not merely
rubberstamp the President’s budget.
We have a job to do. After all, we are
supposedly elected to exercise our own
independent judgment as Senators.

Many of the President’s proposals
command broad support. I support
a good number of them. They may not be
the most efficient stimulative pro-
posals possible, but they should in-
crease economic productivity, and I,
for one, think that is good. Specifically
I support—and I believe Senators
broadly do—helping families meet
their costs by increasing the child credit to $1,000 right now. I also support speeding up relief for the marriage penalty.

Let's eliminate that marriage penalty. I also support expanding the 10-percent exclusion for dividends treated as the alternative minimum tax. I am pleased the committee-reported bill includes something on each of these items.

But Congress has a role to temper and improve the President's proposals. From my perspective, several areas are key.

First, the amount of the tax cut package is critical. The absence of fiscal responsibility over the long term affects interest rates now and in the future. We have a duty to be responsible. We must not worsen interest rates and dampen economic growth by passing an irresponsibly large package.

In January, 2 years ago, the Congressional Budget Office projected surpluses of $5.6 trillion for the next decade. The important figure to remember. Surpluses were projected 2 years ago of $5.6 trillion for the decade. Today, CBO projects the President's budget will result in deficits—not surpluses but deficits—of $2 trillion for the same period. That is a swing of almost $8 trillion in just 2 years, and recent projections make those projections look overly optimistic.

I might note other bills we are going to have to pay, whether it is Medicare, prescription drug benefits, more AMT—which we all know we will have to pay for relief for the alternative minimum tax—IRA. Things are not going well in IRA. That is going to cost money. Who knows what other events are going to occur in the next 2 years?

Think a little bit about the burgeoning health care costs which people are facing around this country and how much that is translating into Medicare costs and Medicaid costs, and with the baby boomers starting to retire in just a few years from now.

I believe we would be irresponsible by adding significantly to our deficit.

Our national balance of payments bill, which is how much more we owe others and how much others owe us, is getting larger and larger on an absolute relative scale each year. Someday we are going to have to pay that bill. We all know we are going to have to pay that bill. The question is, When? What day? I would rather not hasten the day of paying that bill, and that bill will not be hastened the more fiscally responsible we are.

The dollar is declining against the euro. The dollar is not tanking. But why is the dollar declining against the euro? Could it be that the investors around the world are beginning to question America's long-term economic policies? I think that is a small part of it. I can't describe all of it. I don't know. But I raise those concerns.

Clearly, our fiscal circumstances are much less favorable than when we considered the 2001 tax bill. We are in a different situation today, much different from what we had in 2001.

Today, we must keep the size of the tax bill within narrower limits. Today, we must be more concerned about contributing to higher interest rates. In that regard, I am pleased that the committee-reported bill keeps within the $350-billion limit over the coming decade that was agreed to during consideration of the budget resolution.

Second, the President's proposal on dividends is troubling for many of us. It must either be eliminated or even more dramatically scaled down. Yes, the tax treatment of dividends might be a worthy subject—as part of a budget-neutral corporate tax reform debate. But the President's dividend proposal—at roughly $400 billion—is simply too large, is too complicated, and affects too few taxpayers to be appropriately included in this stimulus package. It borders on irresponsibility.

Only 3 out of 10 tax filers report dividend income on their tax returns. They would not benefit from the dividend proposal. In other words, seven out of 10 Montanans would see no tax benefit at all from a dividend tax cut as a consequence. The provisions in this bill should benefit taxpayers more broadly across the income spectrum. That way, they can most effectively get money to taxpayers who would spend it and spur the economy.

The committee changed the President's dividend proposal. Unfortunately, the committee-reported bill also contains an ill-conceived dividend proposal. The bill would exclude from income all dividend income up to $500. It then includes a 10-percent exclusion for dividends above $500 from 2004 through 2007. And the exclusion increases to 20 percent for 2008 through 2012.

On one hand, the dividend exclusion provides simplification. A capped exclusion of $500 would make it no longer necessary for half of taxpayers with dividend income to report their dividends on their tax returns.

But this benefit is overshadowed by the worst part of the proposal—the 10-percent exclusion for dividends above $500. This provides a very large tax cut to the elite.

Take the example of a taxpayer who has $1 million in dividend income. Under the committee-reported bill, that fortunate taxpayer would get a tax cut of about $50,000. This is one million dollars in dividends.

A third problem with the President's proposal is the acceleration of the rate cuts for that 1 percent of American elite with income greater than $311,000. This proposal alone costs some $35 billion.

In better times, I would support a package that included benefits for those making over $311,000. But these are not better times. In better times, I would support a package that included benefits for those making over $311,000. But with the budget in the shape it is in, now is not the time to accelerate this rate reduction. This provision is just too costly and too narrow to effectively spur demand and rebuild the economy.

Fourth, more needs to be done to infuse funds to cash-strapped States and localities. The economic downturn has cut State and local revenues dramatically. But State constitutions—as opposed to the U.S. Constitution—require States to balance their budgets.

So State and local governments are forced to make widespread, often painful spending cuts, in education, in health, and in other vital programs.

States are still struggling to balance their budgets this fiscal year. And almost all of them are struggling to balance their budgets for the fiscal year that begins in July. These State spending cuts, layoffs, and increased costs from taxes offset the gains from tax breaks in this bill.

And the economic gains to tax breaks for the elite are overstated or theoretical.

Last year, the State of Montana cut benefits for severely mentally ill youth, just in order to make ends meet. The State also made across-the-board cuts in Medicaid provider payments and increased cost sharing—both of which now threaten access to care for low-income Montanans.

If those cuts were not drastic enough, this year, the State legislature just cut more than a quarter of a million dollars from Meals on Wheels for seniors. That will mean about 67,000 meals lost in the next 2 years. And budget constraints have also forced my State to cut 700 working families on a waiting list for child care.

Translating Montana's small population to a national level, those cuts are the equivalent of more than 2 million lost meals nationwide. It's the equivalent of a 22,000-family waiting list for child care.

We can pass all the Federal tax cuts we want. But what good will they do if we force States and localities to raise taxes, cut jobs, and reduce benefits?

We can avoid these economically-damaging State and local actions by assisting these governments with their budgets through temporarily raising the Federal Medicaid match and through other, more broad-based methods.

I am pleased that the committee-reported bill includes something in State aid. Unfortunately, the committee-reported bill includes only a little more than 5 percent of its total for this purpose. I would have preferred a package that included $40 billion in State aid; the need is that great.
Fifth, making tax cuts refundable will help spur economic growth. Very simply, it works. They will quickly get funds to people who are likely to spend them rapidly, spur demand, and rebuild the economy.

The President’s proposal accelerated the $1,000 child credit. I supported the increase in the child credit when it was passed in 2001, and I support the acceleration.

But the President’s proposal did not accelerate the refundability of the credit. Fortunately, during consideration of the bill, the Finance Committee adopted Senator Lincoln’s amendment to accelerate the refundability of the child credit. The Lincoln amendment will allow many low-income families to take full advantage of the increase in the credit.

Under current law, the credit is partially refundable. Families can take the credit if they pay payroll taxes, but do not have income tax liability. The amount that low-income families can get refunded is set to increase in 2005. Thanks to the Lincoln amendment, this improvement will be accelerated to 2004 and hold up the increase in the credit. More hard-working low-income families will be able to get up to $1,000 per child in this credit in 2003, thanks to the Lincoln amendment.

Sixth, we should increase the bonus depreciation deduction for the year that a business purchases new equipment. In 2001, we saw a sharp drop in direct investment by businesses. The next year, we changed the law to give a larger bonus depreciation deduction. The drop in direct investment leveled, and even increased slightly. We need to provide more in the depreciation deduction for 2003 to encourage even more business investment.

And seventh, we need to extend unemployment benefits and help those who have exhausted their benefits. The government has reported that nearly 2 million people have been without work for 27 weeks or longer. The average time people have been unemployed is almost 20 weeks—the longest since 1984.

The weak economy has hit everyone. Unfortunately, some more than others. As we rebuild the economy, we should not leave these unemployed workers and their families behind.

Any bill to help rebuild the economy must help those most affected by the bad economy. As well, putting funds in the hands of the most effective spenders will help rebuild the economy.

We compromised on the increase that all actions we could take here would be equally stimulative. Not all tax cuts are created equal. Not all spending is equally stimulative, either.

A look at how the provision takes effect. A provision that takes effect in 2006 will likely provide less stimulus than one that gets money into the system this year or next.

Much also depends on who receives the benefit. A provision that gets money into the hands of working and lower-income families—people who spend more of what they have, and spend it quickly—will be more stimulative than a provision that transfers money to elites who would save more of it.

Comparing various options for stimulus, a study by Economy.com concluded that extension of the Temporary Emergency Unemployment Compensation Program would provide the most effective stimulus of the options they studied. They concluded that every dollar in these unemployment benefits generated an estimated $1.73 in demand in the year ahead.

In contrast, they estimated that cutting dividend rates and accelerating 2006 rate cuts would generate less than a dollar’s worth of demand in the year ahead for each dollar spent. So, in terms of stimulus, some policy options are better than unemployment insurance would be among the best.

Finally, the Finance Committee improved the President’s proposal by adopting a series of small but important provisions that will make people’s lives better.

For example, the committee adopted an amendment that Senators Hatch and Lincoln and I offered to significantly simplify tax return filing for millions of Americans. This provision reconciles the five varying child definitions into a single definition for a “qualifying child.” It is time for us to stop talking about simplification. It is time for us to do something about simplification. This amendment will, at least make it so that we have just one definition of who is a child for purposes of claiming a tax benefit.

Another useful improvement that the committee made to the President’s proposal was in repealing the special occupational tax relating to alcoholic beverages. This provision will give much-needed relief and fairness to hundreds of thousands of small businesses.

Because this tax is levied on a per-location basis, a sole proprietorship must pay the same amount as one of the Nation’s largest retailers. Locally owned chains pay as much as, if not more than, the Nation’s largest single-site brewery. That is not fair, and this change is needed.

I make all of these points with the recognition that our differences are not as large as what we have in common. We agree broadly that we need to help create jobs and get the economy moving. We in the Senate should take the steps needed to address these goals.

The economic times that face us call us to govern. We should avoid political point scoring. We must pass legislation to improve the lives of the people we represent.

Each of us was sent here by the people of our States. They sent us here not to make speeches, not to win debates; they sent us here to make life better.

In the difficult times, they sent us here to help create jobs, to rebuild the economy. We have a duty to respond to the times, not the politics. We have a duty to do the people’s work.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I am glad we have begun this debate to do something that is necessary to help solve a problem we have in this country. Clearly, there will be differences in our views as to how we do this, and I guess that is no surprise. I think most all of us agree something has to be done to help our economy. We do not agree on what is the best way to do that, of course. There are pretty general differences in how it ought to be resolved.

My friends on the other side of the aisle are more interested in sending out money on a short-term basis, sending checks to people for 1 year; whereas we on this side are trying to find ways to create jobs, ways to change the economy so there is a future of prosperity rather than some kind of a Band-Aid that will surely wear out at the end of a year. So it is clear we disagree, and I understand that. But I do believe there is a clear difference between having a plan that will do something over time or simply doing something that will have an impact next week but will not continue.

For example, if you are going to do something for businesses, you have to have some confidence that what they are doing is going to last for a while. People do not change the way they manage their business because there is going to be a 1-year kind of a change. I think that is so true. So you have to do something that is a little more permanent than that.

I think we have to have a commitment to see to it that what we do, and that the vision is, will cause the economy—not having a Band-Aid, not having a patch, but doing something that will cause the economy, then, to have a good future for all the families in this country.

