

language—that was the underlying language. But much like what happened here in the Senate, there was an effort by the Gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] to gut the Senate-passed language and merely provide for phantom reform.

Had the Burton amendment passed, the House would have passed something that its supporters would have liked to have called a gift ban, but what in reality would have been an enshrinement of the outrageous degree of gift giving that takes place in this city.

Current House rules allow Members to accept up to \$250 worth of gifts from a single source. However, gifts under \$100 do not count against that aggregate limit. The Burton amendment would have continued the current \$250 cap, but would have now stated that gifts under \$50 would not count against the cap.

So instead of being allowed to accept at least \$36,500 worth of gifts from a single lobbyist per year, a Member could have accepted at least \$18,250 worth of gifts from a single lobbyist per year. For the proponents of the Burton amendment, that was their idea of reform.

It would have said to the American people that it is perfectly acceptable for Members of the House to accept an unlimited number of gifts from lobbyists. Thankfully, Mr. President, the Burton amendment met the same fate as the original McConnell proposal. The Burton amendment was, in fact, obliterated on the House floor by a vote of 276-154.

Republicans and Democrats alike in the House stood up and said that they were not going to continue the status quo, they were not going to snub their noses at the American people, and they were going to finally give the American people the kind of gift reform they have been asking for some time now.

The House, in fact, went on to pass a watertight gift ban, one very similar to the rule of the Wisconsin State Legislature which essentially prohibits legislators from accepting anything of value. By an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 422-6, the House passed a new gift rule that is essentially a zero-tolerance rule. It prohibits the acceptance of free gifts, meals and recreational trips.

There is no \$10 de minimis. There is no \$50 limit on single gifts and there is no \$100 limit on aggregate gifts. The House, beginning January 1, will simply prohibit the acceptance of any gifts, other than those of little intrinsic value.

For 20 years, Mr. President, the Wisconsin State Legislature has lived under such a zero-tolerance policy and has achieved a national reputation for its sense of ethics and integrity government. Since I came to the U.S. Senate, my office has lived under these Wisconsin rules, and we have essentially created a gift-free zone in our Senate office building. It has been our

experience that it is not all that difficult to say “no thanks” to the lobbyists.

Though long overdue, this represents another step on the road to meaningful reform of our political process, and I offer my strongest praise and commendation for the actions taken by our colleagues in the House last night.

As I have said countless times since I first set foot in Washington nearly 3 years ago, it is my preference that the Senate also abide by these Wisconsin-style rules. No gifts, no trips, no free meals. Those are the rules my office lives by and those are the rules that the Wisconsin Legislature has had in place for 20 years.

If the Senate rules can one day be changed so we are on equal ground with the House, I will be the first to stand up and fight for such a change. But the Senate rules are tough, they are fair, and they will have a profound impact on changing the culture of special interest influence that has pervaded this institution for so many years.

I want to briefly acknowledge some of my colleagues in the other body, from both sides of the aisle, who fought the good fight and were instrumental in the House's successful effort. I want to thank Congressman JOHN BRYANT for his longstanding leadership on this issue, as well as Representatives CHRIS SHAYS and TOM BARRETT, who recognized how important bipartisan cooperation and compromise is to this process.

Mr. President, the fight to reform the ways of Washington is far from over. The gift ban is just the first skirmish. We will insist on passage of lobbying reform legislation. We will insist that the Congress take up legislation to shut down the revolving door between public service and special access lobbying. And most important, we will insist that the Congress take up meaningful and comprehensive campaign finance reform.

Like the gift rules that have now passed both the House and Senate, none of these efforts will be successful without bipartisan leadership. Reforming this institution, and working to restore the faith and trust of the American people should not be a partisan issue. It does not make you a good Democrat, or a good Republican—it simply makes you a good American. ●

TIME TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

● Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I made a pledge to the people of my State last year that I would fight hard in the U.S. Senate to limit Government spending, reduce taxes, and cut the size of Government. I did not say that just to get elected. I did not say it just to compromise once I got to Washington. I meant what I said.

Mr. President, our government has been spending the Nation into bankruptcy. It has been taxing our people into mediocrity. By trying to do too

much for all of us, it has—in the words of former Education Secretary Bill Bennett, “created inefficiency, sapped individual responsibility, and intruded on personal liberty.”

