

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Madam President, just so our new colleague from Wyoming understands, this was the order that was agreed to under unanimous consent, and therefore, since he is waiting, I want to explain that this was not just being discourteous; it had been set that way. The junior Senator from Wyoming will get used to some of those things off in the corner. He may not like it, but it works out.

(The remarks of Mr. LAUTENBERG pertaining to the introduction of S. 18 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

#### DISAPPOINTMENT WITH INTRODUCTION OF SUPERFUND BILL

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Madam President, while I am on the floor, I want to express some disappointment at the introduction today by my friend and colleague, Senator CHAFEE, of a comprehensive bill amending our Federal hazardous waste cleanup law, better known as Superfund.

This bill was introduced without consultation with any of the Democrats or with the administration. My staff, and those of the ranking member on the Environment and Public Works Committee, did not see a copy of this bill until late this morning. If we are to make reforms to Superfund this year—and it was hoped we would do it last year and the year before—it is critical that we work together in a bipartisan manner.

Today's bill introduction is not a positive first step toward that bipartisanship. Enacting any Superfund legislation this year is going to require Members of both parties in the House of Representatives and in the Senate to work together. It will also require all of us to work with the President and EPA Administrator Carol Browner.

In addition, Madam President, it would require us to appreciate that times have changed since the debate over Superfund reauthorization began in the late 1980's. The administration has made wide-ranging administrative proposals that have made a real difference, and this is not the same Superfund program of years past.

We have learned a lot. We have improved its processing. We have reduced the possibility of heavy litigation costs. I want to be clear, I support changes to Superfund that would speed cleanups, reduce litigation, increase equity, save money, and protect the health and environment of those who live near Superfund sites. But, Madam President, it is important to do this right. We should not be shifting costs from polluters to taxpayers, and the President has made it very clear that he will not abide by that either.

So, Madam President, I hope that the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will closely examine the administrative reforms already undertaken before moving forward on changes to the Superfund program. I

hold this up as an example of what is in here, introduced this morning without consultation. This is not a way to get ourselves a bipartisan kickoff to this very important reauthorization program.

I look forward, as I have for many years, to working with our distinguished colleague, Senator CHAFEE, and Senator BOB SMITH from New Hampshire and others, to find common ground. I want to reauthorize Superfund, but I would like to do it in a way that is fair to taxpayers and in a way that is going to work.

I yield back the time on the Democrats' side reserved. How much time is left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Time is controlled by the minority. There is 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I yield back the time at this point that I have not used and reserve for our side the remaining minutes.

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

Mr. FORD. Madam President, the distinguished Senator from Wyoming wishes to speak, and I don't want to get in his way, but I will need more than 5 minutes, so I will wait until others are through so I can get my time on the floor in addition to the 5 minutes. So I alert the Chair to that. Thank you.

Mr. ENZI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Joint Resolution 1, the balanced budget amendment. I specifically chose the balanced budget amendment as the focus of my first statement in this hallowed Chamber. I chose it because the need for a balanced budget is the most important issue facing all of America today. Without a balanced budget, our children will be saddled with a mountain of debt. Our children and grandchildren will be left with no hope of fulfilling their dreams and aspirations. Our Nation will be weakened and vulnerable.

I know how to balance a budget. I'm an accountant. I have balanced budgets as a family man, a shoe store owner, a mayor, and a legislator. You and I know how easy it is to spend money. We know it's easier to say "yes" to programs than "no." There is a constituency for every single program. But I have had to say "no." We have a duty and a responsibility to our communities, our families and our children to live within our means. Right now we are spending more money than we are taking in. Overspending is a prescription for disaster. Almost any school child understands that if you spend more than your take in—you go broke.

Because of the Federal Government's ability to print money, we can easily feel there are no spending limits. How can we pay the bills of a nation when we reach the point where interest payments on our debt exceed all the revenue? That scenario is possible. We are

now on that course. Without restraint, that could happen even at an impossible 100 percent tax rate on the citizens of this great Nation. Governments go broke when they cannot afford the interest.

The Federal Government must learn to live within its means. If we were not saddled with such enormous debt, we would have additional revenues to invest in the people and we could reduce the tax burden for every working man and woman in this country. Many States have a constitutional provision to balance the budget. Those States balance their budgets. It is time for us to require ourselves to balance the budget just as they now require the States to do.

