

force this institution through the work of the U.S. Senate to not waste the funds that could be used for deficit reduction.

I suggest that as we move into the budget resolution, either at the committee level or at the level of the entire Senate, if necessary, that an amendment be offered to the fiscal year 1996 budget resolution to change the revenue assumption to exclude or reject a major tax cut and instead to explicitly allocate the spending cuts that would offset such a tax cut to deficit reduction, to make sure that every dollar that was identified for spending cuts be immediately transferred into an account to reduce the Federal deficit.

I think that is the only way we avoid the kind of losses and deficit reduction that are the inevitable result of the President's plan and especially the result of the Republican contract and the Archer plan.

So I hope we can return to the wisdom that was indicated by the American people ever since the proposals were made, and I return to what is my favorite cartoon on the issue, which is the somewhat bizarre but rather effective portrayal of a giant deficit monster that is constantly calling out for more and more, in this case more fruit cake in the form of "Tax Cuts R Us." The American people are onto the foolishness of this. They are onto it in the form of cartoons that ridicule a Congress that stands up and talks about fiscal responsibility but cannot resist the temptation to get some quick political gain by handing out a tax cut that will both hurt the economy and severely damage, if not permanently ruin, the possibility of ever having a balanced budget, whether it be in the next few years or by the year 2002.

Mr. President, we will be coming back to this, but I notice in this institution, if you do not keep bringing something up like this, it has a way of getting resolved in the middle of the night and, all of a sudden, you have an up-or-down vote on the whole package. Somehow, whether it be \$10 billion or \$100 billion or \$700 billion, it could be lost instead of actually being used to almost eliminate the Federal deficit. I think that is the opportunity we have. Instead of feeding this monster, reject the tax cuts and take the next big step to eliminate the Federal deficit.

So, Mr. President, as I yield the floor, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the sense-of-the-Senate resolution which Senator BUMPERS, of Arkansas, and I have offered to specifically go on record as a body saying the tax cuts have to take second place to this historic opportunity to eliminate the Federal deficit.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

TAIWAN

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs to join in the sentiments of my colleagues on Taiwan, and particularly on the visit of President Lee.

I need not repeat in detail for the Senate Taiwan's many accomplishments, either economic or political. These have often been discussed on the Senate floor. It is sufficient to note that this country is our fifth largest trading partner and imports over 17 billion dollars' worth of U.S. products annually. More importantly, though, Taiwan is a model emerging democracy in a region of the world not particularly noted for its long democratic tradition.

The Taiwanese Government has ended martial law, removed restrictions on freedom of the press, legalized the opposition parties, and instituted electoral reforms which last December resulted in free elections.

Taiwan is one of our staunchest friends. I think every Member of this body recognizes that and accords Taiwan a special place among our allies. Unfortunately, Mr. President, the administration apparently does not share our views. Rather, the administration goes out of its way to shun the Republic of China on Taiwan, almost as though it were a pariah state like Libya or Iran.

Sadly, the administration's shoddy treatment of Taiwan is based not on that country's faults or misdeeds but on the dictates of another country, the People's Republic of China. It is because the People's Republic of China continues to claim that it is the sole legitimate Government of Taiwan and because of the administration's almost slavish desire to avoid upsetting that view that the State Department regularly kowtows to Beijing and maltreats the Government of Taiwan. If this were not such a serious matter, it would almost be amusing, the lengths to which the administration goes to avoid any perceived official entanglements.

Representatives of the Taiwan Government are prohibited from physically entering the State Department or the Pentagon buildings. Any United States Government employee who goes to work to represent United States interests in Taiwan and who also works for the State Department must first resign from the State Department before being allowed to go. One has to carefully choose what one calls the island's government to avoid slighting Beijing: Is it the Republic of China, is it the Republic of China on Taiwan, Taiwan, or the Republic of Taiwan?

