

that is known as the Nunn-Lugar program that works for nuclear and chemical dismantlement in the former Soviet Union that has been so effective in helping denuclearize three former nuclear states and also helped in dismantling both chemical and nuclear weapons. We have a long way to go in that regard, but Les Aspin was on board when that ship was launched, which is probably our most important national security challenge—that is, non-proliferation in the breakup of the Soviet empire.

During this entire period, I developed tremendous respect for the breadth of Les Aspin's knowledge and his devotion to the cause of national defense. Les was a brilliant analyst, but he was more than a scholar; he was an outstanding legislator and a master at putting together coalitions in the House of Representatives during a very tough period of time for national security.

I will always treasure the memories of working with Les on the House-Senate conferences on the National Defense Authorization Act that were enacted during the period in which we chaired our respective committees. The challenge of crafting a conference agreement was always daunting in the contentious atmosphere of the cold war and post-cold-war eras. Each year, hundreds of language and funding differences divided the two Houses—and we were continually faced with the threat of a veto over controversial issues such as the ABM Treaty, abortion, and prerogatives of the executive branch.

Les and I talked on the telephone and met very frequently, not just during conference but also in the months before we passed either the House or Senate bill. These meetings were quiet and unpublicized, but they enabled us to shape bills in both the House and the Senate which could be reconciled in conference and also signed into law by a Republican President.

Much as I appreciated and admired Les Aspin's policy and legislative skills, what I enjoyed most about Les was his sense of humor. Frequently, when a conference point reached its most critical point, we could count on a story from Les to break the tension and produce a bipartisan compromise. Nobody loved a joke more than Les Aspin, and I can still see that big grin on his face laughing heartily in the middle of a conference right at a crucial moment, which gave us the kind of balance, the kind of sense of priorities to understand that it was our job to reconcile our differences and to come to conclusions in the interest of national security. He never lost sight of the serious policy issues that confronted us, but he never got personal in his fervent support for one position or another.

Les Aspin served as Secretary of Defense during a particularly difficult time. I enjoyed working very closely with him and his staff during his ten-

ure as Secretary of Defense. Lacking a cold war enemy and a national consensus on defense issues, Les was faced with the extraordinary challenges of managing a defense build-down while retaining essential military capabilities. The complex and new international circumstances surrounding events in places such as the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, and Haiti added to the complexity of his task. Throughout this period, he continued to work diligently toward building a new foundation for our defense needs in the 21st century. And as Secretary of Defense, he laid a foundation for the defense drawdown that hopefully will avoid the mistakes of the past. At least he did his part.

During his years of service as a Member of the House Armed Services Committee and as Secretary of Defense, Les continually fought for a strong, well-equipped, and affordable national security. He was always on the cutting edge of national defense policy during both the cold war and during the post-cold-war build-down. His creative approaches to national strategy, acquisition policies, and defense budget matters have made a lasting and indelible contribution to this Nation's security.

After his service as Secretary of Defense, he continued to serve our Nation as chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, as chairman to the Commission on Intelligence, and as a member of the Commission on Roles and Missions of the Armed Forces. It was in this capacity that I last talked to him on the telephone at length about some of the aspirations he had for changing our intelligence community. Les never lost his ardor or his commitment to public service.

Mr. President, the Nation has lost a devoted public servant who contributed much and who had so much more to contribute to our national security.

I have lost a valued friend and a real colleague, a friendship that I will cherish forever, and a man that I will miss very much.

I thank the Chair.

TRIBUTE TO LES ASPIN

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I would like to associate myself with the comments of our distinguished colleague from Georgia. Before he departs the floor, I thought we might put in one additional chapter in reminiscing about our dearly beloved friend, Les Aspin. It was a period when the two Armed Services Committees met, and I was privileged at that time for some 6 years to serve as ranking member, together with Senator NUNN as chairman, and Les Aspin as chairman of the House. I remember when we would act as the "big four." If the Senator from Georgia will remember that—

Mr. NUNN. Along with Congressman Bill Dickinson.

