CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

November 19, 1999

year and during these final negotiations. He understands the importance of this legislation, and this was a matter of central importance to him and his Presidency.

I also thank John Podesta and Chris Jennings who saw this through to the very end.

I commend the many Senate staff members whose skilled assistance contributed so much to the achievement: Jennifer Baxendale, Alec Vachon, and Frank Polk of Senator Roth’s staff; Kristin Testa, John Resnick, Edwin Park, and David Podoff of Senator Moynihan’s staff; Pat Morrissey, Lu Zeph, Chris Crowley, Jim Downing, and Mark Powden of Senator Jeffords’ staff; Connie Garner—a special thanks to Connie Garner—Jim Manley, Jonathan Press, Jeffrey Teitz, and Michael Myers. I want to thank those from the many other staff members of the Health Committee and the Finance Committee.

No longer will disabled Americans be left out and left behind. The Ticket to Work and the Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 is an act of courage, an act of community, and, above all, an act of hope for the future. I urge its passage, and I reserve the remainder of the time of the Senator from New York.

Mr. ROTH addressed the Chair.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I yield 10 minutes to the Senator from New Mexico.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. DOMENICI. Thank you very much, I say to Senator Roth.

I might say, on the bill that we are speaking to, the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act, I do not know how many Senators have ever had a disabled person who is holding a job and getting a paycheck. Come and see them. A disabled person who is holding a job and just got a paycheck—and you get to visit with them—they are glowing. They are filled with pride that they are able to work. Actually, it is the best therapy in the world for a disabled person to have a job.

I have seen it from personal experience in my own family. But I have seen it in scores of faces of people who come and tell me as disabled people that they are working and they are getting a paycheck.

The U.S. Government, probably because it did not understand what it was doing, decided that we would help disabled people who were not working with health insurance, either under Medicare or Medicaid. Then what a cruel blow, as soon as they started working and making sufficient money, as low as $700 a month, they started losing their health care coverage, and they began to wonder and their parents began to wonder, why did they ever take a job?

For some, they did not even make any net profit out of getting a job. Because if they are cut off from health care, some of them have to pay their entire paycheck to take care of their illness. That is just not right. Frankly, it was a hard issue in terms of drafting something that could work, and I compliment everybody that worked on this bill. I think it is a very important day today.

In fact, I am sorry it is getting passed along with a great deal of other legislation because the importance of it might very well get lost. Sometimes a long debate on a bill is meritorious, for the country finds out what we are doing. They are not necessarily going to find out about this bill because we did not do a lot of them. But I asked the distinguished chairman if I could use a few moments and he gave it to me. Now, if the Senate would bear with me, I just want to take the remaining time I have, and how much is that?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 7 minutes remaining.

THE BUDGET

Mr. DOMENICI. I am going to take a few moments to thank a few people and summarize the budget bill that we are going to pass this evening, hopefully.

I want to thank the White House for their cooperation in coming to an agreement with reference to the appropriations bill and all of those things that are in the so-called omnibus package.

In particular, I want to thank the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Mr. Lew. Last evening when we were about to depart and part company and say we will go our own ways, they asked me if I would meet with Mr. Lew, and if we could see if we could work something out. We are here today with a bipartisan bill because we did work something out.

I thought it was the very best thing we could do. Frankly, I am proud of it. I wish it could have been done sooner. I am hoping that next year we will get the appropriations bills done perhaps 6 to 7 or 8 weeks sooner than we did this year. But I want to start by quoting from the New York Times, not necessarily a newspaper that thinks what Republicans do is necessarily good, as I do, but they said in their editorial, on their editorial page, the following thing about this budget bill that we are going to have before us:

There are modest spending increases in some of the President’s priority areas like education but over all the Republican approach of spending restraint has shaped this budget.”

I am very proud of that. I think that is true because what we have done is we have kept the faith with those who want a balanced budget. This budget proposal ensures a balanced budget without using Social Security trust fund money.

I ask parenthetically for those who still doubt that because they do not have a Congressional Budget Office letter that says it, if the President of the United States would be asking Democrats to vote for this measure if he and his OMB Director thought it was using Social Security trust fund money? I think the answer is no. They know it does not. I know it does not. And I can promise the Senate, come Feb 1 or March, when you reestimate everything, it will not be using the Social Security trust fund money.

I think that is the new discipline that has been imposed on our economy and our fiscal policy. It is a brand new event to say we are not going to spend Social Security money, and it is the best thing we can do for the American economy because, Senator Moynihan, to the extent we do not spend it, we reduce the public debt. Who are wondering about the public debt, the public debt is reduced dollar for dollar when you leave Social Security surpluses alone year by year as they accumulate and do not spend them.

