

To that effort, I pledge all my strength and every power of my office. I ask the Members of Congress here to join in that pledge. The American people returned to office a President of one party and a Congress of another. Surely, they did not do this to advance the politics of petty bickering and extreme partisanship they plainly deplore.

[Applause.]

No, they call on us all instead to be repairers of the breach and to move on with America's mission.

America demands and deserves big things from us—and nothing big ever came from being small.

[Applause.]

Let us remember the timeless wisdom of Cardinal Bernardin when facing the end of his own life. He said, "It is wrong to waste the precious gift of time . . . on acrimony and division."

Fellow citizens, we must not waste the precious gift of this time, for all of us are on that same journey of our lives, and our journey, too, will come to an end. But the journey of our America must go on.

And so, my fellow Americans, we must be strong, for there is much to dare. The demands of our time are great, and they are different. Let us meet them with faith and courage, with patience and a grateful, happy heart. Let us shape the hope of this day into the noblest chapter in our history. Yes, let us build our bridge—

[Applause.]

a bridge wide enough and strong enough for every American to cross over to a blessed land of new promise. May those generations whose faces we cannot yet see, whose names we may never know, say of us here that we led our beloved land into a new century with the American dream alive for all her children, with the American promise of a more perfect Union a reality for all her people, with America's bright flame of freedom spreading throughout all the world.

From the height of this place and the summit of this century, let us go forth. May God "strengthen our hands for the good work ahead"—and always, always bless our America.

[Applause.]

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we thank you for that strong and inspiring message at this very important time in our history.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce the Immanuel Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra of Little Rock.

The choir and orchestra, under the direction of Reverend Lynn Madden, will present "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

(The Immanuel Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra sing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic.")

Mr. WARNER. Thank you for the singing of that most inspiring of American music.

As he did for his first inauguration in 1993, President Clinton has asked a distinguished American scholar to compose a poem for this historic day.

Please welcome writer, editor, poet, Mr. Miller Williams.

[Applause.]

OF HISTORY AND HOPE

We have memorized America,
how it was born and who we have been and
where.

In ceremonies and silence we say the words,
telling the stories, singing the old songs.
We like the places they take us. Mostly we
do.

The great and all the anonymous dead are
there.

We know the sound of all the sounds we
brought.

The rich taste of it is on our tongues.

But where are we going to be, and why, and
who?

The disenfranchised dead want to know.

We mean to be the people we meant to be,

to keep on going where we meant to go.

But how do we fashion the future? Who can
say how

except in the minds of those who will call it
Now?

The children. The children. And how does
our garden grow?

With waving hands—oh, rarely in a row—
and flowering faces. And brambles, that we
can no longer allow.

Who were many people coming together.

cannot become one people falling apart.

Who dreamed for every child an even chance.

cannot let luck alone turn doorknobs or not.

Whose law was never so much of the hand as
the head

cannot let chaos make its way to the heart.

Who have seen learning struggle from teacher
to child

cannot let ignorance spread itself like rot.

We know what we have done and what we
have said,

and how we have grown, degree by slow degree,
believing ourselves toward all we have tried

to become—

just and compassionate, equal, able, and free.

All this in the hands of children, eyes already
set.

on a land we never can visit—it isn't there
yet—

but looking through their eyes, we can see.

what our long gift to them may come to be.

If we can truly remember, they will not forget.

[Applause.]

Mr. WARNER. Santita Jackson will lead the singing of our National Anthem. She will be accompanied by the Resurrection Choir, a group composed of singers from the choirs of American churches tragically destroyed by fire in recent months.

This choir's performance is a befitting commemoration of this day on which we honor also Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Before we sing our National Anthem, the Reverend Gardner C. Taylor will deliver the benediction.

Ladies and gentlemen, please stand for the benediction and remain standing to sing our National Anthem.

Reverend Taylor.

BENEDICTION

Reverend TAYLOR. Let us lift up our spirits before our Creator, eternal God, brooding over the days of our years. In sovereign judgment, and yet with tender mercy, now close to the end of this solemn but joyous occasion, we lift our hearts and our hopes before Thee.

We pray for our President, William Jefferson Clinton, that Thou will give to him ever increasing vision and vigor and voice, that he might speak tellingly to the American promise in history.

We pray for the gracious and gallant lady at his side, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and for their daughter.

