

My concerns with this provision, Mr. President, are addressed, I believe, by the amendment that we will consider tomorrow. Very briefly, if one reads this section very carefully, word for word, and I emphasize in my reading of this section the language that is of particular concern to me, and that is "is engaged in military conflict"—now the earlier language, "a declaration of war," troubles me as well—it seems to mean we would have to be in the midst of a conflict before we can waive the provisions of the amendment. There have been numerous examples throughout our history in which we were very much aware that an imminent danger was on the horizon and we, in preparation of that imminent danger, were able to respond, utilizing deficit financing to do it.

If you wait until we are actually engaged in that conflict, it seems to me you are running the risk of leaving this country very, very vulnerable, particularly with weapons of mass destruction that have the capability of causing great harm to our Nation.

This amendment attempts to address that issue. If there is an imminent threat to our national security—and then allowing for the different provision here—we would have a resolution adopted by both Houses where a majority of those present and voting would be necessary in case of some emergency circumstance—I see, for example, my good friend and colleague from Idaho who has some distance to travel to get to Washington—where something may happen and Members are not able to get back here as quickly as they may need to.

We would not be able to meet that constitutional requirement if the underlying balanced budget amendment is adopted, because you would need 51 Senators. The amendment that I offer addresses both points; that is, enables a response prior to actually being engaged in military conflict and allows for a joint resolution to be adopted with less than the whole number of each House.

Again, I will wait until tomorrow, Mr. President, to discuss this further. This is an amendment, I remind my colleagues, which has been raised in very similar form on previous occasions. Regardless of whether one is for the balanced budget amendment or not, it seems to me we do not want to place ourselves in the position, obviously, of restricting our ability, particularly where our national security is in imminent danger and our Nation is in jeopardy and not able to respond.

I cannot think of a single Member who would want to be put in a position, as important as balancing the budget is, where we would be willing to risk a threat to this country on that particular altar.

So I hope Members, this evening and tomorrow, before we have time to debate this amendment, will look at it carefully and consider it in hopes that I might garner their support when we

vote on this tomorrow afternoon. Again, this will depend on when the leaders are able to agree on a time for debate and a vote.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—AMENDMENT NO. 4

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate resume consideration of Senator DODD's amendment regarding national security beginning at 1:30 on Wednesday with the time between 1:30 and 5:30 equally divided in the usual form. I further ask unanimous consent that at 5:30 the Senate proceed to a vote on or in relation to the Dodd amendment and, finally, no amendment be in order to the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DODD. No objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the leadership has decided there will be no further votes this evening. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

(During today's session of the Senate, the following morning business was transacted.)

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, February 10, the Federal debt stood at \$5,302,292,166,231.47.

Five years ago, February 10, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,794,592,000,000.

Ten years ago, February 10, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,225,440,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, February 10, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,033,575,000,000.

Twenty-five years ago, February 10, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$424,269,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion (\$4,878,023,166,231.47) during the past 25 years.

HONORING RALPH W. WRIGHT OF WEST POINT, KY, FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FIREFIGHTING

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, on Saturday, February 8, 1997, the community of West Point, KY held its annual Volunteer Fire Department and EMS Appreciation Banquet. Each year, this banquet honors and celebrates those in the community who have been instrumental in supporting the mission of the volunteer fire department and EMS services. This year, the community honored one man, Ralph W. Wright, who has given 50 years of his life to the safety of the citizens of West Point.

Mr. Wright has been a member of the fire department for the last 50 years. He began as a firefighter and worked his way up through the ranks to chief, a position he held for 27 years. After a long and distinguished career in the fire department, Mr. Wright did not let retirement prevent him from fighting fires. In fact, in his retirement, Mr. Wright continues to serve as a firefighter—who still makes the first truck out of the station. In addition, to his service as a firefighter, he was a volunteer EMT on the ambulance service for several years.

Because of his tireless efforts on behalf of the citizens of West Point, today's volunteer fire department is what it is today: dedicated to the safety of all its citizens; prepared to battle fires and hazardous material spills; responding to protect the community from floods and other natural disasters.

In addition to his work on behalf of the safety of the citizens of West Point, Mr. Wright has been a strong and active supporter of the Crusade for Children. The citizens of West Point have been well served by Ralph Wright. He is an outstanding citizen and a shining example to all. I know that the community of West Point holds Ralph Wright in the highest of esteem. This is an honor that is long overdue and I am delighted to share this event with my colleagues. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Ralph Wright and to his family on this special occasion.

