

States, the number of people affected in Missouri, in Kansas, or in Minnesota by low-income housing energy assistance, or Illinois. I would have laid out some important data. I would have talked about real people who are behind these statistics, and I would have talked about offsets.

But in all due respect to the majority leader to come out at the end and say: I will roll them all into one amendment and have 10 minutes and then move to table—I do not legislate that way. I do not know too many Senators who really find that acceptable when it is the issue you have been working on for the people you are trying to represent.

So I hope that we will be back on this bill right away, and we will go forward with the discussion. I hope that we can work out a satisfactory agreement. In any case, I intend to keep on speaking and keep on fighting, not with malice, not with bitterness, but with dignity, and face the policy that I honestly believe in.

I yield the floor.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Thank you very much.

Mr. President, this morning has been difficult for all of us. But I have to say that particularly when some of the pages came over and spoke to me a while ago, I could not help but be reminded of how it is, particularly in this U.S. Senate, in this legislative body, that one person really can make a difference.

And if a person, a Senator, cares deeply about something, then that Senator has the right and the opportunity to make the case, to make a point, and to raise the issue. Sometimes in raising the issue, it results in change. Sometimes it does not. But certainly, raising the issue is of primary and critical importance.

I have not been here long enough. But, at the same time, I am a Senator, and I was elected by my State. I am called on to be the voice for the people who sent me here, and to stand up for interests and concerns of the voters and citizens of my State.

I believe that it is of real importance to raise the fact that the decisions in this bill represent misplaced priorities, that it ought to have been changed, and that the priorities represented ought to have been changed. I mean no disrespect to my colleagues on the committee who came up with this compromise—I know they worked hard and I know they felt strongly and feel strongly about the particulars in this bill. But if anything, that is what legislation represents—ideas. That is what it is. It is an idea. If the idea has a flaw in it, then I think it is our obligation to get up and say there is something wrong with it.

That is why I came to the floor this morning with Senator WELLSTONE. I

have and will continue to say that it is wrong to take money away from job training opportunities for our disadvantaged teenagers. I think it is wrong to take money away from senior citizens who may need heating assistance. I think it is wrong to say we are not going to start fixing up some of the schools that make it almost impossible for students to learn.

I also thought that while there are some things about this bill that were good, that we could find the money to take care of these priorities.

I came to the Senate floor with Senator WELLSTONE to try to offer some amendments. But, as you know, the procedures are sometimes convoluted; the procedures are sometimes complex.

The bottom line result was that we were not given an opportunity to actually have a vote on our amendments in the context of the amendment process, and the bill was pulled.

I thought we could go to the bill. I think Senator WELLSTONE is right, that the bill will come back, that we will have another shot at it at some point in time if, indeed, this is the will of the leadership. I certainly did not want—and I know Senator WELLSTONE did not want—to annoy anybody or to put anybody out or to impair anybody's plans for vacation. But we have a responsibility, it seems to me, to do everything that is within our power to speak to the ideas that get floated around here as legislation.

I think this is one of those critical moments, as we start the debate of what kind of march are we going to take down that road to deficit reduction, we must also engage in the debate of how are we going to march down that road? Are we going to march down that road together, as Americans with a shared sacrifice and everybody pitching in, or are we going to march down that road stepping on the backs of the feet of the teenagers, the senior citizens, the poor, the vulnerable, and the people who cannot necessarily speak for themselves?

I tell you, Mr. President, that I believe what happened here this morning, I hope that what happened here this morning, will help to shape the debate about how we go about achieving deficit reduction and how we get on that glidepath to a balanced budget; and that, in having come out here and exercised our rights as legislators, that Senator WELLSTONE and I reached our colleagues on the television sets in their offices, or wherever they are right now, that we reached some people to suggest that as we go down that path, we have to go down that path in a way that recognizes that our future as Americans is inextricably wound together and that we cannot, we must not, take more sacrifice from one group than another; that the contributions ought to be based on the ability to contribute; that we do not call on people who are already hanging on by their fingernails, call on the least able in our society to give the most; and

that we can achieve this glidepath recognizing that investment in our people is the single most important investment we can make as Americans.

