

I have voted several other times on the Senate floor to preserve the integrity of Social Security. In 1990, I voted in favor of an amendment by Senator Heinz to remove Social Security from inclusion in deficit calculations. In that same year, I voted for an amendment offered by Senator HOLLINGS to exclude Social Security trust funds from inclusion in budget deficit calculations.

I believe there is a prevailing view that we ought to leave Social Security alone and not subject it to budget cuts. I appreciate the need to reduce the Federal deficit while keeping Social Security fiscally sound because confidence in the stability of the program is of great importance to current and future retirees.

In conclusion Mr. President, we must protect Social Security or we run the risk of jeopardizing the futures of young and old Americans alike. I believe this amendment will enable us to balance the budget in a way that will protect the hard earned savings Americans have set aside for their twilight years. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. HATCH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 10:30 a.m. Senator BOXER be recognized to offer an amendment regarding disasters and that the time prior to the motion to table be limited to 3 hours 15 minutes to be divided in the following fashion, with no second-degree amendments in order prior to the motion to table: 2 hours 45 minutes under the control of the distinguished Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] and 30 minutes under the control of the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH]. I further ask that at the conclusion or yielding of time today the majority leader or his designee be recognized to make a motion to table the Boxer amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, I agree with this. I think it is an excellent time agreement. I want to clarify because a couple of my colleagues would like to speak as if in morning business. If they should go over the 10:30 time by just a few minutes—I do not think it is their intent to speak too long—we can adjust this so that we still have the time. We may be starting later than 10:30.

Mr. HATCH. I am certainly amenable to that, as long as the majority leader is.

I ask unanimous consent that those who are talking in morning business, if they go beyond the hour of 10:30—and I hope they will not—that the time will be adjusted so that the distinguished Senator from California will still have her 2 hours 45 minutes and I will still have 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object, I want to thank the Senator.

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

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. If the Senator will yield, as I understand it, there is a definite time when this is to take place and that will start at 10:30 and there will be 3 hours and 15 minutes for the debate. The definite time is scheduled for a 3:30 vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business for the next 10 minutes.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, it is my intention to yield to my friend, Senator CONRAD from North Dakota, when I finish speaking. But for 1 minute, let me yield on a matter of national importance to my friend from Connecticut, Senator LIEBERMAN.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT BASKETBALL

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank my friend from North Dakota. This is a matter of national importance.

Mr. President, I have had the honor for the last 6-plus years to stand and speak on many occasions on behalf of the people of Connecticut. Today, I stand to crow on behalf of the people of Connecticut because of the extraordinary accomplishments of the University of Connecticut men's and women's basketball teams.

Mr. President, Connecticut, a small State, is proud of its many firsts: The world's first written Constitution; the world's first warship and nuclear-powered submarine; the world's first American dictionary was published in Connecticut.

But another first today: The first time that a university's men's and women's basketball teams were rated No. 1 in the country at the same time.

Connecticut is a small State, but these extraordinary athletes and their fine coaches have made us all feel 10 feet tall today. We congratulate them. We know it has not come easily. They have worked hard and played by the rules.

In the spirit of the amendment under discussion, they are an extremely balanced team, and they have been rewarded with the victory and recognition they have now received.

Mr. President, I thank my colleagues. I hope this debate moves expeditiously during the day so that it will allow Senator DODD and I to go to the UConn-Georgetown game at the arena tonight.

A NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let the record show that my colleague from Connecticut crowded, as he said he would.

It is probably appropriate that he talked about basketball because he will understand that one important element of the game is a referee. Nobody would go to a basketball game and wonder about the results, if he did not think the referee was going to be fair. Give me a referee, and I will win any game I ever played.

I want to talk about referees for a second, though. One of the most important appointments that we are going to make in Congress is going to be the appointment of somebody to head the Congressional Budget Office. This person will, in effect, be the referee on budget issues, tax issues, economic issues. The referee. How can our referee, the Congressional Budget Office, discharge its obligation effectively? Well, by having the confidence of the Members of the Senate that the CBO will do so impartially and in a manner that is eminently fair.

For that reason, the law with respect to the Congressional Budget Office says that the Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall be chosen "without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of his fitness to perform his duties." That language is not an accident. That is written into the law for a very specific purpose. This is a critical appointment, and the appointment must be of someone of great substance, first of all, and second, somebody who will be respected as fair, nonpartisan.

We understand that the majority has decided to appoint Prof. June O'Neill to that post. I will not stand here and in any way try to tarnish the reputation of Professor O'Neill. I have never met her and I do not know her. I come to express great concern about this appointment and to say, along with my colleague, Senator CONRAD, I am sending a letter to the President pro tempore asking that he not effect this appointment of Professor O'Neill to head the CBO.

Senator EXON, the ranking minority member of the Budget Committee, said in his letter to the chairman of the Budget Committee: "It has been our recommendation that we should seek additional applicants before reaching a decision."

They are not comfortable with this appointment, and I am not comfortable with it for several reasons. I do not know much more than what I have read, but if what I read is accurate, then I am very concerned with the notion that they are finding someone who believes that when you score issues, they ought to be scored dynamically.

What is dynamic scoring. This theory says that if you cut tax rates, economic activity will increase to such an extent that the Government will actually collect more revenue. If you cut capital gains taxes, for instance, the

Federal Government will supposedly collect a lot more money. Well, we have seen that sort of dynamic scoring in the past. This theory held sway in 1980 and 1981, and the result—\$3½ trillion later—was massive hemorrhaging of red ink in our Government. That is the result of dynamic scoring.