The people of Arizona—the people of the United States—did not send us here to split the difference with the President when it comes to limiting spending, cutting taxes, or balancing the budget. In fact, they tossed out the Members of Congress whose only solution was the President's solution: to tax more, spend more, and expand Government. They did not send us here for more of the same.

The American people sent us here to make the difficult decisions to put our Nation's fiscal house in order, and they expect us to do it. As of this morning, calls and faxes to my office were running 10-to-1 in support of our staying the course. The great majority know this is crunch time; that it is no time for weak knees and hand-wringing.

Mr. President, this is the fourth day of the Government's partial shutdown, and do you know what? The sky has not fallen. The economy has not collapsed. People have not stopped sending their kids to school, volunteering in their communities, or doing their part to clean up the environment. I suspect that many people haven't even noticed that the Government has been shut down.

Now I know the shutdown has caused hardship and anxiety for many Federal employees. We did not ask for that to happen. Congress passed legislation earlier this week to keep them on the job and keep them paid. The President vetoed that bill and sent them home.

We passed a second bill yesterday to try to get Federal employees back to work—to process Social Security claims and VA widows' benefits, to pay our military, and fund educational and environmental clean-up activities. The bill will ensure that these employees are paid before the holidays, but the President has said that he will veto it, too. In fact, President Clinton is threatening to keep parts of the Government shut down, “even if it is 90 days, 120 days or 180 days.” Talk about blackmail: it is the President who is holding the Government hostage until Congress gives him more of the American people's money to spend.

If President Clinton is so bound and determined to prolong this suspension, maybe we should ask ourselves why he thinks he can get away with it. The President's own Office of Management and Budget has determined that 67 percent of the Commerce Department's staff was “non-essential” and sent them home. OMB determined that 99 percent—that is right, 99 percent—of the staff at the Department of Housing and Urban Development was non-essential. It determined that 89 percent of the Education Department's staff was non-essential. That is according to President Clinton's own Office of Management and Budget.

If the President makes good on his pledge to keep the Government shut down for 90 to 180 days, I guess the Nation will have a chance to see if he is right that the great majority of his own Commerce, HUD and Education workers are non-essential. Maybe we do not need all of those people after all. Maybe the President is on to something. We will have a chance to examine that later.

Mr. President, what can it be, though, that the administration objects to in the latest spending? President Clinton said he would accept no riders. There are none in this bill. There is nothing in here about tax cuts, nothing about Medicare, nothing about the environment. This is a clean bill that represents a good-faith effort to get Government operating in the short term. Yet, he still says he will veto it.

I will tell you this, Mr. President. For me, this measure represents my bottom line. In return for giving President Clinton the money to reopen the Government, we are asking for one simple thing: for the President to commit to a balanced budget in 7 years using real numbers.

That should be easy. It is something he says he wants anyway. Just Tuesday of this week, he said: "Let me be clear: we must balance the budget."

In 1992, he pledged to balance the budget in just 5 years. Since then, he has said he could support a plan to balance the budget in 10 years, 9 years, 8 years and 7. So, if he really means what he says, he should be able to support a balanced budget in 7 years, as we are proposing.

In his State of the Union message in 1993, he promised to judge the scope of the problem by the very same criteria that Congress uses, so that together we can find viable solutions. Here is what he told the American people on February 17, 1993 in his State of the Union message:

Well, you can laugh, my fellow Republicans, but I will point out that the Congressional Budget Office was normally more conservative in what was going to happen and closer to right than previous presidents have been.

He went on to say:

In the last 12 years, because there were differences over the revenue estimates, you and I know that both parties were given greater elbow room for irresponsibility. This [that is, using CBO numbers] is tightening the rein on the Democrats as well as the Republicans. Let us at least argue about the same set of numbers so the American people will think we are shooting straight with them.

I hope the President will remember his words and how important it is to use credible numbers to get to a balanced budget. It is important because, according to a recent Wall Street Journal report, his own Treasury Department just "tweaked" its economic forecasts to show \$475 billion more in Government revenue by the year 2000.

Mr. President, tweaks will not get us to a balanced budget. That is the same irresponsible approach that has kept

the deficit in the range of \$200 billion for so many years. And it is why the Congressional Budget Office projects that President Clinton's so-called "balanced budget", a budget the Senate unanimously rejected on two separate occasions this year—will result in \$200 billion deficits for the foreseeable future. Let me say that again, President Clinton's budget did not get the vote of any Senator, even from his own party.

