

wouldn't add directly to next year's costs, it became an excuse for others to pile on.

The Virginia delegation jumped in early, winning the promise of \$600 million to help pay for a bridge over the Potomac River. By late Friday night, dozens of projects for both political parties were being added. House Transportation Committee Chairman Bud Shuster laid claim to millions for his home state of Pennsylvania. Mississippi, home of Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, is in the running for funds in the range of \$100 million. In all, the price tag for the extras tops \$1.6 billion.

The whole enterprise, which could yet collapse under its own weight, dramatizes a breakdown in discipline in these last weeks before the November elections. In the spring, the GOP set a spending cap of \$600 billion for the fiscal year that began yesterday—a number that was never considered realistic politically.

After devoting long summer nights to debating cuts from Mr. Clinton's \$626 billion budget, Republicans will end up appropriating significantly more than that. If total appropriations rise to between \$635 billion and \$645 billion or even higher, as the numbers indicate, the ripple effect will pare surplus estimates by hundreds of billions of dollars over the next 10 years.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of this. We have the rosy scenario of a multitrillion dollar surplus in the years ahead, and if we keep spending this kind of money, everybody knows that the surplus will disappear. There is an open and honest debate as to whether we should have tax cuts or whether we should save Social Security, Medicare, or pay down the debt. We are not going to be able to do any of it if we are spending this kind of money. I was told by a Member not long ago that if we agree to what is presently the overspending in this budget, it could mean as much as \$430 billion out of the surplus in the next few years.

Both an \$18.9 billion natural-resources bill and a \$23.6 billion measure that funds energy and water programs are expected to be sent to the White House, and the transportation bill soon could follow. The Republican leadership believes it has reached a compromise to free up the measure funding the Treasury and the operations of the White House and Capitol.

That still leaves the heart of the domestic budget—massive bills funding education, health, housing and environmental programs. Negotiations on those bills are hovering near or even above the president's spending requests.

The natural-resources bill agreed to last week illustrates the steady cost escalation: The \$18.9 billion price tag is about \$4 billion over the bill passed by the House in June.

In a landmark commitment to conservation, the legislation would devote as much as \$12 billion during the next six years, mainly to buy lands and wildlife habitat threatened by development. As the annual commitment grows from \$1.6 billion to \$2.4 billion in 2006, more and more dollars would go for sorely needed maintenance work in the nation's parks.

Regarding the national parks, that is something with which I don't disagree.

I have suggested from time to time when my colleagues say there is noth-

ing we can do because the President has the leverage over us in order to shut down the Government for which we would get the blame, if just once, with one appropriations bill, just one, we could send to the President a bill that doesn't have a single earmark, have a single legislative rider on it, then we would go into negotiations of the issue with the President with clean hands. When we add billions in pork barrel spending on our appropriations bills and then go into negotiations with the President, there is no difference except in priorities. It is wrong.

I have been spending a lot of time campaigning around the country for candidates for the House and for the Senate, and for our candidate for President, my party's candidate for President and Vice President of the United States. I can tell my colleagues, clearly the American people have it figured out. They don't like it. They want this practice to stop. They want us to fulfill a promise we made in 1994 when we asked them and they gave us the majorities in both Houses of Congress.

Mr. President, this appropriations pork barreling has got to stop. I intend to come to the floor with every bill, and if it keeps on, I will then take additional measures. We all know what is coming up: The train wreck. If it is as much as \$45 billion more then our original \$600 billion spending cap, I am not sure how such action is justified.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2000—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion to proceed.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2557) to protect the energy security of the United States and decrease America's dependence on the foreign oil source to 50 percent by the year 2010 by enhancing the use of renewable energy resources, conserving energy resources, improving energy efficiencies, and increasing domestic energy supplies, mitigating the effect of increases in energy prices on the American consumer, including the poor and the elderly, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Has there been a time agreement on the legislation just proposed?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We have until 5:30 when we have a scheduled vote on another matter.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I will consume up to 15 minutes of time in relation to the energy issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I came to the floor to speak on this important issue before the Senate and to talk once again to my colleagues about what I believe to be the dark cloud of a national emergency. The American consumer has begun to detect a problem because the price of gasoline at the pump has gone up 25 or 30 percent in the last year. When they begin to pay their home heating bills this winter, I think they will recognize where the problem lies.

We have had the President and the Vice President trying to position themselves politically over the last month and a half on energy because of the spike in prices, but frankly they have articulated little. Now just in the last week we have had the Vice President present an energy policy for the country, and we have had Governor George Bush talking about an energy policy that he would propose.

Here is why these things are happening. Finally, I hope, the American people are beginning to focus on the very critical state of the availability of energy in this country, to run the economy, to make the country work, turn the lights on, move our cars, and do all that it takes to run an economy based on a heavy use of energy.

We are now importing between 56 to 58 percent of our crude oil needs. Some will remember that during the era of the oil embargo of the mid-1970s we were only importing 35 percent of our needs. Even at that time there were gas lines and fighting at the gas pumps because American consumers were frustrated over the cost of gas. What I am saying, America, is we no longer control our energy availability, our energy supplies, our energy needs.

Is it any wonder why prices have more than tripled in the last 2 years from a low of about \$11 per barrel of crude oil to a high late last month of \$38? The reason is somebody else is setting the price by creating either a scarcity of supply or by the appearance that there would be a scarcity of supply. It is not American producers controlling prices and supply, it is foreign producer countries.

The items we do control in the marketplace are demand and supplies we might be able to produce from our own resources. Natural was selling for \$2 per 1,000 cubic feet last year, just a year ago, and on Friday of last week natural gas was selling for \$5.20 for every 1,000 cubic feet. That is better than a doubling of that price.

As winter approaches, Americans likely will face the highest energy prices ever. Let me say that again. As the winter approaches, Americans are going to awaken to the highest energy prices they have ever paid. If the winter is colder than usual, energy prices will be even higher.