That I think is what this debate this morning was really about, or what we hoped it would be about. I had hoped to offer two amendments. Senator WELLSTONE also had amendments. We did not get that chance. But I know we will have a chance to do so. I hope we will have a chance to do so on this legislation or some other legislation as we go down this process, as we move toward adjournment.

Mr. President, I say to my colleagues, as we approach these issues, let us recognize that really we do have an obligation to talk to one another and to try to work these issues out in a way that is fair to all Americans—not just some Americans, but every American—including those who do not have the wherewithal to weigh in with lobbyists and the like.

I thank the Chair very much, and I yield the floor.

Mr. ASHCROFT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized for 10 minutes under the previous unanimous consent order.

Mr. ASHCROFT. I thank the Chair.

#### THE RESCISSIONS BILL

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I am pleased to have this opportunity to make comments about the rescissions bill which has been before us but which has been withdrawn from consideration as a result of the unwillingness on the part of the Senator from Illinois and the Senator from Minnesota to allow amendments to be voted on.

Just moments ago, the Senator from Illinois said that there were amendments which she had prepared which she hoped she would have the opportunity to submit. I recall this morning having listened to the leader ask specifically that amendments be submitted. He asked not only that the Senator from Illinois submit amendments for consideration but asked that the Senator from Minnesota submit amendments for consideration. Over and over again, they would deny that they wanted to submit amendments; they would refuse to submit amendments.

Then I saw the leader, the majority leader, come to this podium and say I have heard the debate and I will craft an amendment which will reflect the concerns of the Senator from Illinois and the Senator from Minnesota, and I will submit that amendment so that we can have a vote so that the Senate can express itself in regard to the amendment, if I can have unanimous consent to do that.

The objections which were heard in this Chamber at that time were the objections from the very Senators who now say they were deprived of an opportunity to forward such concerns and have a vote on their concerns.

I find that to be confusing, and it is troublesome because every effort was made and every deference was given to those individuals in this Chamber to submit their own amendments.

Then absent their own capacity to submit their amendments, the majority leader generously offered to formulate and submit an amendment in their behalf so that there could be a vote reflecting those concerns, and they simply refused to allow those concerns to be reflected in an amendment.

I want the RECORD to be clear on this. Mr. President, the majority leader made the opportunity clear and made it expansive for amendments to be provided here. No amendments were offered.

Second, when the majority leader himself offered in their behalf an amendment and needed unanimous consent in order to so do, they objected to that amendment.

It is clear to me that the opportunity for amending the rescissions package was thorough and substantial, and that the majority leader bent over backwards in order to make those concerns not available as opportunities but to put them in a position and posture whereupon they could be voted. But the objection to that procedure was, in fact, made by those individuals who had later protested that they had not had the opportunity.

Let me just say that we have worked on this issue since early this morning, and that the rescissions bill is a bill, the content of which is well known. In general, it restores \$772 million of proposed rescissions and cuts an additional \$794 million in the fiscal year 1995 appropriations, for a total rescissions of \$16.4 billion. It passed the House by a vote of 276 to 151.

The suggestion by individuals in this Chamber that you could not know what was in this bill, that there had been inadequate information or time for consideration, I do not believe, is an accurate suggestion.

The restored funding included \$225 million for safe drinking water, \$105 million to the so-called AmeriCorps volunteer program. That is what it costs us just in this bill in increased funding over our previous effort at rescissions to support the President's so-called volunteer program in which he pays each volunteer \$15,000 a year. Of course, then it requires a \$15,000 commitment to the bureaucracy to support that volunteer program.

There was \$220 million in safe/drug free schools restored funding in this rescissions package; \$120 million in education and job training that was restored in this rescissions package over the previous rescissions package.

It was interesting to hear objection raised that we are somehow depriving opportunities for job training, and the Senator from Minnesota said this was an unconscionable bill. I wonder if that is the way he views his President's recommendation that this bill be passed and assurance that he would sign the

bill if the bill were to be presented to him.

