

stand on the floor saying we are the ones that do not care about a balanced budget. Nonsense. We are the ones that do not care about putting this country's fiscal house in order. Rubbish. For 2 days, an hour a day we have heard people stand up and say we are the ones that could not have a plan. Baloney.

Of course, we have a plan. We do not have a plan like this. We have a plan that balanced the budget and does it the right way with the right priorities.

Here is a letter dated today by the head of the Congressional Budget Office, and it is "Chapter 2 in Budget Fraud": This says, from the head of the Budget Office, June O'Neill, Director, "The CBO projects that the enactment of the reconciliation legislation submitted to the Budget Committee would produce a small budget surplus in the year 2002."

Oh, really? A small budget surplus? Well, what it will produce is \$110 billion deficit. This is budget fraud. I have sent a letter to the Director of the CBO just now, and I am hoping to get an answer either today or in the morning that says, by the way, if you construct a letter like this following the law and not misusing Social Security funds, what is the deficit in 2002?

The answer, if the Director of the Congressional Budget Office gives me an honest answer, is that the deficit in the year 2002 with this set of plans or these priorities will be \$110 billion deficit in the year 2002.

Now, we want to see some honesty in budgeting. I yield to the Senator from South Dakota, the minority leader, who has come to the floor and wants to make a presentation on these priorities.

PRIORITIES

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the Chair and the distinguished Senator from North Dakota for his eloquence and his leadership on this issue. He has spoken as passionately as I have seen him speak on an issue he cares deeply about, and I am very grateful to him for the many occasions where he has come to the floor to speak out as strongly as he has again this afternoon.

Mr. President, this is an unusual week. I hope that everyone can fully appreciate the magnitude of what will happen this week. As we speak, the Senate Finance Committee is meeting to discuss just how we will divide up the \$245 billion in tax cuts that we have been talking about now for several months.

They are expected to complete their work tomorrow. Ironically, tomorrow is the very day the House of Representatives will take up a proposal to cut \$270 billion from Medicare in an effort to pay for it.

So you have the interesting and very ironic juxtaposition of the Senate Finance Committee voting to cut \$245 billion today and tomorrow, and the House voting simultaneously to pay for

it by cutting \$270 billion in Medicare and ultimately \$187 billion in Medicaid, to ensure that we have enough left over.

We are deeply concerned, Mr. President, on the ramifications that all of this has; concern for a lot of reasons. Let me mention just four.

First, we are deeply concerned, and I could bring back all of the rhetoric we heard last year during the health care debate about closed-door decisionmaking, rhetoric we heard about the concerns raised by many that we did not have an opportunity to discuss in open and public debate all of the very significant and far-reaching ramifications of the decisions being made.

Lo and behold, over the last several days, that is exactly what has happened with regard to this tax package. Decisions were made, deals were cut, long-term ramifications considered and explained away without one opportunity for Democrats to be consulted or to participate. That is wrong. Closed-door decisionmaking, Mr. President, is wrong under any circumstances, and it is wrong in this case.

We just saw evidence in the last couple of weeks about what kind of deals can be cut behind closed doors, as doctors went in to speak to the Speaker and came out smiling because of the new opportunities they have to avoid responsibility in making the cuts on Medicare; avoid having to come under the scrutiny of those who would ferret out waste and abuse in the Medicare Program.

The Speaker made an announcement a couple of days later that he will go after murderers first and he will talk later about what problems there may be with fraud and abuse in the Medicare system, because we may not have enough prison cells.

Mr. President, that is wrong. If that is what results in closed door deals, it is doubly wrong.

We are equally concerned about the budgetary effect. Everybody has come to the floor, time and again, to talk about what it is we are trying to do with this reconciliation package, what we are trying to do, going all the way back to the budget debate last spring and how important it was we did everything possible to ensure that we reach that 2002 target day.

What do we find? Republicans have a choice between a tax cut which exacerbates the problem by \$93 billion according to CBO and not achieving all of the goals that we want, or having a tax cut and doing all that Republicans have proposed we do with regard to providing this largess to those who do not need it.

What do we find? Almost to a person, our Republican colleagues now suggest that it is important to pass this tax cut, regardless of the deficit ramifications. The \$93 billion somehow is explained away. The \$93 billion will not be explained away, Mr. President, and we have to address that issue before we resolve this reconciliation matter.

