

Senate Budget Committee where he worked with the White House to secure passage of the 1993 Budget Reconciliation and Deficit Reduction Act, an accomplishment that is in large part responsible for the unprecedented period of economic growth our nation enjoys and the transformation of an escalating federal budget deficit into an impressive surplus.

Moreover, Senator Sasser distinguished himself on foreign policy issues, courageously speaking his mind on issues such as the Reagan Administration policies in Central America. He was well respected by his colleagues and was known for his sharp intellect and genial personality. His campaign slogan during his 1976 Senate campaign was "in behalf of a government that reflects our decency." Senator Sasser lived up to that promise through his distinguished record in the United States Senate.

After returning to private life in 1995, Jim Sasser served as a Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University before he was nominated as Ambassador to China. On January 10, 1996, Jim Sasser was sworn in by Vice President AL GORE as United States Ambassador to the People's Republic of China. Knowing that Sino-American relations were at an all time low, Ambassador Sasser went to the People's Republic of China with the same diligence that distinguished him as a Senator. The first motto that he graced the Chinese Embassy with, "We may doze, but we never close," typifies the job that Ambassador Sasser did for three remarkable years.

Ambassador to China is one of the most difficult assignments for a diplomat. Dealing with the government of the most populous country in the world can be an intimidating task. Ambassador Sasser rose to the challenge and quickly established amicable relationships with President Jiang Zemin and most recently with premier Zhu Rongji. So tight were these bonds that Premier Zhu said after his trip to America with Jim Sasser last year. "I would never have made it without the Ambassador." The relationships allowed Ambassador Sasser to navigate through the tough times in United States-China relations and have helped build and sustain cordial relations between the President of the United States and the President of the People's Republic of China. Moreover, his 18 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Senate helped prepare him for dealing with domestic and foreign policymakers in both countries.

Just weeks after Ambassador Sasser was sworn in, his diligence was tested when China began missile tests over the Taiwan Strait. Recently, United States-China relations were strained once again by the tragic, accidental bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade during NATO air strikes and

reports of Chinese espionage of our national nuclear weapons laboratories. Ambassador Sasser distinguished himself and the entire American contingent of diplomats in China by acting in a respectful and sympathetic manner to the Chinese government during this unfortunate incident. I will never forget the photographs of Ambassador Sasser in the ruins of our embassy in Beijing. The calm, composed, and dignified manner in which he responded to the siege at our embassy and ambassador's residence are the benchmark for grace under fire and will forever symbolize the sacrifice and skills of our nation's diplomatic corps and foreign service personnel.

I had the opportunity to visit and talk with Ambassador Sasser on numerous occasions in Beijing. His assistance and advice was always courteous and on point. From human rights issues to intellectual property copyrights, Ambassador Sasser has done a tremendous job representing and communicating American interests in the People's Republic of China. During his 40 months of service as American Ambassador to China, the longest tenure of any American Ambassador to China, Jim Sasser has accomplished so much in helping to improve Sino-American relations. His achievements are numerous and commendable. Ambassador Sasser's service has helped advance cooperation between American and Chinese political and security officials. Economic relations between our two countries have improved under Ambassador Sasser's leadership including ongoing negotiations for admitting China into the World Trade Organization. In the area of nuclear nonproliferation, Ambassador Sasser has seen the Chinese government address U.S. concerns about providing assistance to rogue nations, as well as issuing a State Council directive controlling export of dual-use items with potential nuclear weapons uses. The U.S. Embassy in China has also helped to secure relief assistance to Chinese earthquake victims. The list of accomplishments of Ambassador Sasser and his corps of diplomatic officials goes on and on. His record as Ambassador speaks for itself.

Although United States-China relations have been damaged by the accidental bombing of the Belgrade embassy, we can say that relations with China are better now than they were 3 years ago when Ambassador Sasser assumed his post in Beijing.

Now that Jim and Mary have returned safely home, I would like to take one final opportunity to thank them and his family for their courageous service and commitment to serving America in China. I have to agree with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's assessment of Ambassador Sasser as "the best Ambassador to China we've ever had". To Jim Sasser and his family, I say maholo nui loa,

thank you very much, for your service and bid you aloha, welcome home.

CHANGES TO THE BUDGETARY AGGREGATES AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ALLOCATION

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, section 314(b)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended, requires the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to adjust the appropriate budgetary aggregates and the allocation for the Appropriations Committee to reflect an amount provided for an earned income tax credit compliance initiative.

I hereby submit revisions to the 2000 Senate Appropriations Committee allocations, pursuant to section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act, in the following amounts:

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays
Current allocation:		
General purpose discretionary	533,971	543,967
Violent crime reduction fund	4,500	5,554
Highways		24,574
Mass transit		4,117
Mandatory	321,502	304,297
Total	859,973	882,509
Adjustments:		
General purpose discretionary	+144	+146
Violent crime reduction fund		
Highways		
Mass transit		
Mandatory		
Total	+144	+146
Revised allocation:		
General purpose discretionary	534,115	544,113
Violent crime reduction fund	4,500	5,554
Highways		24,574
Mass transit		4,117
Mandatory	321,502	304,297
Total	860,117	882,655

I hereby submit revisions to the 2000 budget aggregates, pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, in the following amounts:

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays	Deficit
Current allocation: Budget resolution	1,428,920	1,415,349	-7,267
Adjustments: EITC compliance	+144	+146	-146
Revised allocation: Budget resolution	1,429,064	1,415,495	-7,413

THE SUPREME COURT'S END-OF-TERM DECISIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Supreme Court ended its term last week with a trio of deeply disturbing decisions regarding the role of the States and Congress in our federal system. In *Alden v. Maine*, the Court made it impossible for State employees to enforce their rights under the Fair Labor Standards Act, which for decades has guaranteed public and private employees nationwide a fair minimum wage.

In *College Savings Bank*, the Court deprived private parties of the ability to enforce federal unfair competition law against the States. And in *Florida Prepaid*, the Court held that Congress