Finally, the last humiliation to which we subject our ally brings us here this morning. This administration refuses to allow the President of Taiwan to enter this country, even for a private visit—a private visit, Mr. President. President Lee is a graduate of Cornell University where he earned his Ph.D. He has expressed an interest in attending a class reunion at his alma

mater this June and a United States-Taiwan Economic Council conference. Yet, the administration has made it clear it will not permit him entry.

The only people that this country systematically excludes from entry to its shores are felons or criminals, terrorists, and individuals with dangerous communicable diseases. How is it possible that this administration can see fit to add the President of Asia's oldest republic to the list? We have allowed representatives of the PLO and the Sinn Fein to enter this country, yet we exclude a visit by an upstanding private citizen?

I think we have made it clear to Beijing—I know I have tried to—of the great importance to us of our strong relationship with that country. This relationship should in my opinion transcend squabbles over diplomatic minutia. I will always seek to avoid any move that the Government of the People's Republic of China reasonably could find objectionable. I believe that countries like ours should try hard to accommodate each other's needs and concerns in order to further strengthen our relationships.

However, I believe that the People's Republic of China needs to recognize the reality of the situation. Both Taiwan and the People's Republic of China are strong, economically vibrant entities. Both share a common heritage and a common culture and yet have chosen political systems that are mutually exclusive. Despite these differences, the United States has a strong and important relationship with them both, and we need to continue those relationships.

Mr. President, I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I believe the Senator from Nebraska has 15 minutes allotted to him under the unanimous-consent agreement. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

(The remarks of Mr. EXON pertaining to the introduction of S. 550 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

UNFUNDED MANDATES CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the conference report to the unfunded mandates bill. I am proud that we are so close to delivering this critical legislation to the nation's Governors, mayors, and town managers who have been laboring under the terrible weight of unfunded mandates.

When the President signs this bill, we will hear a collective sigh of relief from coast to coast. For too long, Congress shifted the cost of these regulations and mandates to the States. Their ledgers bled red from our actions. Their

treasuries were sapped to pay for compliance with the unfunded mandates that we have foisted upon them.

However, with this conference report, of which I was very happy to be a part, in working out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the mandate bill, we are taking an important step in the right direction. Equilibrium is restored. The fiscal responsibility shifts back where it belongs—with the authors of these rules.

Mr. President, I say to my colleagues this is a fair and just compromise. This is a conference report that addressed the unfunded mandates problems head on. This is a conference report all of us can support no matter on which side of the aisle we sit. I wish we could approach more of the business of the American people in such a bipartisan manner as we have addressed this in the Congress of the United States.

In closing, Mr. President, it is my opinion that the conferees did an excellent job knitting together the two different bills in this coherent and seamless package. We compromised without sacrificing the muscle and teeth of the Senate bill.

From my point of view as a Senate conferee, I was most pleased that the judicial review process was kept to a minimum. The current wording is certainly far more restrained than the broad House language which would have provided a field day for lawyers. Their loss is our gain, thank goodness.

I would also point out that the conference report maintained the amendment sponsored by the distinguished Senator from West Virginia [Mr. BYRD]. The language forces Congress to vote on an agency's decision on whether or not it can implement a mandate with the money appropriated. This conference report gives Congress the last word, to which I say "amen."

Mr. President, one of my favorite Presidents, Harry Truman, was famous for the sign on his desk that said, "The buck stops here." We can learn a lot from those words. For too long, Congress has been passing the buck to the States. For too long, we have been passing the buck and passing the bill. It is time we took responsibility for our own actions. It is time we pulled the plug on unfunded mandates. It is time we passed this conference report, and I hope we will today.

Mr. President, I reserve the remainder of any time remaining, and I yield the floor.

Mrs. MURRAY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to extend morning business for approximately 10 minutes.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, thank you.

THE NOMINATION OF DR. HENRY FOSTER

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I understand that the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee has received all the necessary paperwork from the administration for Dr. Henry Foster's nomination for U.S. Surgeon General. I rise today to encourage the committee to move Dr. Foster's nomination expeditiously, and I look forward to his receiving a full and fair hearing.

