

we vote on this historic—very historic—budget package tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. HUTCHISON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

PROMISES KEPT

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from Tennessee, a new Member of the Senate, for helping us with this debate, for helping us point out the important decisions that we are making today and tomorrow.

It has really been wonderful to see the freshmen Senators, the new Senators, like the Senator from Tennessee and like the Senator in the chair, tonight adding to the debate and adding to the energy and vitality of the changes that we are making for America, the changes that the people asked for in 1994 so forcefully by giving a mandate to Congress to do the right thing, to keep the promises that were made.

The American people have seen time after time after time politicians making great speeches, beautiful speeches at conventions and big events and rallies and they see them make the promises and they see the promises broken almost the day after the election. Now, for the first time in years, the American people are going to see the promises being kept.

I think you are seeing such clear differences between the leadership that the President has shown versus the leadership that the Members of Congress are showing now finally.

The President's theme has been balance the budget on the backs of the Medicare recipients and the welfare recipients and education. That is the theme that we see recurring on the floor of the Senate day after day after day after day—the class warfare: “Oh, yes, they are balancing the budget, but they are doing it at the expense of the people in our society who are receiving Medicare and welfare.”

That is all we have heard. Where is their plan? Where is their suggestion? As the Senator from Pennsylvania said earlier tonight, their Chief of Staff has said, “It's a big game of chicken. If you put your budget out there and we're going to slash it to ribbons. If we put our budget out there, you are going to slash ours to ribbons.” So who goes first?

Mr. President, the Republicans are going first. We are putting something on the table that makes sense. We are taking the bold step and we are protecting Medicare for the future, and we are going to have a welfare system that tries to bring people up, not hold them down for generation after generation, and to give the taxpayers of our country the opportunity to see that it does not pay not to work if you can.

So, Mr. President, where is the President of the United States in this de-

bate? He gave a budget to the Congress. We voted on it. It was the first vote we took in this budget debate. It was a budget which would increase the Federal deficit from \$203 billion in 1994 to \$276 billion in the year 2000. In fact, the Clinton budget, submitted to this Congress, called for another \$1.2 trillion in deficit spending over the next 5 years.

That is the budget he has presented until yesterday. And yesterday the President said, “I'm going to give you a balanced budget.” We are 4 days into the budget debate and the President says, “I'm going to give you a balanced budget.” Where was he in the first year of his term? Where was he in the second year of his term? And where was he when we started the hearings in the Budget Committee when Senator DOMENICI was trying for a consensus, trying to bring everyone into the process, where was the President then? Where is the alternative now? There is no alternative except the one on the table that the Budget Committee has put forward which will balance the budget of this country by the year 2002.

It is the budget that is going to protect Medicare for our future generations. It is the budget resolution that says to our children, we are not going to turn our backs on you.

Finally, we have drawn the line in the sand, and we are going to do what is right for this country. This is, indeed, a moment in history. Tomorrow, we are going to make history in America. The other body is going to do what the House of Representatives did last week, and we are going to keep our promise to the American people.

Do all of us like everything in the budget? Absolutely not. There is probably not one Member of the Senate that says this is a perfect budget. Not even Senator DOMENICI likes everything in this budget that he worked so hard to bring out of that committee with the strong vote that he did. In fact, today I voted to change the budget, to give more to national defense because I am so worried that we are shortchanging our national defense in this country, and I wanted to try to change the priorities.

Other people have been offering amendments to add to education. Others have offered amendments to add to Medicare funding. Others have offered amendments for all different things that they think should be a priority.

But, Mr. President, this is a good, solid, balanced budget.

It is a balanced budget in the sense that, of course, it is going to take away deficits after 7 years. But it is a balanced budget in that it has taken into consideration what the Federal Government should be doing. And it is cut from some of the areas where the Federal Government has gotten too involved and in fact has encroached on our State governments and our local governments. It has cut back in those areas.

We are going back to the concept of a Federal Government that has specific

powers and everything is not reserved to the Federal Government. It is going to be left to the States and to the people. That is the 10th amendment to the Constitution, and we are going to resurrect it and we are going to start with the budget that we are going to adopt tomorrow. We are going to give the power back to the people and back to the governments that are closest to the people, and that is where we are going to stop the spending binges from the Federal Government—and, oh, by the way, the strings that go with the spending binges. That is as costly as anything we do. The strings we attach to the State government when we send them the money, we are going to take the strings away; we are going to send them block grants. They have the ability to make the decisions for what is best for the people in their States. They are the closest to the people, and they should be determining what their priorities are. We do not need to tell them what to do in Washington, DC.

So tomorrow is the beginning of a new day in America. It is the beginning of the time that we are going to take the ship of state and we are going to start the turn in the right direction. We are going to provide a future for our children and grandchildren. We are going to keep our promises. We are going to fulfill the mandate that the people gave to us.

The President has talked a good game. He is a great speaker. He has made a lot of promises. But what has he done? He has given us a budget that does not balance. He has passed the largest tax increase in the history of America. He has financed our debt with short-term borrowing. And we are going to have to pay the price down the road for that mistake. And he has woefully underestimated the need for a strong national defense. We are going to start turning this country in the right direction. We started in January, and we are going to take a major step tomorrow to do the right thing for the people of this country.