We ask Thy blessings upon the Vice President of the United States and upon his wife, Mrs. Tipper Gore. Grant, we pray, that he may ever be more a partisan of what is best in our American tradition.

And now, our God, we hold before Thee this Nation so richly endowed, so grandly blessed, and yet imperiled, apparently often, by the very richness of its diversity. Deliver us from pettiness of heart, from harshness of speech and from violence of action. Make us worthy of our history, of patriots' sacrifices and martyrs' blood, in the vanguard of which stand Lincoln and King, Thy servants Abra-

ham and Martin. Give us ever a greater dedication and commitment to the grand defining words of our democracy—liberty, justice, equality, opportunity.

And now let the words of our mouths, all of our mouths, in the meditations of our hearts, all of our hearts, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer, and now unto the old, wise God, our Deliverer, be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and evermore. Amen.

Mr. WARNER. Now, Miss Santita Jackson.

(The National Anthem was sung by Santita Jackson and the Resurrection Choir, audience standing.)

[Applause.]

The inaugural ceremonies were concluded at 12:48 p.m.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I know of no Senator having indicated that he or she desires to make a statement at this time. No request being given to the Cloakroom, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now stand in recess under the previous order until 2:15.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:20 p.m. recessed until 2:15 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. COATS].

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The majority leader is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be divided as follows: The first 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader, the second 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader, with the next hour under the control of the majority leader or his designee, to be followed by 1 hour under control of the Democratic leader or his nominee.

I do not believe there is a problem with this. We have cleared it with the other side of the aisle.

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

SENATE REPUBLICAN AGENDA

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I think we have the opportunity here today to get off to a good start, a fast start. It is one about which we have communicated with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We have increased the number of bills that we officially introduce at the start of the

session from what has in the past been only 5 to 10, and therefore the Republicans will today introduce our first numbered 10 bills as well as Senate Joint Resolution 1, which will be the constitutional amendment for a balanced budget. And then the Democratic leader, on behalf of the Democrats, will introduce their first 10 bills, and then others can come in and offer bills as they see fit. The principal sponsors will come to the floor this afternoon in the hour we have designated to offer the bills and to make comments. Frankly, I see some overlap between our list of 10 bills and the Democrats' list of 10 bills. I think that is positive.

So we want to go ahead and get started with this. We are going to move forward aggressively wherever we can to handle the President's nominations to his Cabinet. We hope to confirm within the next 2 days his first two nominees, to be Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense. We hope in the 2 weeks after that to move right along with other nominees. So we are trying hard to work with the administration and set up an atmosphere that will allow us this year to pass some good legislation for the best interests of the American people, but the President, we think, deserves his Cabinet in place so that he can have people there to work with us.

One of the glories of the Senate is that it runs as much by tradition and custom as it does by written rules, and so one of those customs we are carrying out today is introducing these first few bills that will lay out our agenda for the rest of the year.

So it is my honor to present to the Senate and to the Nation 11 major pieces of legislation, 10 bills and 1 resolution, that we will offer today. Each of them can stand on its own as an important initiative dealing with matters that touch the lives of most Americans. Together, however, they form a blueprint for the visionary changes our country needs. I might even call them the user's manual for a better, safer and more prosperous America. These bills represent the consensus of the 55 Republican Members of the Senate.

We did have a unique opportunity to sit together for 12 hours the week before last to talk through what we want to do in this session of Congress and what specific bills we wanted to take up. It does not mean that every Republican Senator subscribes to every part of this package. To the contrary, it is likely that every Republican Senator, this one included, will disagree with some provision or another in one bill or another. But as befits the party of the open door, we have had quite a lot of give-and-take in putting this package together, and, as always, our individual Members make their own decisions about what they will endorse. But each of these bills commands overwhelming support on the Republican side of the aisle, and I want to commend not just the lead sponsors of these bills but all the Senators and staff who worked together over the past few weeks to reach

the agreement and get these bills actually drafted and ready for presentation. I am going to leave it to the primary sponsors and others who have worked on the various pieces of legislation to give the details. So I am going to summarize in this time that I have today what is in this platform.

Pride of place goes to Senate Joint Resolution 1, as I already pointed out, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution which will be introduced today by Senator HATCH, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and by Senator CRAIG of Idaho.

