

money. But more than that, in the deep recesses of the bureaucracy, in every agency, there is some metric conversion enforcement officer who is now busy at work, scurrying somewhere underneath a pile of paper, trying to figure out how to mess up the next project.

In North Dakota, we are going to try to build 20 little houses up on an Indian reservation to house Indian Health Service workers. Do you know what? Those 20 houses are held up. Do you know why? Because they have to be built under the metric system; metrification. Twenty houses have to be built under the metric system. I have been trying for 3 months to get a waiver. You cannot do it. The bureaucracy simply does not bend.

I am going to offer an amendment that says let us suspend for 2 years the enforcement of the Metric Conversion Act. Just suspend the enforcement of it. Then let us have this commission that is going to study the other things get back to us and tell us what the Metric Conversion Act is costing us and why. Of what value is it to build a house using metric? It is more expensive and takes longer in the planning. This makes no sense to me. I am going to offer an amendment, and I hope we add it to this bill, that we suspend for 2 years the enforcement of the Metric Act while the study is done, the study which I hope will then convince us we ought not to be doing this.

Yes, parts of the private sector are going metric because if you want to compete in certain areas overseas you ought to do it in metric measurements. The automobile industry does that when they send cars overseas. I see nothing wrong with that. But we do not have to use metric when we want to build a house on an Indian reservation. That makes no sense to me.

I am going to offer another amendment, on the Federal Reserve Board. The Federal Reserve Board imposes the ultimate mandate. In fact, I think next week they will decide once again—closing their doors and in secret with their brethren, the banking community, the central bankers—decide to increase interest rates. And they will increase the cost of paying for the Federal debt by the Federal Government. They will increase the cost for State and local governments, and more important, they will increase costs on every American citizen. That is mandated. They are going to mandate an increase in interest rates that will cost every American citizen additional money.

So I am going to offer an amendment that is very simple but will give them an apoplectic seizure, I am sure, because even if you suggest somehow that they are maybe a part of America and we ought to understand what they are doing behind those closed doors, they say you are Fed bashing. I am not Fed bashing. But I am going to offer an amendment that says when the Federal Reserve Board meets in secret to decide once again they want to increase

interest rates, within 30 days of that decision they must send a report to Congress and a report to the President that tells us how much that action cost us, what it cost the Federal Government in increased debt service.

Incidentally, the Fed's actions last year—again in secret, by the Fed, the central bankers who control the money supply—their actions last year increased the cost of debt service over the coming 5 years by nearly \$125 billion. In other words, they, by their decisions, took back nearly one-fourth of the deficit reduction savings that we agonized over and debated and wrestled over here on the floor of the Senate for months the year before. They did not wrestle. They did not debate much. Actually, we do not know that because the door was closed. But I assume they reached a consensus very quickly on behalf of their constituencies. They took back, by their action to increase interest rates, about \$125 billion in deficit reduction. Said another way, they took action to increase the Federal deficit by \$125 billion because they increased the cost of paying for the Federal debt. But it was more than that. They increased the cost of home payments for people who have adjustable rate mortgages.

My point is this. When the Federal Reserve Board meets and decides it is going to mandate another interest rate increase, I just say, within 30 days you have a responsibility to tell us and tell the President what this increase will cost. The reason I make this suggestion is that I asked at a recent hearing of Federal officials what did this cost, your five or six interest rate increases last year? Do you know what was the cost of it, and who is going to pay it? They had not studied it.

So I am saying I would like the Fed to study it and give us a report. I will offer that amendment as well to this legislation, and I hope that some of my colleagues will support that and that we could add that provision to the unfunded mandates bill.

Let me finish where I began on this subject. This is a piece of legislation that I believe will be supported by substantial numbers in both political parties. Most of us understand it has been too easy to impose mandates on others, both State and local governments and, also, the private sector. There are mandates that are important, necessary, and which I support. We would not want, I believe, in this country, to decide we will retreat on the question of child labor. We have child labor laws prohibiting the hiring of 12-year-olds and paying them 12 cents a hour. We would not want to retreat on that. We would not want to retreat on the issues of worker safety. Should we have a safe workplace? Should we have child labor laws? There are dozens and dozens of things that we have done that helped create a better country. They are important and they have been in mandates.

But in recent years it has been too easy. In recent years there has been a call for us to be more responsible, and that is what this legislation says. Let us understand what this mandate is, who it costs and what it costs. If we do understand, we will make this Senate a better legislative body.

I hope that next week when we really debate this bill, Senators will not tell us that this bill is just the way it has to be as it comes out of committee and that they oppose all amendments. This bill is not perfect. I helped work on it and I know it is not perfect, and that is why I think we ought to have a free and open exchange, agree to some amendments where amendments have merit, and get this bill ready for final passage. We will have accomplished something together as Republicans and Democrats, and we will be responding to what I think is a real problem.

Mr. President, with that I yield the floor, and I make a point of order a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOTE

Due to a printing error, the following statement from the RECORD of January 10 is reprinted in correct form at this point.

#### A MAN OF MANY TALENTS— SENATOR BENNETT JOHNSTON

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Madison in the Federalist No. 53 states, in part, as follows:

No man can be a competent legislator who does not add to an upright intention and a sound judgment a certain degree of knowledge of the subjects on which he is to legislate. A part of this knowledge may be acquired by means of information which lie within the compass of men in private as well as public stations. Another part can only be attained, or at least thoroughly attained, by actual experience in the station which requires the use of it.

