

it moves us is the direction in which the country must go, in a bipartisan manner, lowering the temperature of the partisan arguments that occur on this floor. I am proud to have been a part of the overall effort.

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I will yield whatever time he needs to the Senator from Wyoming. I will conclude by pointing out that I think we have laid out a good package. We have indicated that there will be an opportunity in the next week or so to present our package on the floor of the Senate as an amendment on a substitute to the Budget Committee resolution. We hope that between now and then we will have a chance to talk to our colleagues and go into greater detail with them as to what our package contains, to try and answer the questions they have, knowing that it is not perfect, but that we think it represents a true and fair compromise.

With that, I yield to the Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we continue for an additional 5 minutes in morning business, which will enable me to speak 4 minutes and conclude with either Senator CHAFEE or Senator BREAUX.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. I am pleased to join with Senators CHAFEE and BREAUX, and the others of the centrist coalition, in announcing this plan. This is very comprehensive. I hope our colleagues will take a very clear look at it. But I just so admire Senators CHAFEE and BREAUX—tireless, able, caring, sensible people, trying to do a sensible thing. We cannot continue this raucous partisanship about who is doing what to who. Medicare cannot be touched and now, of course, it is going to go broke a year, maybe 2 years, earlier than we thought 6 months ago. Here we rock along and, finally, we are addressing it in this proposal.

I am particularly pleased that we are looking at the Consumer Price Index, and that we propose to reduce that CPI by one-half of a percentage point in 1997 and 1998, and by three-tenths of a percentage point after that, for the purposes of computing the COLA's, the cost of living allowances. And, of course, the AARP will shriek like a gut-shot panther and leap off their pinnacle down there at their temple, for which they pay \$17 million a year rent. Please go see it. I hope everybody goes there. Get your shoes cleaned off before you go in, or you will hurt the marble floors. It is quite a place. They will go crazy on this. They will wail about tearing the back door down and the terrible effort to get Social Security benefits. And we are not cutting Social Security benefits. That is not what is driving this issue.

What we are striving to do is have a more accurate CPI that reflects the true level of inflation. This is the issue that is most important to the senior citizens of this country—inflation. This

certainly does drive seniors into doubt and concern. That is what we must do. It is inflation that eats away the seniors' lifetime savings.

So we have had the testimony from Alan Greenspan, and others, who believe the CPI is off the mark. We think this is a very valid step—\$110 billion in savings over 7 years. That may not be a popular proposal, but it is critically important. If we were to do that for 10 years on a 1 percent, which we are not dealing with, but that would be \$680 billion over 10 years. The figures are huge and, exponentially, they go on out.

So it is a total package. Some are not going to like things here, but it is a very good first step. We achieve some really significant reversal of what is happening to us as a country. I served on the Entitlements Commission, and we all know where we are headed.

I like the one about making Medicare eligibility link up with the Social Security retirement age by gradually increasing that eligibility age. That acknowledges that life expectancy is higher now.

We are going to affluence test Medicare part B. I would have done more of that. We say those who have annual incomes exceeding \$50,000 and couples who have incomes exceeding \$75,000 will be affluence tested. I certainly think we could do that at a lower income sometime, but we do not have the votes to do it at this time.

We limit Medicaid. I would have liked to have seen more flexibility, but I am not going to let that deter me from supporting this.

Everything here will have an objection from somebody, but the totality of it overwhelmingly outweighs the concerns I have about these other things.

So in many other areas—taxes—I had my concerns. Here is a tax package. I did not think we should just give away \$250 for every child under the age of 17, but in the spirit of cooperation and consensus, we were able to address some of my concerns. There was not a single thing I addressed that was not met with the finest courtesy and genuine regard of what we were trying to do.

So I urge all my colleagues to consider the plan. Those who automatically reject the notion of a bipartisan budget will have no trouble at all finding one or two items to oppose it, but I am convinced anyone who approaches the plan with an open mind and a recognition that all true bipartisanship requires a great degree of compromise—compromising an issue without compromising ourselves—will conclude this as an impressive plan. No tricks, no gimmickry, none of the usual stuff. It makes the tough, politically unpopular decisions Republicans and Democrats alike have been putting off for far too long.

