

The problem is further compounded by the certainty that while upper income families are receiving the benefit of the lion's share of these tax cuts, they secure a much smaller percentage of their income from Government benefits than average families at lower- and middle-income levels. Upper income families would be affected the least by budget cuts necessary to balance the budget and pay for further tax cuts, primarily for their benefit.

We are giving these benefits to the wealthy at a very high price to the country. At a time when we should be focusing on fiscal restraint, further deficit reduction and spending cuts, the Republicans instead are focusing on tax cuts.

The proposals in the contract are simply a recycling of the hollow promises from 1981: large tax cuts, defense spending increases, and a balanced budget. That is what they said then; that is what they are saying now. They did not keep their promises then and they can't do it now.

The Reagan administration predicted the economy would improve from a \$55 billion budget deficit in 1981 to a surplus of \$5.8 billion in 1985. In reality, the Federal deficit actually rose during that period to \$212 billion—another gap between rhetoric and reality. They inherited a deficit of \$55 billion and they ran it up to \$212 billion, all the while saying they would achieve a surplus.

Mr. President, the contract is just as irresponsible. The contract's tax cuts will cost \$364 billion, and the Republican defense increases will add another \$82 billion. That means the Republicans need \$1.4 trillion of spending cuts to balance the budget by the year 2002. Let me repeat: The Republicans need \$1.4 trillion in spending cuts over the next 7 years to balance the budget after their tax cuts and after their defense increases.

But where are their spending cuts? Where are they? "Where is the beef?" The only specific cuts the contract identified add up to \$277 billion over the next 7 years, not even enough to pay for their tax cut proposal, let alone start to balance the budget.

The bottom line is that there is a \$1.2 trillion—not million, not billion, \$1.2 trillion—Republican credibility gap, the gap between Republican rhetoric and Republican reality. It gives new meaning to the phrase "Don't ask, don't tell." That is the economic policy the Republicans are asking the American people to buy—a pig in a poke. "We will balance the budget." The problem is \$1.4 trillion. They have shown \$277 billion of spending cuts. Where is the rest? Where is the other \$1.2 trillion?

You really have to wonder what the Republicans are hiding from the American people.

We have seen these sorts of promises before, so we know what is going to happen. These tax breaks for the wealthy will end up busting the budget and the middle class will get stuck

with the bill in one of two ways. Either they will be paying through huge cuts in middle class programs, from Medicare to student loans to keeping our highways in good repair, or they will pay with higher interest rates on home loans, car loans, and educational loans, and economic stagnation caused by falling investment in our future.

The Republicans have been enormously successful at selling their contract as a benefit to the middle class.

Mr. President, the reality is that, hidden in the fine print of the contract, are enormously expensive tax breaks for the wealthy that will bust our budget.

Instead of talking about more defense spending and tax breaks for the wealthy, the Republicans need to tell us their specific proposals for balancing the budget. Where are they going to cut the other \$1.2 trillion necessary to balance this budget? That is \$1,200 billion.

We are waiting to hear from the Republicans. Where are they going to make the cuts specifically? Not these nostrums, "Oh, we will maybe eliminate agriculture funding."

In closing, let me again say we have heard this all before. There was a credibility gap in the 1980's between what the Republicans promised and budget reality. Earlier, I said the Contract With America was a contract on the middle class.

I would warn those middle class Americans who listened to the promises of the Republicans in the 1980's. What happened to you? What happened was the rich got richer, the poor got poorer, and the middle class paid the bill.

Mr. President, political rhetoric in a campaign is one thing. Performing when one has the responsibility of governing is another thing. I call on the Republicans and I challenge the Republicans to come forward with their plan to balance the budget.

What are they going to do to close the gap between the \$1.48 trillion necessary to balance the budget over the next 7 years and the paltry \$277 billion of budget cuts they have identified? Where is the other \$1.2 trillion the Republicans need in spending cuts in order to balance this budget?