Now, let me tell you a dramatic statement about our current fiscal policy. Who would think a budget chairman could stand on the floor and say to the Senators who are listening, we will pay down the public debt by $130 billion? Think of that—$130 billion. If that does not mean that as soon as we saw surplus we did not run out and spend it, then I do not know what it means.

Frankly, I think my good friend, Senator Gramm from Texas, is correct; in about 30 or 40 years, when they look back on this period in time, they are going to say: Incredible. With the kind of surpluses that existed, not a single new entitlement program of major proportion was started, and not a single new American spending program was started because the accumulations went into the Social Security trust fund instead of being used to pay for more Government.

I am proud of that. I think it is the best medicine for growth and prosperity in the future.

It holds Government spending, as we calculate it overall, to about 33 percent this year over last year—that includes entitlements and appropriations—a very interesting number.

In the 1970’s, it was 11 percent growth.

In the 1980’s, it was 8 percent growth.

For those who in editorial comments across this land call this a bloated budget, let me suggest, the fiscal policy of the United States which has the Government growing less than the economy is growing is not bad fiscal policy. That is about where we are now under the culmination of this budget process for this year.
In the meantime, when we passed the budget resolution in April of this past year, we did want to do some very important things.

First, we wanted to increase the flexibility in education programs. It does not matter how much the President or others claim that the President won the education battle. The truth of the matter is, Republicans put more money in education than the President asked for.

For the first time we have flexibility. Twenty percent of the money that was going to go to teachers directly, and targeted and for nothing else, can be flexibly used by school districts. And the philosophical battle of the future will be flexibility of education funds with accountability versus the targeting and direct aid in very numerous and numbers of targeted mandates that Government says one size fits all. You all use it this way, or you cannot use it at all.

We suggested in our budget resolution that we should put more money into research on the dread diseases that affect our people and mankind. We increased NIH $2.5 billion, which is $2 billion more than the President asked for, for dread diseases like cancer, Alzheimer’s, and the whole list.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Food allergies.

Mr. DOMENICI. Allergies—all kinds of things.

We believe the breakthroughs will come in the next the millennium from this kind of investment. We are proud of it. We increased national defense—if you take out emergencies—by $13.5 billion, which was more than the President asked for, for dread diseases like cancer, Alzheimer’s, and the whole list.

In addition, also in this bill, we have taken care of the shortcomings in Medicare that came from the Balanced Budget Act. And $16 billion goes into that in the next 5 years, including $2 billion to replenish skilled nursing home payments. Also, the therapy caps have changed. There are slower reductions in payments for teaching hospitals, and a long list of changes.

I ask unanimous consent that the list be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

MEDICARE AND MEDICAID PROVISIONS SUMMARY
Nov. 18, 1999
CBO estimates, in billions of dollars

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<td>2-Year Medicare on Therapy Caps</td>
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Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kyle Kinner, a presidential management intern with the Finance Committee minority staff, be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of this conference report.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. I have the great pleasure to yield 5 minutes to my friend from Illinois, Senator DURBIN.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I salute Senator ROTH, Senator MOYNIHAN, Senator KENNEDY, Senator JEFFORDS, Senator HARKIN, and others who worked so hard on this Work Incentives Improvement Act.

A close friend of my family had a son who was mentally ill. This young man wanted more than anything to go to work. He knew if he did so, he would lose the protection of health insurance. So he was held back from that opportunity simply because he had certain tax credits and benefits, but, rather, because of the language in this bill relating to organ donation.

This is the challenge we face in America. If you are an American grievously ill, in need of an organ transplant, your chances of survival depend more than anything on your address and how much money you have. You could be the most seriously ill person in some State in this Union and be overlooked and bypassed in favor of another patient in another State who is not as seriously ill and might be able to wait. That needs to change. That is certainly not a fair or American way.

The rules we are trying to promulgate to make that change have been the source of great controversy on Capitol Hill. It’s said when it comes to a point where Members of the House and Senate are deeply involved in a debate over the availability of organs for donation to those who need a transplant to live.

In my State of Illinois, over the last 3 years, 97 people have died waiting for organ transplants at the University of Chicago. I see my colleague from the State of Pennsylvania, Senator SANTORUM, where 187 people died waiting at the University of Pittsburgh. My colleagues, Senator MOYNIHAN and Senator SCHUMER, know that 99 people died waiting at Mount Sinai in New York.

In the last week alone, two people have

TICKET TO WORK AND WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR
Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kyle Kinner, a presidential management intern with the Finance Committee minority staff, be granted the privilege of the floor