One of the differences, of course, is that our view is we need investments to create jobs, not to have a little more spending for a short period of time that will not be enough to stimulate the idea of reinvesting, but to stimulate the economy thus creating jobs.

Of course, by reducing taxes you put money in people’s hands over a period of time. Most people have a view as to how they plan to operate economically in the future. One little burst of money does not make much of a difference in what a person does in their economic plan. We need to have something that is dependable for the future. We need something that is stimulative to both the consumer sector and the business sector and that is sustainable.

In the President’s proposal, I think particularly in the media, benefits from dividends have been largely dwel upon, which is valid, but there is a very large other sector.
The Senator from Montana talked about that. We have a consumer base and a business base, and we need to have both of them.

This bill will have an impact. As a matter of fact, in the first 18 months, $144 billion will come into the economy. That is a short period of time. That is a lot of dough in a short while. So that is an example of the kinds of things that are in the bill. I think we need to really make sure that we talk about the different items in the bill when we talk about tax cuts.

Of course, all of us must recognize we are in an unusual situation. People go back to the late 1990s and compare that period of time to present day. In the late 1990s, we had not had a downturn in the economy. In the late 1990s and the early 2000s, we had not had September 11, we had not had homeland defense, we had not had Iraq, we had not had an economy that was going down for several years. Today we have a different kind of situation.

So it is sort of interesting to me. I suppose I have tried as hard as anyone to be a budget balancer in this place, but I recognize you cannot talk about the same things under different circumstances. I talk a lot about balanced budgets all you want—and it is something I surely agree with—but when you are in a pit in terms of the economy, you have to do something so the economy will grow and replace that deficit. That is the whole purpose of what we are talking about.

We face, of course, an economic slowdown that began before the year 2000. The events of September 11 changed our world, stopped any recovery. The uncertainty of where we have been over the last several years has slowed down investment. There is no question about that. Now we are a little closer to the end of that, hopefully. The war and ongoing terrorism have created a challenge.

We have to create an environment that spurs both short- and long-term growth. The idea that we ought to do something for just a year to help the economy has been tried. It did not work. If you are a businessperson, if you are planning for your family, if you are doing anything long term, you have to know what you are doing is not going to expire in the next 9 months. So I think that is an important idea for us to grasp.

Of course, tax reductions will very quickly put money in people's pockets—and a very broad part of the economy, as a matter of fact. That will help create the confidence necessary to do some of what this economy needs.

I disagree with those who maintain that the answer to strengthening our economy is to go on another Federal Government spending binge. I believe we are already spending too much. I am interested in reducing taxes and changing some of the ways we do business.

But we are talking now about a bill that moves us in the right direction, one that has innovation and inspiration for investment, wanting to do something that gives incentives to do that.

I was just in Wyoming over this past weekend talking to the Governor about how the recession has affected the economy, especially for our State and our country and our families over time, we need to really kind of know where we are going so we can measure what we do against what we do in the interim to see if we are going to get there. The governor said he was interested in figuring out what to do, getting on with it.

Getting on with it doesn't work unless you know where you want to go. That needs to be part of the case here. Today we are considering a tax relief bill that will point the economy in the right direction. It is a good package. It puts money in the pockets of hard-working Americans, spurs investment, builds confidence in the economy, creates employment opportunities throughout America. Employment opportunities are the key.

Some of the provisions include accelerating the reduction in individual tax rates for everyone. As to this idea of the wealthy, of course, someone who pays a great deal in taxes gets more dollars out of it, but as a percentage, it is to help everyone. It increases small business expensing limits.

One of the things we can do is cause these small businesses to invest. It creates increased relief for individuals on the minimum tax. We have these tax deductions all along the line. And then we say, yes, but you can't use them because we have a minimum tax. I agree with the Senator, we need to do some tax changes just in the structure. Increase the child tax credit. We talk about dividends.

There are other things that are there: provide marriage penalty relief and double the child tax. The divi- dends are not so much entirely just in the wealthy, of course, someone who pays a great deal in taxes gets more dollars out of it, but as a percentage, it is to help everyone. It increases small business expensing limits. One of the things we can do is cause these small businesses to invest.

I am particularly pleased with the provisions that benefit small businesses; namely, of course, the acceleration of the individual tax rates. It increases small business expensing limits.

Small firms are responsible for 55 percent of the GDP. We need to take a long look at that.

One of the things I think is important that we ought to talk about is the taxpayers in the highest income brackets are often entrepreneurs and small business owners, not just high-paid executives or people who invest. Small business owners typically report their profits in their individual income tax returns. So that individual income tax is effectively the small business tax. When we talk about people's earnings by getting some reduction, often those are small businesses that will put that money back in terms of investments.

Small businesses frequently pay the highest marginal rate. Taxpayers in the highest rate currently face a marginal rate of 33.6 percent. Although they file less than 1 percent of all tax returns, these taxpayers account for 16 percent of reported income, more than 31 percent of individual income tax payments.

Small business owners receive almost 80 percent of the tax relief from the top marginal tax rates of 35 percent. What we are seeking to do is to generate those jobs in the small businesses. Particularly, I suppose, in States such as Montana and Wyoming where almost all of our businesses are small, that is a crucial part of the economy. More than 98 percent of all companies have fewer than 100 employees. This is where we ought to be really focusing.

We talk about the dividend exclusion, of course, the economic impact of it. Double taxation of corporate earnings can eat up 60 percent of the profits, and the Federal tax is 35 percent at the corporate level, and another 38.6 percent of the remaining 65 percent at the individual level. There is something wrong with that—if you invest in a company and that money, before you can get it back, is taxed at that rate. That doesn't, of course, include any State or local taxes. So the tax burden on dividends could be higher than 60 percent. This bill is a downpayment on ending double taxation. It is less than the President asked for. It is really less than the House has in theirs. But it is something that has a real impact on the future of jobs in this country.

We have a real challenge before us. I know we will be involved in many different debates and all kinds of discussion. There will be a great deal of interest in sending money back to the States. There is quite a bit of evidence that in most States over the last few years spending has gone up tremendously, taxing has gone down. So there are going to have to be some changes there. In our bill we put $2 billion, most of it to be designed for Medicaid. I hope, again, that we don't, in this effort to do something to help, increase the long-term arrangement that is going to pay for these various programs. I happen to be one who thinks government closer to the people is the best way to go and that we ought to
give the States more and more opportunity to do their own thing by reduc-
ing our taxes. And if they need more taxes, that is where it ought to be, so that it can conform to the needs of a particular State.

We have to be involved. As I understand the rule, there is a 20-hour limit on the debate on this reconciliation bill. That is good. We will need to address ourselves to a good many amendments. We talked about a good many of them in our committee before we got our Senate Finance Committee plan. We should do that. All I ask is that we keep in mind we really ought to have a goal. That is to strengthen the economy in a way that extends over time; that we create opportunities rather than payouts; that we have an opportunity to have a stronger economy for a period of time. And that is really what it is all about.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE. The acting President of the Senate is recognized.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair. I won't disappoint.

We will respond to some of the arguments my colleague from Arizona made in his remarks because he referenced a number of matters which are mistaken. First, the Senator from Arizona said the current weakness in the economy is not a result of weak consumer demand. He then referred to numbers last year where for a couple of quarters consumer demand was good.

Weak consumer demand is right at the heart of the weakness of this economy. Consumer demand in the first quarter of this year went up at 1.4 percent. That is tepid. That is weak. That is right at the heart of the weakness of the economy. In the last quarter of last year, consumer demand went up 1.7 percent. That is right at the heart of why demand is weak. People have lost confidence, and they have lost jobs, and they are not buying. That is why companies aren't investing.

Have we missed what has occurred? Our colleague said it is a capital problem, a lack of capital. That would suggest we have a lack of capacity in our manufacturing. That is not what we are seeing. The capacity of America is operating at 74.8 percent. That means 25 percent of the manufacturing capacity is idle. Is it idle because there is a lack of a lack of investment? Absolutely not. It is idle because there is a lack of demand. People are not buying. If we want to give a lift to the economy, we ought to strengthen consumer demand so they will buy from our businesses, so our businesses will have a reason to invest.

We know we have overcapacity in telecommunications, in computer chips, and in area after area. The reason we have a tremendous bubble in markets is because overcapacity developed.

That takes us to the plan before us. I believe the plan the President has put before us is ineffective with respect to dealing with the weakness in our economy. I believe it is fiscally irresponsible, and I believe it should be defeated. I believe the President's plan will actually weaken the economy further because it is going to explode the deficits and debt we see in this economy.

Finally, the proposal is unfair because it is heavily weighted to the wealthiest among us. One of the assertions made by our colleague from Arizona was that our corporate taxes are very high in this country. They are not. On this chart is a comparison of taxes made by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which is the international scorekeeper. This looks to the most recent year for which they have full figures. For corporate income taxes as a percentage of gross domestic product, the average is right here, about 3 percent.

The United States is way down here on the chart compared to other countries. That means we have the second highest taxes on corporations next to Japan. That is not just so. It is just not so.

The reason they come to the conclusion that are our nominal tax rates—the tax rates that are in the law books—and forget to look at what actually happens when you start paying taxes: the deductions, the write-offs, the ability to reduce your tax burden even further. With that in mind, we all know what the tax rates are in the law. But that isn't what the corporations pay. In fact, corporations pay substantially less than that because of deductions, exclusions, and write-offs.

So the reality is that we are a relatively low cost tax jurisdiction when you compare us with other countries in the world.

When we look at the question of stimulating the economy, I think this comparison is important. On this chart, we see the Senator's plan. Here is the first-year cost and the 10-year cost, compared to what is before us in the Senate—called the Senate Finance Committee plan—and this is the House plan. You can see that in terms of giving lift to the economy now, Senator Daschle's plan is far better, far stronger than the other competing plans. He has $125 billion of stimulus to the economy this year. The bill before us has $44 billion. The bill from the House has $80 billion in the first year.

They have very little lift to the economy in their plans. Let's think about it logically. We have a $10.5 trillion economy, and they are proposing giving a $45 billion, or $46 trillion, or $88 billion lift—in a $10 trillion economy. Most economists say you have to have 1 percent of gross domestic product to have any significant effect. They are far short of that—less than one-half of 1 percent. They are not going to give any meaningful lift to the economy.

Senator Daschle's plan is about 1½ percent of the gross domestic product. But, in addition to that, his cost over 10 years is much less. Their cost over 10 years is much more.

Why is that important? Because we know we are already in record deficit and we know that if we follow the President's plan, the deficits are going to grow, leading us into a totally unsustainable situation.

Now, some have gone out and analyzed the effect on jobs of these various plans. Here is what they have found. Comparing the Democratic plan to the President's plan, they said that our plan gives about twice as much lift to the economy in the first year as does the President's plan. In the second year, it is about twice as much lift to the economy. But we do not have the negative long-term effect that the President's plan has.

Some people may look at this and say, What negative effect could the President's plan have long term? Well, economists have studied his plan—including 10 Nobel laureates in economics—and they have said the President's plan is not an economic plan, not a job growth plan; it will hurt long-term economic growth; it will diminish job creation in the country because it is all fi

As we know, the deadweight of those deficits and debt is going to hurt our long-term economic condition. You know, it is interesting, the people hired by the White House to make these determinations came to the same conclusion. This is a group called Macroeconomic Advisers, hired by the White House to do macroeconomic analyses—our own budget office—and here is what they told us: The President's policy will give a short-term boost before 2004, and then it is worse than doing nothing.

After 2004, look at what happens to economic growth under the President's plan, according to Macroeconomic Advisers. Here is a chart that gives us a short-term boost before the 2004 election, and then look at what happens to economic growth. It plunges, and you are better off for the long term having done nothing.