Third, as we have said time and again, it is the distribution of benefits that disturbs us a great deal. Providing huge tax cuts to millionaires and requiring working families with incomes of less than \$30,000 to pay more is just wrong. It is wrong, and that distribution is something that we will be dealing a lot more with in the coming days and weeks.

How is it we can possibly ask working families to pay more, and turning around and giving those who have so much yet another handout in the form of tax benefits?

Perhaps the most troubling of all the aspects, Mr. President, is the degree to which Medicare is being cut to accomplish this in the first place. A Medicare cut of \$270 billion, \$187 billion in Medicaid, all in this rush that somehow it is those resources that will be used only for deficit reduction, when we know full well that \$270 billion is going to be used for the tax cut that has nothing to do with taking further out whatever solvency we can in the trust fund.

Bruce Vladeck said in an October 11 letter to Congressman SAM GIBBONS:

The cumulative effect of the Medicare Part A HI reductions included in H.R. 2425 for FY 1996-FY 2002, offset by the cost of repealing the OBRA'93 provision, would reduce Part A expenditures by approximately \$93.4 billion. Based on estimates from the Health Care Financing Administration's actuaries, the resulting year-by-year "net" Medicare Part A savings would extend the life of the HI Trust Fund through the third quarter of calendar year 2006. This estimate is based on the intermediate set of assumptions in the 1995 Trustees Report.

Mr. President, that says it as clearly as anyone can say it. While the Republican proposal would cut \$270 billion, the effect that it will have on the trust fund is the same effect as the Democratic plan which cuts at 89.

I do not think anyone should be misled about the real motivations and the real desire on the part of Republicans, understandably, to find a way to pay for the tax cut in the first place.

The real impact to real people is what we ought to be concerned about. The distinguished Senator from North Dakota said it so well. They are the most vulnerable. They are the people whose faces we must remember as we make these very important decisions—disabled people, elderly people, children, people who will be left out simply because we failed to appreciate the magnitude of the personal impact that these decisions will have on them.

I do not think a soul in the country voted last year to cut Medicaid benefits to those who are disabled so we could give a tax cut to those who do not need it. That is wrong. That set of priorities must be turned around, and over the course of the next several days we will do our level best to ensure that people fully appreciate the repercussions and ramifications of what some on the other side are prepared to do.

With that, I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO JOE ALLEN AZBELL

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, Joe Allen Azbell—author, journalist, and adviser to Presidents and Governors—passed away on September 30 after a lengthy illness. He was city editor of the Montgomery Advertiser newspaper, a columnist for the Montgomery Independent, and the author of three books.

While his formal education ended with the fifth grade, Joe's accomplishments are truly historic. He is credited with helping make the Montgomery bus boycott possible. Joining the staff of the Advertiser in 1947, within 5 years he had become one of the youngest city editors in the South. In December 1955, he ran a front-page story on the impending bus boycott. The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., once remarked that the boycott might never have occurred without this pivotal article.

Born during the Great Depression in a small Texas dustbowl town, Joe Azbell ran away from home at the age of 12 because his parents did not allow him to read books, and his thirst for knowledge could not be quenched. He hid in small-town libraries, figuring that the truant police would not look for him there. During World War II, he joined the Army Air Corps and began his career in journalism.

Joe served as an advisor to every Alabama Governor going back to Gordon Persons. He was especially close to George Wallace, for whom he wrote speeches during his presidential campaign. He supposedly came up with the political slogan "Send them a message" for the campaign. John Chancellor of NBC called it the best political slogan of this century. He was also an advisor to every American President from Lyndon Johnson to George Bush.

Much of the success Joe Azbell enjoyed over the years was due to his colorful personality and gift for getting along with all types of people. He had a genuine interest in people and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them and talking to them. Likewise, people responded to his charm, humor, and honesty.

Joe will be sorely missed by those who knew him both personally or only through his excellent reporting and commentary. I extend my sincerest condolences to his family in the wake of their tremendous loss.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM ORR GRAHAM

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, Mr. William Orr "Bill" Graham passed away on September 28 after an extended illness. The Morgan County, AL, native was founder and owner of Graham & Son Piano House and was active in his community and in State politics for many years.