This one, obviously, needs no explaining. There may be still, somewhere in the hinterlands of America, a citizen who does not understand why a balanced budget amendment is desperately needed, but I doubt it. The American people keenly realize the problems caused by excessive Federal spending, and everywhere I have gone, every poll that I have seen indicates the American people support this initiative overwhelmingly.

I have tried to understand the arguments against a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget, but to no avail, quite frankly. We have not had a balanced budget in the Federal Government in 28 years, and it will probably be at least 4 more years before we get one, if then. I have watched good men and women, including Presidents, make commitments and actually have plans to get to a balanced budget, but it has not worked.

This year, I think we have an opportunity to work with the President to come to a balanced budget agreement. We will see his budget plan February 6. I hope he will show leadership and courage and will address some of the issues that need to be addressed that, frankly, he was not willing to deal with last year. But it was an election year, and, hopefully, he will approach it differently this time.

But even if we come together on a plan to get a balanced budget by 2002, I still have my doubts about whether it will actually happen if we do not have the leverage guarantee of a constitutional amendment. Remember, when we pass this constitutional amendment, it then does not go to the President for his signature, it goes to the State legislatures, to the people for their ratification.

Recent news accounts seem to indicate the administration will fight this amendment and will do it aggressively. I understand they may have some questions or objections. I expect them to make those, and we will listen to them. But this fight is not about politics, it is about the future of our children and grandchildren. It is about the burden of debt we are leaving them with, which is a cruel legacy. It is about right and wrong, and this time around, I am betting that right is going to prevail.

Because of the importance we attach to education, one of the first bills we will introduce today will deal with this area. Just like the constitutional

amendment for a balanced budget is important to us because of what we think it means to our children's future in holding down inflation and holding down interest rates and stopping the continuous increase in the interest we pay on the national debt that will lead to making it more difficult for our children and grandchildren to have home mortgages and student loans and car loans, we think that education, also, is a very high priority and also an investment in the future of our country.

If we have a strong educational system, if we deal with the illiteracy problems, if we deal with the needs of children with special needs, it will contribute to a better America, better educated children, will lead to more production, better jobs, more jobs, more trade, more development in technology.

So Republicans are placing a high priority this year on education with S. 1. The first numbered bill will be the Safe and Affordable Schools Act. It will be introduced by Senator PAUL COVERDELL of Georgia, and it is a comprehensive agenda for dramatic change. It will help not only parents—and that is where it begins, in the home with the parents—but also the States and the local communities to give their children a better education.

It focuses, especially, on children attending unsafe schools, to give their families consumer rights and choice in education. In this regard, it builds on the good work that was done in the 104th Congress by the distinguished Senator from Indiana, Senator COATS, who is now presiding in the Chamber. He has done a lot of great work in behalf of youngsters, and that work is confirmed in this piece of legislation.

In higher education, S. 1 establishes what we call the Bob Dole Investment Accounts to help parents set aside the resources on their own needed for their children's tuition.

Toward the same goal, it makes the interest on student loans tax deductible, and it gives favorable tax treatment to State prepaid tuition plans, to education aid provided by an employer to encourage more employers to provide that assistance to their workers which would benefit their children, and to student work-study awards.

S. 1 will fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Act, IDEA, as it is quite often referred to, by authorizing an additional \$10 billion over the next 7 years. This is not something easily done, but it is something we promised children with these special needs and we promised the States we would do, and we have not done it.

In this legislation, we are making that commitment to fulfill that obligation. That will come as good news not only to the families with special-needs children, it will also mean a lot to the Governors and State legislatures which have been shouldering this Federal mandate without the funds to back it up.

I want to mention especially the good work that has been done by Senator GREGG of New Hampshire and Senator FRIST of Tennessee on this difficult but very important matter.

Finally, S. 1 sets up a block grant for States to promote adult education and combat illiteracy. This has been long a priority with Senator JEFFORDS, our chairman of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, and I am especially pleased it will be included in this package.

As I said earlier today at a press conference, we have been talking about trying to deal with adult education and illiteracy problems for 10 years, but we have done very little about it. This is the place where the Federal Government can be helpful in helping to fill a void that maybe the States cannot do on their own.

The next bill we will introduce today is S. 2, which will be introduced by Senator ROTH. It is the Family Tax Relief Act. It contains key provisions from the tax relief legislation of the last Congress that was vetoed by President Clinton. Senator ROTH has long worked in this area. He is the chairman of the Finance Committee. He knows his subject backward and forward, and he knows we need a fairer Tax Code. He also knows we need to give some incentives for growth in the economy, to create more jobs, to have a stronger economy.