How can that be? Here is what Macroeconomic Advisers—I didn't hire them, the White House did; the Congressional Budget Office hired them. Here is what they said, talking about the President's plan:

First, they said: 'initially the plan would stimulate aggregate demand by raising disposable income, boosting equity values, and reducing the cost of capital.

These are arguments our friends on the other side of the aisle have made. However, the tax cut also reduces national saving directly while raising little new, permanent incentive for either private saving or labor supply. Therefore, unless it is paid for with a reduction in Federal outlays, the plan will raise equilibrium real interest rates, crowd out private sector investment, and eventually undermine potential gross domestic product.}

File this as a plan that is not an economic growth plan. It is a plan that will undermine long-term economic growth. It is not just economy.com and 10 Nobel laureates in economics, and it
is not just Macroeconomic Advisers. Here is a group of 250 of the leading CEOs in America’s Committee on Economic Development. They say the current budget projections seriously underestimate the problem of the growing deficits. While some say economic growth has caused much of the immediate deterioration in the deficit, the deficits in later years reflect our tax and spending choices. Deficits do matter. The aging of our population compounds the problem. I think they got it exactly right and the President has it exactly wrong.

This is the chart that tells us what is happening to our budget deficits. This chart shows us that the deficits are skyrocketing. In fact, they will be between $500 billion and $600 billion this year. We have never had a budget deficit of more than $250 billion in our country’s history, and we are heading for a deficit, on an operating basis, of over $550 billion. That is on an operating basis.

To be fair, on an operating basis, I think the previous record deficit was $350 billion or $360 billion. So this is by far the biggest deficit, on an operating basis, that we have ever had. It doesn’t end any time soon. The whole rest of this decade, we are running operating deficits, each and every year, of over $300 billion.

Let’s review the background of how we got here. You will recall that 2 years ago, I told the administration we could expect almost $6 trillion in surpluses—$5.6 trillion in surpluses, we were told, over the next 10 years. Now we see, according to the CBO, if we adopt the President’s tax policy and his spending policy, instead of surpluses, we will have $2 trillion in deficits. That is fiscally irresponsible. I am not talking about the short term. The Senator from Wyoming said you sometimes have to run a deficit to give the economy a lift. I agree with that. But we are talking about never getting out of deficit, according to the President’s plan.

Take his own budget documents—and I will show them in a moment—according to the President’s analysis of his own plan, you never escape from deficits, and they absolutely explode as the cost of the tax cuts increase at the very time the cost of the Government increases with the retirement of the baby boom generation.

What did all this money go? Where did it go? Nearly an $8 trillion turn in 2 years—a turn for the worse. Where did it all go? The biggest chunk went to the tax cuts, those already passed and those proposed. That is 36 percent of the disappearance of the surplus. The second biggest reason is additional spending in response to the attack on this country and the war. That is 28 percent of the disappearance of the surplus—spurred spending for defense, care for homeland security. Oh, no, this is not a matter of the Democrats being spending money. We all supported increasing defense spending and increasing homeland security.

The third biggest reason for the disappearance of the surplus, 27 percent of the reason is lower revenues, not as a result of tax cuts, but revenues lower than anticipated because the models predicting how much revenue we would get have simply been wrong. This is lower revenue, not as a result of tax cuts. Lower revenue is the third biggest part of the reason for the disappearance of the surplus. Those two together are 63 percent.

Only 9 percent of the disappearance of the surplus over the next 10 years is because of the economic downturn. Now we have budget deficits. The surpluses are all gone, and we are talking about massive deficits. What our friends on the other side of the aisle recommend is more tax cuts, massive tax cuts; not just tax cuts this year. I next give lift to the economy at a time of weakness, but tax cuts that go on in perpetuity.

They are not the tax cuts that have been advertised on television. They say there is a debate between $350 billion in the Senate and $550 billion in the House. That is not what the budget provides. The budget that our Republican friends passed provides for $1.3 trillion of additional tax cuts; $350 billion in the Senate bill, and another $200 billion allowed in the conference report. Then there is the part of the media never talks about, another $725 billion of tax cuts that are the so-called reconciliation tax cuts, which simply mean given special protection on the floor from the normal operating procedures in the Senate.

Here we are with record deficits, and our friends propose another $1.3 trillion. I next give lift to the economy at a time of weakness, but tax cuts as well. I support additional tax cuts this year and next to give lift to the economy now, but I do not support running massive deficits that are only made deeper and more serious by tax cuts that years from now, 8 years from now, 10 years from now, and 15 years from now. It does not make any sense.

When I say we are faced with $2 trillion of deficits in the next 10 years according to the Congressional Budget Office, others say the deficits are going to be much more serious than that. Goldman-Sachs, a very distinguished private investment firm, has done an analysis of the deficits. They are not going to be $2 trillion over the next 10 years; they are going to be $4 trillion. In fact, they are going to be $4.2 trillion when they do their estimates of where things are headed.

To buttress that, if we just look at the first 7 months of this year and the revenue that is coming in, what we see is it is $100 billion below the forecast. The forecast that was made just 7 months ago is proving to be all wrong. The revenue is running $100 billion below the forecast.

If that trend continues this year, we are going to have the lowest revenue to the Federal Government since 1959. When revenue was at a high percentage of the gross domestic product, the President said: You have to cut taxes; you are getting too much revenue; people are being overtaxed. So we did cut taxes. We cut them dramatically in 2001 and 2003. That was a circumstance in which the revenues are going to be the least since 1959, and the President’s answer is cut taxes some more.

Again, I would support tax cuts and additional spending to give stimulus to the economy now. And yes, spending stimulates just like tax cuts do. In fact, they are probably a little better because at least some part of tax cuts get saved and do not get into the economy, and do not stimulate the economy. I would support a balanced package. I would certainly support additional tax cuts now to give lift to the economy now. Remember, very little of the President’s proposal is effective now. Very little of the proposal before us is effective now. About 5 percent of the President’s plan is effective this year. Ninety-five percent is off in the future. It makes no earthly sense. He is giving tax cuts when he knows the economy to be strong. He is giving tax cuts when he is forecasting massive deficits. He is giving tax cuts right on the eve of the retirement of the baby boom generation when the cost of the Federal Government is going to explode.

Two years ago, the President told us: Adopt my plan and we will pay off virtually all the debt. That turned out to be wrong, too. This year, we have had $6.7 trillion of gross Federal debt. Now the congressional Budget Office tells us if we adopt the President’s plan, 10 years from now we will have $12 trillion of debt. The debt is going to almost double and at the worst possible time because the baby boom generation is going to start to retire.

I think the juxtaposition of all this is really odd. Maybe that is the best word to put it to. The President is asking for a massive tax cut when we already have record budget deficits, and at the very time our Republican colleagues are asking for the biggest increase in our debt in the history of the country. They are asking for a $984 billion increase in the debt. The largest increase we have ever had was in the President’s father’s administration when the debt was increased at one fell swoop by $915 billion.

The President today said to the American people: This money is not the Government’s money; it is your money, and you ought to get it back. I agree with the President absolutely. The money that comes to the Federal Government is the people’s money. He is absolutely right. But this debt is the people’s debt. Social Security is the people’s Social Security. Medicare is the people’s Medicare.

Make no mistake about it, we the people are on the hook for this debt.
When the President says, when we are already running record deficits, cut the revenue some more and increase spending—remember, the President’s budget plan was not cut taxes and cut spending. The President’s budget plan was to increase taxes and to cut—does—deficits, even when we have record deficits. The result is a massive explosion of debt, and it is the people’s debt, make no mistake about that. In the future, when they come around to start to retire this debt, it is all of us who are going to be on the hook.

Maybe it is not going to be us. Maybe it is going to be our kids. Maybe that is the idea. Let us give ourselves big tax cuts. I would be a big beneficiary of those tax cuts.

I would get thousands of dollars of tax relief under this plan. I do not think it is right to give me a big tax cut now and shuffle it off to my kids and everybody else’s kids. That is what is happening. That is, again, not my estimation or my happening. This is right out from the President’s own budget document. This is his long-term outlook of what happens if we adopt his plan. This is on page 43 of his analytical perspectives, and it shows the deficits now which are running our country close to record deficits. They look small on this chart because that is in comparison to what is to come. This is in percentage of GDP terms. This is not in dollar terms. So this is an apples-to-apples comparison.

Looking to happen if we were to adopt the President’s spending and tax cut plan. The deficits explode, according to his own analysis of his own plan. It is not surprising why that is the case. This is the chart that tells it all. The blue bars are the Medicare trust fund. The green bars are the Social Security trust fund. The red bars are the tax cuts. What it shows is right now the trust funds are running big surpluses in anticipation of the retirement of the baby boom generation. But instead of putting the money to pay down debt or prepay the liability, we are taking it and using it to pay for tax cuts.

What happens when those trust funds go cash negative when the baby boomers retire? Under the President’s plan, at the very time the trust funds go cash negative, the cost of the tax cuts explode. Does this make sense? Is this really an economic growth plan? We are not talking about tax cuts now to give a lift to the economy when it is weak. We are talking about tax cuts that explode 10 and 15 years from now at the very time the expenses of the Federal Government explode because of the retirement of the baby boom generation.

Some are saying, well, deficits really do not matter. We do not need to worry about deficits anymore. The Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board thinks deficits matter. This is what he said to the Senate Banking Committee:

There is no question that as deficits go up, contrary to what some have said, it does affect long-term interest rates. It does have a negative impact on the economy, unless attended.

He is exactly right. Deficits do matter. They always have. When Chairman Greenspan looks at this tax cut, here is what he says: Without spending reductions, they could be damaging to the economy.

With a large deficit, Mr. Greenspan said, you will be significantly undercutting the benefits that would be achieved from the tax cuts.

Not only is that correct. The President issues an additional minute. The President’s budget plan was to explode 10 and 15 years from now. We are talking about tax cuts now. The President’s budget plan was to explode 10 and 15 years from now. We are talking about tax cuts now.

The President’s budget plan was to explode 10 and 15 years from now. We are talking about tax cuts now.

The time of the distinguished Senator has expired.

The President’s budget plan was to explode 10 and 15 years from now. We are talking about tax cuts now.

The President’s budget plan was to explode 10 and 15 years from now. We are talking about tax cuts now.
EULOGY OF RUSSELL LONG

Mr. BREAUX. Madam President, I rise today to comment on the unfortunate and untimely passing this Friday evening of a great American, a former colleague of many of us in this body, the former distinguished Senator from my State of Louisiana, Senator Russell Long.

Someone once observed that “the greatest truths are the simplest, and so are the greatest men.” This, indeed, was Russell Long, a simple man who loved his family, his God, his country, and our State of Louisiana. He was a man who always answered the call of duty and who, to quote Russell, always “did the best he could as God gave him the light to see.”

Russell Long was my colleague. He was my partner in the Congress, he was my teacher, and he was also my friend.

Russell Long was a Senator in the last days of his life; his vision, his ideas, and his views on how a government should work will last as long as history is recorded.

I do not think it is an insult to say that Russell Long was a simple man who achieved greatness by answering the call of duty. Knowing him as I did—and many of us did—I believe he would proudly accept that description.

As a boy of only 16, Russell watched as his father died from an assassin’s bullet and then dutifully accepted the call to fulfill and complete his father’s unfinished work. Anyone who knew Russell understood how much he loved his dad and how much his father’s legacy meant to him.

