

this year—to curb wasteful tax and spending provisions.

We must not let another year go by without the President having authority to eliminate special interest provisions, such as the tax benefits that were targeted to individual businesses earlier this year in H.R. 831.

I am disappointed that six weeks after the Senate passed its version of line-item veto legislation, neither body has appointed conferees. As you may recall, I commended the House and the Senate last month for passing line-item veto legislation. However, the job is not complete until a bill is sent to my desk that provides strong line-item veto authority that can be used this year.

I have consistently urged the Congress to pass the strongest possible line-item veto. While both the House and Senate versions would provide authority to eliminate wasteful spending and tax provisions, the House-passed bill is much stronger—and more workable.

I appreciate your making passage of line-item veto legislation a priority. I look forward to working with the Congress to enact the line-item veto quickly.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.

—
THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, June 7, 1995.

Hon. ROBERT DOLE,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEADER: I am deeply alarmed by today's press report that some Republicans in the House and Senate want to continue to hold back the line-item veto so that I don't have it during this year's budget process. The line-item veto is a vital tool to cut pork from the budget. If this Congress is serious about deficit reduction, it must pass the strongest possible line-item veto immediately, and send it to my desk so I can sign it right away.

This is not a partisan issue. Presidents Reagan and Bush asked Congress for it time and again, and so have I. It was part of the Republican Contract with America. It has strong support from members of Congress in both parties and both houses. No matter what party the President belongs to or what party has a majority in Congress, the line-item veto would be good for America.

If Congress will send me the line-item veto immediately, I am willing to pledge that this year, I will use it only to cut spending, not on tax expenditures in this year's budget. I have already put you on notice that I will veto any budget that is loaded with excessive tax breaks for the wealthy. But I need the line-item veto now to hold the line against pork in every bill the Congress sends me.

The American people have waited long enough. Congress should give them and the Presidency the line-item veto without further delay.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Washington be given 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In addition to the Senator from California's 7 minutes?

Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized for 7 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

THE NOMINATION OF DR. HENRY FOSTER

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as my mother always told me when I was growing up—as a matter of fact, until I was very grown up—if you have your health you have everything. She said you can face anything, whatever the problem, if you have your health. You can handle it, and you can give it your best. I do not think that anyone disagrees with that, and I think it applies to our country as well. Clearly, if we, as Americans, live longer with a better quality of life, if we have children who are born healthy, who are born wanted, who are born loved, if our work force is healthy, we are more productive and our people can truly enjoy the blessings of liberty.

I do not think there would be much argument with that, even in this Senate where we argue about everything. I really do believe people would agree with that. If America is healthier, America is stronger, more productive.

So let us for the sake of debate agree on that point and move on. And I would think if we were to agree on that point, we would agree that it is time to vote on the Surgeon General, that it would be a good idea to confirm the one person who really is charged with guarding the Nation's health. That person is Dr. Henry Foster, President Clinton's nominee for Surgeon General. Dr. Henry Foster was nominated by President Clinton on February 2. He sent the nomination formally to the Senate on February 28. On May 2 and May 3, the hearings on Dr. Foster's nomination were held in the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, and on May 26 the committee favorably reported out the nomination by a vote of 9 to 7. Now it is June 13. This man was sent forward in February. It is June 13. We do not have a Surgeon General. We do not have a No. 1 doctor looking out for the health of this the greatest Nation of all. It is time to bring the nomination forward.

I do wish the majority leader were on the floor now because I had planned to ask him what his plans are for bringing the nomination forward. There have been some confusing signals. Sometimes I think it is going to come forward, and sometimes I am not so sure.

Dr. Henry Foster deserves a vote. It is the American way. We believe in fairness in our Nation. The bar was set very high for Dr. Foster. Why? Because he is an OB-GYN, an obstetrician/gynecologist and, therefore, yes, he has treated his patients as a good doctor would in this country, respecting their right to choose, guaranteeing their health, bringing thousands of babies into the world. And, yes, a very small percent of his practice involved a woman's right to choose.

