

Let the negotiations continue. Let us resolve our differences. If the Medicare premium increase is taken off the resolution and addressed in the overall context of reform, there is no reason we cannot find agreement on a balanced budget by a date certain.

That will take some time. We are not going to do it today; we are not going to do it tomorrow; but we are going to do it. In the meantime, we ought to agree to a clean continuing resolution for several more days to reduce the real harm to Federal employees, to reduce the harm to the U.S. taxpayer, to allow us to do our real work and resolve our differences on reconciliation and the budget.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, 1996

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I send a bill to the desk providing for an extension until December 6 of the continuing resolution which expired last night, and I ask that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, 1996

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I send a bill to the desk providing for an extension until November 17 of the continuing resolution, and I ask that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from South Dakota.

BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, as we speak, they are meeting now in S-207. The President's Chief of Staff, as I understand; the Secretary of the Treasury; and the OMB Director, Alice Rivlin, are meeting with Republicans and Democrats, members of the Budget Committee, in an effort to see if there can be some resolution.

I am not an advocate of Government shutdowns. I have been here when they have been shut down when we had Republican Presidents in the White House and a Democratic Congress and the Democrats were insisting on certain things, and the Government shut down.

So this is not without precedent. But I have never thought it was the best way to do business, and I hope it can be resolved very quickly.

I hope that while they are trying to negotiate, hopefully, some agreement, that we would not engage in debate on the Senate floor that might drive us apart. I do not have any quarrel with what the distinguished Democratic leader has said. I do not share every view he has expressed. And, again, I would say that when the President talks about Medicare, I hope that the people understand we are talking about part B; we are talking about that part of Medicare where the persons out there working every day making \$15,000 \$20,000, \$30,000 a year are putting money into the general revenues to pay 68.5 percent of someone's part B premium, whether they are worth \$50,000, \$100,000, \$1 million or \$1 billion. If the President is trying to protect those people, then I fail to understand why in this case.

All we want to do is just freeze that until we have a negotiated settlement, because sooner or later we are going to have to address Medicare in order to save it, protect it and strengthen it. That is what it was about, and that issue will not go away.

But I think, as I watched the President today very carefully, he shifted his stance today. Yesterday it was Medicare, Medicare and Medicaid. Today it was balance the budget, balance the budget, balance the budget.

I would again say, if the President wants to balance the budget, I am prepared to call up the motion to reconsider the constitutional amendment for a balanced budget. I just need one vote. One of those Senators, one of the six who voted "no" who voted "yes" previously, could change their vote at this moment and send a message across America that we want a balanced budget. And I call upon the President to get the six of his colleagues together and see if he cannot persuade one or two to vote for a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget. That, I think, would let the American people know that this is a bipartisan effort and that we do search for a balanced budget.

Failing that, I think the only recourse we have on this side, and one we are certainly going to pursue, is to balance the budget by the year 2002, balance the budget by the year 2002. Eighty-three percent of the American people want to balance the budget. You cannot balance the budget by adding new programs. We are going to spend more, even with the balanced budget by the year 2002, spend more for Medicare, more for Medicaid, and more for all these programs.

But I happen to believe that we are on the right track. We are doing the heavy lifting now. We are taking the hits on this side of the aisle. We know it is easy—we read the numbers—it is easy to say, "Let's keep hammering those Republicans." But sooner or later the President must recognize that

he is the President, he has to provide leadership, he has to make tough choices. The tough choices are not to say, "I'm not going to tolerate any tinkering with this program or that program or that program." That may be the political easy choice, but it is not going to solve our problem.

Unless we balance the budget, we are not being fair to children, children who are 1 year old or 2 years old or 5 years old, who have to look at the future, where they are going to be when they are 20 years of age or 25 years of age. I really believe that it is in our mutual interest to try to work this out. We are talking about an 18-day CR. It is not the end of the world. I hope we can find some resolution.

I am also sympathetic with reference to extension of the debt ceiling. I have seen that over the years used as a vehicle for riders. I remember managing a debt ceiling when I was chairman of the Finance Committee many years ago. We had foreign policy amendments offered and adopted by my colleagues on the other side. We had all kinds—I think we ended up with 19 amendments on the debt ceiling that we had to take to conference with the Ways and Means Committee. And most of it was, of course, completely outside the jurisdiction of the Ways and Means Committee.

So, I do not want anybody to misunderstand this has never happened when we had Republicans in the White House and a Democratic Congress. It has happened. And it probably will happen in the future. Maybe it should not happen. Maybe we ought to do something to prevent it from happening, but we have not done that yet.