Some might have regarded that legacy as an awesome and unwelcome burden. Russell, himself, sometimes strained under the weight of high expectations and the harsh reviews that historians and journalists wrote about his father’s life. But he never forgot that he was Huey Long’s son. And, so, he dutifully dedicated his life to the work his father had started. The result, as we all know, was the body of law that created employee stock ownership plans. Those of us who knew him understood that this was Russell’s most passionate work and, to him, a modern version of Huey’s “Share Our Wealth” program.

Just as his father was a champion for the poor and dispossessed, so did Russell Long become one of the most effective advocates of the notion that every American has a right to share in the great wealth and opportunity of the United States.

Just as he answered the call of duty when it came to his family legacy, Russell also answered the call of his country. In 1942, during the darkest hours of the Second World War, Russell volunteered to serve his Nation in the Navy. During the war, he distinguished himself in battle as the commander of a landing craft in the Mediterranean Sea during the Allied invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Southern France. Russell Long was truly among our greatest generation—a man of courage, valor, faith and compassion—a patriot and a true American hero.

Russell answered the call of duty to his country in other ways. In 1948, when Senator John Overton died, Russell volunteered for service in the U.S. Senate. He was sworn into office alongside other men elected that year—giants such as Lyndon Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, Robert Kerr, and Paul Douglas. In a body that had disdained his father, Russell—he was only 30 years old at the time—began a remarkable 38-year career during which he worked tirelessly and effectively on behalf of the poor, the elderly, and average Americans who wanted a chance to achieve the American dream.

As there are 100 Russell Long stories, from Uncle Earl to his father Huey, to Russell’s theory of fair taxation summarized in his immortal words, “Don’t tax you, don’t tax me, tax that fellow behind the tree.”

Were I to list Russell’s legislative achievements, we would be here all afternoon. But I don’t think it is an overstatement to say that few people in our Nation’s history have had more impact on our Nation’s laws than Russell Long. Tens of millions of elderly people have literally been saved by Medicare—the health care system that Russell and Lyndon Johnson crafted and enacted in the Senate in 1965. Millions more handicapped people today have a better quality of life because Russell Long thought it important to expand the Social Security system to include the disabled. That happened in 1966 and it was the first major expansion of the Social Security system—and it would not have happened if not for Russell’s tenacity in seeing it through to passage.

Millions of poor working Americans today have Russell Long to thank for the Earned Income Tax Credit, an idea he developed and passed into law in the early 1970s. Then and now, the EITC remains the cornerstone of our Nation’s effort to give the working poor a better chance at a decent standard of living.

Russell also cared deeply about our farmers. He fought to protect the American system of government and, in the wake of the Watergate scandals, worried that Americans might lose faith in the system he had fought—literally fought—to protect. For that reason, he pushed through legislation to change the tax form check-off that has guaranteed the integrity of our Presidential elections for more than a quarter century. Russell Long knew that, if we do not maintain the integrity of the American system, change will come to our Nation, and we will lose our identity as a country and a people.

I do not think it is an insult to say that Russell Long was truly among our greatest generation—a man of courage, valor, faith and compassion—a patriot and a true American hero.

Russell Long was here. May the Good Lord take him into his hands and welcome him into the Kingdom of Heaven. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO KELO-TV ON 50 YEARS OF SUCCESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, in 1953, Joe L. Floyd opened the doors of South Dakota’s first television station, and he has a mission to provide television programming to even the most remote areas of our State. Since then, South Dakotans have had the comfort of knowing there was somewhere they could turn to obtain critical local information and programming. Through tornadoes and blizzards, KELO-TV has been there. Today, I come to the floor of the Senate to congratulate KELO on its 50th anniversary.

Providing television coverage to a rural state like South Dakota is no small challenge. The severe weather and vast distances make it difficult to get the airwaves into the homes of viewers, let alone to provide them with...
high-quality broadcasting and information in the manner KELO has over the years. In fact, after several towers were lost, many dubbed KELOLAND to be the Bermuda triangle of television towers. To KELO's credit, these setbacks never killed the station off for long, as their engineers scrambled around the clock to get the station up and running again quickly.

Despite the fact that KELO does not serve any major metropolitan areas, it has always tried to take advantage of the most cutting-edge technologies that would allow them to offer the best local broadcasting to its viewers. Some of the station's technological highlights include: In 1985, KELO broadcast the first live local news broadcasts from the second floor of the Hollywood Theater Building. In 1957, KELO aired a game between Sioux Falls Cathedral and Marty Mission—the first live broadcast of a sports competition in South Dakota. In 1968, KELOLAND TV was the first station in the area to air the local news and programming in color. In 1991, KELOLAND TV was the first local station to bring closed-captioned broadcasts and many other programs to the deaf and hearing-impaired community. In 1997, KELO installed the first local Doppler weather radar report that allowed residents to have the most up-to-date information on the rapidly developing storms and severe weather conditions for which South Dakota is famous. Finally, this year, KELOLAND brought digital programming to the area.

KELO's commitment to its viewers has also been recognized nationally. In 2000, KELO's commitment to public service was rewarded with an Emmy in the Public Service Announcement—Campaign category. In 1999, KELO earned the Friend in Need Service to America Award from The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) for its outstanding coverage of the devastating tornado that struck the town of Spencer, South Dakota. Not only did KELO provide award-winning coverage of this devastating tornado, the station also helped raise more than $1 million for the Spencer Tornado Relief Fund.

Most importantly, KELO has shown a sustained commitment to providing South Dakotans with the critical information they need about their communities. Whether it is news, weather or sports, local viewers have always been able to turn to KELO for accurate information.

I am proud to say that my staff and I currently enjoy a great working relationship with those who work at KELO. We know that we can always come to expect a fair and balanced approach to covering the issues and stories in which we are involved. Given KELO's history of honest and intelligent reporting, its viewers expect nothing less.

CBO REPORT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, at the time Senate Report No. 108-43 was filed, the Congressional Budget Office report was not available. The report is now available on the CBO website at www.cbo.gov.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER HANS N. GUKEISEN

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to CWO Hans N. Gukeisen, a South Dakotaan who was killed on May 9 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chief Warrant Officer Gukeisen was a member of the 571st Medical Company and was stationed at Fort Carson, CO. He was killed when the Black Hawk helicopter he was co-piloting crashed near Tikrit. Hans was on a mission to evacuate an Iraqi child who had suffered serious injuries in an explosion.

Chief Warrant Officer Gukeisen had joined the military in 1989 after graduating from Lead High School in Lead, SD. Although he left the military for a short time, he had continued his service by joining the South Dakota National Guard. To pursue his dream of becoming a helicopter pilot, Hans had re-enlisted in the Army and was assigned to the air ambulance of the 571st Medical Company.

Chief Warrant Officer Gukeisen's mother Margaret lives in Hill City, SD, and his father Terry in Lead. Hans' older brother Ray is also serving in the military as a Special Forces instructor at Fort Bragg. I know they, and everyone who knew Hans, will miss him deeply. Hans gave his life while helping defend America's liberty, freeing the Iraqi people, and, specifically in this mission, trying to save the life of a badly injured child.

Margaret has said she will remember her son as someone who loved hunting and fishing. These are common pastimes for a boy growing up in South Dakota. But I know the Gukeisen family, and the entire State of South Dakota, will also remember Hans as a hero who died while proudly serving his country.

Mr. President, I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of Chief Warrant Officer Gukeisen. I know that he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

SUPPORT FOR NATO ENLARGEMENT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, when NATO formed in 1949, the world had been liberated from the grips of Hitler and the Japanese. But, the rise of communism and the Soviet Union brought new threats and the fear of nuclear war. NATO was created with vision and vigor to combat, through political and military means, the spread of communism. NATO has succeeded.

Today, the Soviets are gone, and a partnership between Russia and NATO is growing. Still, freedom-loving societies have been threatened anew by state and non-state supported terrorists looking to achieve their destructive aims through the spread of WMD. The question looms whether NATO will address these new threats or be pushed to the side because it was unable to transform when the cold war ended. Some have argued NATO's mission ended when the Berlin Wall fell. Some have even said NATO is dead. Well, I do not think NATO is dead. Now is the time to recommit ourselves to NATO to ensure that the world's greatest alliance can be improved to remain strong for another 50 years. To do so, NATO must adapt its mission to deal with today's threats.

NATO must commit to a common defense with both policy and budgetary commitments that improve interoperability and reduce the capabilities gap between the U.S. and other members. As NATO's largest and most powerful member, the United States and her leaders in the Senate stand ready to strengthen NATO and repair recent international friendships amongst NATO members. We must do so, and we must take the first step by supporting NATO enlargement and the admission of seven new members: Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

NATO expansion makes strategic sense because expansion creates a united Europe. The addition of the seven aspirants creates a land bridge forming a contiguous alliance on the European Continent. Now, Western Europe from the Atlantic will be connected with its allies in Greece and Turkey on the Mediterranean and Black Sea. With the Partnership for Peace, NATO spreads across three continents. Bitter enemies just 13 years ago are now reliable allies. NATO membership is a carrot to political and economic reform to all nations wishing to join the alliance. Again, just 13 years ago, the seven new members were under the darkness and weight of the Iron Curtain. Today, they are burgeoning democracies committed to market economics. To be in NATO, a democratic form of governance is needed. Spain, Greece, and Portugal undertook political reforms to gain NATO approval, and the same is true today for the seven countries currently seeking NATO admission.

The seven new members are ready to actively participate in a relationship to a robust NATO. In fact they are already doing so. I would like to cite Romania as one example. Romania has undertaken major political and economic reforms. Romania overthrew Nicolae Ceausescu—a ruthless and oppressive totalitarian leader. Since being unshackled, Romania has celebrated its freedom. Romania has held four nationwide elections, and democracy is blossoming.

Today, the Soviets are gone, and a partnership between Russia and NATO is growing. Still, freedom-loving societies have been threatened anew by state and non-state supported terrorists looking to achieve their destructive aims through the spread of WMD. The question looms whether NATO will address these new threats or be pushed to the side because it was unable to transform when the cold war ended. Some have argued NATO's mission ended when the Berlin Wall fell. Some have even said NATO is dead. Well, I do not think NATO is dead. Now is the time to recommit ourselves to NATO to ensure that the world's greatest alliance can be improved to remain strong for another 50 years. To do so, NATO must adapt its mission to deal with today's threats.

NATO must commit to a common defense with both policy and budgetary commitments that improve interoperability and reduce the capabilities gap between the U.S. and other members. As NATO's largest and most powerful member, the United States and her leaders in the Senate stand ready to strengthen NATO and repair recent international friendships amongst NATO members. We must do so, and we must take the first step by supporting NATO enlargement and the admission of seven new members: Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

NATO expansion makes strategic sense because expansion creates a united Europe. The addition of the seven aspirants creates a land bridge forming a contiguous alliance on the European Continent. Now, Western Europe from the Atlantic will be connected with its allies in Greece and Turkey on the Mediterranean and Black Sea. With the Partnership for Peace, NATO spreads across three continents. Bitter enemies just 13 years ago are now reliable allies. NATO membership is a carrot to political and economic reform to all nations wishing to join the alliance. Again, just 13 years ago, the seven new members were under the darkness and weight of the Iron Curtain. Today, they are burgeoning democracies committed to market economics. To be in NATO, a democratic form of governance is needed. Spain, Greece, and Portugal undertook political reforms to gain NATO approval, and the same is true today for the seven countries currently seeking NATO admission.

The seven new members are ready to actively participate in a relationship to a robust NATO. In fact they are already doing so. I would like to cite Romania as one example. Romania has undertaken major political and economic reforms. Romania overthrew Nicolae Ceausescu—a ruthless and oppressive totalitarian leader. Since being unshackled, Romania has celebrated its freedom. Romania has held four nationwide elections, and democracy is blossoming.

