

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 5, 1996, at 10 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 5, 1996 to hold hearings on security in cyberspace.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO 100 YEARS OF THE OREGON SYMPHONY

• Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I am pleased to share with my colleagues today a piece of history that is being realized in Oregon this year. The celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Oregon Symphony is truly a grand accomplishment. The Oregon Symphony has entertained, hosted, and delighted audiences all over the world, myself included.

In 1896 the Portland Symphony Society was founded, with the first symphony conducted by W.H. Kinross performing in October of that same year. Now, 100 years later and still going strong, the symphony is the sixth oldest symphony in the United States, and the oldest symphony west of the Mississippi River.

The Oregon Symphony is truly that, a symphony for all of Oregon to enjoy. The symphony is not confined to its home in downtown Portland. It is not confined by the glorious Cascade mountain range. What makes this symphony so unique is the ability it has to reach out to all of the citizens of Oregon. The symphony plays in front of audiences in school gymnasiums, parks, and small auditoriums. Wherever there is a demand in the State for the Oregon Symphony, the symphony will go.

Recently the symphony played in a full gymnasium in Burns, OR. This small community with a population of 2,880, is located in the remote eastern high desert portion of the State. The town of Burns enthusiastically welcomed the symphony. The townspeople gladly rolled up their sleeves and with their own hands built a proper stage for the symphony members in the schools gymnasium. The town of Burns sold 760 tickets for the event, a complete sellout. This concert is a true testimony to what the symphony means to the citizens of Oregon.

When the symphony cannot travel, it often makes arrangements for free concerts in Portland. The symphony routinely plays for schoolchildren from all over the State in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, showcasing their talents and educating the children in the arts.

One of the greatest moments in the history of the symphony was in 1980 with the appointment of Maestro James DePreist as music director and conductor. Under Maestro DePreist the Symphony is no longer made up of volunteer musicians, the symphony now draws some of the finest professional musicians in the country. In 1987 the professionalism of the symphony shone through as they released their first recording.

Today, the Oregon Symphony is truly something to be proud of.

Whether playing in front of a sold out audience in a high school gym in Burns, OR, or in the elegant surroundings of the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, the symphony amazes and entertains crowds with a triumphant and magnificent sound. I would like to thank the Oregon Symphony, and wish it 100 more glorious years.●

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. GEORGE H. HUBAN, U.S. NAVY

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I rise to take this opportunity to honor Captain George Huban who will retire shortly from the U.S. Navy after 28 years of faithful service to our Nation.

Captain Huban is a 1968 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Following his commissioning, Captain Huban served aboard the destroyer USS *Noa* in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. He later attended the Supply Corps School and served as Supply Officer on the attack submarine USS *Haddock*. Captain Huban then went on to a variety of tours including Squadron Supply Officer to ballistic missile Submarine Squadron Fifteen; contracting officer at the Naval Sea Systems Command; assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations; Supply Officer, USS *Pugent Sound*; and Commander, Sixth Fleet Supply, where he coordinated logistics support for fleet operations off the coast of Lebanon.

Following these tours, Captain Huban served at several senior staff positions. From 1986 to 1988, he served as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Comptroller of the Navy and was then named Assistant Director of Acquisition Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Captain Huban then served as Director of Supply Corps Personnel at the Naval Supply Systems Command in Washington, DC.

His final tour in the Navy was as the Commanding Officer of the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, GA. Although Captain Huban was born in Vermont, the residents of Athens, GA, welcomed him and now consider him one of their own. I am certain he will continue to play in active role in the

community following his retirement. While serving as Commanding Officer at the Navy Supply Corps School, he has been instrumental in providing the highest quality of logistics training to officers and enlisted personnel not only to Navy personnel but to all U.S. service personnel, armed forces personnel of many of our allied nations, and Department of Defense civilian personnel. Captain Huban will be followed by Captain John Drerup as Commanding Officer at the Supply Corps School.

