

grazing, mining, timbering, oil and gas exploration, or whether we are going to depend on imports.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

DECEMBER 5, 1995.

Hon. PAUL WELLSTONE,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WELLSTONE: Now that I am of voting age, I have taken a deep interest in the affairs of my nation, and particularly my state. The nation is facing a growing national debt that we must stop. Alaska proposed a solution to help this problem which you voted against, that is, the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil exploration. I hope that you will reconsider your decision with some information that I hope to bring to your attention. If we opened the 1002 area to drilling, not only would it help to solve the national debt, but it would also decrease our dependence on foreign oil.

In 1980, Congress set aside 1.5 million acres out of a total of 19 million acres in ANWR so that it could be studied and considered for oil exploration and named it the 1002 area. The studies have been done and it is time to open it for drilling. Geologists have found that there is considerable evidence that sizable quantities of oil could be found in the Arctic Oil Reserve and recommend opening the AOR for drilling. Don't believe those that tell you that ANWR is America's last wilderness. In fact, more than 192 million acres of the State of Alaska are already protected as either National Parks, Preserves, Refuges, Marine parks and other federal and state conservation units. The 1002 area is not designated as a wilderness. Studies show that more than 99 percent of ANWR would remain untouched if oil drilling were to take place. A study done by the Office of Technology Assessment found that fewer than 2000 acres of the 1.5 million acres in the 1002, less than 5 percent, would be affected. You can see by that study that drilling will only affect the environment in minute ways. Modern day technologies will allow us to drill for oil safely without hurting the environment.

You may ask how opening ANWR will affect your state and America? Economists are estimating that if ANWR was opened to drilling, that it would create over 700,000 jobs all around the country. Not only would the United States benefit, but over 700,000 Americans would have job security in the oil industry for centuries to come. In a recent survey done around the country, very few people have even heard of ANWR. And when presented with the facts, they supported the idea of drilling in the 1002 Area.

Bi-partisan support for the opening of the Arctic Oil Reserve (1002 Area) is widespread throughout Alaska. Not only is it backed by the Alaska State Legislature, Governor Knowles, and most of Alaskan citizens, but the Alaska Federation of Natives endorses this plan as well. The majority of Alaska Natives feel that development of the reserve can only better their lives. If oil is found, it will eventually provide jobs, water and sewer systems, electric power, and security for their villages, while not sacrificing the wildlife on which they are so dependent. The Porcupine Caribou herd is of concern to Natives and to all Alaskans, but careful regulations were implemented at Prudhoe Bay and the Central Arctic caribou herd grew from 3,000 in 1972 to 18,000 today. This confirms that animals and development can coexist in the Arctic.

I hope that you use some of the facts that I have provided, continue to research the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and reconsider your decision. Development can only better the United States and Alaska. I believe there is nothing to lose in opening the Arctic Oil Reserve. If you would like more information, I would urge you to contact the Alaska Delegation. Please carefully decide, based on sound science—the obvious answer being that it is time to open the Arctic Oil Reserve. Americans and Alaskans both know that it is time.

Sincerely,

KELLY R. KING,
College Student.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

THE BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, first, I thank my distinguished colleague from North Dakota for allowing me to speak for a few minutes. We have had a little discussion about the snowstorm, which I think is all well and good. I want to return to the very serious subject on the negotiations relative to the Nation's budget. It has been my privilege to associate with the distinguished majority leader, the Senator from Kansas [Mr. DOLE], and the distinguished majority whip, the Senator from Mississippi, and others, who in the last 2 weeks have worked on these issues. I must say that I was extremely disappointed yesterday that a further resolution of this matter could not have been achieved by the President in good-faith negotiations on both sides, as characterized by the participants.

I had hoped that perhaps some of the can-do spirit manifested here in the Northeast as we cope individually and collectively with the storm could have been infused in those negotiations. But my concern, however, is over the hiatus between now and the proposed adjournment resolution, which I understand the Senate will soon be taking up. As it relates to my particular area of responsibilities, namely the Commonwealth of Virginia and particularly the adjoining areas in the greater metropolitan area, this geographic area has been severely hit economically as a consequence of this shutdown. First and foremost, the cost has been what I regard as an unfair burden placed upon the shoulders of Government public servants who, in good faith, tried to do their work but were furloughed. They were caught in a crossfire, which I think was totally unjust. Nevertheless, I and many others worked successfully to restore their work status and, indeed, their pay.