Are we going to punish him because he is an OB-GYN? Are we going to be afraid of a few in this country who have tried to destroy Dr. Foster? This is the time to stand up and be counted. Whether you are for a woman's right to

choose or not, you do not punish a fine man like this who has brought thousands of babies into the world, who has helped countless people, many too poor to afford to pay.

Now, the majority leader sent out a proposed schedule from May to August. I have it here. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PROPOSED SCHEDULE, MAY-AUGUST 4

MAY

Budget resolution.
Supplemental—Rescission conference report.
Anti-terrorism bill.

JUNE

Telecommunications.
Welfare reform.
Regulatory reform.
Defense authorization.
Foreign operations authorization.
State reorganization/reauthorization.
Gift ban.
Appropriations—as available.
[Term Limits?].

JULY

Reconciliation.
Farm bill.
Crime bill.
Securities litigation reform.
Highway bill/Davis-Bacon repeal.
Appropriations—as available.

Mrs. BOXER. We have many things that we have to do, and they are all very important. But, my goodness, May, June, July, and nothing here about a vote on Dr. Foster. Are things so wonderful in our Nation in terms of our health that we can afford to go without a Surgeon General? I think my friend from Washington, immediately following my remarks, is going to show the problems that we face in this Nation in terms of our health.

Have we solved the problem of teen pregnancy—the epidemic, I should say, of teen pregnancy? Clearly not. Have we solved the problem of the resurgence of tuberculosis? Clearly not. Have we solved the problem of the AIDS epidemic? Alzheimer's? Lung cancer? Breast cancer? Parkinson's? Ovarian cancer? Heart disease? I am just naming a few.

Clearly, we have not solved those problems. In many of those areas, they are getting worse. And we deserve a Surgeon General to look after those problems day after day and hour after hour.

We face thousands of issues, you and I, Mr. President, from parks and open space to flood control to crime to foreign policy. The Surgeon General will look after the health of America 24 hours a day. We have a man who is up to the job and has shown his courage and his leadership. Standing up to the harshest and most unfair attacks, he came out of the committee on a 9-to-7 vote.

Why are we not taking up this nomination? I will tell you why. It is politics. It is Presidential politics. And that is wrong. We have lots of time for that. We have terrific candidates, and

we have a great President, and it is going to be a great campaign, but we should not bring it to this floor and hold up the nomination of the Surgeon General because everyone is going after some block of voters to prove that they can be more antichoice than the next candidate. That is wrong. A woman has a right to choose in this country.

The fact is we have a Surgeon General nominee who has the greatest record in stopping teen pregnancy.

Mr. President, there are those who say: What does the Surgeon General do anyway? I am going to go through a little of this, and if my time runs out, I will be back tomorrow. I am going to be back every day, every day, asking where is this nomination. It is not the American way to keep a kind and decent man waiting like this since February. We have had Surgeon Generals who have done some incredibly important things in terms of the fight against smoking, syphilis, AIDS—it goes on. I will save that for another time.

So in my remaining moments here, Mr. President, I will summarize in this way. There is no reason not to schedule this vote. This man passed out of the committee on a 9-to-7 vote. He is fully qualified. He has met every test. And, yes, he is an OB-GYN. And I say to my friends, it is about time we had someone with that kind of experience of bringing babies into the world and taking care of women's health in the position of Surgeon General.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. MURRAY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington, Mrs. MURRAY, is recognized for 7 minutes.

Mrs. MURRAY. I thank the Chair.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I, too, today rise to urge the majority leader to bring the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster, Jr., for U.S. Surgeon General to the Senate floor for a vote.

I am very excited about the nomination of Dr. Foster to be U.S. Surgeon General. Dr. Foster is an OB-GYN, and I appreciate the importance of his practice area to families and children. For far too long in this Nation, women's health concerns have been neglected by our Government. One example tells a whole story.

A National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute study of 22,000 physicians begun in 1981 found that men who took aspirin every other day reduced their incidence of heart attacks. The Institute claimed that women were not included in the study because to do so would have increased the cost. As a result, today we do not know whether this prevention strategy would help women, harm them, or have no effect.

Gender equity in medical research has received increased attention over the past few years. We no longer will tolerate a Government-funded heart disease study which includes 22,000 men

and excludes women altogether. Given that heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women, we expect women to be included in clinical trials.