A man of Captain Huban's character and dedication is rare indeed. His outstanding service will be genuinely missed, and I am pleased to recognize him before the U.S. Senate. Let me also recognize his wife Patricia and daughter Cristin. The sacrifices they have made in support of Captain Huban's service are equally noteworthy. I wish him and his family all the best as he brings to a close a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Navy.

WEST ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

• Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I would like to recognize an outstanding group of students from West Anchorage High School in Anchorage, AK. Twenty-three young people, from my home State, were recently in Washington, DC to compete in the We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution national finals. They successfully competed against 49 other classes from around the Nation and demonstrated a thorough understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional democracy.

The program, administered by the Center for Civic Education is the most comprehensive of its kind, reaching more than 22 million students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in its 9 year history. The national finals, in which these students competed, simulated a congressional hearing whereby students testified as constitutional experts before a panel of judges.

I commend the following students and their teacher, Roberta McCutcheon, for their determination and dedication to such a worthwhile competition: Susan Angst, Jessica Burton, Nathan Carr, Amber Christensen, Allen Clendaniel, Claire Dennerlein, Theodore Dickson, Whitney Faulkner, Clifford Haywood, Todd Holway, Anne Kelly, Lori LeMaster, Brooke Maury, Amber Popken, Joanna Resari, Thomas Sardy, Kivlina Shepherd, Lisa Stokes, Ian Street, Zareena Tran, Kate Weber, Justin Weeks, and Kiao-Le Zhao.●

1996 ANNUAL REPORTS: BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE TRUST FUNDS

FINANCIAL STATUS OF MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, in their annual report released today, the

board of trustees of the Federal hospital insurance trust fund estimated that the assets of the trust fund—Part A of the Medicare Program—will be exhausted by the end of calendar year 2001. Last year's estimate was 2002. As ominous a statement as this may seem, it is meaningless. In point of fact, Medicare part A outlays have exceeded payroll tax collections since 1992, when a cash flow deficit appeared of approximately \$3 billion—a deficit funded with general revenues. Medicare part A outlays that year were \$85 billion, while payroll tax collections were only \$82 billion.

The trustees of the old age, survivors, and disability insurance trust fund also issued their annual report today. They estimate exhaustion of the old age, survivors, and disability insurance trust fund in the year 2029. Last year's estimate was 2030. Again, meaningless. Social Security outlays will exceed payroll taxes in the year 2012. By the year 1997, outlays for Social Security and Medicare part A will exceed payroll tax collections for Social Security and Medicare. According to the 1996 trustees' reports, combined outlays for Social Security and Medicare part A in 1997 will be \$514 billion; payroll tax receipts will be only \$506 billion. And the combined deficit for the two programs will grow rapidly thereafter, reaching almost \$100 billion in about 10 years.

EFFECT OF MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET

Prior to 1992, during the period in which Medicare part A payroll taxes generally exceeded outlays, the program contributed to a reduction in the overall deficit. This is because the deficit calculation is based on the unified budget, and the trust fund into which Medicare payroll tax collections are deposited is merely an accounting device. It is irrelevant for purposes of calculating the deficit. Since 1992, with outlays consistently exceeding payroll tax collections, Medicare part A has been adding to the deficit. If Medicare and Social Security are in the black, they reduce the deficit. If they are in the red, the deficit is increased.●

EXPLANATION OF SELECTED VOTES TO THE SENATE BUDGET RESOLUTION

●**Mr. ABRAHAM.** Mr. President, similar to last year's consideration of the budget resolution, the Senate considered a near-record number of amendments this year, many of which were offered after time had expired and voted upon without debate. Since time was limited then, I want to spend a few moments now to offer explanations for several of the more critical votes.

As with last year's budget, several amendments were offered which targeted increased spending to certain areas of the budget. These included a Boxer amendment to increase by \$18 billion Medicaid spending, a Byrd amendment to increase domestic discretionary spending by \$65 billion, and a Kerry amendment to provide \$7.3 bil-

lion in increased funding for the EPA, national parks, NOAA, and other areas. In all three cases, these spending increases were offset with increased taxes.