But, Mr. President, there is an entire infrastructure that, likewise, has suffered and will receive no restitution as a consequence of this shutdown. Hotel, motel, transportation, restaurants, and a vast array of the private sector, mostly small businesses, have been affected here in the greater metropolitan area, and most severely in northern Virginia and throughout the tidewater area of Virginia, by this shutdown.

My concern is whether, during this period of uncertainty, tourists and travelers will continue to come to the Nation's Capitol while a possible shutdown again hangs in abeyance until Congress returns and the negotiators again attempt to resolve this impasse. Take, for example, a family planning to come to the Nation's Capitol, having invested their hard-earned savings for a trip to see the wonders that we have here; are they still going to come?

I see the distinguished majority whip. I know from working with him and the majority leader that none of us wants to see a further Government shutdown. I hope that in a short colloquy we might convey as best we can, that it is highly unlikely that we would experience another shutdown such that it would impede and adversely affect the plans of people who normally would be visiting this area.

Mr. LOTT. If the Senator from Virginia will yield for a comment and response. First, I want to say how much I appreciate—and I want to make sure that all Members recognize that the distinguished senior Senator from Virginia has been very, very diligent over the past weeks when the Senate has just been in very brief sessions. When most Senators were back in their respective States during the holidays, I would turn on C-SPAN and I would see the Senator from Virginia here with our distinguished majority leader. The majority leader would report on the status of the budget discussions, and the Senator from Virginia was always here. He has made his case very well about not only the need to get a balanced budget and get a control on Washington, DC, but also his concern that the Government be open doing its work, and that the Federal employees, and indeed those that are affected by that shutdown that we had, the business men and women in Northern Virginia, that their positions be recognized. So he certainly has done an excellent job in that area.

With regard to what may be happening, of course, there are a number of things that may be happening in the next couple of weeks. I note the budget negotiators are senior Members that were there from the Congress, meeting with the administration. They have described this as a recess. In any negotiation you reach a point where you really do sometime need to take a break, get away from each other, assess what the numbers are. I assume the Budget Committee members and staff at the White House will be assessing the latest offers. So there is a possibility that the negotiations to reach an agreement would get back going next week.

I know the majority leader indicated very strongly that, whenever the President feels like there is a need for—a reason to get back and have discussions, that certainly our majority leader and the Speaker of the House and majority leader in the House would honor a request to get back together. So there is a possibility that will happen.

Another option, of course, is that some agreement could be reached. Then, during that week of January 22nd, 23rd, that agreement could perhaps be acted on by the Congress, and if there is an agreement reached I assume it would be approved relatively quickly—I hope so.

Another option is, then, when this continuing resolution to keep the Government operating until January 26—when we reach that point, I do not think there is any intent to have a situation where we would go back to a Government shutdown. That time has past. I feel like the Congress, House, and Senate, would try to take action that would avoid that and I know there would be a coordinated effort, hopefully, with the administration.

Of course there is always the necessity for legislation not only to be passed, but in order for it to be enacted, the President has to sign it. We have not had very good luck, lately, with the President signing measures we have sent to him.

But the intent, I believe, by the leadership on both sides of the aisle, is not to have another situation on January 26 where we would go into some sort of Government shutdown.

A BALANCED BUDGET

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague. Again, I commend him for his leadership throughout this period. That does provide, hopefully, a measure of reassurance.

This Senator is a very strong proponent and adherent to the concept of the 7-year balanced budget using the CBO figures. That is the cornerstone, because it is imperative that we redirect this Nation on a course of less Federal spending.

I shall not go into more philosophical points here. I align myself with the distinguished majority leader and the majority whip. You have led this side of the aisle in working with the other side to reach a resolution of this matter. So I am philosophically attuned and in full agreement with our leadership here. But I am concerned, again, about the economic impact here in the area that I represent.

I also must say, Mr. President, and I say to our distinguished leader, I am concerned about the national financial situation.

Mr. LOTT. Yes.