I think on that basis, since they are, right within 20 yards of here, trying to reach some agreement, I hope that we will be permitted to stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair. And if we cannot reach some agreement—well, if we hear no agreement can be reached, then we will have to decide what to do for the rest of the evening. But if an agreement can be reached, I hope the House would take it up and send it over here tonight and pass it, and then do precisely what the Democratic leader wishes to do, and that would be to end the shutdown and get people back to work.

Mr. DASCHLE. Would the distinguished majority leader yield?

Mr. DOLE. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished minority leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Let me say that I am disappointed that we could not get agreement on this resolution. I think the colloquy we have just had, Mr. President, demonstrates, regardless of what may have happened in the past, why it is so important to have a clean continuing resolution so that we can negotiate a balanced budget, so that we can negotiate whatever it is we may do with regard to Medicare.

We recognize that Medicare is going to have to be reformed. But to single

out Medicare and tell seniors that they are the ones who are going to have to be the first to sacrifice before we come to any other conclusion does not make a lot of sense to most Democrats, and that is why we object to having it in the continuing resolution. To say that somehow we cannot resolve these matters one by one in an overall negotiation is to admit failure before we have begun. We are not prepared to do that.

That is why having a continuing resolution that is clean, as we call it, is so important, so that we can get the business of negotiation underway and do it in a much more comprehensive and meaningful way. Sooner or later we are going to have to come to that conclusion. As we deliberate, 800,000 Federal employees continue to wonder what will happen to them next. Taxpayers pay \$150 million a day, according to estimates, that is unnecessary. The creditworthiness of the United States is being debated. So we are acquiring additional costs. We are facing additional uncertainty, simply because we have no continuing resolution today.

That can be avoided, Mr. President. We want a balanced budget. We want a date certain by which the budget is balanced. We can negotiate that. We can come to some conclusion on all of that. But we have to deal with first things first. And the continuing resolution is the issue that we have to face if we are going to resolve the short-term crisis for so many Federal employees and the taxpayers.

I have no reservations at all about the continued negotiations that are going on right now. I hope that the majority leader might be willing to allow us to stay in morning business so that we might discuss these and other matters. I know that there are people on our side of the aisle who would like very much to have the opportunity to debate and discuss some of these issues, and, for that reason, Mr. President, I would have to object to going into recess at this time.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished majority leader is recognized.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, as the Senator knows, we had a meeting last night at the White House. We all agreed when we left there, at least I thought we had, that it had been a good meeting, some progress was made, and we had not reached an agreement. And I, along with the Speaker, went out and dutifully reported that to the press. Then I later heard we were getting dumped on about Medicare. Then I watched "Nightline," and we were getting dumped on about something else.

Then the President this morning, right after negotiations ended, was saying it was all the Republicans' fault. It makes it rather difficult, to be very frank about it. I know people want to get up and speak and hammer away for another 2 hours. That will not happen. We will have a quorum call. I was trying to save from keeping the

staff here. But if that is the desire of the other side, we will have a quorum call, a very slow quorum call, that may take hours.

But my view is this: I have made the same speech that the Democratic leader made when we had Republican Presidents in the White House. I never prevailed, but I made the same speech, I made the same request. I asked unanimous consent that it be extended. Never got it; but I tried. So I am going to commend the Democratic leader for doing what he should do. And if he finds out a way to do it, then I missed something when I was trying to do the same thing.

But the bottom line is that, if we cannot work it out—and this is a confrontation between a Republican Congress and a Democratic White House, and it has been reversed many times. We have stood on the floor while things were going back and forth. In fact, we have had Medicare proposals on CR's before.

But I guess if the President wants to protect the rich, those who only pay 31.5 percent of their premiums even though they are millionaires, that is his prerogative. If he wants to sock somebody to pay it who is making \$25,000, that is his prerogative. That is his prerogative. We are trying to make Medicare fair. I think once the American people understand he is talking about part B, part B, which is not means tested, and we just keep shoveling money out of general revenues, taking somebody's money out there making \$25,000 or \$30,000 and paying 68.5 percent of the premium for somebody who might be well off, it does not make any sense to me.

We ought to means test part B premiums. I think everybody agrees. Just use the word "Medicare," cut Medicare. Do not tell them that you are cutting, because they are going to find out you are not cutting anything.

So I just suggest if the President wants to balance the budget, boy, he is right on track. He said balance the budget in 5 years when he was running. Since then, he has said balance it in 10, 9, 8, or none of the above. So take your pick. He is for 5 years when he is running; he is for 10 years when he is thinking about running for reelection; and he has been for 9 years, for 8 years, for 7 years, or for never.