Today, the Soviets are gone, and a partnership between Russia and NATO is growing. Still, freedom-loving societies have been threatened anew by state and non-state supported terrorists looking to achieve their deceptive aims through the spread of WMD. The question looms whether NATO will address these new threats or be pushed to the side because it was unable to transform when the cold war ended. Some have argued NATO's mission ended when the Berlin Wall fell. Some have even said NATO is dead. Well, I do not think NATO is dead. Now is the time to recommit ourselves to NATO to ensure that the world's greatest alliance can be improved to remain strong for another 50 years. To do so, NATO must adapt its mission to deal with today's threats.

NATO must commit to a common defense with both policy and budgetary commitments that improve interoperability and reduce the capabilities gap between the U.S. and other members. As NATO's largest and most powerful member, the United States and her leaders in the Senate stand ready to strengthen NATO and repair recent international friendships amongst NATO members. We must do so, and we must take the first step by supporting NATO enlargement and the admission of seven new members: Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

NATO expansion makes strategic sense because expansion creates a united Europe. The addition of the seven aspirants creates a land bridge forming a contiguous alliance on the European Continent. Now, Western Europe from the Atlantic will be connected with its allies in Greece and Turkey on the Mediterranean and Black Sea. With the Partnership for Peace, NATO spreads across three continents. Bitter enemies just 13 years ago are now reliable allies. NATO membership is a carrot to political and economic reform to all nations wishing to join the alliance. Again, just 13 years ago, the seven new members were under the darkness and weight of the Iron Curtain. Today, they are burgeoning democracies committed to market economics. To be in NATO, a democratic form of governance is needed. Spain, Greece, and Portugal undertook political reforms to gain NATO approval, and the same is true today for the seven countries currently seeking NATO admission.

The seven new members are ready to actively participate in a relationship to a robust NATO. In fact they are already doing so. I would like to cite Romania as one example. Romania has undertaken major political and economic reforms. Romania overthrew Nicolae Ceausescu—a ruthless and oppressive totalitarian leader. Since being unshackled, Romania has celebrated its freedom. Romania has held four nationwide elections, and democracy is blossoming.
benefit NATO. We need not question whether Romania will be a positive force within NATO. Romania has risked the lives of its soldiers for the benefit of the United States.

Participation in Operation Desert Storm confirmed NATO's role as a military hospital company to the Allied Forces.

Participation in Afghanistan—Romania used its own airlift, a C-130, to transport a battalion of soldiers to Afghanistan. These forces have made two rotations. Romania is currently involved in the peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan.

Operation Iraqi Freedom—Romania mobilized its military police and a nucleic, chemical, biological, chemical detection team to work alongside U.S. forces in Iraq.

Currently, 5,000 U.S. marines are based at Constanza, Romania. Our strategic threats are different today than when they were 50 years ago. We are no longer endangered by Russia. Today, the greatest threat to NATO and its members is the threat of terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction. As a result, the U.S. should consider whether it would be wise to reconfigure our forces overseas.

Our forces are coming from the Middle East and southwest Asia. Romania and Bulgaria are halfway between Germany and the Middle East. Moving bases closer to the threat will allow all U.S. forces to coordinate their actions and get to the fight sooner. We would also be welcome in Romania and Bulgaria. There is some question whether we are still welcome in Western Europe.

There are those who say NATO is dead or has no modern mission. That is simply not the case. The Soviet Union may no longer be a threat, but threats still exist. The end of the cold war may have erased the notion of warfighting where millions of men face millions of men on the European continent. But, the end of the cold war unleashed despots willing to use the asymmetrical means of terrorism and WMD proliferation as methods of aggression and diplomatic blackmail.

NATO must adopt a new mission—combating terrorism and WMD proliferation in both Europe and globally. The threats that emerged from September 11 do not only affect the United States; these threats should be a concern to the entire NATO community. As we have seen, al-Qaeda cells were active in Germany, Spain, France, and Italy.

International terrorism on our shores was unknown to Americans prior to September 11. However, it was not uncommon in Europe. The other NATO members should unite behind America's interests to root out terrorism and stop WMD proliferation because the European members have been targets before and could be targets, again. This will require NATO to look not only within its borders, but NATO must also look beyond its borders. NATO members and Partnership for Peace participants stretch from the Pacific Ocean in the U.S. to bordering on China in Kazakhstan. There are several countries just on the edges of NATO's borders who wish to terrorize those countries within NATO.

NATO has made a pledge to combat terrorism and WMD proliferation. The promise made by the NATO heads of state at the Prague summit to focus on terrorism and WMD proliferation is encouraging. Now, we need action. We need action to stop Iraq's nuclear, chemical, and biological programs. France and Germany should not let their disagreements with the U.S. obstruct this new mission. Such actions benefit NATO.

For NATO to remain relevant, the European members must close the capabilities gap between U.S. and European forces. Many NATO members, including France and Germany, have reduced defense spending over the last decade. Such reductions leave the alliance vulnerable and make it difficult for NATO members to participate in operations with the U.S.

U.S. defense spending is dwarfing European defense spending. America's defense budget is greater than all other NATO members combined. The $48 billion dollar increase in U.S. defense spending from fiscal year 2002 to fiscal year 2003 is greater than what 12 of the other 18 members spend on defense.

Europe's world leaders, NATO members must make a greater investment in national security. NATO's longevity, and world security. We do not need them to spend as much as the U.S.; we need them to complement the U.S. and add value to NATO operations.

NATO should focus its spending on interoperability and communications improvements. The U.S. has committed billions to making it so all four branches of the military can be linked using the same communications devices. We are dedicated to interoperability within our own forces. It has never been easier and is not finished, but we have seen the fruits of this effort in Iraq and Afghanistan. Who would have imagined years ago that a B-52 pilot could talk with a Special Operations team on the ground to deliver close air support? This was possible because of interoperability.

NATO must focus on such interoperability. Not only must we ensure that a European tanker plane can refuel a U.S. fighter. We must ensure that 26 members, who speak many different languages, can share a common communications network and operate as one cohesive force, not 26 independent military forces. If this gap is not closed, no value will be added and we will have to question NATO's worth.

NATO must not be just an alliance based on military strength. NATO must be a diplomatic alliance. Military might alone is not the solution. First, we must use all diplomatic means to achieve peace. The united strength of NATO as a diplomatic force will also increase the security of NATO's members.

In the near future, NATO must make decisions to determine whether it will be a vibrant alliance capable of protecting its members in the 21st century or whether it is a relic of the past. I know it can have a meaningful mission in the future—a mission focused on rooting out terrorism and stopping the spread of WMD. To do so, NATO members must increase defense spending and focus on modernization and interoperability. I am confident NATO's members want NATO to have a great role in shaping the 21st century. As a member of NATO, the U.S. should push for a strong alliance. By expanding NATO to include seven new members, we will take a key step in making NATO strong and viable for the 21st century.

The Senate sent a strong message of support by approving the admission of Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Slovenia, and Slovakia to NATO. The vote is good for the safety of the U.S., Europe, and the world.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 12, 2001, in Bridgeport, CT. A Brazilian waiter was attacked on the street by eight men who verbally accosted him because they believed him to be of Arab descent. The man was also physically attacked by the group and suffered a broken arm and several facial bruises.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ROSALIE ASLESEN RETIRES FROM SPEARFISH HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor Rosalie Aslesen on the occasion of her retirement as school librarian for Spearfish High School in Spearfish, SD.

A native of Spearfish, Rosalie graduated from Spearfish High School and received her bachelor of arts degree in theatre arts from Black Hills State University in Spearfish. After graduation, she served as a Red Cross volunteer and worked in Korea in the 1960s, spending time living in Hawaii, Virginia, and Maryland before returning for a brief time to Spearfish. She
return to Hawaii and obtained a master's degree in library science, before moving back to Spearfish with her husband Herb to take a job at Spearfish High School, where she has served as librarian since 1979. Rosalie has earned the respect and admiration of all those who had the opportunity to work with her. Her friendly demeanor and wealth of knowledge helped her develop close friendships with various colleagues and students. In Rosalie's honor, her brother, William Vance, has donated an extensive collection of Library of America books to Spearfish High School. As a symbol of Rosalie's dedication to young people, these books will help educate future generations of young Americans. Over the years, Rosalie has committed herself to helping Spearfish students learn more about their heritage and culture, about themselves and the world around them. She has worked hard to help students find the best in themselves. Thousands of students over the years have benefited from Rosalie's commitment to education and to the library sciences. From assisting students with research options for papers, to finding intricate details about the history of our world, Rosalie has served as a "human bookmark" in the book of life for countless young adults.

On the occasion of her retirement, I want to congratulate Rosalie Aslesen for her tireless dedication to Spearfish High School and the community. Her commitment to providing quality education is also what I want to commend her for her valuable service to the community over the years. She has been very active in the United Church of Christ, has served on the board of the South Dakota Education Association, and has spent many years in the Spearfish Education Association, including the past 2 years as president. The lives of countless people have been enormously enhanced by Rosalie's service to South Dakota and her professionalism will serve as a model for other talented librarians throughout our State to emulate.

Mr. President, I wish Rosalie Aslesen the best on her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM W. COBB, J. R., U.S. NAVY

Mr. LOT T. Mr. President, I would like to recognize one of the finest officers to serve in the Navy, Rear Admiral William "Bill" Cobb, on the occasion of his retirement on May 15, 2003. Admiral Cobb will leave his current job as Program Executive Officers Ships after over 37 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Navy and our nation. During his time in Washington, he engaged the Congress on numerous issues vital to our national security. Today, it is my pleasure to recognize some of Bill's many accomplishments and commend him and his family for their service to the Navy and our Nation.

Admiral Cobb entered military service in 1968 after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the United States Naval Academy. He continued his education at the Naval Post Graduate School where he earned a Master's Degree in Operations Research in 1975. Admiral Cobb also attended Harvard University's Industrial College of the Armed Forces, IC A F, in 1990; the Defense Systems Management College in 1992; the Executive Program, University of Michigan, Graduate Business School in 1994; and the Executive Program in National and International Security at Harvard University in 2001.

As Executive Officer aboard USS Jouett, CG 29, Admiral Cobb shined as a leader. Even though Jouett started out last in every competitive category, Admiral Cobb's ability to motivate all levels of the chain-of-command catalyzed the ship to the fleet's number one combattant in battle readiness. He later assumed duties as Commanding Officer of USS Coats, AdG 37, where his ship provided the initial response to a distress call after USS Stark was struck by an errant Iraqi cruise missile. During his tour as Commander of Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head, Naval Ordnance Command, and Cooperative Engagement Site, NSWC, he was responsible for all of the Navy's In-Service Engineering Agents, ISEA.

Admiral Cobb also excelled in a variety of key staff assignments including Chief of Staff and Head, Fleet Introduction and Lifetime Support Division, AEGIS Program Office; a tour in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as Head Readiness, Sustainability Team, OP 000; and Chief, Cruise Missile Division, Plans and Policy Directorate, Commander Atlantic Fleet, where he planned all of the Tomahawk strikes for Desert Storm. As Program Executive Officer for Theater Surface Combatants, PEO TSC, he was responsible for the building program, the Navy's Theater Ballistic Missile Defense, TBMD, program, and introduction of the Cooperative Engagement Capability, CEC. On the international front, he headed shipbuilding programs with Spain, and Japan, and worked with thirteen of our closest allies on the Standard Missile program. His tremendous effort significantly enhanced our Allied forces' defenses against the growing tactical ballistic missile threat. Admiral Cobb was also responsible for the life-cycle support of several ship classes including Ticonderoga Cruisers, Arleigh Burke Guided Missile Destroyers, Spruance Destroyers and Oliver Hazard Perry Frigates.