Mr. President, while I strongly support many of the programs targeted by these amendments, it will be extremely difficult for Congress to balance the budget if we choose to raise taxes every time we want to fund additional programs. By opting to tax and spend our way out of tight budgets, we are simply putting off the difficult choices which must be made. For this reason, I opposed these amendments.

Another amendment I opposed was the Domenici amendment to provide an additional \$4 billion in domestic discretionary outlays for next year. I applaud the chairman of the Budget Committee for working hard to restrain spending and I support many of the programs that this additional funding would assist, including education funding. But while the actual programs benefitting from this amendment are undefined, it definitely moves us away from our goal of restraining the growth of government spending and balancing the budget. As was pointed out during the debate, this amendment would raise domestic discretionary spending \$17 billion above the level that was called for in last year's budget resolution. In my mind, that is simply too much.

Another amendment dealing with taxes was the Wellstone amendment expressing the sense of the Senate that, once the \$500 per child family tax credit had been adopted, the next priority for the Finance Committee should be legislation to provide a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 for higher education tuition expenses.

Mr. President, this amendment does not debate the propriety of enacting tax cuts. Instead, it focuses upon who is best suited to decide what American families should do with their hard earned money—the families themselves or the Federal Government. In effect, Senator WELLSTONE is saying, I will let you keep more, as long as you use it for college expenses, because that is my priority. On the other hand, Republicans say, We are going to allow you to keep more of what you earn to use it as you—not the government—thinks best. We should not only give Americans a tax break, we should also give them the freedom to set their own priorities with their own money.

The final amendment targeting tax cuts was one I supported—the Ashcroft amendment to allow taxpayers to deduct payroll taxes from their income when calculating their income taxes. Once again, this amendment presented Senators with a clear-cut choice: Do we allow hard-working men and women to keep more of what they earn so they can spend it as they see fit, or do we take their money and invest it in more government. While I did not support all the offsets included in the Ashcroft amendment, I believe there is an overwhelming case to be made for significant tax cuts at this time. Not the

least of these is the record tax burden currently shouldered by American families. According to economist Bruce Bartlett, combined local, State, and Federal taxes now consume a record percentage of the total national income. This is entirely too much, and I support reasonable efforts to help reduce this burden.

Several amendments were targeted at federal education efforts. One was the Kerry amendment to add \$56 billion to the education function and offset that increased funding by reducing the tax cuts called for in the bill. In the words of Senator KERRY, this additional funding would provide enough money to be sufficient to keep pace with student enrollment and inflation over the next 6 years.

Mr. President, last year I worked extensively with Senators SNOWE, KASSABAUM, and others to ensure that our efforts to balance the budget did not hurt students. I support effective education programs. What this amendment proposes, however, is to eliminate our ability to pass tax cuts for families with children, and spend that money instead on education bureaucrats who, in some cases, oversee programs as wasteful as any in the Federal Government. Given the choice between bureaucrats and families, I chose families.

There were also several amendments that focused on Republican efforts to reform our entitlement programs. The most broad-based of these was the Kerry amendment on long-term entitlement reform. This amendment would express the sense of the Senate that Congress should enact a broad set of entitlement reforms, including raising the retirement age and adjusting the Consumer Price Index, to ensure the long-term solvency of Social Security and other entitlement programs. Senator KERRY has been an outstanding leader on the issue of entitlement reform and I applaud his efforts. Nevertheless, I believe that adjusting the Consumer Price Index should be done only after the special commission created to study the CPI's accuracy has an opportunity to publish its findings.

This was also the principle reason I opposed the Chafee-Breaux substitute budget, which received 46 votes. The substitute budget made many of the same tough choices as the underlying Republican budget, including welfare reform, slowing the growth of Medicaid, and tax relief for families. On the other hand, the amendment would have saved \$91 billion from a .5-percent reduction in the Consumer Price Index. This reduction would have meant lower benefits for seniors, and higher taxes for families. It also meant the bipartisan budget could spend \$117 billion more in discretionary spending over the next 6 years. While there was much to like in this alternative budget, I could not support the decision to cut