

years. This year she was selected as the national Teacher of the Year for her significant contributions to education.

Mary Beth Blegen teaches social studies and English at Worthington Senior High School. Her principal, Bruce Blatti, describes her as a teacher who cares for her students inside and outside of the classroom.

Mary Beth Blegen's theater arts background allows her classroom to become an interactive learning center where student participation is an integral part of the process.

Whether it is history, humanities, or English literature, she allows her students to form their own ideas, discuss them and implement them.

This environment allows her to listen to her students and engage in conversation that enables students to bring out the best in themselves.

Teachers like Mary Beth Blegen represent the key to America's future. As our children face the challenges of the 21st century, it is dedicated educators like Mary Beth Blegen who accept the challenge of turning the young people of today into the leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. President, I hope that you and the rest of my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating one of America's outstanding educators.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO LIMIT CONGRESSIONAL TERMS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 21, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 21) proposing a constitutional amendment to limit congressional terms.

The Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution, with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and inserting the part printed in italic;

S.J. RES. 21

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

"ARTICLE—

"SECTION 1. After this article becomes operative, no person shall be elected to a full term as a Senator more than twice, or to a full term as a Representative more than six times; no person who has been a Senator for more than three years of a term to which some other persons was elected shall subsequently be elected as a Senator more than once; and no person who has been a Representative for more than a year of a term to which some other person was elected shall subsequently be elected as a Representative more than five times.

"SECTION 2. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

"SECTION 3. No election or service occurring before ratification of this article shall be taken into account when determining eligibility for election under section 1."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

AMENDMENT NO. 3692

(Purpose: To amend the joint resolution to change the length of limits on Congressional terms to 6 years in the House of Representatives and 12 years in the Senate)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. THOMPSON], for Mr. ASHCROFT, proposes an amendment numbered 3692.

Mr. THOMPSON. 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:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

"(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

"ARTICLE—

"SECTION 1. After this article becomes operative, no person shall be elected to a full term as a Senator more than twice, or to a full term as a Representative more than thrice; no person who has been a Senator for more than three years of a term to which some other person was elected shall subsequently be elected as a Senator more than once; and no person who has been a Representative for more than a year of a term to which some other person was elected shall subsequently be elected as a Representative more than twice.

"SECTION 2. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress."

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3693 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3692

(Purpose: To permit each State to prescribe the maximum number of terms to which a person may be elected to the House of Representatives and the Senate)

Mr. THOMPSON. I send a second-degree amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. THOMPSON], for Mr. BROWN, proposes an amendment numbered 3693 to amendment No. 3692.

Mr. THOMPSON. 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:

In lieu of the matter proposal to be inserted, insert the following: *"(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States:*

"ARTICLE—

"SECTION 1. Each State or the people thereof may prescribe the maximum number of terms to which a person may be elected or appointed to the Senate of the United States.

"SECTION 2. Each State or the people thereof may prescribe the maximum number of terms to which a person may be elected to the House of Representatives of the United States.

"SECTION 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress."

AMENDMENT NO. 3694

(Purpose: To provide a perfecting amendment)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. THOMPSON], for Mr. ASHCROFT, proposes an amendment numbered 3694.

Mr. THOMPSON. 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:

In the language proposed to be inserted, strike all after the first word and insert the following: *of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States:*

"ARTICLE—

"SECTION 1. After this article becomes operative, no person shall be elected to a full term as a Senator more than twice, or to a full term as a Representative more than thrice; no person who has been a Senator for more than three years of a term to which some other person was elected shall subsequently be elected as a Senator more than once; and no person who has been a Representative for more than a year of a term to which some other person was elected shall subsequently be elected as a Representative more than twice.

"SECTION 2. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress."

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3695 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3694

(Purpose: To permit each State to prescribe the maximum number of terms to which a person may be elected to the House of Representatives and the Senate)

Mr. THOMPSON. I send a second-degree amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. THOMPSON], for Mr. BROWN, proposes an amendment numbered 3695 to amendment No. 3694.

Mr. THOMPSON. 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:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following: "*of each House concurring therein*). That the following article is hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

"ARTICLE—

"SECTION 1. Each State or the people thereof may prescribe the maximum number of terms to which a person may be elected or appointed to the Senate of the United States.

"SECTION 2. Each State or the people thereof may prescribe the maximum number of terms to which a person may be elected to the House of Representatives of the United States.

"SECTION 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress."