I still maintain that when the economy is only growing at 2 percent or 2.3 percent, that is a very weak growth, and we should have it more in the range of 3 to 3.5. We think this bill will help do that.

It will offset the President's 1993 tax increases by reducing taxes over the next 5 years. Fully 80 percent of that relief, some \$130 billion of it, or more, will go to working families, and those are the ones to whom we think the help really should go, and most of it will go to middle-income people.

In keeping with our Republican commitment to strengthen families, the bill does create a \$500-per-child tax credit for children under the age of 18. The President would like to lower that age, I understand, maybe even to 13, but if you are really trying to help families with children where they have the greatest needs, I really think it is in that bracket—14, 15. So that is how we would start it off. It would apply to some 44 million youngsters.

The bill would raise the contribution limit for the spousal IRA from its current \$250 to \$2,000, and it would allow for tax and penalty-free withdrawal from an IRA for the cost of higher education, for small business startups and for long-term unemployment.

What better way to encourage people to look after themselves and address the needs of education and startups of businesses and unemployment than to encourage them to have an IRA with the tax benefits that go with it?

S. 2 would also lower the antifamily inheritance tax—I call it the death

tax—which is now at confiscatory levels. When you have an estate tax that is 44 percent, or even as high as 55 percent, obviously, that is unfair.

Once again, it is hurting small businesses and farmers, as well as individuals, who work all their lives to build up a little nest egg for their children, and now many of them are selling those businesses, because they know if they don't, when they do pass on, they will have over half of what they worked for all their lives taken from their children.

Finally, this bill aims to boost savings, investments and job creation by allowing a 50-percent deduction for investment earnings on assets held more than 3 years and would let people who sell their homes at a loss deduct that as a capital loss.

The next bill is S. 3, the Omnibus Crime Control Act, again being introduced by Senator HATCH. He has done work on this for a long time, including this last year. It is a comprehensive package of tough-minded steps to fight illegal drugs, terrorism and child pornography.

It continues the Republican effort to reform our prison system, to end abuses therein, both by felons and by Federal judges. In so many instances now, felons in prisons are tying up the courts with petty, very trivial allegations that take up time and cost a lot of money. We want to try to reform that area and to save some of that lost time and effort.

We aim to restore public confidence in our courts by a series of reforms that will, at last, tilt the scales of justice in favor of innocent victims of crime. This bill reauthorizes major components of the Violence Against Women Act.

The next bill is S. 4, the Family Friendly Workplace Act, to be introduced by Senator ASHCROFT would extend to all workers the same options for flextime and comp time that employees of the Federal Government have enjoyed for decades. These opportunities would be 100 percent voluntary and a matter of choice for the men and women of today's work force.

Most of those workers have to juggle the demands of their jobs and the pressures of family life. Virtually all of them, especially those with small children, want more time with their families. S. 4 will help them arrange it while keeping a full paycheck.

A landmark of bipartisanship in the last Congress was built to reform the Nation's antiquated laws concerning liability. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of Senator GORTON and Senator ROCKEFELLER and others in forging a compromise, that product liability reform legislation again fell victim to the President's veto pen.

We owe it to the American people to try again. We need legal reform. The American people want it. They expect it. They want broad legal reform. But at a very minimum, we should do it in this product liability area where so much good work has already been done.

This bill, S. 5, will also be introduced by Senator ASHCROFT, who is now chairman of the subcommittee with jurisdiction. It gives us another chance to overhaul an unfair and inefficient liability system for the benefit of American consumers and workers.

We will, in the bill S. 6, again reintroduce the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. This, too, was vetoed by President Clinton last year. But the times have changed, and as the old song says, "If times are changing, then maybe the results can be different." After the election of 1996, the Senate has changed, too.

We are hopeful this time around we will do away with this practice that I think has shamed the conscience of the Nation. I commend Senator SANTORUM, the bill's lead sponsor, and Senator SMITH for their dedication to this cause.

We will schedule this bill on the floor of the Senate for an early vote. I am sure the House will follow suit. We will send it again to the President. Hopefully, this time he will sign it.

S. 7 is the National Missile Defense Act. I am pleased to be introducing this legislation. Building on the work that has been done by Senator Dole, Senator KYL, Senator THURMOND, and others in the last Congress, it represents our commitment to the American people to secure for them, for their homes, their neighborhoods and, in fact, the country, the maximum possible protection against missile attack.