We are going to find out. The President said he wanted to balance the budget about 10 times in a press conference. We ought to give him that opportunity. We ought to send him a CR, and it ought to say in the CR we will balance the budget in 7 years—7 years—the year 2002, using updated CBO numbers which he asked us to use in 1993, as I recall, when he addressed the joint session of Congress, and then send that to the Congress. Then he can have the CR, and he can also tell the American people he is serious about a balanced budget amendment.

But until that time, I do not know how we are going to resolve it, unless

they can figure out something in the other room, because you have a question whether you use the CBO numbers, OMB numbers, whether it is going to be 7 years, 8 years, 9 years, 10 years.

Most Americans do not understand why we are waiting 7 years. They think we ought to do it in a year, 2 years, or 3 years. We believe seven is the right number. In fact, we will have on the floor, hopefully on Friday, a balanced budget called the reconciliation package. We call it the Balanced Budget Act of 1995, which does balance the budget in 7 years. He will have a clean CR in it. He will have a clean debt ceiling in it. It will all go to the President of the United States, and he can get everything he talked about this past week: He can get a clean debt extension; he can get a clean CR; and he can get a balanced budget; and he only has to sign once. One time—not three times, but one time—and he gets the whole package.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Colorado, I object. The clerk will continue to call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk continued to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. GORTON. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The clerk will continue to call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk continued to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FAIRCLOTH). The chair, in his capacity as a Senator from North Carolina, objects and the clerk will continue to call the roll.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. HELMS. I must object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina objects and the clerk will continue to call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1410

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I understand that S. 1410, introduced earlier by Senator DASCHLE, is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. DOLE. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1410) making further continuing appropriations, 1996.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading, and I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1411

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I understand that S. 1411, introduced today by Senator DASCHLE, is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. DOLE. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1411) making further continuing appropriations, 1996.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading, and I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 657. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of three hydroelectric projects in the State of Arkansas.

H.R. 680. An act to extend the time for construction of certain FERC licensed hydro projects.

H.R. 924. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from transferring any national forest system lands in the Angeles National Forest in California out of Federal ownership for use as a solid waste landfill.

H.R. 1011. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Ohio.

H.R. 1051. An act to provide for the extension of certain hydroelectric projects located in the State of West Virginia.

H.R. 1290. An act to reinstate the permit for, and extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of, a hydroelectric project in Oregon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1335. An act to provide for the extension of a hydroelectric project located in the State of West Virginia.

H.R. 1366. An act to authorize the extension of time limitation for the FERC-issued hydroelectric license for the Mount Hope Waterpower Project.

H.R. 2204. An act to extend and reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2527. An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to improve the electoral process by permitting electronic filing and preservation of Federal Election Commission reports, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 924. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from transferring any national forest system lands in the Angeles National Forest in California out of Federal ownership for use as a solid waste landfill; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2527. An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to improve the electoral process by permitting electronic filing and preservation of Federal Election Commission reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 657. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of three hydroelectric projects in the State of Arkansas.

H.R. 680. An act to extend the time for construction of certain FERC licensed hydro projects.

H.R. 1011. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Ohio.

H.R. 1051. An act to provide for the extension of certain hydroelectric projects located in the State of West Virginia.

H.R. 1290. An act to reinstate the permit for, and extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of, a hydroelectric project in Oregon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1335. An act to provide for the extension of a hydroelectric project located in the State of West Virginia.

H.R. 1366. An act to authorize the extension of time limitation for the FERC-issued hydroelectric license for the Mount Hope Waterpower Project.

H.R. 2204. An act to extend and reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 1410. A bill making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1996; read the first time.

S. 1411. A bill making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1996; read the first time.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 660

At the request of Mr. BOND, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 660, a

bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for transportation by the Department of Defense of certain children requiring specialized medical services in the United States.

S. 837

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN] and the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL] were added as cosponsors of S. 837, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of James Madison.

S. 912

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the names of the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] and the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] were added as cosponsors of S. 912, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to the eligibility of veterans for mortgage revenue bond financing, and for other purposes.

S. 978

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT], the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON], the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN], and the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK] were added as cosponsors of S. 978, a bill to facilitate contributions to charitable organizations by codifying certain exemptions from the Federal securities laws, to clarify the inapplicability of antitrust laws to charitable gift annuities, and for other purposes.

S. 1028

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1028, a bill to provide increased access to health care benefits, to provide increased portability of health care benefits, to provide increased security of health care benefits, to increase the purchasing power of individuals and small employers, and for other purposes.

S. 1228

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1228, a bill to impose sanctions on foreign persons exporting petroleum products, natural gas, or related technology to Iran.

S. 1233

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1233, a bill to assure equitable coverage and treatment of emergency services under health plans.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1271, a bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

S. 1316

At the request of Mr. KEMPTHORNE, the names of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM], the Senator from