When the Senator from Illinois talked about job training, I wonder if she was referring to the fact that \$120 million was restored in this bill in the area of job training and that there was \$102 million in community development block grants, and that this measure as a matter of fact had \$39 million as an increase in the 1995 appropriations in miscellaneous housing, community and education programs.

Well, I could go on and on. Much was said this morning about a general who had spent \$100,000 moving an airplane and asking that he be transported, and I do not think we ought to have generals abusing air travel privileges. That is why I think we ought to support this rescissions bill. This rescissions bill cuts \$375 million in Government administration travel. We need to cut that. We need to delete that. And yet under the guise of complaining about travel abuses we have stopped the consideration of a bill which would cut \$375 million in Government administrative travel.

I believe that the efforts have been counterproductive in this Chamber today. I believe that they have failed to achieve the purposes which they have stated—as a matter of fact, they have turned in on themselves. And the very things they said they sought to assist—job training, cutting abuses, travel abuses in the administration—as a matter of fact, would have been addressed in this rescissions bill, but we were simply denied the opportunity to consider them today.

They talked about LIHEAP, the energy program. What we really need to talk about today is the fact that we must make progress toward bringing Government spending into balance with Government resources, and in order to do that we are going to have to make some cuts. We are going to have to make some adjustments.

We are looking at the Fourth of July. That is Independence Day. We should be thinking about legislation in the context of independence. We should be thinking about legislation in the context of freeing ourselves from debt. This was an opportunity to free ourselves from expenditures totaling \$9.3 billion, with a consensus reached by House leaders, by Senate leaders, by the White House, some way that we could begin to get a handle on the deficit, and we were refused.

One of the reasons is there is no willingness to cut the so-called LIHEAP program. Let us look at what LIHEAP represents.

Back in the 1970's, when energy prices more than doubled, there was a special program to take the sting out of the massive increase in energy costs. This was a special program to help people buy fuel oil for their homes. The price for energy now has gone below where it was before the crisis. And yet while the energy price has gone down, the LIHEAP program has gone up and up and up.

Eventually, if we are going to do what the people of this great Nation sent us here to do—and that is to get Government under control—we are at least going to have to look carefully at programs, the need for which is no longer existent but which grow as a result of the fact that bureaucrats who want to buy the favor of citizens continue to build and build and build the programs.

Mr. President, we have had today an opportunity which is sorely missed—missed because there are those who would have, they said, improved the future for our children. I do not think maintaining debt improves the future for America. Virtually every child born today faces interest payments on the Federal debt of nearly \$200,000 over their lifetime. We must not saddle the yet unborn children whose wages are yet unearned with the burden, the incredible burden of that kind of weight, a weight in interest costs on the Federal debt.

We must get it under control. It is time for us to curtail the \$4.9 trillion debt of this country, and the first step, the step agreed to by the House in an overwhelming vote, agreed to by the President of the United States, agreed to by the leadership of the Senate, was to make the \$9.3 billion downpayment of rescissions.

It has been said loudly and sometimes very sincerely that we maybe did not need a balanced budget amendment. We simply needed to have the capacity to balance the budget. I wonder about our capacity. If we do not have the ability and discipline when we come to a negotiated conclusion about what can be done, what ought to be done to restrict spending, even by a small amount like \$9.3 billion as it relates to the trillion dollar budget of this country, I wonder if we have much opportunity for success.

So I heard the debate this morning, the debate of apologies between individuals about, oh, it was terrible that we had to rescind these funds. I am here to say that I do not apologize for rescinding funds, funds that we can no longer spend at the expense of the next generation. It is time for us to be serious about curtailing the debt of the United States of America to save the next generation and their opportunities.

Independence Day is but a few days away. Unfortunately, independence from debt is not that close, but it is time for us to make a beginning.

Mr. President, happy Fourth of July.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you very much. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. BYRD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized for 10 minutes.