

If we take to the conclusion of 5 years the budget that the President has submitted to us for the fiscal year coming up, it would increase the debt by \$200 billion a year for the next 5 years. That is an increase in the debt at the end of that time by \$1 trillion. I think the American people are aware of this. I think a few years ago they got tired of the smoke and mirrors that we were doing here in Washington and they became aware of what is really happening.

The second thing that was mentioned was the cuts—all of these draconian cuts that would be necessary, if we had been successful in passing the balanced budget amendment. I would suggest to you that there are ways of balancing the budget without having any cuts; that is, just limit the growth. There was a study made using the figures that were supplied by the Federal Government that, if we could put merely a 2-percent growth cap on Government spending, we would be able to bring the deficit down to zero at end of 6 years. This can be done. But Congress in both Houses has had historically an insatiable appetite to spend money that they do not have, and without the discipline that would be imposed upon them by a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget, it has been demonstrated that for 40 years they are incapable of that discipline.

The third thing that was talked about was the awareness of what is going on around the country. I suggest that there is not one Senator who would go home and misrepresent his or her position to his or her constituents. However, it has been quite evident that there are many people in some of the States who really believed that their Senator was in favor of a balanced budget amendment. Now, I think the good news in today's vote is they all know, and they know which Senators voted yes and which Senators voted no.

Last, during the debate, I put together a profile of those individuals who were in support of the so-called "right-to-know amendment" to the balanced budget amendment. That was the amendment that says show us exactly where the cuts are going to be for the next 7 years. I found that all 41 of those cosponsors had either a D or an F rating by the National Taxpayers Union. All 41 had voted for the stimulus bill, which was the largest spending bill increase that we have had in contemporary history.

And so the bottom line is, is it just a coincidence that those 41 who supported that amendment also were the big tax and spenders here in the U.S. Senate? No, I do not think so. In fact, I am having my staff, right now, look at the 34 who voted against it this time. And I suspect that we are going to find the same thing; that is, those 34, each one of whom was responsible for killing the balanced budget amendment today, I suspect, was a big tax and spender. When we find out, we will give this report tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GLENN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I rise today to add my voice to that of my colleagues who have made remarks commemorating the 50th anniversary of the heroic Battle of Iwo Jima, which began on February 19, 1945.

I made some impromptu remarks on this subject last week when my colleague from Arkansas delivered his remarks. It was one of the most moving moments on the floor of the U.S. Senate that I have participated in. We had the Senators here who had been marines at one time in their lives, and it was a very moving moment. Each of the other former marines in the Senate have stood on the Senate floor over the last several days to pay tribute to the extraordinary bravery of the men who fought so ferociously in the Battle of Iwo Jima. It was this grueling 36-day battle that gave rise to Admiral Nimitz' famous description that "Among the Americans who served on Iwo, uncommon valor was a common virtue."

This battle also exacted one of the greatest casualty tolls in the history of the Marine Corps. For that uncommon valor, more medals of honor—27 in all—were awarded for that action than for any other action in World War II. Out of those 27, 14 were awarded posthumously.

I was in World War II. I went in a few days after Pearl Harbor and started training. Fifty years ago, I had just returned to the United States from combat in the Pacific in the Marshall Islands, just when the Marine assault on the island of Iwo Jima began. Having participated in combat at that time in the Marshall Islands, we took our losses there, too, but nothing like Iwo, of course. But I understood the strategic importance this battle was to play in our island-hopping campaign in the Pacific. We watched that very closely, because I was in training, along with other members of the squadron I was in, to go back out again for the assault on Japan. Lying between Japan and our bomber bases in the Marianas was Iwo Jima, which would provide a critical base from which fighter escorts could protect our B-29's en route to the Japanese home islands.

Our B-29's had the range to make their way from the Marianas, but without fighter escorts, they went unprotected and too often fell victim to attacks by Japanese fighters.

Iwo Jima also would provide a haven for battle damaged bombers returning from their assaults on Japan. And taking Iwo Jima's three airfields would deprive the Japanese of a base from which they could intercept our bombers.