AMENDMENT NO. 3696

(Purpose: To amend the joint resolution to change the length of limits on Congressional terms to 12 years in the House of Representatives and 12 years in the Senate)

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. THOMPSON] proposes an amendment numbered 3696.

Mr. THOMPSON. 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:

Strike all after the first word and insert the following: "*of each House concurring therein*). That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

"ARTICLE—

"SECTION 1. After this article becomes operative, no person shall be elected to a full term as a Senator more than twice, or to a full term as a Representative more than six times; no person who has been a Senator for more than three years of a term to which some other person was elected shall subsequently be elected as a Senator more than once; and no person who has been a Representative for more than a year of a term to which some other person was elected shall subsequently be elected as a Representative more than five times.

"SECTION 2. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

"SECTION 3. No election or service occurring before ratification of this article shall be taken into account when determining eligibility for election under section 1."

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3697 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3696

(Purpose: To permit each State to prescribe the maximum number of terms to which a person may be elected to the House of Representatives and the Senate)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. THOMPSON], for Mr. BROWN, proposes an amendment numbered 3697 to amendment No. 3696.

Mr. THOMPSON. 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:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following: "*of each House concurring therein*). That the following article is hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

"ARTICLE—

"SECTION 1. Each State or the people thereof may prescribe the maximum number of terms to which a person may be elected or appointed to the Senate of the United States.

"SECTION 2. Each State or the people thereof may prescribe the maximum number of terms to which a person may be elected to the House of Representatives of the United States.

"SECTION 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress."

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. THOMPSON. I now send a motion to recommit the joint resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. THOMPSON] moves to recommit.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The motion to recommit is as follows:

Motion to recommit the resolution to Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the resolution back to the Senate without amendment forthwith.

AMENDMENT NO. 3698

(Purpose: To amend the motion to recommit to change instructions to report back with limits on Congressional terms of 6 years on the House of Representatives and 12 years in the Senate)

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I send a first-degree amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. THOMPSON], for Mr. ASHCROFT, proposes an amendment numbered 3698.

Mr. THOMPSON. 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:

In lieu of the proposed instructions, insert the following: with instructions to report the resolution back to the Senate forthwith with an amendment as follows: "*(two-thirds of each House concurring therein)*). That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

"ARTICLE—

"SECTION 1. After this article becomes operative, no person shall be elected to a full term as a Senator more than twice, or to a full term, as a Representative more than thrice; no person who has been a Senator for more than three years of a term to which some other person was elected shall subsequently be elected as a Senator more than once; and no person who has been a Representative for more than a year of a term to which some other person was elected shall subsequently be elected as a Representative more than twice.

"SECTION 2. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress."

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3699 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3698

(Purpose: To amend the motion to recommit to change instructions to report back with language allowing each State to set the terms of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate from that State)

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I send a second-degree amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. THOMPSON], for Mr. BROWN, proposes an amendment numbered 3699 to amendment No. 3698.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

In lieu of the proposed instructions, insert the following: with instructions to report the resolution back to the Senate forthwith with an amendment as follows: "*(two-thirds of each House concurring therein)*). That the following article is hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

"ARTICLE—

"SECTION 1. Each State or the people thereof may prescribe the maximum number of terms to which a person may be elected or appointed to the Senate of the United States.

"SECTION 2. Each State or the people thereof may prescribe the maximum number of terms to which a person may be elected to the House of Representatives of the United States.

"SECTION 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States

within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.”.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate is now considering the constitutional amendment regarding congressional term limits. I have just sent to the desk a series of amendments to the joint resolution, the effect of which is to ensure that the debate remains on the issue of congressional term limits. If the amendment process had not been completed, it was the fear of this Senator and many others on this side of the aisle that other Members were intending to offer an amendment which would not be relevant to the pending term limits legislation. With the so-called amendment tree now filled, it is the hope of this Senator that the debate will now stay focused on this very important legislation.

It is also the understanding of this Senator that later today, the majority leader will file a cloture motion on the joint resolution which will allow for a cloture vote on Tuesday, April 23, 1996.

I appreciate the cooperation and support of the majority leader for bringing this issue before the Senate in such a timely manner, and I look forward to a vigorous debate today, Monday and Tuesday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Tennessee yield the floor?

Mr. THOMPSON. I will yield the floor. I note my colleague from Montana seeking recognition, and I yield the floor.