In conjunction with the Secretary of the Navy's reorganization efforts, Admiral Cobb took on the significant task of reorganizing three major Program Offices into one. Program Executive Office, the National Defense, sole responsibility for life-cycle support for all 13 surface ship classes, the heart of our entire Navy. This new Program Office is responsible for the execution of current and future shipbuilding programs that will carry the Navy well into the 21st century including the DDG 51 Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers, the LPD 17 San Antonio Class Amphibious Ships, the Navy's future surface mine warfare ships, the Littoral Combat Ship, LCS. The DD(X), LCS programs, due in large part to Admiral Cobb's leadership, will revolutionize our Navy with the availability of more lethal and agile firepower than ever before seen in history.

His experience and leadership will be missed by our Navy and has the heartfelt appreciation of our entire Nation. We wish our friend the best of luck in his undoubtedly successful future and bid him "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

(At the request of Mr. Reid, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN NICHOLAS PERUGINI

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to express my appreciation and congratulations to Captain Nicholas Perugini of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, Commissioned Corps on the occasion of his retirement. For more than 26 years, Captain Perugini has dedicated himself to the protection of our Nation's oceans and maritime commerce through his exemplary work in NOAA's Ocean Exploration Program. His efforts have preserved and restored marine ecosystems, promoted ecosystem-based management, and reinvigorated our Nation's ocean exploration. Captain Perugini's leadership and commitment to NOAA's mission have made him a national leader in ocean exploration.

During his career, Captain Perugini has commanded three NOAA ships that have explored the world's oceans and has contributed to the successful completion of numerous projects. His efforts have resulted in the discovery of new species, the identification of previously unknown ecosystems, and the development of innovative techniques for studying the ocean floor. His leadership and dedication have been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the National Geographic Society's William Ocean Exploration Program. His efforts have preserved and restored marine ecosystems, promoted ecosystem-based management, and reinvigorated our Nation's ocean exploration. Captain Perugini's leadership and commitment to NOAA's mission have made him a national leader in ocean exploration.

In conclusion, I commend Captain Perugini for his service to our Nation and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Thank you, Mr. President.
Captain Perugini now concludes his career as chief of NOAA’s Marine Chart Division. A direct result of his tenure as chief was a significant advancement in the longstanding partnership between NOAA and the Coast Guard concerning safe, up-to-date navigation information. This new vision and leadership led to the advances of new technologies, moving paper charting to the electronic world.

Today, mariners know their location, in real time, on an electronic navigation system. This advance was not possible without the work of Captain Perugini.

With his guidance, NOAA and the Coast Guard entered into a Memorandum of Agreement, which pooled agency resources and greatly accelerated the production of Electronic Navigational Charts, ENC. He made the ENC data available to the public free, via the internet. This relationship not only saved tax dollars, but the improved navigational tools have greatly increased the safety of navigation. Captain Perugini’s work has resulted in a significant reduction in marine accidents, which has saved lives, property, and our environment from degradation.

From July 1998 to August 1999, I was pleased to have Nick as a member of my congressional staff as a legislative fellow. His amazing work ethic, interpersonal skills, commitment to the job, knowledge of maritime issues, and gracious humility made him an integral part of my office. I want to thank him for his work and commitment to our Nation.

I congratulate Captain Nicholas Perugini on his exemplary career and wish him, his wife Lisa, their daughter Katie, and their son Nicholas my best. Through his tireless efforts, he has made a difference and has helped to protect the marine environment and promote safe maritime commerce that is vital to our Nation’s prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ELECTRIC’S APPLIANCE PARK

Mr. BURNING. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the dedication and service that the American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 70 has provided to Montana’s veterans and their communities. The American Legion Auxiliary was formally founded in 1919 by a group of concerned women who stepped in to fill the role of the men who left home for the battlefields of World War I. These women were driven to service by their compassion, by their sense of civic duty, but, most of all, they were driven by their love of country.

In the more than eight decades since its founding, the American Legion Auxiliary has expanded to include hundreds of chapters in every state and territory. Likewise, their original mission expanded as well to include helping many others in need.

The women of American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 70 have been particularly active in their community. They have donated funds to veteran’s facilities and programs in Fort Harrison, Miles City, Glendive and Columbia Falls, MT. They are distributing more than 900 poppies in recognition of the service and sacrifice our veterans have given their country. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, they tied hundreds of yellow ribbons across Judith Gap to show their support for our troops and their family members.

Mr. President, I thank the women of American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 70 and all the American Legion Auxiliaries for their service to our Nation’s veterans and communities. These women have not only given their time and money in service to our Nation, they have given their hearts as well, and that is the best thing anyone can give.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ELECTRIC’S APPLIANCE PARK

Mr. BURNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the workers of General Electric’s Appliance Park in Louisville, KY, for 50 years of hard work and quality manufacturing of appliances for the world. From producing the first box car in 1953 to the wide array of products GE manufactures today, generations of Kentucky workers have contributed to the success of the economy at GE’s Appliance Park.

The original idea of merging nine plants into one major facility to mass produce GE’s consumer products was initially scrutinized and met with skepticism by nay sayers. Doubters didn’t think and agree that consumers demanded across America and the world such a vast array and selection of products. However, the ingenuity and vision of GE’s leadership, behind its strong and committed workforce, considered America’s growing population, rise of per capita income and social changes that occurred during the 1950s as evidence that such mass production was needed and wanted by the American public. History shows they were right, and today General Electric is able to please consumers through offering an array of high-quality products at an affordable price.

I am proud to have most of the workers at General Electric’s Appliance Park living in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. They possess those core American values which have helped to make GE and this country a great success. I give great pride in calling attention to their excellence and work ethic. I know all will agree that for generations these GE Appliance Park workers “bring good things to life.”

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Noland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrent resolution to H.R. 2. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 5(a) of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act (36 U.S.C. 101 note), the Minority Leader appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission for the 108th Congress: Ms. Slaughter of New York; Mr.Jackson of Illinois.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2285. A communication from the Architect of the Capitol, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of all expenditures during the period April 1, 2002, through September 30, 2002, from monies appropriated to the Architect of the Capitol, to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–2286. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Odessa TX (MB Docket No. 01-1001)” received on May 6, 2003, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2287. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Genoa, Colorado) (MM Doc. No. 01-21)” received on May 6, 2003, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2288. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.203(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations, (Blythewood, South Carolina) (MB Doc. No. 02-197)” received on May 6, 2003, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2289. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.203(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Traverse City, MI (MB Docket No. 02-20, RM-1098)” received on May 6, 2003, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2290. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.203(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Miami, FL (MM Docket No. 00-125, RM-9908)” received on May 6, 2003, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2291. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations, Stuart, Oklahoma (MB Docket No. 01-1001)” received on May 6, 2003, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
EC–2292. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations, Oak Grove, Louisiana (MB Doc. No. 02-321; RM–10563)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2293. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations, Cheboygan, MI (MB Doc. No. 02-91, RM–10411)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2291. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Avalon, California (MB Doc. No. 02-22, RM–10520)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2301. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the North-eastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery, 2003 Specifications (0546-AQ34)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2311. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the North-eastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery, 2003 Specifications (0546-AQ34)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2302. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations, Christiansted, VI (MB Doc. No. 02-220, RM–10519)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2303. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Wilmington, NC (MB Doc. No. 02-129, RM–10437)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2304. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Wailuku, HI (MB Doc. No. 02-221, RM–10519)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2305. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Wailuku, HI (MB Doc. No. 02-221, RM–10519)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2306. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Jayton, Texas (MB Doc. No. 01-295; RM–10305; 10381)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2307. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Presque Isle, ME (MB Docket No. 02-248, RM–10455)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2308. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Gulf of Texas (MB Doc. No. 01-153; RM–10257)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2309. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Presque Isle, ME (MB Docket No. 02-248, RM–10455)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2310. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Avalon, California (MB Doc. No. 02-22, RM–10520)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2311. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the North-eastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery, 2003 Specifications (0546-AQ34)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2312. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Closure of directed fishing for yellowsole fish by vessels using trawl gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2313. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Closure of Fishery for Loligo Squid for Chapter 1” received on May 7, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2304. A communication from the Program Manager, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Limitation on Construction or Alteration in the Vicinity of the Private Residence of the President of the United States Docket No. FAA 2003-14973 (interim final rule; request for comments) (2120-AH83)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2315. A communication from the Attorney General, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Vehicular Traffic Safety: Occupant Crash Protection (2127-A171)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2316. A communication from the Senior Attorney, Research and Special Program Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Hazardous Materials: Requirements for Maintenance, Requalification, Repair and Use of DOT Specification C-74 and the Extention of Compliance Data (2137-A55)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GREGG, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:


INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1039. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to enhance the security of wastewater treatment works; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SHELBY (for himself, Mr. MILLER, and Mr. SMITH):

S. 1040. A bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity for families by reducing the power and reach of the Federal establishment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 1041. A bill to prohibit oil and gas drilling in Finger Lakes National Forest in the State of New York; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. COLEMAN:

S. 1042. A bill to provide for the security of commercial nuclear power plants and facilities designated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. VOINOVICh (for himself and Mr. DEWINE):

S. Res. 141. A resolution recognizing “Inventing Flight: The Centennial Celebration”, a celebration in Dayton, Ohio of the centennial of Wilbur and Orville Wright’s first flight; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 53

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 53, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow small business employers a credit against income tax for employee health insurance expenses paid or incurred by the employer.

S. 253

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

S. 470

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 470, a bill to extend the authority for the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr.

S. 358

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of S. 358, a bill to increase the supply of pancreatic islet cells for research, to provide better coordination of Federal efforts and information on islet cell transplantation, and to collect the data necessary to move islet cell transplantation from an experimental procedure to a standard therapy.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 575

At the request of Mr. INOUYE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 575, a bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination Act to provide for the support of Native American language survival schools, and for other purposes.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the investment of foreign earnings within the United States for productive business investments and job creation.

S. 601

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 601, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the McLoughlin House National Historic Site in Oregon City, Oregon, for inclusion in the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to authorize small-business-related military reserve pay health insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand coverage of medical nutrition therapy services under the medicare program for beneficiaries with cardiovascular disease.

S. 664

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 664, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the research credit, to increase the rates of the alternative incremental credit, and to provide an alternative simplified credit for qualified research expenses.

S. 734

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 724, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt rocket propellants from prohibitions under that title on explosive materials.

S. 736

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Massachusets (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 736, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to strengthen enforcement of provisions relating to animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 752, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat distributions from publicly traded partnerships as qualifying income of regulated investment companies, and for other purposes.

S. 796

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICh) was added as a cosponsor of S. 796, a bill to provide for the appointment of a Director of State and Local Government Coordination within the Department of Homeland Security and to transfer the Office for Domestic Preparedness to the Office of the Secretary of Homeland Security.

S. 818

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 818, a bill to ensure the independence and nonpartisan operation of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

S. 894

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 884, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rent-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers.
under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 893

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 893, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to establish provisions with respect to religious accommodation in employment, and for other purposes.

S. 895

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 895, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include wireless telecommunications equipment in the definition of qualified technological equipment for purposes of determining the depreciation treatment of such equipment.

S. 896

At the request of Mr. NICHOLS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 896, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 950

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 950, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 990

At the request of Mr. GILLIS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 990, a bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity for families by reducing the power and reach of the Federal establishment; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to once again introduce my flat tax bill, S. 1040. Although I fully support the President’s plan for economic growth, I believe that we can do even better. Like the President’s plan, my bill eliminates the double taxation of dividends. However, instead of retaining the current progressive tax rates that impede economic growth, S. 1040 creates a single rate for all taxpayers—seventeen percent when the tax is fully implemented—and gives tax-free treatment to all savings and investment, not just dividends.