Even our Democrat colleague from North Dakota, Senator DORGAN, candidly said in this Chamber on October 24 that: "The President did not propose a budget that calls for a balanced budget." So, there is nothing partisan in recognizing that President Clinton has never proposed—never sent to Congress—the balanced budget he claims he wants.

Two days ago, President Clinton appeared on a news program and talked about how he would veto the balanced budget because he knows what is best for the country. Well, that is the problem, Mr. President. The American people do not want Washington—they do not trust Washington—to decide what is best for them. In a poll just conducted by the Behavior Research Center in Arizona, 58 percent of people said that they put their trust in the people of their own communities. Only 10 percent indicated their confidence in the Federal Government.

The American people know what is best for them. They do not need a national nanny in the White House to make every decision for them—to decide how to spend the money they work hard to earn. This balanced budget is about empowering American families to make their own decisions about how to lead their lives and make their communities better places.

A balanced budget will save the average family of four an estimated \$2,791 per year. It means lower mortgage payments, less money paid out on car loans and student loans. It means more jobs. It means that our children and grandchildren will have an opportunity to do more than just work hard to pay the interest on the debt we are accumulating today.

So this is the bottom line. I supported this latest short-term spending bill. But I will not support any further stop-gap measures that do not, at a minimum, commit to a balanced budget in 7 years using real numbers.

We can compromise on how to get there, but I will not compromise on the fundamental principle of a balanced budget. The Nation's economic security is too important to delay any more.

LA COLLINE RESTAURANT

• Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, for several years, La Colline restaurant has been designated by Washingtonian magazine as one of the area's best eating establishments. To those of us on Capitol Hill, it has become somewhat of an institution.

Last month, the magazine Report on Business designated our own La Colline as one of the world's 20 best restaurants for business, reflecting a national, even international, following.

On behalf of the Senate, I congratulate my friends at La Colline for receiving this honor, and ask that the Report on Business article on La Colline be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From Report on Business, October 1995]

"I KNOW A PLACE"

The largest media merger in U.S. history was set in motion by a chat, over dinner, between Disney chairman Michael Eisner and Capital Cities chairman Thomas Murphy. It's not important that we know exactly what the two men ate, or whether the chef is now entertaining bids for the movie rights to the menu. What's important is that \$19 billion (U.S.) eventually changed hands because something about the style, the personality, the rightness of the setting allowed two executives to get friendly over food. No one says the outcome of a working lunch hinges on the amount of lemongrass deployed in the scallop ravioli. But when you're dealing while you dine, selecting the right restaurant matters. At home, you know what works, which place fits the tenor and times of your business. You may even know the name of the maitre d', and so you get the right table, and Marco brings the S. Pellegrino with lime without you even having to ask. When you're out in the world, on someone else's turf, selecting the ideal spot for Tuesday's get-to-know-session gets trickier. One wants to be au courant (nothing could be deadlier than appearing drastically out of date), but one wants not to be brushing chairs with the latest grunge music phenoms. Once you sit down, applying the rules that work at home can be disastrous—every city's corporate style is different. Many Atlantans like to brandish a smoking stogie the first chance they get. Try that in Toronto and waiters will pull back your thumbs until you cry. To help you avoid the pitfalls among the profiteers, we've enlisted writers familiar with the current attitudes and idiosyncracies of the corporate communities in 18 of the world's most important cities. Their job: To find the restaurants that work best, because they reflect the times and tastes of the places where Canadians go to do business. The only safer choice is not even an option, because when the firm wants you out there, you can't order in.

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LA COLLINE

(By Colin MacKenzie)

In Washington restaurants of a certain pretension, there is a practice that is as unnerving as it is universal. As each new patron arrives in the dining room, eyes rise, flick across the newcomer, and return to the conservation at hand. If you're Newt Gingrich, the lunch-hour chatter will stop. But since you're not, it won't.

This rite of tribal life in status-obsessed Washington, D.C., has been taking place for more than 13 years at La Colline, the definitive establishment restaurant on Capitol Hill. Two blocks of lawn from the senate side of the Capitol Building, La Colline is one of the closest restaurants to the legislative centre. Under the guidance of co-owner and executive chef Robert Gréault, La Colline has kept its large green-carpeted dining room filled by sticking to the Escoffier basics in a town that, whatever the politics of the moment, remains a bastion of cultural