In the aftermath of the high-tech gulf war of 1990, many, perhaps most, Americans think that the Nation is already sheltered by sophisticated weapons systems like the one that protected Israel against the Iraqi scud missiles.

Don't we wish. But sadly, and potentially tragically, the truth is that in an era of international terrorism, the United States remains vulnerable to missile blackmail. So S. 7 will put our Nation back on the path toward security and toward lasting peace through unquestioned strength.

We have concerns about the environment. One of the bills that we will bring up again this year that we worked on—and we got it through the Senate after a filibuster, but it wound up getting 63 votes—was a bill that would bring to a conclusion the decision about where to have a nuclear waste site in America. We will move on that quickly.

But S. 8 is the Superfund Cleanup Acceleration Act. It offers a more efficient, commonsense approach to solving some of the Nation's worst environmental problems involving toxic waste. We have sites all over the country, hundreds of them. And yet almost—well, I will not say almost none, but very few have actually been cleaned up, I think maybe as few as 37. Yet, we have spent millions, probably a billion or more dollars. We are not getting our money's worth. This legislation is directed at doing that.

Senator SMITH and Senator CHAFEE will introduce this legislation. It would

end the costly litigation that has paralyzed the cleanup effort. That is what has happened. There has been nothing but a lot of litigation and no real cleaning up where we needed it. And that has diverted basically all the resources of the program.

S. 8 returns to the original vision of the Superfund program—the protection of human health and the environment through realistic cleanup standards; economic redevelopment of affected sites; and fair treatment of individuals, small business and municipalities.

S. 9 is the Paycheck Protection Act, introduced by the assistant majority leader, Senator NICKLES, who is here. He will introduce this legislation later on. It forbids corporations and labor unions to take money from their stockholders and employees or members for political purposes without that person's expressed consent. You will note it is applicable to the corporations, to management and to the workers, so that there is protection against this type of intimidation and, in fact, the practice of taking money from dues-paying members and using it for purely political purposes.

I think it is a matter of simple justice. No one should be compelled by any organization to pay for someone else's campaigning or lobbying. Right here this is where true campaign reform starts.

Finally, S. 10, the Violent Juvenile Offenders Act is a companion bill to Senator HATCH's S. 3 and is the result of not only his efforts but those of Senator DOMENICI, Senator ASHCROFT, and Senator THOMPSON. It rests on the principle that violent juveniles must be held personally accountable for their actions.

There has been a rising increase in juvenile crime in America. We all know the stories of very young people with automatic weapons going down the street, shooting innocent people sitting on their porches. We know that many of them wind up not being tried as criminals because of their age. It is a delicate balance. But we cannot ignore the problem, and we must be, I think, stronger in how we deal with these juvenile offenders.

This bill would assure that violence and repeat juvenile offenders are treated as adults. It targets violent youth gangs, toughens penalties for violent and drug crimes, and fosters the kind of crime prevention and juvenile rehabilitation that have proven records of success.

I heard on the radio this very morning, when I was getting ready to come to the Senate, that local officials of the District of Columbia are calling out for help in dealing with gangs in this city, because just last week a young man, young boy, on his way home from school, maybe 16 years old, was accosted by a couple gang members. They wound up dragging him into the woods where they shot him, killed him. He was not involved in the dispute, but he wound up losing his life.

This person on the radio was saying, do whatever is necessary. Bring in the National Guard if you have to, but we have to break up these gangs in our Nation's Capital.

Mr. President, these 10 bills, along with the balanced budget constitutional amendment, form a very ambitious agenda. It will take time to accomplish. I do not think we should put a time limit on them and say we must do them by the end of February or the end of March in each instance. We should do them as soon as we can, but we should make sure everybody has a chance to review them, make their case for or against them. Let us have full debate, but let us get it done and let us do it right. There will be adjustments and accommodations along the way, but we are trying to get started in a very positive way and offer bills we think are important for the quality of life and the future of our country.

The goal of the Senate Republicans is very clear, I think, and unchanging in this effort. It is to free the energy and genius of the American people so that they can achieve a better quality of life. The legislation we are introducing today we believe will allow them to do that—for themselves, their families and their communities—in a society that will be more secure, more prosperous and more caring.