A major reason why I support the flat tax is because it will place more money into the hands of hardworking Americans and will allow individuals—not the government—to decide how to best spend their money. Lowering taxes gives America the money for a large number of things such as monthly bills, insurance coverage, educational costs, prescription drugs, and family getaways. Lowering taxes also makes it easier for Americans to plan for their future through private savings. Although I strongly believe in the importance of private savings, my bill leaves the Social Security system intact and, in fact, provides seniors with more money by repealing the current tax on Social Security benefits. I have said many times before that our current progressive tax system is unfair in that it punishes success. The only way to ensure true fairness is to adopt a single tax rate for all taxpayers. Transitioning to such a tax will not only increase the fairness of the tax code, but it will also increase the incentives to work and thus boost economic growth.

The flat tax is not only fairer than the current income tax, but it’s also less complex. Under a flat tax, taxpayers would be able to fit their return on a form the size of a post card. Rather than spending hours pouring over convoluted IRS forms, or resorting to professional tax assistance, the flat tax allows taxpayers to determine their taxes quickly and easily. Paying taxes may never be a pleasant experience, but at least under a flat tax it wouldn’t be mind-boggling.

I fully realize that the bill I am introducing introduces no fundamental shift from the current tax code. However, we must not allow the enormity of the task to deter us from enacting better, more efficient tax laws. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

By Mr. COLEMAN:

S. 1042. A bill for the relief of Tchisou Tho; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill for the relief of Tchisou Tho be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1042

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR TCHISOU THO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Tchisou Tho shall be eligible for the issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 203 of that Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Tchisou Tho enters the United States before the deadline specified in subsection (c), Tchisou Tho shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status are filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISANUMBERS.—Upon the grant of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Tchisou Tho, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1,1 the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens’ birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens’ birth under section 202(e) of that Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 141—RECOGNIZING “INVENTING FLIGHT: THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION”, A CELEBRATION IN DAYTON, OHIO OF THE CENTENNIAL OF WILBUR AND ORVILLE WRIGHT’S FIRST FLIGHT

By Mr. VONOVICh (for himself and Mr. DeWine) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 141

Whereas 2003 marks the centennial of Wilbur and Orville Wright’s achievement of the first controlled, powered flight in history; Whereas Wilbur and Orville Wright grew up and worked at a bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio, where they developed, built, and refined the first successful, heavier-than-air, manned, powered aircraft;
 Whereas the Wright brothers developed the world's first flying field, the world's first airplane manufacturing company in the Dayton area; Whereas the city of Dayton of the Wrights' inventiveness and creativity still exists in the region, including Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Site, the National Air Force Museum, the National Aviation Hall of Fame, the Wright "B" Flyers, and the Engineers Club of Dayton; Whereas many Dayton communities, a number of civic groups, private businesses, government agencies, and military partners, are joining together to honor the achievements of Dayton area communities; Whereas Dayton is considered the "Birthplace of Aviation" and from July 3 through July 20, 2003, the Dayton region will host "Inventing Flight: The Centennial Celebration'', the largest public centennial event in Ohio celebrating the first flight and one of only 4 events nationwide endorsed as a full partner by the United States Centennial of Flight Commission; and Whereas the celebration will feature pavilions with aviation displays, blimp and hot-air balloon performances, river shows, historical reenactments, an international air and space symposium, National Aviation Hall of Fame ceremonies, and a general aviation show at the Dayton International Airport; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes "Inventing Flight: The Centennial Celebration'', a celebration in Dayton, Ohio of the centennial of Wilbur and Orville Wright's first flight.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED & PROPOSED
SA 540. Mr. BURNS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional tax incentives to encourage economic growth, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 541. Mr. ENSIGN (for himself and Mr. Corzine) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal year 2004 and for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2004 through 2007, and general aviation for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS
SA 540. Mr. BURNS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional tax incentives to encourage economic growth, which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

SEC. 601. EXPENDING OF BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS EXPENDITURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part VI of subchapter B of chapter 1 (relating to itemized deductions for individual taxpayers) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 1901 the following new section:

"SEC. 191. BROADBAND EXPENDITURES."

"(a) TREATMENT OF EXPENDITURES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A taxpayer may elect to treat any qualified broadband expenditure which is paid or incurred by the taxpayer as an expense which is not chargeable to capital account. Any expenditure which is so treated shall be allowed as a deduction.

"(2) ELECTION.—An election under paragraph (1) shall be made at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation.

"(b) QUALIFIED BROADBAND EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified broadband expenditure' means any expenditure made with respect to an equipment item, the purchase or lease for a taxable year, any direct or indirect costs incurred and properly taken into account with respect to the purchase or installation of such equipment (including any upgrades thereto), together with any direct or indirect costs incurred and properly taken into account with respect to the connection of such equipment with a qualified subscriber, but only if such costs are incurred after December 31, 2003, and before January 1, 2005.

"(2) CERTAIN SATELLITE EXPENDITURES EXCLUDED.—Such term shall not include any costs incurred with respect to the launching of any satellite equipment.

"(3) LEASED EQUIPMENT.—Such term shall include so much of the purchase price paid by the lessor of equipment subject to a lease described in subsection (c)(2)(B) as is attributable to the equipment from which it would otherwise be described in paragraph (1).

"(4) LIMITATION WITH REGARD TO CURRENT GENERATION BROADBAND SERVICES.—Only 50 percent of the amounts taken into account under paragraph (1) with respect to qualified expenditures from equipment which by reason of the services provided shall be treated as qualified broadband expenditures.

"(5) WHEN EXPENDITURES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Qualified broadband expenditures with respect to qualified equipment shall be taken into account with respect to the first taxable year in which—

"(A) the original use of such equipment begins—

"(i) the original use of which commences with the taxpayer, and

"(ii) which is placed in service, after December 31, 2003; or

"(B) sale-leasebacks.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), if property—

"(i) is originally placed in service after December 31, 2003, by any person, and

"(ii) sold and leased back by such person within 3 months after the date such property was originally placed in service, such property shall be treated as sold to a person who purchased the property from the original user, but only if such costs are incurred after December 31, 2003, and before January 1, 2005.

"(6) SPECIAL PROVISIONS.—

"(1) CERTAIN TERMINAL EXCISE TAX.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section—

"(i) the percentage specified in section 4454(a) shall be treated as 3 percent; and

"(ii) the percentage specified in section 4454(b) shall be treated as 8 percent.

"(B) TRANSITIONS.—In the case of any transition period (as defined in regulations prescribed under section 4454), the percentage specified in section 4454(a) shall be treated as 3 percent, and the percentage specified in section 4454(b) shall be treated as 8 percent.

"(2) ELECTION.—An election under paragraph (1) shall be made at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation.

"(3) LEASED EQUIPMENT.—Such term shall include so much of the purchase price paid by the lessor of equipment subject to a lease described in subsection (c)(2)(B) as is attributable to the equipment from which it would otherwise be described in paragraph (1).

"(4) LEASED TERMINAL EQUIPMENT.—Such term shall include so much of the purchase price paid by the lessor of equipment subject to a lease described in subsection (c)(2)(B) as is attributable to the equipment from which it would otherwise be described in paragraph (1).

"(2)NEXT GENERATION BROADBAND SERVICES.—The term 'next generation broadband service' means the transmission of signals at a rate of at least 1,000,000 bits per second to the subscriber and at least 128,000 bits per second from the subscriber.

"(3)MULTIPLEXING OR DEMULTIPLEXING.—The term 'multiplexing' means the transmission of 2 or more signals over a single channel, and the term 'demultiplexing' means the separation of 2 or more signals previously combined by compatible multiplexing equipment.

"(4)NEXT GENERATION BROADBAND SERVICES.—The term 'next generation broadband service' means the transmission of signals at a rate of at least 122,000,000 bits per second to the subscriber and at least 5,000,000 bits per second from the subscriber.

"(7)NONRESIDENTIAL SUBSCRIBER.—The term 'nonresidential subscriber' means any person who purchases broadband services which are delivered to the permanent place of business of such person.

"(8)OPEN VIDEO SYSTEM OPERATOR.—The term 'open video system operator' means any person authorized to provide service under section 653 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 522(f)).

"(9)OTHER WIRELESS CARRIER.—The term 'other wireless carrier' means any person (other than a telecommunications carrier, commercial mobile service carrier, cable operator, open video system operator, or satellite carrier) providing current generation broadband services or next generation broadband service to subscribers through the radio transmission of energy.

"(1) THE TERM 'PACKET SWITCHING' MEANS CONTROLLING OR ROUTING THE PATH OF ANY DIGITIZED TRANSMISSION SIGNAL WHICH IS ASSEMBLED INTO PACKETS OR CELLS

"(2) THE TERM 'PROVIDER' MEANS, WITH RESPECT TO ANY QUALIFIED EQUIPMENT—"
"(A) a cable operator,
"(B) a commercial mobile service carrier,
"(C) an open video system operator,
"(D) a satellite carrier,
"(E) a telecommunications carrier, or
"(F) any other wireless carrier,

providing current generation broadband services or next generation broadband services to subscribers through such qualified equipment.

"(D) MULTIPLYING AND DEMULTIPLEXING EQUIPMENT.—Multiplexing and demultiplexing equipment shall be taken into account under subparagraph (A) only to the extent of the performance of such equipment described in subparagraph (B) and is uniquely designed to perform the function of multiplexing and demultiplexing packets for the purpose of accommodating associated application adaptations, but only if such multiplexing or demultiplexing equipment is located between the switching equipment described in subparagraph (C) and the subscriber's premises.

"(14) QUALIFIED SUBSCRIBER.—The term 'qualified subscriber' means—

(i) with respect to the provision of current generation broadband services—

(A) any nonresidential subscriber maintaining a permanent place of business in a rural area or underserved area, or

(B) any residential subscriber residing in a dwelling located in a rural area or underserved area which is not a marketed area, and

(ii) any subscriber who is utilizing such services, and

(E) such services are made available to such subscribers at average prices comparable to those at which the provider makes available similar services in any area in which the provider makes available such services,

"(E) such services are made available to such subscribers at average prices comparable to those at which the provider makes available similar services in any area in which the provider makes available such services,

"(13) QUALIFIED EQUIPMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified equipment' means equipment which provides current generation broadband services or next generation broadband services—

(i) at least a majority of the time during periods of maximum demand to each subscriber who is utilizing such services, and

(ii) in a manner substantially the same as such services are provided by the provider to subscribers through equipment with respect to which no deduction is allowed under subsection (a)(1).

"(B) ONLY CERTAIN INVESTMENT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C) or (D), equipment shall be taken into account under subparagraph (A) only to the extent that—

(i) extends from the last point of switching to the inside of the unit, building, dwelling, or service on a satellite in order to provide current generation broadband services or next generation broadband services,

(ii) extends from the customer side of the mobile telephone switching office to a transmission/receive antenna (including such antenna) owned or leased by a subscriber in the case of a telecommunications carrier,

(iii) extends from the customer side of the headend to the outside of the unit, building, dwelling, or service on a satellite in order to provide current generation broadband services or next generation broadband services,

(iv) from the transmission/receive antenna (including such antenna) which transmits signals to or from multiple subscribers, to a transmission/receive antenna (including such antenna) on the outside of the unit, building, dwelling, or service on a satellite in order to provide current generation broadband services or next generation broadband services,

(C) PACKET SWITCHING EQUIPMENT.—Packet switching equipment, regardless of location, shall be taken into account under subparagraph (A) only if it is deployed in connection with equipment described in subparagraph (B) and is uniquely designed to perform the function of packet switching for current generation broadband services or next generation broadband services, and

if such packet switching is the last in a series of such functions performed in the transmission of a signal to a subscriber or the first in a series of such functions performed in the transmission of a signal from a subscriber.