Mr. WARNER. Our financial markets—stocks, bonds, commodities and the like—are following this debate closely. The continued ability of this country to borrow, both domestically and internationally, at a reasonable rate of interest, depends on the resolution of this matter. So, while two Senators, and perhaps there are others who will join, can give some measure of reassurance at this time, I think only when final action is taken by the Congress and signed by the President of the United States, can we regain the

full confidence of the various financial institutions which are keenly aware of the actions taken here in the Congress.

So, I thank my distinguished leader, I thank the Senator from North Dakota. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

THE SHUTDOWN, THE BUDGET, AND TAX CUTS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, there has been some discussion today about the budget negotiations. I have a couple comments to add to this discussion.

First, with respect to the budget negotiations, there ought not be, under any condition, another Government shutdown. It is, in my judgment, a symbol for the entire country of failure when some people here in the Congress decide that shutting down the Government should be used to accomplish their ends.

A shutdown asks the American taxpayer to pay for work that is not performed. It asks some Federal employees to come to work and accept the promise of pay later, but it deprives them of their paycheck. It sends the other Federal workers home without pay, when they have bills to pay and obligations to meet and want to come to work.

The shutdown dangles Federal workers at the end of a string, saying to them: "You are the ones we will use as pawns in this budget debate."

Those who advocate shutdowns, and there are some, demonstrate that you can have a hard head and a cold heart at the same time. But that advocacy does not show any capacity to think this budget crisis through to a decent conclusion. We ought not have another Government shutdown under any conditions, because it serves no interests except to hurt this country. All of us, it seems to me, in Congress, ought to pledge never to let another Government shutdown happen again on our watch.

Now, about balancing the budget, we should balance the budget. I have said before and I will say again, because it is worth saying, I think the Republicans deserve credit for pushing for a balanced budget. You deserve credit for that. Democrats deserve credit for pushing a balanced budget with the right kind of priorities. We ought to get the best of both rather than the worst of each.

People talk about "families balance their budgets." Can anyone in here think about a family that sits around their table at night and says, "We need to develop a plan to balance our budget, so let's see, we are going to help our oldest son make payments on the Mercedes. We need to send a monthly stipend to rich Uncle Louie over in Nashville. How are we going to pay for all that? Let's cut back on mama's health care and let's pull junior out of college."

Does that sound like a logical approach for a family, in making their

decisions about how to deal with their budget situation? Not hardly. Nor is it the right way for Congress to deal with its budget situation.

Interestingly enough, we have come to a point where there is a lot of agreement on the budget-balancing question. There are a number of areas of agreement but there are a couple of large areas of disagreement.

Most people, in assessing this problem, would start by saying you do not balance the budget by cutting your revenue. I think everybody on all sides of the aisle ought to decide to abandon tax cuts at this point until we have honestly balanced the budget, and then come back and assess the question of how you change the tax code and how you cut taxes for middle-income families.

But I say to all parties in these negotiations, it would make sense, it seems to me, to abandon the proposals to cut taxes because I think everyone in this Chamber who thinks about it honestly will understand, every dollar of tax cut during the 7 years will be borrowed and added to the Federal deficit. Every single dollar of tax cut will be borrowed. I say abandon the tax cut. Deal with the spending issues in a real way, and let us balance the budget.

The problem we have at the moment is some are insisting on a tax cut well over \$200 billion. In order to make room for that, you have to have deeper cuts in Medicare. That is where the scales are balanced, or, better said, out of balance. In order to get this tax cut on this side up to \$12,000-some, you have to pull down the Medicare costs. You have to cut Medicare to accommodate the tax cut. That is the dilemma.

Abandon the tax cut, balance the budget honestly, reach an agreement, and do it in a way that represents the best interests of the priorities of the American people. Let us make sure we have enough money for education. Let us provide for health care for senior citizens. Let us do the things that are necessary to protect this country's environment. Let us do this the right way. It can be done.

There are good Republicans and good Democrats who think clearly about these things. We ought to be able to come together to reach an agreement, in my judgment.

TWO HEROES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to just briefly, today, talk about two Americans I wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues, two heroes of mine.

I never met them. I talked to one fellow on the phone the other day. A fellow named Robert Naegele and his wife Ellis. He started a company called Rollerblade, which some may know about, the largest in-line skate company in America. It was a story I read in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, when I traveled through Minneapolis the other day by plane.