Bill Graham attended Auburn University. He once received the Florence Civitan Club's Book of Golden Deeds

Award for outstanding community service. He was a charter member of the Florence Chamber of Commerce, president of the North Tennessee Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America and was an organizer of the Camp Westmoreland Boy Scout Camp and the Kiwanis high school Key Clubs.

Bill was elected by the people of the Eighth Congressional District to serve on the State Democratic executive committee. He was also a member of the Alabama Industrial Development Board. He organized the talent contest at the North Alabama State Fair, was youth talent director of the MidSouth Fair in Memphis, a talent scout for the Ted Mack Amateur Hour, and was instrumental in securing college scholarships for many deserving youth in the Shoals area.

In addition, Bill was talent coordinator for the Cerebral Palsy Telethon for many years, past president of the Gilbert School PTA, chairman of the administrative board of North Wood Methodist Church, and aide-de-camp to the battalion commander of the Alabama State National Guard. He was also part of the management of the Birmingham Barons baseball team.

William O. Graham was truly an outstanding community leader who gave of himself in many years over his long life. He will be sorely missed. I extend my sincerest condolences to his family in the wake of their loss.

TRIBUTE TO LEWIS E. MCCRAY

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, longtime West Alabama Planning and Development Council Executive Director Lewis E. McCray has announced his plans to retire at the end of this year. He has held the executive director position since October 1, 1967, when he became the first paid director of the council. When he was hired, the agency was known as the Tuscaloosa Area Council of Local Governments and its members consisted of Tuscaloosa County and the cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport. Initially, the agency was funded through a program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Under Lewis McCray's outstanding leadership, the agency has grown to a membership of 7 counties and 34 municipalities. Due to its expanded membership, its name was changed to the West Alabama Planning and Development Council in 1971. It has been designated an Economic Development District, Local Development District, Metropolitan Planning Organization, and an Area Agency on Aging. The Council also administers the Title V Senior AIDES Program and Community Development Block Grants and provides technical assistance to local governments.

Mr. McCray has been active in many civic and professional organizations. His professional affiliations currently include his service as president of the Alabama Association of Regional Coun-

cils, member of the board of directors of the National Association of Development Organizations, member of the National Association of Regional Councils, the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, the Tuscaloosa County Industrial Development Authority, and the Tuscaloosa Convention and Visitors Bureau.

He is a native of Hale County, AL, and was educated in the public schools of Moundville and at the University of Alabama. Before being named executive director of the council, he taught business law and accounting at Shelton State Community College. He also served as the executive assistant to the late U.S. Congressman Armistead Selden.

I congratulate and commend Lewis McCray for an outstanding career and for all he has done to benefit his community, region, and State. I wish him all the best for a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

THE REVEREND H. KENNETH DUTILLE, JR.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, as we all know, the Senate can impose tremendous demands on its Members as we grapple with the difficult decisions facing this body and this Nation. It is no surprise then, that the Senate begins each of its sessions with a prayer delivered by a distinguished religious leader.

Earlier today, that spiritual leadership came from the Reverend Kenneth Dutille, Jr., of the First Baptist Church in Bath, ME. Reverend Dutille is truly dedicated to his work, his congregation and his community, and I am very pleased that he was selected to be one of two guest Chaplains we will have this month.

The distinction is deserved, for Reverend Dutille visits us with many accomplishments. He is a graduate of Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, and the University of Maine. He holds a masters degree from the California Graduate School of Theology. In his many travels, educational and otherwise, he has preached in over 200 churches in New England alone.

It is particularly fitting that Reverend Dutille lead the Senate's invocation today because he brings with him an understanding of some of the demands and pressures on those in public life. He is a selectman in his town of Richmond and was a candidate for the Maine State Legislature in 1994.

Reverend Dutille also knows the strains and joys of a successful life as a small business owner, running the Good News Book Shop in Brunswick. Just recently, he added a book of his own to the shelves, "Images of America: Lewiston and Auburn."

As evidenced by Reverend Dutille's invocation this morning, he is an asset to his congregation and his community. His accomplishments, boundless energy, and exemplary service make