We are working very hard, Mr. President, to do what we believe is the right thing to do for our children, for our senior citizens, for the people that are truly needy, and for the people who are out there working for a living to be able to keep the taxes that they earn for themselves and not give it to the Government to determine the priorities for their families. And we are going to work for that small business entrepreneur to be able to make it and to live the American dream and to grow and to prosper and create the jobs that will give others the opportunity to live the American dream of doing better for their families than they have been able to have as they immigrated into our country, or as they were the first member of their family to get a college education. That is who we are working for, Mr. President, and that is what this balanced budget is going to ensure will continue to be the American dream. That is why we are here

tonight at 10:30 p.m. eastern time, to talk about the importance of doing the responsible thing. The easy thing? No. The tough decisions, the right decisions, and the responsible decisions that we were elected to come to Washington to make.

Mr. President, we are on the eve of a very historic time, and I am proud that I believe we are going to do the right thing tomorrow. The Senate is going to put aside all of the differences that we might have and priorities and pass a balanced budget that will start our 7-year march to the time when we will begin to start paying down that long-term debt.

Mr. President, I thank you. I am soon going to move to close. Does the Senator from Iowa have anything further?

Mr. GRASSLEY. No.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Forces.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO EMIGRATION LAWS AND POLICIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 51

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby transmit a report concerning emigration laws and policies of the Republic of Romania as required by subsections 402(b) and 409(b) of Title IV of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended ("the Act"). I have determined that Romania is in full compliance with the criteria in subsections 402(a) and 409(a) of the Act. As required by Title IV, I will provide the Congress with periodic reports regarding Romania's compliance with these emigration standards.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 19, 1995.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services, I report favorably the attached listing of nominations.

Those identified with a single asterisk (*) are to be placed on the Execu-

tive Calendar. Those identified with a double asterisk (**) are to lie on the Secretary's desk for the information of any Senator since these names have already appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 24, May 2, and May 11, 1995, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar, that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

*In the Air Force there are 42 appointments to the grade of brigadier general (list begins with Patrick O. Adams) (Reference No. 216)

*In the Air Force there are 24 appointments to the grade of major general (list begins with Kurt B. Anderson) (Reference No. 217)

*Major General Ronald V. Hite, USA to be lieutenant general (Reference No. 253)

*Vice Admiral David M. Bennett, USN to be placed on the retired list in the grade of vice admiral (Reference No. 267)

*Rear Admiral Harold M. Koenig, USN to be Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and Surgeon General and to be vice admiral (Reference No. 283)

*Lieutenant General Charles E. Dominy, USA to be placed on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general (Reference No. 287)

*Lieutenant General Joseph W. Ralston, USAF to be general (Reference No. 313)

*Major General Ralph E. Eberhart, USAF to be lieutenant general (Reference No. 314)

*Rear Admiral James R. Fitzgerald, USN to be vice admiral (Reference No. 318)

*Brigadier General Sam C. Turk, USAR to be major general (Reference No. 338)

**In the Marine Corps there are 300 promotions to the grade of lieutenant colonel (list begins with William E. Acker) (Reference No. 345)

*Lieutenant General Malcolm B. Armstrong, USAF to be placed on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general (Reference No. 356)

*Major General Charles T. Robertson, Jr., USAF to be lieutenant general (Reference No. 357)

*Lieutenant General Edwin E. Tenoso, USAF for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general (Reference No. 358)

**In the Air Force Reserve there are 2 appointments to the grade of lieutenant colonel (list begins with David R. Andrews) (Reference No. 359)

**In the Marine Corps there are 472 appointments to the grade of lieutenant colonel and below (list begins with James C. Addington) (Reference No. 360)

*Lieutenant General Ronald H. Griffith, USA to be Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and to be general (Reference No. 366)

*General John H. Tilelli, Jr., USA for reappointment to the grade of general (Reference No. 367)

*Major General George A. Fisher, Jr., USA to be lieutenant general (Reference No. 368)

*Colonel James R. Helmly, USAR to be brigadier general (Reference No. 371)

*In the Army Reserve there are 11 promotions to the grade of major general and below (list begins with John T. Crowe) (Reference No. 380)

*Colonel Fletcher M. Lamkin, Jr., USA to be Dean of the Academic Board, United States Military Academy, and to be brigadier general (Reference No. 381)

*Rear Admiral Brent M. Bennett, USN to be vice admiral (Reference No. 382)

**In the Army there are 1,152 promotions to the grade of lieutenant colonel (list begins with Scott L. Abbott) (Reference No. 383)

Total: 2,020.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 841. A bill to increase the special assessment for felonies and improve the enforcement of sentences imposing criminal fines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. KEMPTHORNE):

S. 842. A bill to replace the aid to families with dependent children with a block grant to the States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 843. A bill to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to convert the food stamp program into a block grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

S. 844. A bill to replace the medicaid program with a block grant to the States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 845. A bill to replace the supplemental security income program for the disabled and blind with a block grant to the States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 846. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for charitable contributions to certain private charities providing assistance to the poor thereby improving Federal welfare efforts through increased activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. COATS, Mr. BRADLEY, Mr. KYL, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 847. A bill to terminate the agricultural price support and production adjustment programs for sugar, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 841. A bill to increase the special assessment for felonies and improve the enforcement of sentences imposing criminal fines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to assist those who are often ignored in our ongoing struggle against crime: the victims: The Crime Victims Assistance Improvement Act increases and improves collection of crime fines which are deposited into the crime victims fund. This fund provides desperately needed help to crime victims across this country.

I am pleased that this legislation has been supported by the National Organization for Victim Assistance, the American Legislative Exchange Council, Crimestrike, and the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

First, this bill doubles the mandatory special assessment charged to every convicted Federal felon. The current special assessment is \$50 for each