Mr. BURNS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, in 1994, in my campaign for reelection to the U.S. Senate, term limits was part of that campaign, and the Senator from Tennessee has picked up the yoke, so to speak, and is trying to do something about that. I was not convinced, when I first came to the U.S. Senate, that term limits was needed, but I am even more convinced now.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed as in morning business for just the next 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICANS ARE ON MY MIND

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Tennessee. I thank the Chair. I have Americans on my mind today, and I am concerned that maybe some of us are not listening, especially the President and the Democrats, to America as closely as they should.

One stark realization, when I was home over the Easter break a few days ago, is that I filed and paid my taxes, like 115 million other Americans did. I imagine that most of them were a little bit upset after they paid the taxes. More than two-thirds of all taxpaying Americans, in a recent poll, think taxes are too high. Well, that is not a

very revealing thing, because we know two-thirds of them probably pay taxes and they probably think they are too high. A third think they are about right, and just 1 percent think they are too low.

Americans are a little upset—the people I talked to—and they have good reason to be. The Federal Government demands more and more of their hard-earned money and gives less and less in return. But there may be a blessing in that. Maybe we are lucky we are not getting all the Government that we pay for.

But I believe that this President, in the 1993 tax bill or the budget that at that time would put the biggest tax increase on the American people that this country had ever seen, was wrong on taxes and was also wrong on spending—both ends of the spectrum.

I think it is time that we extended the debate on the role of the Federal Government. In fact, if 1994 taught us anything, it is to say, “Let’s reexamine the role of Government at all levels, State, local, and Federal, and identify what we are supposed to be doing.”

Americans are on my mind, because the average hard-working American now works 2 hours 47 minutes of every single day just to pay their taxes. The average family pays 38.2 percent of the total income in taxes paid each year. This means that he or she will work 128 days, until May 7 of this year, just to pay its taxes.

A typical family pays the Federal Government before it pays its mortgage, before it puts food on the table, before it puts clothes on their kids’ back. We must change the direction that the curve is headed. We must change and we must stop that curve. Government is hard put because taxes are easy to raise. Most Americans may be astonished to know that their taxes have been raised 16 times in the past 30 years, as opposed to being lowered only once. With only a simple majority required to raise taxes, it is easier to pass a tax hike than it is to cut runaway entitlement programs.

President Clinton proved this in 1993 when he pushed through the Democratic Congress the largest tax increase in Congress, and I alluded to that before. Even today, the Federal debt continues to skyrocket because President Clinton refuses to sign a budget that brings down the yearly deficit. Not only has the President blocked passage of a balanced budget, but he has also taken away the middle class tax cut that Republicans promised in 1994 and that he also promised in 1992.

I want to bring up one figure, too, that a lot of folks do not realize. Here is how important this is. Forty percent of the income taxes you paid this year to the Federal Government just went to service the national debt, to pay the interest on the national debt—40 percent. We cannot allow that to happen if our children and their children are to have the same opportunities that we had in our growing up and the opportu-

nities to live in a great and free country.

Americans are on my mind today because of high taxes on American families, businesses are strangling, the economy is hurting, and they are hurting our children’s future. They have to come down.

So, as Americans are on my mind, and I think they are on the minds of many of my distinguished colleagues who represent real people in a real world, we must demand this Government to tighten its belt first rather than making you tighten yours. It is a problem that is magnified every day in the private sector. All one has to do is go home and just go down that path. Before we ever become Senators or Representatives, before we ever have anything to do with Government, in our private life, we should talk to the real folks that make America great.

AMERICA CONTINUES TO BE GREAT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I associate my remarks with those recognizing Oklahoma City. That tragedy and what we learn from it is another sign that America continues to be great. The wounds will heal. There will always be scars, but we pick up and we continue to thrive and thrive in this great and free country.

So we salute Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, and all the Americans whose lives were touched by that tragedy.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO LIMIT CONGRESSIONAL TERMS

The Senate continued with the consideration of the joint resolution.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I would like to take up once again the business before the Chamber, the constitutional amendment on term limits. This amendment would provide for a limitation of 12 years for Members of the U.S. Senate and 12 years for the House of Representatives. It is a constitutional amendment which will require two-thirds vote of this body and then ratification by the States. It is prospective in nature. That is what we are about here today.

It has been a long time coming. I believe this is the first time that a constitutional term limits amendment has worked its way through the committee system. I was proud to be able to sponsor the amendment coming out of the Judiciary Committee, and now we find it finally on the floor of the U.S. Senate for the first time in history.

I appreciate the leadership and the assistance of the majority leader in seeing that this has come about.

There was a term limits vote in 1947, as I read my history. I think term limits got one vote at that time. So it has been right at 50 years now since there has been any vote at all on the issue of term limits.