This was part of the overall strategy, the strategy of saying we needed bases

that bring the Japanese to their senses to bomb, to bomb, to bomb, and hope that we could end that war before we would need to make an invasion. Estimates of that invasion were that if the Japanese fought with the tenacity they had throughout that war, we could lose as many as a million people in that conquest of Japan. So it was in that strategy that Iwo was of critical importance.

The challenge that 75,000 marines of the 3d, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions faced was an awesome one. Iwo Jima, despite the heavy bombing it had endured in the hours leading up to the Marine assault, remained heavily defended by Japanese in caves and pill boxes and bunkers.

Just picture yourself coming to shore in a bobbing landing craft, coming in with shells landing and people being hit in the landing craft before it got there, and seeing other craft ahead of you that had already been hit. It was a very tough moment. The island provided no natural cover for attackers, and Marines were slowed by Iwo Jima's black sand beaches. It was a sand of large grain, where you would step up on the beach and try and go uphill, and you made two steps forward and went one step backward.

As I mentioned the other night, Mr. President, I did not participate in the Battle of Iwo Jima. But after the war, following assignment to China, my squadron flew through Iwo. We were there for several days and we walked that territory. I stood on those beaches and on the cliffs and was up on Mount Suribachi. I tried to imagine what it must have been like in those days.

Having seen the terrain, it is hard to imagine how anybody could have ever made it up those beaches. They were the only landing areas on the island, but above the beaches, the cliffs were literally honeycombed with caves, back in the rocks, interconnected so the defenders could go from one cave opening to another. From the caves, machine guns would come out and fire, and unless naval supporting gunfire was able to make an unlikely very direct hit on a tiny cave opening, the guns kept coming out and kept mowing people down, and mowing them down, and mowing them down.

As far as that gunfire, I remember one large Japanese gun that had been shooting at ships, and it accidentally had been hit directly by a shell while coming in from the sea. The whole end of that gun barrel was splayed out just like a banana that you would peel down, or like a flower petal spread out in different directions. It was a savage, savage battle. We were there, and my squadron mates and I walked in the caves and walked on the beaches just as the Japanese gunners were able to during that combat. How anybody ever got ashore with that kind of withering fire coming right down their throats, on top of them, is something hard to fathom. It was an experience being

there even after the battle. The experience was vividly impressed on my memory to this very day. As they came ashore, the usual thing would be to hunker down in a fox hole or a crater. But here was Mount Suribachi looking down. There was no such thing as a fox hole. They were being fired upon out on the beach. It is no wonder there were so many casualties.

My visit to Iwo makes me appreciate just what is meant when it is said that the progress of the marines of the V Corps was measured in yards, as Japanese defenders resisted to the death.

The Japanese were of a mood and psyche at that time, as they were through all of World War II, that they would rather be killed than give up. It was a Kamikaze mentality. We expected the assault on Japan, which we were training for, would be the same, and that, once again, emphasizes the importance of Iwo.

Yet, by February 24, 1945, 4 days after the onslaught began, the American flag waived from the summit of Mount Suribachi, the proud image that to this day symbolizes the unwavering resolve of the Marine Corps, of our Nation, and of the staggering sacrifices that were made by the marines in their relentless advance on Iwo Jima.

Uncommon valor was indeed a common virtue.

Just imagine you are there, and just think of the determination. You have flamethrowers, tanks, bulldozers, landing craft hit and on the beach and shot up and out of commission, and still you have to advance and neutralize and silence the fire from those hundreds and hundreds of enemy caves.

Well, by early March, the three Marine divisions had compressed the remaining enemy into isolated pockets of resistance. An awesome foe, the Japanese defenders fought with courage and determination, with the vast majority in their fanaticism, preferring death to surrender. The final pockets of resistance were finally eliminated, and the capture of the island was announced on March 26.

The casualty statistics are harrowing. Almost 7,000 Americans were killed, and more than 17,000 were wounded. But the assault and capture of Iwo Jima was of critical importance to final victory in the Pacific, and the island proved to be an important base from which to deliver more and heavier blows against the enemy. It also became the emergency landing field it had been envisioned to be.

And by the end of the war a total of 2,251 B-29 bombers, carrying 24,761 crewmen landed on Iwo Jima. A large number of these brave pilots and crewmen undoubtedly would have been lost if the land had not been taken.