"(B) the provider is physically able to deliver current generation broadband services or next generation broadband services, as applicable, to such a subscriber without making more than an insignificant investment with respect to such subscriber,

"(C) the provider has made reasonable efforts to make such subscribers aware of the availability of such services,

"(D) such services have been purchased by 1 or more such subscribers, and

"(E) such services are made available to such subscribers at average prices comparable to those at which the provider makes available similar services in any area in which the provider makes available such services,
ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2003

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 13. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business with Members permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 for the weekly party lunches.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would like to propound a parliamentary inquiry to the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator yield for that purpose?

Mr. McCONNELL. Yes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, is S. 2 as reported by the Finance Committee a reconciliation bill?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The answer to the Senator's inquiry is no.

Mr. REID. If the Senate takes up S. 2, it then would be fully debatable and open to amendment. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. I have no objection to the request propounded by the distinguished Senator from Kentucky.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, tomorrow the Senate will be in a period of morning business, and when the reconciliation bill is received from the Finance Committee, the Senate will proceed to its consideration. Amendments are expected to be offered to the bill, and a late night is expected. Senators who wish to engage in the debate or to offer an amendment to the bill are encouraged to work with the bill managers so we can move forward in an orderly and efficient manner.

For the remainder of the week, the Senate will complete action on the jobs/growth bill, and also consider both the bipartisan global HIV/AIDS bill and the debt limit legislation. In order for the Senate to complete action on these measures, late nights and rollcall votes should be expected throughout the entire week. I therefore advise my colleagues to make the necessary scheduling arrangements.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if the distinguished Senator will yield, as I have spoken to the distinguished assistant majority leader, we have on our side eight Senators who are scheduled tomorrow to go to the funeral of the late Senator Long. This is just for the information of the majority leader. Their plane leaves at 8 or 8:30 in the morning and returns at 7 o'clock in the evening. I know the majority is aware of that.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me say we are aware that there are a number of Senators going to Senator Long's funeral, and we have tried to craft this schedule in such a way as to accommodate those interests.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order. There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:32 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 13, 2003, at 10 a.m.
SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Sunday, May 11, 2003 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 13
9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To continue hearings to examine media ownership.
SR–253

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine Project Safe Neighborhoods, focusing on gun violence.
SD–226

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Steven B. Nesmith, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, J ose Teran, of Florida, James Broaddus, of Texas, Lane Carson, of Louisiana, and Paul Pate, of Iowa, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences, Nicholas Gregory Mankiw, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.
SD–538

Appropriations
Homeland Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Transportation Security Administration, and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
SD–192

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 452, to require that the Secretary of the Interior conduct a study to identify sites and resources, to recommend alternatives for commemorating and interpreting the Cold War, S. 500, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study certain sites in the historic district of Beaufort, South Carolina, relating to the Reconstruction Era, S. 601, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the McLoughlin House National Historic Site in Oregon City, Oregon, for inclusion in the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, S. 612, to revise the boundary of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the States of Utah and Arizona, H.R. 798, to revise the boundary of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the States of Utah and Arizona, S. 630, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the San Gabriel River Watershed, and H.R. 519, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the San Gabriel River Watershed.

11:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine investments in after school programs, focusing on effective academic and recreational opportunities and safe havens for youth.
SH–216

2 p.m.
Finance
International Trade Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the status of the free trade area of the Americas, focusing on negotiations and preparations for the Miami Ministerial.
SD–215

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 520, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities to the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District in the State of Idaho, S. 625, to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct certain feasibility studies in the Tualatin River Basin in Oregon, S. 960, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize certain projects in the State of Hawaii and to amend the Hawaii Water Resources Act of 2000 to modify the water resources study, S. 649, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in projects within the San Diego Creek Watershed, California, and S. 993, to amend the Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956.
SD–366

MAY 14
9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine.
SR–253

Appropriations
District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the government of the District of Columbia, focusing on the foster care system.
SD–138

10 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Defense.
SD–192

Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Defense.
SD–342

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine tissue banks, focusing on federal regulation.
SD–342

Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine health insurance.
SD–116

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 888, to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act, S. 686, to provide assistance for poisons prevention and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers, S. 504, to establish academic credits for teachers and students of American history and civics and a national alliance of teachers of American history and civics, and S. 754, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve immunization rates by increasing the distribution of vaccines and improving and clarifying the vaccine injury compensation programs.
SD–430

10:15 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Defense.
SD–192

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill.
SR–328A

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine farm credit.
SR–328A

MAY 15
9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for programs under its jurisdiction.
SD–124

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold oversight hearings to examine recommendations to tighten oversight of the Title XI Shipbuilding Loan Guarantee Program.
SR–253

Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Defense.
SD–342

Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Homeland Security, focusing on state and local governments.
SD–138
Judiciary
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD–226

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine the Fair Credit Reporting Act and issues presented by the Re-authoriza-
tion of the Expiring Preemption Provi-
sions.
SD–538

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 575, to amend the Native American Languages Act to provide for the support of Na-
tive American language survival schools.
SR–485

11:30 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine pending calendar business.
SR–398A

2 p.m.
Appropriations
Foreign Operations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimate for fiscal year 2004 for foreign operations.
SD–138

Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Susanne T. Marshall, of Virgin-
ria, to be Chairman of the Merit Sys-
tems Protection Board, Neil McPhie, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Merit Sys-
tems Protection Board, Terrence A. Duf-
ny, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, and Thomas Waters Grant, of New York, to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.
SD–342

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Oceans, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Sub-
committee
To hold hearings to examine the Marine Mammal Protection Act.
SR–253

Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine pend-
ing intelligence matters.
SH–219

MAY 16

9 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the Depart-
ment of State’s Office of Children’s Issues, focusing on international parental abduction.
SD–419

MAY 19

2 p.m.
Aging
To hold hearings to examine ageism in the health care system, focusing on short shrifting seniors.
SD–628

2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
African Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine fighting AIDS in Uganda.
SD–419

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.
Rules and Administration
To hold oversight hearings to examine operations of the John F. Kennedy Cen-
ter for the Performing Arts and the Smithsonian Institution.
SR–301

10 a.m.
Aging
To hold hearings to examine baby boomers, focusing on enhancing independence through innovation and technol-
ogy.
SD–628

2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the future of U.S. economic relations in the West-
ern Hemisphere.
SD–419

MAY 21

9 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine SARS, fo-
cusing on state and local response.
SD–342

9:30 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the proposed reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
SR–485

MAY 22

10 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine recruitment of terrorists in prison.
SR–485

MAY 3

10 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine the impacts of tribal fish and wildlife management programs in the Pacific Northwest.
SR–485

MAY 4

10 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine S. 281, to amend the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to make certain amendments with respect to Indian tribes, to provide for training and technical assistance to Native Americans who are interested in commercial vehicle driving careers, and S. 725, to amend the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to provide from the Highway Trust Fund additional funding for Indian reservation roads.
SR–485

MAY 11

10 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine the status of local and state response.
SR–485

MAY 12

10 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine the status of Indian children in prison.
SR–485

CANCELLATIONS

MAY 15

9:30 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To continue hearings to examine an original bill to authorize foreign assistance for fiscal year 2004, to make technical and administrative changes to the Foreign Assistance and Arms Export Control Acts and to authorize a Millennium Challenge Account.
SD–419

MAY 23

10 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To continue hearings to examine the impacts of tribal fish and wildlife management programs.
SR–485

MAY 24

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 14
Monday, May 12, 2003

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action
Routine Proceedings, pages S6013–S6033
Measures Introduced: Five bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1039–1043, and S. Res. 141.

Measures Reported:
S. 314, to make improvements in the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health. (S. Rept. No. 108–45)

Appointments:
Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d–276g, as amended, appointed the following Senator as a member of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group during the First Session of the 108th Congress, to be held in Canada, May 15–19, 2003: Senator Voinovich.

Committee Meetings
No committee meetings held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
The House was not in session today. It will meet on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour debate.

Committee Meetings
No Committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2003
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Transportation Security Administration, and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, to hold hearings to examine investments in after school programs, focusing on effective academic and recreational opportunities and safe havens for youth, 10:30 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Steven B. Nesmith, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Jose Teran, of Florida, James Broadus, of Texas, Lane Carson, of Louisiana, and Paul Pate, of Iowa, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences, Nicholas Gregory Mankiw, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to continue hearings to examine media ownership, 9:30 a.m., SR–253.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine S. 452, to require that the Secretary of the Interior conduct a study to identify sites and resources, to recommend alternatives for commemorating and interpreting the Cold War, S. 500, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study certain sites in the historic district of Beaufort, South Carolina, relating to the Reconstruction Era, S. 601, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the McLoughlin House National Historic Site in Oregon City, Oregon, for inclusion in the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, S. 612, to revise the boundary of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the States of Utah and Arizona, H.R. 788, to revise the boundary of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the States of Utah and Arizona, S. 630, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the San Gabriel River Watershed, and H.R. 519, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the San Gabriel River Watershed, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Subcommittee on Water and Power, to hold hearings to examine S. 520, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities to the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District in the State of Idaho, S. 625, to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct certain feasibility studies in the Tualatin River Basin in Oregon, S. 960, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize certain projects in the State of Hawaii and to amend the Hawaii Water Resources Act of 2000 to modify the water resources study, S. 649, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in projects within the San Diego Creek Watershed, California, and S. 993, to amend the Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on International Trade, to hold hearings to examine the status of the free trade area of the Americas, focusing on negotiations and preparations for the Miami Ministerial, 2 p.m., SD-215.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine Project Safe Neighborhoods, focusing on gun violence, 9:30 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, on Member of Congress, 9:45 a.m., and on public witnesses, 2 p.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, to mark up H.R. 1588, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, hearing on “The State of American Higher Education: What are Parents, Students and Taxpayers Getting for their Money?” 2 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, hearing on the state of the international financial system, IMF reform, and compliance with IMF agreements, 4 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on Government Efficiency and Financial Management, oversight hearing on “Show Me the Tax Dollars—How Much is Lost to Improper Payments Each Year?” 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.


Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census, oversight hearing entitled “The American Community Survey: The Challenges of Eliminating the Long Form From the 2010 Census,” 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on International Relations, Subcommittee on Africa, hearing on Reviewing the Sudan Peace Act Report, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims, oversight hearing on “John Allen Muhammad, Document Fraud, and the Western Hemisphere Passport Exception,” 2 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider the following: H.R. 1527, National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2003; and H.R. 1000, Pension Security Act of 2003, 5 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing on the Use of Private Collection Agencies to Improve IRS Debt Collection, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, May 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business. Also, Senate may begin consideration of the Reconciliation Bill.
(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 13

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of Suspensions:
(1) H.R. 517, Conveyance of the Coast Guard Cutter BRAMBLE to the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History located in Port Huron, Michigan;
(2) H. Con. Res. 128, Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run;
(3) H.R. 281, Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse, Dayton, Ohio;
(4) H. Res. 178, Honoring the life of former Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Matthew J. Ryan and offering condolences to his family;
(5) H.R. 985, Delbert L. Latta Post Office Building, Bowling Green, Ohio;
(6) H. Con. Res. 160, Urging the United Nations to Remove the Economic Sanctions Against Iraq; and
(7) H. Res. 222, Commending Individuals Who Contributed to the Debris Collection Effort Following the Space Shuttle Columbia Accident.