The President pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

THE BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend from Wyoming, it is true we have the second largest surplus in the history of this country; however, it is all Social Security. Senate Majority Leader DASCHLE, Senator BYRD, and President Reagan, got together and said, let's forward fund Social Security. In fact, Social Security has been forward funded, recognizing the baby boomers would have to receive large sums of money in the future. So when the baby boomers come, there will be money. If we did nothing with Social Security, everyone would draw 100 percent of their benefits until about the year 2030. After 2030, if we did nothing, they would still draw 75 to 80 percent of benefits. The debate is to make sure after the year 2030 Social Security recipients receive all their benefits.

For Members to say President Bush is such a great guy, he has the second largest surplus in the history of the country, is disingenuous. It is not factual. The surplus is as a result of Social Security.

My friend from Wyoming said we should move forward. We have been trying to move forward. We would have already completed the appropriations bills but we have been prevented from moving forward on them. When we finished the legislation last week that we worked so hard to complete, the Export Administration legislation—which, by the way, was held up strictly by people from the Republican camp, totally, for weeks and weeks, and months, and more than a year; we were finally able to get to that legislation after being held up for several days—after we finished that bill we wanted to go to Commerce-State-Justice but they would not let us. There was an objection to a motion to proceed.

Members can come to the floor all they want to talk about what is going on, but Members should state the facts. The facts are, we have been trying to move forward. If it had been up to us, we would have completed all the appropriations bills.

The economy is in trouble. Whether we like it or not, the President of the United States is seen to be directing the economy of the country. Basically, that is true.

Over the weekend, the press reported all over America a conversation between Speaker Hastert and the President of the United States, George W. Bush. I quote Speaker HASTERT: A year from now is when it matters. He is talking to the President about the terms of the economy. A year from now is when it matters.

Let's see, a year from now is real close to midterm elections. Is that what they are talking about? Of course it is.

President Bush responds: "It's my timeframe, too." So we have the Select Committee, saying they are not concerned about the economy now, but they are concerned about what happens a year from now. That is too bad. We have to be concerned about the economy today, not a year from now. We have an economy that is in real trouble. That is a fact. Rarely do all economists agree on everything, but when it comes to the current state of our economy, there is uniform agreement that things are getting worse instead of better.

As a result of the 1993 Budget Deficit Reduction Act, which was a very difficult vote, President Clinton gave us that budget. It was a tough vote for all Members. In the House of Representatives, with a Democratic vote, it passed by one vote. Courageous people lost their seats in the House of Representatives. The hero that I look to is MARIA CANTWELL. She served one term in the House of Representatives. She knew if she voted for that Budget Deficit Reduction Act it would hurt her in reelection, and it did, but she did the right thing and now is a Member of the Senate. Not all people were as fortunate as MARIA CANTWELL. Some lost their political careers.

In the Senate of the United States, the vote was a tie and the Vice President of the United States came over and sat where the Presiding Officer is seated and cast a tie-breaking vote to allow that budget deficit plan to go forward. As a result, we had 7 years of really good times in this country. The votes were tough. We reduced unemployment by over 300,000 people, and we had the lowest inflation, lowest employment in more than 40 years, created 25 million new jobs, reduced the deficit from $300 billion a year to surpluses.

Now, with this great budget we have been given by George W. Bush, we are in trouble already. Everyone acknowledges that we don't have the money for these tremendous tax cuts in the future. It has put a real damper on our economy. That is what we have. The problems we face because of the President's budget deserve immediate attention.

My friend from Wyoming said it is really not the President. It is the President. He got us into this mess. He needs to give us a blueprint for trying to get out of this mess. We are going to go ahead and do the country's business and work our way through the appropriations bills the best we can. We have a one-vote majority. That makes it tough in the Senate. We need some leadership from the President of the United States, other than saying "a" and "b" from now on is when the appropriations bills the best we can. We have a one-vote majority. That makes it tough in the Senate. We need some leadership from the President of the United States, other than saying "a" and "b" from now on is when the appropriations bills the best we can.

It matters right now. The current state of the economy is one of people losing jobs; the surplus has already disappeared. We are going back to the days of deficits already. And the fact that the ranking member of the Budget Committee, my friend from New Mexico, Senator DOMENICI, was quoted in the press, saying maybe we should spend Social Security surpluses.

To show the disarray on the other side, we have some who are calling for more tax reductions to solve the problems of this economy and to reduce the capital gains taxes. The thing we are now hearing is the Republicans are fighting among themselves as to whether that is a good deal.

The President of the United States today, as we speak, is in Florida talking about the need to pass an education bill. The first thing the Democrats did upon taking power in the Senate was pass the education bill. We did that. Senator DASCHLE could have brought up all kinds of other legislation, but the majority leader placed education on the agenda. And we worked our way through that and passed it. There were some battles as to whether we should do this or that, but it was passed. There was compromise. Legislation is about the art of compromise.