Mr. WARNER. Yes, Congressman Bill Dickinson. There would be absolute

deadlock in the conferences. The big four would sort of get off together, and the other members, I think they were slightly envious in some respects, but in other respects, they were glad they did not have to make the decisions the big four had to crank out.

Mr. NUNN. I think many times it was like we were the "little four" rather than the big four.

Mr. WARNER. That is correct. But my friend from Georgia is a man of great patience. Chairman Aspin would always be late, almost invariably late, and he would come in with a great swath of papers under his arm, down the hall with two or three staff people, and he would literally flop in the chair. He would consume the entire chair, and the papers would be scattered all over the floor. And, finally, the Senator from Georgia, who at that time was chairman of the Armed Services Committee, would regain his composure and we would start to resolve the problems. But it was a marvelous chapter in the relationship between the Senate and House Armed Services Committee, and Les Aspin was instrumental in seeing that we arrived at the proper decision which, almost without exception, was in the best security interest of this country. In those days, we had almost no politics that entered into the decision—occasionally, a ship here or a tank there, but other than that, it was straightforward, tough decisions on behalf of the country.

I join my friend from Georgia in saying how much we will miss our friend. I was with him just 2 weeks ago. I am privileged to serve on the Intelligence Commission, and Les Aspin was the chairman. We went down to one of the Central Intelligence facilities to spend a day. And I wish to add, Mr. President, that Zoe Baird is a member of that commission, and she called me just yesterday and expressed her great admiration. I would like to include that in my comments for Chairman Aspin of the commission. That commission will carry on and do its work, but he laid the foundation. I join my distinguished colleague in paying this brief tribute to our fallen friend.

Mr. NUNN. I thank my friend from Virginia. I remember those days very well, and I will always cherish the memories. I have to say that while Les Aspin would consume that chair, my friend from Virginia was usually consuming the sofa.

Mr. WARNER. That is quite true.

Mr. NUNN. For health reasons, though.

Mr. WARNER. In those days I had a bum leg. I think we should end this brief set of comments on behalf of the late Congressman Aspin with a smile on our face, because that is the way he would want it. I am glad that my distinguished colleague from Georgia mentioned the Bottom-Up Review. That was a document that was created and is still used as a benchmark for many of our discussions here. He had that foresight and courage.

My knowledge and friendship with the late departed Les Aspin began when I was Secretary of the Navy. He was off frequently as a severe critic of the Department of Defense during that period of time.

And I remember so well Melvin Laird was then Secretary of Defense and had a great respect and friendship for Les, but Les was a strong critic in those days. Now in hindsight, maybe some of his criticism was well-taken.

I yield the floor.

BUDGET RESOLUTION SUPPORT

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my strong support for the Senate budget resolution proposed and brought forward by Chairman DOMENICI.

Let me first start by congratulating the chairman for the absolutely tremendous job he has done. I am sure that there is not a Member of this body who would write the budget the identical way that the committee has written. I do not suppose the chairman would, either. I think he has done a great job. I want to congratulate him.

This is a historic moment. It is a moment where we will really determine whether this Congress has the courage, has the wisdom, to do what we all know we have to do.

Let me also congratulate my friend from Ohio, JOHN KASICH, chairman of the Budget Committee in the House of Representatives. He has done a great job, as well. For both of them and for the Senate this is a historic moment.

What I would like to talk about this evening, Mr. President, is the issue of this budget and how this budget that we will be voting on tomorrow, affects young people, affects children.

The truth is that we simply have to change the direction of this country. We have to face reality. We have to face the fact that America has a fundamental choice between two different futures: A future of responsibility and fiscal sanity on the one hand; or a future of economic catastrophe.

Catastrophe is a pretty harsh word, Mr. President, but I think it is accurate. When we fail to balance the budget for 26 consecutive years, when we add to the national debt until we are paying more in interest than we are paying for national defense, and when we have a debt that is nearly \$5 trillion—\$5 trillion—and no end in sight, what we have is a catastrophe. A catastrophe in the making. No more, nor less.

Mr. President, what we are really talking about is not dollars and cents. What we are talking about is our children and the quality of their lives. The sad fact is, Mr. President, that today to many of our children, America is a very tough place to grow up in.