Well, that is the kind of refereeing I do not want to see happening at CBO. I want scoring to be professional and to be nonpartisan. There is a question about the Consumer Price Index—do we put somebody at the head of CBO who believes the CPI radically overestimates inflation, as Alan Greenspan said? The consequence would be to reduce the deficit, if you can say the CPI is overstated. And you can cut Social Security payments and increase taxes, as well.

I am concerned about this appointment, and I hope it will be held at this point until other Members of the Senate can review the records and determine whether they think this candidate has the credentials and capability and the nonpartisan approach we would expect for somebody to head the Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. President, I yield to my friend, Senator CONRAD from North Dakota, for further comments on this issue.

CONCERN ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE APPOINTMENT

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I thank the Chair and I thank my colleague, Senator DORGAN, as well. I think this is a very serious matter. The appointment of the head of the Congressional Budget Office is supposed to be nonpartisan. This is supposed to be done with both sides working together.

For the first time since I have been in the U.S. Senate, that is not what is occurring. Instead, the majority has decided they are going to put in the scorekeeper, the person who makes the forecast for the Federal Government, for the Government of the United States, and they are doing so on what appears to be partisan basis. That is a break from the past; that is a break from tradition; that is a break from what the law provides.

Mr. President, I think this is a very serious matter. If we are going to work collegially, if we are going to cooperate, if we are going to work together, then there has to be a basis of trust. Always in the past, part of that basis of trust is the person who is made the head of the Congressional Budget Office is somebody of very high professional standards, someone who is above being considered partisan.

I can say, in terms of the Democrats, since I have been here, they have had Bob Reischauer, Rudy Penner, Alice Rivlin, all of them broadly respected, all of them above partisanship. As a matter of fact, I cannot remember a concern that has been raised by the majority side while I have been in the Senate about CBO scoring on partisan basis.

But now, Mr. President, the majority has decided to impose on the Congress their choice, without the kind of agreement, without the kind of consultation, without the kind of, I think, nonpartisan working together that this position requires. And so, Mr. President, what is at stake? I can say that I am on the Budget Committee and the Finance Committee, and we are very dependent on what the Congressional Budget Office says the results of policies will be.

We now have before us someone, frankly, who does not have a national reputation, someone who is not of the stature that one would expect of someone appointed to be the head of CBO. And even more disturbing than that is that this is someone who has indicated they are willing to consider so-called dynamic scoring.

Well, what is dynamic scoring? It is largely make-believe. It is make-believe. It says if you cut taxes, you get more money. We tried that back in the 1980's in this country, and it was an absolute unmitigated disaster for this country. We saw people saying we could cut taxes, we can increase spending, and somehow it would all add up. It did not add up. It did not come close to adding up.

Instead of adding up, we got an explosion of the national debt; we got an explosion of deficits that have put this country in a deep hole that we have yet to climb out of and now it appears we are about to repeat the exercise.

I understand that this is a matter that should be handled in a different way. The appointment of the head of the Congressional Budget Office ought to be done together, both sides putting someone in place who is of the highest professional reputation, of the highest professional standards, and someone who both sides recognize will not do forecasts in a partisan, political manner. Unfortunately, Mr. President, that is not the suggestion for an appointment that we have before us.

I have joined my colleague from North Dakota in asking the President pro tempore that he not go forward with this appointment until and unless there is broad bipartisan agreement with respect to the appointment.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is their objection to the unanimous consent request?

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—and I do not object to the Senator's additional 2 minutes—let me amend that to add 3 minutes for the Senator from Montana and that this additional 5 minutes does not come off from the total time agreed upon for the Boxer amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object, I just want to make sure that the vote would now be 5 minutes later,

or at 3:35. If that is part of the agreement, that is fine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair would observe that would be 3:37.

Is there objection? Hearing none, the Senator from North Dakota is recognized for 2 minutes.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me simply underscore, in my 2 minutes remaining, the point that Senator CONRAD just made. We are asking the President pro tempore of the Senate to withhold action on this appointment, to withhold action on this appointment to give the Senate and other Senators time to get some answers about this candidate.

We are not talking about just any appointment or a run-of-the-mill appointment or some general candidate being appointed to some office or another. The CBO Director is the referee who will score every economic decision, every financial judgment that will be made on legislation. And when they pick a referee—when I say "they," those who have effected this, the congressional majority—when they pick a referee who gives me the impression that this referee is on the home team, then I say, "Wait a second. That is not the kind of game we play."

We have very aggressive games around here that are played for real and for big stakes. We need to have referees who are fair and impartial and who do not owe their allegiance to either side.

This appointment is not—it is not—in the genre of an appointment of Mr. Reischauer or Mr. Rudy Penner, as an example, both of whom would be considered to have been generally nonpartisan and very well qualified. This appointment falls short on that.

And my interest is not in tarnishing this person. I do not know the person. But, based on what I have read, I certainly want to find out more about the person before this Senate would decide that this person shall become our referee.

That is the purpose of our making this request to the President pro tempore. I hope he and the majority would honor that request so that we can understand more about this candidate. And if this candidate does not meet the test of fairness, does not meet the qualifications test, then I think we ought to find someone who does and who would be acceptable on a bipartisan basis to this body. That I think is the fair way for us to proceed. I hope the President pro tempore will agree.

Mr. President, with that I yield the floor.

Mr. BURNS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

IWO JIMA

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, on this date 50 years ago, a formidable American armada moved even closer to another objective in the Pacific. While that was going on, long-range bombers