I again thank sincerely Senator CHAFEE and Senator BREAUX. They are statesmen.

Thank you.

Mr. CHAFEE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CAMPBELL). The Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFEE] is recognized.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, first, I want to thank each of the speakers who took the trouble to come here today in support of this effort that Senator BREAUX and I have the privilege of leading.

Second, I would like to say that what this is all about is future generations. Unless we do something about these entitlements, this country of ours is going to be in great financial and economic peril. If we take these steps now that we have outlined, then there is a wonderful chance—it is not only a chance, it is a fact—that we can reverse the trends that are now underway in our two largest spending programs—Social Security and Medicare—as well as Medicaid and welfare.

So this is it. It is easy to criticize, and people, as I mentioned earlier, will say, "I'm all for it, except for the CPI," or "I'm all for it, except for the Medicare number," or "I don't like your tax figure." But nobody else has come forward with a program that has the support of Senators on both sides of the aisle, Democrats and Republicans.

So this is it, and we hope that everybody, every single Senator in this body will carefully consider what we have come up with. We sincerely hope that they will join with us. We want more people. There are 22 of us who have worked together on this since October. But 22 is not enough, and it is not enough for Senators to say, "Well, that's pretty good. We'll see what else is going to come along." Nothing else is going to come along that we know of. We have been involved with this for some time.

So we do seek support from our fellow Senators on both sides of the aisle. The beneficiaries will be our children and our grandchildren, and that is a pretty worthwhile goal.

I thank the Chair and certainly thank my distinguished colleague, Senator BREAUX, who has been terrific in the leadership he has given to this program right from the beginning.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER JUSTICE RICHARD L. "RED" JONES

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, retired Alabama Supreme Court Justice Richard "Red" Jones passed away on April 22. I had the pleasure of serving with him on the court in the mid-1970's, and remember well his great wit and ability to tell stories. He was also a true legal scholar who approached cases and issues with zeal accompanied by seriousness. He loved the law. He was always tenacious in his determination to arrive at the correct decision under the law.

Red grew up in rural Pickens County, located in west-central Alabama, where he was known by his initials, "R.L." People there continued to refer to him as R.L. throughout his life, as opposed

to Richard, Dick, or Red. While he was growing up in this part of Alabama, he had an insatiable appetite for reading and for educating himself. He loved to tell of how he took full advantage of the book mobiles that would come around during those days bringing books to residents in rural areas.

Red attended law school at the University of Alabama. He began practicing law in Aliceville, AL, after obtaining his law degree. He later practiced in Fairfield and eventually became a partner in a Bessemer law firm. He then moved his law office to Birmingham, but had clients all over Alabama.

Red was an outstanding trial attorney. He handled many cases seeking compensation for lung diseases suffered by coal miners and cotton gin workers, and served for a time as the president of the Alabama Plaintiff Lawyers Association, now known as the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association. As a plaintiff attorney, he was highly regarded as an ardent advocate by attorneys and judges in both the criminal and civil fields.

He served on the Alabama Supreme Court for a total of 18 years, from 1973 to 1991. He was generally known for his keen understanding of the law and its majesty. He wrote his opinions in clear language so that all could understand them. While on the State's high court, he was consistently supportive of all judicial reform efforts. He was a true champion in the area of improving the administration of justice. He oversaw the establishment of the unified judicial system, the rules of procedure that govern the trials in both civil and criminal cases, and the establishment of training programs for judges, clerks and registers, judicial assistants, and court reporters. He participated in the revision of the Alabama code, serving on the code revision committee.

One of the hallmarks of his esteemed career was his excellent service as commissioner of the uniform State law commission. This commission's job was to propose State laws which could serve as models for the States, such as uniform commercial codes. He was highly regarded for his work on the commission. As I traveled, I encountered people all over the country who praised his accomplishments in developing model State laws.

Red's sense of self-deprecating humor is something I will always remember about him. He had a way of putting people at ease through humor and amusing stories, and often made himself the brunt of his own jokes. As his pastor at Shades Valley Presbyterian Church said so correctly of him: "He was a great talker, a great storyteller, and a great friend." It seemed as if he used humor to put serious problems and issues in their proper perspective so that personal passions and feelings would not interfere with his decision-making. It helped him retain his objectivity when considering a case.