We are waiting. The American people are waiting. We wait with great interest to see how our friends on the other side of the aisle will begin to close the gap between rhetoric and reality.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today in honor and recognition of National Autism Awareness Week, January 9–15. Many of you may recognize autism from Dustin Hoffman's character in "Rainman." What some of you may not know is that autism is a neurological disorder that affects some

380,000 individuals in the United States today. Individuals with autism often have trouble with communication and social interaction; their brains don't process information in the same manner as yours or mine. Yet, some forms of autism are mild and individuals can be extremely talented in areas like math or music. Because of this vast range of impairment, autism is referred to as a spectrum disorder. It is a bewildering disability—a mystery science is still trying to unravel.

As we recognize National Autism Awareness Week, it is fitting that we also recognize the Autism Society of America, currently celebrating its 30th anniversary. The society offers those affected by autism and their parents and families, support and advocacy. The society has also been a persistent force on Capitol Hill, and I have been pleased to work with the society in our joint effort of advocating for increased funding for biomedical research. Last year, I was proud to play a role in directing the national Institutes of Health to hold the first ever national workshop in autism which is scheduled for this spring. This year I am looking forward to the findings and conclusions of the workshop.

Understanding is the beginning of acceptance and support. Awareness of the autism spectrum disorder is critical to further research efforts, eradicating discrimination and stigmatization, and improving the quality of the life of individuals with autism, as well as that of their friends and families. That is why it is important to recognize this week, and every week, as National Autism Awareness Week. The work we have before us cannot be completed in 1 week out of every year. It will require all of us, and every week.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this week as National Autism Awareness Week.

MEMORIAL TO BILL SMULLIN

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, with the passing of Bill Smullin, Oregon has lost another of its pioneers. Bill was for over 50 years a legendary figure in broadcasting and was, in the words of a National Association of Broadcasters chairman, "a great standard-bearer for all broadcasters."

Growing up in the shadow of Mt. Hood as the son of homesteaders, Bill Smullin was one of the first newspapermen to make the transition to broadcasting. Acquiring first radio, then television and cable operations, Bill built his California Oregon Broadcasting Co. into a sophisticated, cutting-edge system which featured the best technology had to offer.

Bill's interest in serving rural areas was avid. In an effort to ensure that smaller television markets had access to films, he helped form Television Station, Inc., in the 1960's, which bought and distributed films to rural stations. About the same time, Bill

formed Pacific Teletronics, a micro-wave company which brought rural residents television programming from stations located hundreds of miles away.

His contributions to the broadcasting profession's development were also numerous. He helped found and organize associations of broadcasting awards from both organizations. Five years ago he was named recipient of the National Association of Broadcaster's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. At a ceremony held during the NAB's annual convention, Bill was given the award commemorating his then-57 years of service to the industry. True to form, Bill used this forum not to reflect upon his personal successes and the advances of the broadcasting industry. Instead, Bill took the opportunity to share his concerns about congressional oversight actions were underway at that time.

Bill Smullin was never one to rest on his many laurels. He gave much to the southern Oregon community where he made his home, to several educational institutions in Oregon and California, and to community hospitals. He was a legendary figure and a friend, and I send my sympathies to his family and friends as we mourn our loss.

DEATH OF JIM FLEMING

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it was great sadness that I learned the death of Jim Fleming last week. Jim, as all my colleagues know, has been the administrative assistant to our colleague, Senator FORD since 1975. During that time he also served as Senator FORD's staff for matters coming before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and its predecessor, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Mr. President, Jim Fleming was one of the true professionals who are responsible for the operation of the Senate. He was respected and liked by the staff on both sides of the aisle. During the 14 years that I and my staff have known him, he was always considerate and helpful. His expertise will be sorely missed not only in areas such as uranium enrichment and utility regulation, but on all the other issues that come before the committee where he was able to see where the differences on issues lay and where a constructive compromise was possible. I know that his death will be an enormous loss to Senator FORD, but it will also be a major loss for our committee and our Members and staff who have known and relied on him for these years.

I want to express my deepest sympathies to his two children and my sincere condolences to Senator FORD. Jim had been with Senator FORD since 1967 and I know how close their relationship has been. We will miss him as well.