We still have a long way to go. Women are the fastest growing demographic group among those diagnosed with HIV. We suffer from clinical depression at rates twice that of men. And we frequently are the victims of domestic violence.

It is imperative that the leading public health official in our Nation be a forceful spokesperson on these issues.

Everyone agrees we need to reduce teen pregnancy because it is a national priority. We need a Surgeon General who understands the link between sexual abuse, adolescent pregnancy, and building self-esteem among at-risk youth.

Dr. Foster has experience in reducing teen pregnancy. His "I Have a Future" program was named a "Point of Light" by President Bush because of its pioneering work. Dr. Foster has successfully demonstrated his ideas about public health strategies that can greatly benefit our Nation. He has focused not only on preventing teen pregnancy but on preventing drug abuse, reducing infant mortality and ending smoking by children. He is a physician with vision, and he is a caring and honorable man.

When I first met with him a few months ago, he mentioned the opening lecture he gives to medical students. He spoke passionately about the importance of obstetrics and gynecology. He told me he reminds new OB-GYN's that without their work there would be no art or architecture; without healthy women and children there would be nothing.

Some politicians would have the 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. Let us not tolerate the disqualification of this candidate because of his basic practice area. Dr. Foster has dedicated his life to women's health, the welfare of children, and the well-being of families.

Meanwhile, the clock is ticking. Dr. Joyce Elders resigned her post, as was stated, on December 9, 1994. This nomination was sent to the Senate on February 2, the nomination papers were filed February 28, and the committee voted this out on May 26, 1995. Our Nation has now gone 6 months without a Surgeon General, and the clock is ticking.

Every 15 seconds a woman is battered. And that is not all. Let me share with my colleagues that the clock is ticking and every 59 seconds a baby is born to a teen mother. Every year, alcohol causes the death of nearly 20,000 Americans. Every 17 minutes, AIDS takes another American life. Every year, over 144,000 Americans will suffer a stroke. We need a national public health spokesperson, and we need a Surgeon General.

This year alone, 95,400 men will die of lung cancer; 62,000 women will die of

lung cancer; 51,000 Americans will die of AIDS; 46,000 women will die of breast cancer; 40,000 men will die of prostate cancer; and 14,500 women will die of ovarian cancer.

Mr. President, we need a national public health spokesperson. We need a Surgeon General, and we need a vote in the Chamber of the Senate on the nomination of Surgeon General.

I, too, will be back on this floor reminding my colleagues it has been 6 months and the clock keeps ticking. We want a vote.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO W.W. "SON" WEATHERFORD

MR. HEFLIN. Mr. President, we were greatly saddened on May 24 by the death of W.W. Weatherford. At 81 years of age, "Son," as he was widely known, had lived a life in which he devoted much of his time and energy to his local community.

Son Weatherford served others just by carrying out the activities of his day-to-day life. He ran the family business—the Weatherford Store, in Vina, AL, and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Russellville, serving as both a deacon and a Sunday School teacher.

Son improved his community through the offices he held and the organizations to which he belonged. He was probate judge for Franklin County, eventually becoming president of the Alabama Probate Judges Association. He was the chairman of the Franklin County, Commission, president of the Alabama Association of County Commissioners, and served as State director of the State Mental Health Board. He fought for his country in World War II and became a member of the American Veterans Association and the Red Bay American Legion. Son was also a Mason and a charter member of the Bear Creek Watershed Association. He was president of the Russellville Chamber of Commerce and was once recognized by that community as its Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

W.W. "Son" Weatherford will be sorely missed by the people of the town to which he devoted so much of his energy, the family that he leaves behind, and all those fortunate enough to have known him over the years. I offer my condolences to his wife, Iva Jo, and their entire family in the wake of this tremendous loss.

TRIBUTE TO COMDR. ROBERT MEISSNER, USN

MR. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the dedication, public service, and patriotism of Comdr. Robert M. Meissner, U.S. Navy, on the occasion of his retirement after 20 years of faithful service to our Nation.

Today Commander Meissner, a 1975 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, is