For the President of the United States to be in Florida saying, "Pass my education bill," which is now in conference, takes money, dollars, not to just go around talking about what a great bill we have. I remember when I was not as educated in "things Washington," and I would read in the newspapers that someone in the Nevada delegation issued a statement that some bill had passed. Oh, I thought, good times are here. Little did I know that what you needed was an appropriation to go along with that, authorization. I do not think the President of the United States is being fair to the American public by not recognizing that you need to do more than authorize; you need to appropriate. And he will not help us with that. So to go down to Florida today and have a big cheerleading session with students about the President of the United States being willing to help you with education when he is unwilling to help us finance education is wrong.

I don't know how many more people have to lose their jobs, lose their cars, lose their homes. How many will it take before we have the President telling us we need a new budget? The old
STEM CELL RESEARCH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 3 years ago a young man by the name of Steve Rigazio and a beautiful little girl by the name of Mollie Singer, both from Las Vegas, were diagnosed with Lou Gehrig’s disease. It is a devastating illness that affects the nerve cells in the spinal cord and causes muscles to wither and die very quickly. He has lived longer than people expected. The normal time from the time of diagnosis, when you are told you have this disease, until the time you die, is 18 months. He has lived 3 years. He no longer works. He finally had to give up his job.

Because Lou Gehrig’s disease attacks the body but leaves the mind intact, this vibrant man has had to watch his body deteriorate around him. He is a man of great courage, and I hope he lives much longer than people expect. He deserves it.

I have had visiting me for a number of years now two beautiful little girls from Las Vegas. They are twins. They are now 12 years old. One of the twins, Mollie Singer, has struggled with juvenile diabetes since she was 4 years old. She has had thousands of pricks of her skin—thousands. She is a beautiful little girl who believes that we in Washington can help her not have to take all these shots. As do the million Americans who suffer from this illness.

Mollie fears that her kidneys will fail, she will get some kind of infection and have one of her limbs amputated or even lose her sight as a result of this diabetes.

There is something that gives Mollie and Steve hope, and that is stem cell research. It gives hope to tens of millions of Americans and their families who, like Steve Rigazio and Mollie Singer, suffer from Lou Gehrig’s disease, diabetes, or Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, lupus, heart disease, spinal cord injuries, and other illnesses. Since stem cells can transform into nearly all the different tissues that make up the human body, they can replace defective or missing cells. Scientists are really very optimistic that one day stem cells will be used to replace defective cells in children with juvenile diabetes or even to create rejection-free organs.

Knowing that stem cells may have the power to save and improve lives, we cannot deny researchers the tools they need to fully realize the potential of this research. If we fail to seize promising research opportunities, we will fall millions of Americans and their families and people all over the world.

Early last month, President Bush announced he would limit Government funding for stem cell research in some capacity, but I am very concerned that he has not opened the door far enough to allow scientists to fully realize the life-saving potential of stem cells.

Last week, Secretary Thompson announced that the 25 of the 84 stem cell lines the National Institutes of Health listed as falling under the President’s criteria are fully developed. We still do not know whether the remaining 49 stem cell lines would be useful to science. What we do know about the 25 viable stem cell lines that fall under the President’s guidelines is very troubling. Why? Most, if not all, of the existing stem cell lines have been mixed with mouse cells. As a result, these cells could transfer deadly animal viruses to people, human beings.

It is also unclear whether these cells will be suitable for transplanting into people. Just last week, Dr. Douglas Melton, a professor of molecular and cellular biology at Harvard, testified that cells derived from mice “have proven unreliable over time for research, either dying out or growing into diseased forms.”

Even though scientists are working on ways to grow human embryonic cell lines without using mouse cells, they will not be eligible for Federal research money because they will be created after President Bush’s arbitrary August 12 deadline. Last week the administration confirmed it would not reconsider this deadline, even if it were later discovered that none of these cell lines was suitable for long-term research.

If we fail to fund research for the new stem lines that are created without mouse cells, foreign scientists will still conduct research on stem cell lines that fall outside his guidelines. This research is going to go forward. Shouldn’t it go forward under the greatest scientific umbrella in the history of the world, the National Institutes of Health? The answer is yes, that is where it should go forward, not in the little communities throughout the world that are trying to get a step up on the United States. This research is going to go forward. Let’s do it the right way.

As a result of the guidelines of the President, we will not have the ability to provide any oversight of this research, if it is done overseas, to ensure that it is conducted by ethical means. Not only will we risk losing our most talented scientists to foreign countries, but we also jeopardize our potential as a nation to remain a world leader in stem cell research.

Over the course of the next several months, scientists will continue to develop new stem cell pol-

lines that already existed at the time of his announcement. This was obviously a political compromise. I am pleased that the President left the door open for Federal funding of stem cell research in some capacity, but I am very concerned that he has not opened the door far enough to allow scientists to fully realize the life-saving potential of stem cells.

There is something that gives Mollie hope, and that is stem cell research. It gives hope to tens of millions of Americans and their families. We cannot continue to dangle the hope of cure or the promise of scientific breakthrough before these patients and their families without adequately supporting research to allow scientists to achieve these very important discoveries.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2500, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2500) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from South Carolina, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1533

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask the clerk to report it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senate from South Carolina [Mr. Hollings], for himself and Mr. Gregg, proposes an amendment numbered 1533.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.