TRIBUTE TO EDUARDO MATA

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to mourn the passing of the greatest Mexican conductor of recent years, who was a fixture in the culture of Dallas since 1977.

Eduardo Mata was born in Mexico City in the 1940's, studied at the Mexican National Conservatory, and won a Koussevitzky Fellowship to study at Tanglewood with Max Rudolf, Erich Leinsdorf, and Gunther Schuller. He led several orchestras before becoming music director of the Dallas Symphony in 1977. He has been beloved throughout north Texas ever since, because he brought the symphony into the first rank of American orchestras.

He was also important to the musical life of our Nation because he championed a number of Latin American composers whose works had been neglected in the United States. He made a point of programming their works in concerts around the country and recorded many of them in Caracas with the distinguished Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Mata died recently when his plane crashed in Mexico, but his recordings and performances remain dear to all who heard them.

Mr. President, Texans will miss his lively presence at the podium of the wonderful Morton Meyerson concert hall, but we celebrate the hall itself, which Mata encouraged Dallas to build. We will also continue to enjoy the orchestra he built as it fills that hall with music from every continent.

THE WALLOWA COUNTY-NEZ PERCE SALMON HABITAT RECOVERY PLAN

Mr. PACKWOOD. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a very special effort by a group of Oregonians that could serve as a model for this body in the 104th Congress.

Wallowa County in the northeast corner of my home State is one of Oregon's smallest counties. Yet, that has not stopped the devastating effects of the sole-purpose Endangered Species Act from being felt there. Just this year alone, two sawmills have closed in Wallowa County, taking away over 100 jobs. This is a significant impact on a population of only 7,000.

Every Senator knows my feelings on the Endangered Species Act, and the critical need that it be changed to reflect the needs of people as well as bugs and plants. I am quite hopeful that we will soon reform this act so that the families in Wallowa County and throughout Oregon who have been so gravely injured by it can be made whole.

But I will not use my time today to restate my concerns about the Endangered Species Act and the tens of thousands of families whose hopes and dreams it has shattered in my State in the past 5 years. Instead, I want to focus on the positive response the people of Wallowa County have had to the

listing of several species of salmon on the Columbia-Snake River System.

Residents of Wallowa County and representatives of the Nez Perce tribe, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, have developed the Wallowa County-Nez Perce Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan. This plan is a responsible, locally developed effort to protect not only habitat for threatened and endangered species, but also to protect the people of northeastern Oregon and their economic base. This plan takes into account the deteriorating condition of the northeast Oregon forests, as well as the need for timber cutting and salvage, species protection, cattle grazing, and other uses.

Here is a working example of what Americans asked for when they went to the polls. This is not some huge new bureaucratic effort seeking to manage the public lands of Wallowa County by remote control from Washington, DC. Instead, the people affected put their heads together, and using the best information available, crafted a workable, meaningful plan. If there was any single message last November, it was a cry for less Government intrusion. My friends in Wallowa County have been sending that message for a long time.

The bureaucracy's response was, unfortunately, predictable. The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Forest Service have refused to adopt this site specific plan that can be put into place, and begin to have a positive effect, immediately. Instead, these agencies have settled on waiting for an overall framework called "PACFISH," to be ready for implementation. PACFISH is not site specific, and calls for extensive nonmanagement areas. It certainly was not developed with Wallowa County's specific needs in mind, and reflects now-outdated radical preservationist dogma.

I believe that the citizens of Wallowa County, who, after all, are the ones who have to live with any final decisions that are made, deserve a great deal of credit for developing the Wallowa County-Nez Perce Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan. I believe this document should, and will, become the lead plan for salmon habitat recovery in Northeast Oregon.

There is hope for the families of Wallowa County in this Congress. I believe we will be able to take strong action to reform this Nation's restrictive environmental laws and regulations. Until that day comes, however, the families of Wallowa County are not simply waiting for change. They are promoting change, and sending us a message that is unmistakable. I hope we are all listening.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I doubt that there have been many, if any, candidates for the Senate who have not solemnly pledged to do something