I have previously come to the Senate floor and discussed the issue of our children. What I think is the biggest crisis facing this country is what is happening to our young people. Many

of our young children are growing up in good conditions, but too many of them live in an environment that makes it very, very difficult for them, very problematic, as to whether they can succeed.

I have talked about this. I talked about the fact that this is the first generation in our history whose life expectancy is no greater than their parents because of deaths from auto accidents, deaths because of drugs, homicides.

A generation where young children are being born, one-third of all children being born today to parents who are not married; two-thirds of the children born in our inner cities are born to parents who are not married.

Probably, Mr. President, the most disheartening fact of all, is probably something that was encountered last year by the Presiding Officer as he traveled through the State of Missouri campaigning, as I found traveling the State of Ohio, and that is that people today do not believe their children will have a better life than they had. They do not believe the standard of living for their children will be even as good as they had. That to me is the most disheartening fact of all.

What do we do? Government has a role. I introduced my crime bill last week. I talked about the fact I was targeting money for more cities and for police officers to go in there, because too many of our young people live in an unsafe environment.

I will continue to talk about that in the months ahead. It is not just Government. We all have a responsibility. Communities have a responsibility. There are things Government can do and things that Government cannot do.

What I want to talk about specifically tonight is one thing that sometimes we forget does impact on children. That is the huge spending, the huge national debt, and the huge tax burden that we are placing on this generation of parents and on the next generation of our children when they grow up.

We are dealing, Mr. President, with a sad fact that the U.S. Congress makes the situation worse for our children by throwing away so many of America's resources in an utterly irresponsible manner. To pay for Congress' reckless spending, the Federal Government has to take far too much money from the parents of these children.

When my parents were growing up in the 1930's, their families had to work on an average until March 8 of every year to pay for Congress' spending. By the time I was growing up, and my wife Fran was growing up in the 1960's, a typical family had to work until April 16 to pay the taxes. Today, 1995, American families have to work until May 6 to pay their taxes. That is money that is stolen from families, stolen from children.

Sometimes it feels like America's parents are in a tug of war with the Federal Government for the resources

they need to raise their children. Frankly, Mr. President, I am sure they feel on many days that the Government is winning.

This budget begins the process of restoring the resources to the parents. It is only a beginning, but it is a necessary beginning. We ask parents today to do a lot.

It is time for this Congress and this Government to stop hindering their efforts and to start helping. I think we sometimes forget, Mr. President, the tremendous burden the taxes place on the American family today and how many of the decisions of that family are made, forced to be made, because of that burden. Decisions about whether the mother, the father, both work; whether one spouse holds down two jobs or three jobs. All these things are impacted by the Federal tax burden. The Government impacts these families and puts a tremendous burden on these families.

Mr. President, I have talked about the fact that for some children it is not easy being a kid in America today. We have a lot of problems. Yet we continue to let the Federal Government deprive young parents of the resources they need.

Mr. President, if we do not act now and pass this budget resolution, it will get a lot tougher to change things in the future. If we keep spending at this rate, by the year 2012, 17 years from today, there will be nothing—nothing—left in the budget for discretionary spending on our domestic needs. Zero. Every last cent in the Federal budget will go to entitlements and interest payments. Think of that: Every cent will go to entitlements and interest payments.

Mr. President, those interest payments did not go to our children. They do not go to the kids. I do not think it is a surprise or a secret to also indicate to this body that, frankly, neither does most of the entitlement spending, either.

Mr. President, just a year before that year 2012, our grandson, Albert, will graduate from high school. In that year, our daughter, Anna, if things work out, will be in her first year of college. If we do not act today, Albert and Anna's generation will pay a severe human cost.

Between today and the year 2025, the Federal debt per person will continue to rise year after year after year. Today the debt on each person is approximately \$18,500.

In the year 2025, it is going to be more than \$60,000 for every single man, woman, and child in America.

Look at the modest sacrifices this budget resolution proposes, so that we can balance the budget. Then look at the incredible sacrifices that our children will have to make if we do not.

In this budget, we slow the rate of increase of fast-growing programs.

The alternative is a \$60,000 debt burden for every person in America.

It is a clear choice, Mr. President. The longer we delay, the more it is