He had an abiding interest in serving others by volunteering his time in several civic organizations and associations that he felt would improve the communities in which he lived or that he thought would advance his profession. He believed strongly in country, family, and faith.

At his funeral, Justice Hugh Maddox gave a warm eulogy to his long-time friend, saying:

Red Jones had boundless energy, and although Red has passed his baton to those of us who are still in the race . . . he left with us the legacy of how the race should be run. He prepared well, he was totally committed, and he ran with endurance.

One of his last acts on the court a few years ago was to swear in Alabama's newest lawyers—among them his son, Rick Jones—who had recently been admitted to the State bar.

Judge Red Jones was an outstanding lawyer, family man, and public servant. Everyone liked him and enjoyed his companionship. I will miss him greatly.

I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife, Jean, and their entire family in the wake of this immeasurable and untimely loss.

LEADERS PROMOTE DEMOCRACY IN VIETNAM

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, last week I hosted a meeting of the International Committee for a Free Vietnam [ICFV] which resulted in the drafting and presentation of a resolution which promotes democracy in Vietnam, particularly individual freedoms and human rights. Joining us were Parliamentary leaders from Europe, Canada, and Australia. Since Vietnamese leaders will hold their Eighth Party Congress in June, it is important that we communicate the reforms recommended in the resolution to the Vietnamese, to continue the dialogue begun as we continue to normalize our relations with Vietnam.

While at the meeting, I was disturbed to learn that a distinguished member of the group Col. Bui Tin, a former member of the Vietnamese Communist Party, received a death threat which was alleged to originate from Vietnamese Government sources. He is not the only one who has received these threats, but he is the only one with whom I am personally acquainted. It was very disappointing to me to hear this, just at the time we hope to improve our relationship with Vietnam.

Col. Bui Tin, a resident of Europe, has done nothing but advocate democratic reforms in Vietnam, consistent with the first-amendment rights we have in our country. He does so out of concern for the people of Vietnam, where he was a soldier for over 37 years.

I join many of my colleagues in urging the leaders of Vietnam to cease this kind of threat, which is just as

egregious, if not more, as the continuing imprisonment of many political prisoners in Vietnam today.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the resolution of the ICFV adopted on April 24, 1996, be printed in the RECORD for the information of all Senators.

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

RESOLUTION OF THE ICFV, WASHINGTON, DC,
APRIL 24, 1996

1. The representatives of the I.C.F.V. present at this conference are united in this support for:

1.1. The rule of law, multiparty politics, free elections, the release of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience;

1.2. The recognition and implementation of human rights, including the rights of free speech, freedom of association, freedom of religious belief, and freedom from arbitrary arrest, freedom to work; and

1.3. The obligation of all governments to consult their people and to govern in accordance with their wishes.

2. Thus I.C.F.V. urges all parliamentary democracies to support and extend assistance to the people of Vietnam on the basis that the forthcoming Communist Party Congress recognizes the principles embraced by this conference and that the party and the Vietnamese government implement such principles.

3. The conference recognizes the immense importance of accurate and fair information on current events and issues being made available to the people of Asia including Vietnam.

4. The conference urges the Parliaments of the countries represented here including Australia, Canada, various European countries and the U.S.A. to make funds available for enlarging existing surrogate home radio services to Asia, to broadcast otherwise unavailable news and current information to the countries of the region.

5. The conference urges the government of the United States to promote Radio Free Asia.

6. The representative of the I.C.F.V. will seek to open a meaningful, comprehensive dialogue with representatives of the Vietnamese government and Communist party.

7. The conference expresses its appreciation for those courageous persons in Vietnam who speak out for truth, democratic values and human rights.

8. The conference reaffirms the I.C.F.V.'s commitment to democratic and nonviolent change in Vietnam.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, April 29, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,096,726,647,358.55.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,251.62 as his or her share of that debt.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 10 a.m. having arrived, morning business is closed.