HONORING THE WILLIAMS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Wade and Flo Williams of Springfield, MO who on February 10, 1997, will celebrate their 50th wedding

anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Wade and Flo's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

TRIBUTE TO PROCTOR JONES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in paying well-deserved tribute to Proctor Jones, who is leaving the Senate to continue working with our distinguished former colleague from Louisiana, Senator Bennett Johnston. Like Senator Johnston, Proctor will be greatly missed in the Senate.

Proctor Jones has been an outstanding staff member who has served the Senate and the American people well for almost four decades. With his vast experience on appropriations issues and his skill at weighing complex priorities, Proctor has earned the respect of the entire Senate over the years. He has also earned the deep appreciation of other staff members for his signature style—unerring graciousness and pleasantness, even under intense pressure. Proctor represents the best of Senate civility, and he will be long remembered by all of us.

It has been my particular pleasure to work closely with Proctor on a number of projects in Massachusetts which have been conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and which have significantly improved public safety, the environments, and the economy of our State. I am grateful for Proctor's leadership on these issues and many others. He represents the best in public service, and I wish him well in the years ahead.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 13

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

To the Congress of the United States:

On December 12, 1996, Secretary of Commerce Michael Kantor certified

under section 8 of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, as amended (the "Pelly Amendment") (22 U.S.C. 1978), that Canada has conducted whaling activities that diminish the effectiveness of a conservation program of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The certification was based on the issuance of whaling licenses by the Government of Canada in 1996 and the subsequent killing of two bowhead whales under those licenses. This message constitutes my report to the Congress pursuant to subsection (b) of the Pelly Amendment.

In 1991, Canadian natives took a bowhead whale from the western Arctic stock, under a Canadian permit. In 1994, Canadian natives took another bowhead whale from one of the eastern Arctic stocks, without a permit.

In 1996, under Canadian permits, one bowhead whale was taken in the western Canadian Arctic on July 24 and one bowhead whale was taken in the eastern Canadian Arctic on August 17. The whale in the eastern Arctic was taken from a highly endangered stock. The IWC has expressed particular concern about whaling on this stock, which is not known to be recovering.

None of the Canadian whale hunts described above was authorized by the IWC. Canada withdrew from the IWC in 1982. In those instances where Canada issued whaling licenses, it did so without consulting the IWC. In fact, Canada's 1996 actions were directly contrary to IWC advice. At the 1996 Annual Meeting, the IWC passed a resolution encouraging Canada to refrain from issuing whaling licenses and to rejoin the IWC. However, Canada has recently advised the United States that it has no plans to rejoin the IWC and that it intends to continue granting licenses for the taking of endangered bowhead whales.

Canada's unilateral decision to authorize whaling outside of the IWC is unacceptable. Canada's conduct jeopardizes the international effort that has allowed whale stocks to begin to recover from the devastating effects of historic whaling.

I understand the importance of maintaining traditional native cultures, and I support aboriginal whaling that is managed through the IWC. The Canadian hunt, however, is problematic for two reasons.

First, the whaling took place outside the ICW. International law, as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, obligates countries to work through the appropriate international organization for the conservation and management of whales. Second, whaling in the eastern Canadian Arctic poses a particular conservation risk, and the decision to take this risk should not have been made unilaterally.

I believe that Canadian whaling on endangered whales warrants action at this time.

Accordingly, I have instructed the Department of State to oppose Cana-

dian efforts to address takings of marine mammals within the newly formed Arctic Council. I have further instructed the Department of State to oppose Canadian efforts to address trade in marine mammal products within the Arctic Council. These actions grow from our concern about Canada's efforts to move whaling issues to fora other than the IWC and, more generally, about the taking of marine mammals in ways that are inconsistent with sound conservation practices.

Second, I have instructed the Department of Commerce, in implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act, to withhold consideration of any Canadian requests for waivers to the existing moratorium on the importation of seals and/or seal products into the United States.

Finally, the United States will continue to urge Canada to reconsider its unilateral decision to authorize whaling on endangered stocks and to authorize whaling outside the IWC.

I believe the foregoing measures are more appropriate in addressing the problem of Canadian whaling than the imposition of import prohibitions at this time.

I have asked the Departments of Commerce and State to keep this situation under close review.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 10, 1997.

REPORT OF PROPOSED RESCIS-SIONS OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 14

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, to the Committee on Armed Services, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, to the Committee on the Judiciary, to the Committee on Governmental Affairs, and to the Committee on Finance.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report nine proposed rescissions of budgetary resources, totaling \$397 million, and one revised deferral, totaling \$7 million.

The proposed rescissions affect the Departments of Agriculture, Defense-Military, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, and Justice, and the General Services Administration. The deferral affects the Social Security Administration.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 10, 1997.