Once again, you can imagine those planes coming in, shot up, battle damaged, wounded being taken out, planes repaired, wounded being given help, back to Guam or Saipan, and out again to pound Japan after being repaired.

Mr. President, I conclude my remarks by repeating the words of then

Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal, who was present on the island during the campaign, when he expressed his "tremendous admiration and reverence for the guy who walks up beaches and takes enemy positions with a rifle and grenades or his bare hands."

We have had a lot of battles, Mr. President, battles we read about. The battle of Iwo Jima, like Bunker Hill, Gettysburg, Belleau Wood, and Normandy, was won literally not just by machines but by young Americans who wanted to live but were not afraid to die for their country.

People go off to war with the flags flying and bands playing and we think about liberty and the pursuit of justice and world community and all of these things we like to talk about, loyalty to country. But to the people on a beach, it is a matter of them and their fellow marines that they are trying to survive alongside. And it is that Marine training, which makes them more afraid of letting their fellow marines down than they are of getting hurt, that wins those battles. Sometimes they are killed. Sometimes it is hard to explain that kind of psychology, that kind of mentality that wins battles, particularly a battle as vicious and as tough as was Iwo Jima. But that Marine gung ho spirit of being more afraid of letting each other down in a battle than they are of getting hurt or killed themselves, while hard to explain, is what is so important in winning battles. It means that a person will take grenades over to somebody and expose himself to fire because his fellow marines need that kind of help. It is what you have seen in the squadron where people dive back in on a target a second time to split up anti-aircraft fire. You would think that would be the most stupid thing anybody can do, but it is done because they see somebody in trouble.

So, Mr. President, to those brave Americans who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the black sand beaches of Iwo Jima and the rocky slopes of Mount Suribachi, "Semper Paratus" and may God's blessings rest on our Corps, on our military, and on this United States of America.

Thank you, Mr. President I yield the floor.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I enjoyed very much hearing the Senator from Ohio, Senator GLENN, who is a stalwart member of the Armed Services Committee and has been a stalwart defender of the United States his entire life, either as a member of the Marine Corps or in the space program or in his splendid service here in the U.S. Senate.

I heard him talk about Iwo Jima. All of us, I believe, are the beneficiaries of that reminder of the heroism that took place on Iwo Jima. And I might add that no one is better qualified to speak of heroism and patriotism and dedication than the Senator from Ohio, Senator GLENN, his plane having been shot five times when he was flying in the Marshall Islands, and I believe seven

times his plane was shot when he was in Korea fighting for our country.

So I thank the Senator from Ohio for that beautiful tribute to those who were so brave and gave so much of themselves for their country on Iwo Jima and other places in the Pacific.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into executive session to consider Executive Calendar Order Nos. 12 through 17, and No. 34, en bloc, nominations to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

The clerk will report the nominations.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Alton W. Cornella, of South Dakota; Rebecca G. Cox, of California; General James B. Davis, U.S. Air Force, Retired, of Florida; S. Lee Kling, of Maryland; Benjamin F. Montoya, of New Mexico; Wendi Louise Steele, of Texas; and Josue Robles, Jr., of Texas, to be members of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

The Senate proceeded to consider the nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Debate on the nominations is limited to 30 minutes, equally divided between the President pro tempore and the Senator from Georgia [Mr. NUNN].

The Chair recognizes the President pro tempore.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I previously expressed my support for the confirmation of Mrs. Cox, General Davis, Admiral Montoya, Mr. Kling, Mr. Cornella, and Mrs. Steele to be members of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission. I want to reiterate that support and add to it my support of General Robles.

Mr. President, I have no doubt that our former colleague, Senator Alan Dixon, can complete this process by himself. However, I believe both he and the Senate would rather see a group of individuals make decisions on the future of the Nation's military bases and our local economies. Therefore, I urge the Senate to confirm these nominations and let the 1995 Base Closure Commission proceed with its work.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator THURMOND in urging my colleagues to support the seven nominees to be members on Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

I agree with Senator THURMOND that each of these individuals are well-qualified to serve as members of the Commission.