Mr. President, I yield the floor to the Senator from Oklahoma.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, how much time remains of the majority leader's time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Seven minutes 35 seconds is remaining under the majority leader's time.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would be glad to yield the remainder of that time to Senator NICKLES if he would like to go ahead and begin his comments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate and compliment the majority leader of the Senate for his statement today, but also for his work with all of the 55 Republican Senators to put together this list.

This is a list which we have spent some time on. When I say "we," I am talking about all 55 Republican Senators, who had some input on this list. That is a little unusual. We have not done that before. We came up with 10 bills. In the past, our tradition has been to introduce five. We came up with 10.

I might mention later today, or in the next few days or weeks, we had several other bills people wanted to have in this list. But this list represents a consensus of an overwhelming number of Republicans, that these are positive things we can do, should do, and that we should pass this year.

Mr. President, let me just comment and take a second to compliment President Clinton on his inaugural address yesterday. President Clinton made two or three comments that I would like to refer to.

He said Government is not the problem, it is not the solution; the American people are the solution. I think you will find that we Republicans really do believe the American people are the solution. We have a lot of ideas for saving Medicare, saving Social Security, a lot of different things where we really want to involve the American people. I compliment the President on that. He said that Government should live within its means.

The first item that Majority Leader LOTT mentioned was a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. We have overwhelming support among our colleagues for passage of a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. We are equally serious about passing legislation to implement a balanced budget. We want that to happen. Unfortunately, President Clinton vetoed that in the last Congress. We want to work with the President. He said in the inaugural address that we should live within our means. We are going to try and make that happen. We look forward to working with this administration to make that happen.

The President also said we should put petty politics and extreme partisanship aside. He is right. This Congress, this political year, maybe in the last year or two, has become too partisan and maybe too extreme in working with the administration. It has been too partisan. It has been too extreme. We need to put that aside.

So I welcome the President's comments. I look forward to working with President Clinton in this administration to implement many of the things he talked about. A lot of things we have in this agenda are targeted toward doing exactly that.

The constitutional amendment to balance the budget has overwhelming support among the membership, and rightfully so. We should live within our means. Almost all the States have provisions in their constitution saying they will not spend more than they take in. We should follow that guidance.

President Clinton, during the campaign, said he was in favor of tax relief. S. 2, the second bill we have in our list, does provide for family tax relief. Even during the campaign, President Clinton talked of a \$500-per-child tax credit. That is the foundation of our tax bill. Senator LOTT mentioned 80 percent of the tax bill we have introduced as the leadership package. We passed that last year, but again President Clinton vetoed it. He said in the campaign that he was in favor of it. We want to pass it this year and we want it to become law. We are not interested in passing legislation for legislation's sake or for political points' sake. President Clinton is not running again. We want

these bills to become law because they will have a positive, real impact on American lives.

We define the child tax credit as children up to age 18. President Clinton's proposal limited it to kids under 12. We think it should include at least kids up to 18. I told some people that my kids range up to age 26. We might have an amendment to make it age 26. The bill we introduced takes it to age 18.

We provide estate tax relief. There is a small business advisory council that advises the President and those of us in Congress and they always have an estate tax relief on their list. Why? Because if you have a taxable estate right now above \$600,000, Uncle Sam starts taking big bites. If your estate goes up to a million above that, Uncle Sam wants 35 percent of it. If you have an estate of 3 million, say your business is as a farmer or a rancher or a businessman, if it is 3 million above the \$600,000 deduction, Uncle Sam says, "We want 55 percent of anything above that amount." Instead of protecting property, it is confiscating property. We want to reduce that, especially for small business and especially for family-owned operations. That is in our package, as well.

We have capital gains relief because we think we tax transactions too much. We actually tax transactions more than almost any of our other industrial competitors. We need to reduce the taxes on transactions. If we do so, we will have more transactions and the Government will make more money, not less money. That is in our package. We can do better with the economy.

