

XVIII of the Social Security Act to require wealthy beneficiaries to pay a greater share of their premiums under the Medicare prescription drug program.

S. 738

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 738, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-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. 812

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES) were added as cosponsors of S. 827, a bill to establish a program to reunite bondholders with matured unredeemed United States savings bonds.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty.

S. CON. RES. 18

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 18, a concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day, and reaffirming United States leadership and support for efforts to combat malaria.

AMENDMENT NO. 1007

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1007 proposed to S. 386, a bill to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 897. A bill to limit Federal spending to 20 percent of GDP; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Limitation On Government Spending Act of 2009. This legislation will set limits on the amount of Government spending in comparison to the Nation's gross domestic product.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn." While we remain in an economic recession, the Obama administration continues to spend our way out of it, disregarding the future consequences.

As we continue on this route of reckless government spending, we continue to increase our debt that will be passed down to our children, grandchildren, and many generations to come. The only way to repay this debt is to increase taxes. That is why I believe it is so important that we restrict ourselves from spending too much, especially during this economic recession.

At a time when Utahns and Americans are tightening their wallets, this budget grows the size of Government, excluding nondefense-related spending in just 2 years by 22 percent.

Many Americans, as demonstrated last week through TEA parties, are asking if this Government spending will ever stop. After trillions for bailouts and other Government spending, this budget makes no hard choices to reform runaway spending.

I keep hearing my friends on the other side of the aisle eagerly point out that President Bush never vetoed a spending bill. While I may agree that the former President should have restricted more in Government spending, President Obama's budget spends more than President Bush's did every year, even after adjusting for inflation.

Furthermore, the spending in this budget is so massive that independent estimates suggest roughly 250,000 new Government bureaucrats may be needed to spend it all. While President Obama would like to claim this as job growth, I think this is a false sense of economic recovery. Long after our economy has hopefully recovered, we will need to continue financing these new 250,000 new Government bureaucrats through, you guessed it, more Government spending.

My Republican colleagues want to work with the President to improve the economy. This should be done by focusing on the issues that are hurting Americans the most. Fixing housing, reforming financial markets, developing clean energy and providing affordable health care are all common goals that both sides of the aisle share. But President Obama's European-style approach to achieve these goals is to socialize America—to spend, spend, spend and not worry about the enormous price tag it will leave.

If you look at the proposed budget, you can see the reckless spending. This budget increases discretionary spend-

ing by \$490 billion over 5 years, and it promises much more spending than that—\$1.3 trillion over 5 years—through 27 reserve funds. The total spending in this budget is \$3.9 trillion in 2009, or 28 percent of GDP, the highest level as a share of the GDP since World War II. This is absurd.

How can we tell the American public, who are budgeting themselves and making sacrifices, that we are going to spend our way out of this, then come back to them and tax them until they are back in the same position? It is ludicrous.

We are moving toward what I call the Europeanization of America. To understand what I mean, it is helpful to compare European countries' total government spending as a percentage of GDP with our Nation's Government spending. In France, for example, government spending is close to 50 percent of GDP. England's government spending is roughly 44 percent of GDP. In Germany, government spending is 45 percent of GDP. In the US Federal Government spending has been around 20 percent. However, to accurately compare the US to European nations, it is necessary to include state and local spending. Once that is factored in, US Government spending exceeds 37 percent of GDP, and that is before President Obama's stimulus package and budget for this year are taken into account. Thus, it is almost a forgone conclusion that by the end of this year, total government spending in the US will be in line with most European governments. Do we really want to move toward this Europeanization of America?

Despite what you may hear, trivial attempts to cutback will not make an impact on Government spending. This past week, President Obama admirably asked his administration to trim \$100 million in Government spending. While this amount would be significant a century ago, it doesn't do much today to reduce government spending. This cut would amount to just 1/400 of 1 percent of total Federal spending for fiscal year 2009. The Federal Government spends \$100 million about every 13 minutes. So, while President Obama's restraint on Government spending is admirable, it is just a drop in the bucket for what we really need to achieve.

It is time for us to take a stand on Government spending. We need to show self-discipline when dealing with Government spending. Since World War II, Federal spending has been between 18 and 22 percent of GDP. I am calling upon my colleagues to restrict Government spending to the historical average of 20 percent. This limitation may be waived by an approval of 3/5 of members of this body.

It is time that we restrict government spending. It will cause us to make some tough decisions about what is really important. One thing is certain, we cannot continue down the path we are headed. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to change

course and get back on the path to fiscal sanity.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a business meeting has been scheduled before Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The business meeting will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate office building.

The purpose of the business meeting is to consider the nominations of Kristina M. Johnson, to be the Under Secretary of Energy, Steven Elliot Koonin, to be the Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy, Ines R. Triay, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy, Environmental Management, Hilary Chandler Tompkins, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and Scott Blake Harris, to be the General Counsel of the Department of Energy. The Committee may also consider legislation on a Renewable Electricity Standard and on Siting of Interstate Electric Transmission Facilities.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224-6836.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 895 and S. 896

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading, en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 895) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

A bill (S. 896) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading en bloc, and I object to my own request en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

MODIFICATION TO ORDER FOR
CLOTURE VOTE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order with respect to the cloture vote on Monday, April 27, be modified to provide that the vote occur at 5:20 p.m., with rule XII, paragraph 4, waived, and that the hour for debate prior to the vote begin at 4:20 p.m., with all other provisions remaining in effect. We will act as if the vote started at 5:30.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY PROJECT
ACT OF 2009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to H.R. 586.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 586) to direct the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out a joint project at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the Civil Rights movement, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 586) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 27,
2009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 27; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period for the transaction of morning business until 4:20 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. I also ask unanimous consent that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement Act, and all orders previously made remain in effect.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, under the previous order, the time from 4:20 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. on Monday will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 5:20 p.m., the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the fraud legislation.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
APRIL 27, 2009, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:55 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 27, 2009, at 2 p.m.