In the same Federalist paper, Madison writes as follows:

A few of the members, as happens in all such assemblies, will possess superior talents; will, by frequent reelections, become members of long standing; will be thoroughly masters of the public business, and perhaps not unwilling to avail themselves of those advantages. The greater the proportion of new members and the less the information of the bulk of the members, the more apt will they be to fall into the snares that may be laid for them.

Mr. President, I speak today of a Senator who has demonstrated superior talents, a Senator with 22 years of experience in this body—Madison, having referred to men of "superior talents" and also to the advantages of

"experience"—and BENNETT JOHNSTON is that man of whom I speak.

There is no department of public life in which the test of man's ability is more severe than service in this body. Little deference is paid to reputation previously acquired or to eminent performances won elsewhere. What a man accomplishes in this Chamber, he does so by sheer force of his own character and ability. It is here that one must be prepared to answer for the many talents or for the single talent committed to his charge.

BENNETT JOHNSTON came to this body 22 years ago as a man of many talents. He did not wrap his talents in a napkin or hide them in the earth, as both Luke the Physician and Matthew make reference, but he put them to use that they might bear increase for his State, for his country, for the Senate, and for his fellow man. He has proved himself to be a superior legislator. I have served with him these 22 years on the Committee on Appropriations. He has proved himself to be a man with courage, with vision, with conviction, a man who is diligent in his work and faithful to his oath of office.

As the chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations during the last 6 years, I found him always to be conscientious and a man of his word. Fully aware of the admonition by Polonius that "those friends thou hast and their adoption tried, grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel," it is with pride that I call BENNETT JOHNSTON friend. It is with sincere sadness that I have heard of his decision and I regret that, with the passing of these final 2 years of his term, the Senate will have witnessed the departure of one who has effectively toiled here in its vineyards and who has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues. The people of the State of Louisiana chose well when, by the exercise of their franchise, they sent him here. Someone will be selected to take his place, just as someone will, in due time, stand in the place of each of us here.

After he lays down the mantle of service, we shall feel the same revolution of the seasons, and the same Sun and Moon will guide the course of our year. The same azure vault, bespangled with stars, will be everywhere spread over our heads. But I shall miss him, just as I know others will miss BENNETT JOHNSTON. Other opportunities will come to him, other horizons will stretch out before him, and he will sail his ship on other seas.

Erma and I will miss BENNETT and Mary, but the memories of these past years during which we have been blessed to render service together to the Nation will always linger in our hearts.

I think of lines by Longfellow as being appropriate for this occasion:

I shot an arrow into the air;  
It fell to earth I knew not where,  
For so swiftly it flew, the sight  
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air;  
It came to earth, I knew not where,  
For who has sight so swift, so strong  
That it can follow the flight of song?  
Long, long afterwards, in an oak,  
I found the arrow still unbroke,  
And the song, from beginning to end,  
I found again in the heart of a friend.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, anyone even remotely familiar with the U.S. Constitution knows that no President can spend a dime of Federal tax money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by Congress—both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

So when you hear a politician or an editor or a commentator declare that "Reagan ran up the Federal debt" or that "Bush ran it up," bear in mind that it was, and is, the constitutional duty and responsibility of Congress to control Federal spending. Congress has failed miserably in that task for about 50 years.

The fiscal irresponsibility of Congress has created a Federal debt which stood at \$4,798,792,100,063.36 as of the close of business Tuesday, January 10. Averaged out, every man, woman, and child in America owes a share of this massive debt, and that per capita share is \$18,216.30.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

#### CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 2, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2) to make certain laws applicable to the legislative branch of the Federal Government.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG] is recognized to offer an amendment, in which there will be 20 minutes under the control of the Senator from New Jersey and 5 minutes under the control of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY].

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank the Presiding Officer.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 15

(Purpose: To reduce the pay of Members of Congress by the same percentage as other spending is reduced in any sequester caused by the failure of Congress to meet budget limitations on spending, or the budget deficit)

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG] proposes an amendment numbered 15.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place in the bill insert the following new section:

#### SEC. . REDUCTION OF PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN EVENT OF SEQUESTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601(a) of the Legislation Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking out "as adjusted by paragraph (2)" and inserting in lieu thereof "as adjusted by paragraphs (2) and (3)"; and

(2) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

"(3)(A) The annual rate of pay for each position described under paragraph (1) shall be reduced (for the period beginning on the effective date under subparagraph (B)(i)(I) through the end of the fiscal year in which such adjustment takes effect) by the percentage necessary to reduce the total annual pay for such position by the uniform percentage determined under—

"(i) section 251(a)(2) of the Balanced Budget Emergency Deficit Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a)(2)) in any fiscal year in which there is a sequester under section 251 of such Act;

"(ii) section 252(c)(1)(C) of the Balanced Budget Emergency Deficit Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 902(c)(1)(C)) in any fiscal year in which there is a sequester under section 252 of such Act; and

"(iii) section 253(e) of the Balanced Budget Emergency Deficit Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 903(e)) in any fiscal year in which there is a sequester under section 253 of such Act.

"(B)(i)(I) An adjustment under subparagraph (A) shall take effect on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after the date on which an intervening election of the Congress occurs following the sequester.

"(II) Effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after October 1 of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which an adjustment to effect under subclause (I), the rate of pay for each position described under paragraph (1) shall be the rate of pay which would be in effect if not for the provisions of this paragraph.

"(ii) If more than one adjustment would take effect on the same date in accordance with clause (i)(I), each applicable percentage determined under subparagraph (A) (i), (ii), and (iii) shall be added, and the resulting percentage shall be used in making a single adjustment."

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives may prescribe regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act relating to the applicable Members of Congress.