I think we put together a good package, one that is family friendly. We have a provision that Senator LOTT alluded to called the Family Friendly Workplace Act—Senator ASHCROFT has worked hard on it—giving families the option that if they work a few extra hours one week, we think they can take off for their kids the next week. Why have good Government come in saying, "We mandate you have time off for PTA." Why not let the families and employees make that decision? So we do that. We provide much greater flexibility for families, employers and employees in this bill. It is all on a voluntary basis, where they can work a few more hours one week and take time off for whatever they desire the following week. You do not need Government's blessing to do it. They allow for compensatory time. Instead of taking time-and-a-half if they have to work an hour or two above 40 hours, if they want they can bank some time and take time-and-a-half off. If they worked 44 hours, under present law they would be entitled to 6 hours of overtime pay. If they want to keep it that way, they have the right to do so. If they would like to have 6 hours off and maybe have a day off or maybe work some other kind of combination or schedule that meets their family's needs and desires, maybe for a vacation

day, maybe for more time off, maybe for time to visit their kids' athletic events, they have the right to do so without having the Federal Government enumerate that this is what you have to offer by law, and not be paid for that time. We give them, through flextime and through the comp time, the ability to have the flexibility in their schedules to meet their family's needs, all of which are different. All of our families are different. All of our families have more time demands that are at variance. This gives them that flexibility, and probably would be the most family friendly thing we can do.

We provide for a balanced budget package which will say the Government will live within its means. We are not going to spend more than we take in. Interest rates will come down. Homes will be more affordable. When we talk of family tax credits, if you have three kids under the age of 18, that is \$1,500 more you get to spend as you desire. Maybe it is for education, maybe it is for food on the table, maybe it is for a home. You make that decision, because we decided it is your money, not Government's money.

Then the flextime proposal, where we are basically saying that families can make the decisions. You have the flexibility in your schedules to work out what is mutually beneficial with you and your employer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. NICKLES. I see the minority leader is not here, and I ask unanimous consent for an additional 2 minutes.

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

Mr. NICKLES. We also have an additional provision called the Paycheck Protection Act. It is fundamentally prodemocracy. It says no person should be compelled to contribute to a political organization without their consent. That person may be a stockholder. No one should be compelled, as a condition of employment, to contribute to a political group or organization, whether that be a PAC, whether it be a union organization or what. No one should be compelled. That is what this bill says. No one will be compelled to contribute to a political organization or entity or candidate against their will. They would have to sign a written authorization form before they would have contributions taken out.

Mr. President, I compliment Senator LOTT and all my colleagues for their work in putting this list together. I look forward to working with the minority leader and others on the other side of the aisle. I know they have their agenda list. I look forward to hearing what that is, and I look forward to working with them to see if we can have several items beneficial not for Congress but for the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time is reserved for the minority leader for up to 30 minutes.

Mr. DASCHLE. Let me begin by thanking the Senator from Oklahoma for the tone of his comments. I did not have the opportunity to hear them all, but in keeping with the expressions of the majority leader and others who have indicated a desire to find ways with which to create greater harmony and greater opportunity for the country through increased bipartisanship, I appreciate very much his comments today.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S INAUGURATION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, before I begin talking about the bills, let me make an initial comment about yesterday. We all witnessed a stirring ceremony as President Clinton and Vice President GORE were sworn in to a second term in office. President Clinton is the first Democratic President to earn a second term since Franklin Roosevelt. This is truly a historic event.

Anyone who witnessed the inaugural ceremony knows that, despite the cold weather, this quadrennial rite of American democracy was warmed by great pageantry, bipartisan good will, and a strong sense of national purpose and unity.

Yesterday's inaugural ceremony lasted a few minutes, but many weeks of hard work preceded the event. Everything from construction of the inaugural platform to ticket dispersal, security, and the traditional lunch in Statuary Hall, plus thousands of other tasks, required a great deal of preparation and attention to detail.

On behalf of Senate Democrats, I join with Senator LOTT and express my gratitude to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies; in particular, the distinguished Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER, and the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, Mr. FORD, for all of their efforts toward making this such a successful inaugural event. Senators FORD and WARNER and the other members of the committee put in long hours under very tight deadlines. Time that they might have preferred to spend with family or in their home States attending to constituent matters was sacrificed for the benefit of all Americans who enjoyed this inauguration.

Senator WARNER was chairman of the Joint Inaugural Committee this year. He brought to this duty the same diligence, resolve, and reverence for the congressional rules and traditions that he brings to his job as chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. This was his first inaugural ceremony as chairman, and he should be commended for a job well done.

This is the fifth time Senator FORD has served as chairman or vice chairman of the Inaugural Committee. Like everything he does as Senate Democratic whip, ranking member of the Rules Committee, and senior Senator from Kentucky, Senator FORD once again approached the responsibility