Unlike some of my colleagues, I am very excited about Dr. Foster's nomination. Dr. Foster is an ob/gyn. I appreciate, and want to stress, the importance and relevance of his practice area. For far too long, women's health concerns have been neglected by our Government.

Women's health is critical to very family—every man, woman, and child—in this Nation. As a woman, and the mother of a son and a daughter, I find the selection of Dr. Foster reassuring. It is especially important at this time that President Clinton chose to nominate a physician who has dedicated his life to maternal and child health.

Dr. Foster is one of the country's leading experts on preventing teen pregnancy and drug abuse, as well as reducing infant mortality.

Dr. Foster is a very decent and dedicated physician who has been unfairly maligned. I hope my colleagues and the American public will hear the stories of some of the many people whose lives Dr. Foster has touched.

I hope they get a more complete picture of Dr. Foster and the work he has done.

For example, Dr. Foster worked tirelessly to help bring Christopher Hight into this world. Jeannette Hight and her husband Charles almost lost their baby twice during her pregnancy, but Dr. Foster helped nurse her through these crises.

Earlier this year, Jeannette and Charles Hight wrote to Dr. Foster:

Without you, there would not be a Christopher Hight. Your talents and work have brought joy to our lives. You will be proud to know that your extraordinary efforts resulted in us having a son who is excelling at Rice University in architecture. His teachers, who are nationally renown, have told us that he has very special talents. No matter what happens, we are with you. We will always remember your special dedication, caring nature and skills.

Cliff and Wilda Denton from Moses Lake in my home State of Washington wrote the following to Dr. Foster:

I can say in all humility, without you we could have lost our only daughter and first born grandson. Wilma was so very ill and dehydrated. All I had to do was call you. You would nourish her back to normal. This was thirty some years ago. When you were a doctor in the Air Force at Larson Air Force Base, her husband was away fighting a war.

That's when we got acquainted with you. After the birth and both were well and healthy, I wrote you a letter, thanking you for all your good care. You told me I was the first person (white that is) to ever give you a compliment. Greg is now over thirty years old.

We were so impressed when we visited you a few years ago and found you had dedicated your entire life to humanity . . . I feel confident you will be confirmed. . . .

Mr. President, these are just a few examples for Dr. Foster's great work. He has delivered many thousands of babies, and he has saved hundreds of lives.

Some of our colleagues would have the U.S. Senate exclude Dr. Foster from consideration because he has performed abortions. I disagree. Abortion should not be the determining factor in the selection of a Surgeon General. Abortion is a legal procedure, and every woman in this Nation has a constitutional right to choose whether and when to bear a child.

Whether Dr. Foster has performed 1 abortion or 1,000 abortions, he should not be disqualified from consideration.

I believe that the majority in this Nation will not allow an extremist minority to criminalize abortion through the Surgeon General nomination process. Furthermore, I believe the women in this Nation will not stand for perfunctory disqualification of candidates based on their practice areas, especially when the physician involved has dedicated his life to women's health.

Mr. President, why is no one concerned about the exact number of babies Dr. Foster has delivered in the course of his practice? Why is no one inquiring into exactly how many lives he has saved?

I am curious how many teenagers have benefited from his I Have A Future Program? I wonder how many unintended pregnancies he has prevented?

How many young people has he empowered and inspired?

Why is this man being attacked so viciously when he has dedicated his life to our well-being? Finally, how can a U.S. Senator vow to filibuster Dr. Foster's nomination before the doctor has even had a hearing?

Mr. President, I had to speak on Dr. Foster's behalf today because I cannot stand by and watch his nomination be railroaded. Senator KASSEBAUM has promised Dr. Foster a hearing and I believe she is committed to following through. Luckily, not everyone is rushing to prejudge this nominee.

Every day that goes by without a U.S. Surgeon General in place who can provide strong leadership for our Nation's future—is a day in which American lives can be changed.

Mr. President, having a Surgeon General in place who can speak to women's health issues is imperative. I urge the committee to move quickly on Dr. Foster's nomination. And, I look forward to consideration of Dr. Foster's nomination by the full Senate.

I yield the floor.