History shows we cannot balance the budget with willpower alone. It is time to look at the hard, cold facts. We now have a \$5.2 trillion dollar Federal debt. The deficit looms so large. Many Americans voted for candidates based on their stand on this single issue. A balanced budget amendment was the key to voter confidence. Failure to support this issue will diminish that confidence and could lead to the defeat of other candidates in 2 years.

The balance budget amendment would help end the frustrating impasse between Congress and the President by requiring that we agree on a budget that is balanced. A constitutional requirement will remove from debate the variable of how long it will take to balance the budget. The argument about whether we should balance it at all will be removed from the discussion. All Americans know that we have to work within the parameters of fiscal sanity. The balanced budget amendment will focus our effort and our attention.

We have not had a balanced Federal budget since 1969. This fact alone illustrates the difficulty of balancing a budget without an amendment. By failing to balance the budget, we are giving in to the whims of the moment. Without a balanced budget we abandon the ideals of self-control, discipline, and hard work. When we do not balance a budget, we lead by the example of selfishness, recklessness and folly. We condone living beyond our means.

Those opposed to a balanced budget amendment fear it would result in drastic cuts to programs they deem necessary. That is a very shortsighted view of the world. Only by balancing the Federal budget, however, can we guarantee long-term security to any Federal program, including Social Security. By balancing the budget, we do a great service for all Americans. We especially serve those living on fixed income retirement programs. When we pass and the States ratify this amendment, everyone will benefit. Interest rates will decrease. Inflation will be held in check. Business will have true growth. Jobs will increase.

We need to pass this amendment with no gimmickry, no smoke and no mirrors. Any proposal to exempt Social Security would rule out the possibility

of a true balanced budget. Any exemption of Social Security plays games with the future. We need to deal with the facts. Making Social Security exempt from this process would simply allow unlimited spending. An exemption would give the false pretense that we have a balanced budget.

Getting our entitlement programs in good working order is essential. Finger pointing about who wants to cut entitlements are simply diversions. Sleights of hand over who wants to save entitlement programs are all political ploys. Don't let politics confuse the issue and stall the passage of this amendment.

The economic future of America's families depends on what we do now. My family is very important to me. I know your families are important to you as well. Every day that passes without a balanced budget hurts. The responsibility of the debt falls on the shoulders of our children and our grandchildren. Will we leave them a legacy of colossal debt totaling more than \$5.2 trillion? That incredible debt will burden generations to come. Our kids and grandkids will have an enormous tax burden. They will inherit an economy so weak and a debt so large there will be no hope of them ever paying it off.

When I was going to grade school, we spent a lot of time on the enormity of a million dollars. I've always been fascinated with Carl Sagan's emphasis of the difference between a million and a billion. Now we roll a trillion off our tongues with great ease; \$5.2 trillion. This is the cruelest of all legacies.

That debt we are incurring for our kids amounts to taxation without representation. We mounted a revolution over that before. Our Founding Fathers would be embarrassed. We should imitate our forefathers in fulfilling our duty to our children and to our children's children. We must save them from the bondage of insurmountable taxes. If the balanced budget amendment fails, we lose. Future generations lose as well.

It is time to heed the words of Thomas Jefferson, "I place economy among the first and important virtues, and public debt as the greatest of dangers to be feared." President Jefferson knew the economic and moral importance of not owing anything to anyone. He also knew that a large public debt could make the United States a slave to other countries and foreign interests.

Defeat is the real national danger on our horizon. The national security of the United States is threatened by the immense debt. We, as a nation, will be unable to protect ourselves against our enemies, foreign and domestic. And, we will be unable to protect Americans—their jobs and their families. We cannot leave ourselves exposed to economic collapse. A world relies on us to get our economic house in order. If we—you and I—continue the practice of overspending, history will harshly judge us.

We will say, "We have met the enemy—and it is us." America has the best form of government on Earth. Now it requires responsibility from its leaders and citizens. The time for leadership is now. The time for the balanced budget amendment is now.

The American people demand an end to runaway spending. We need to show the American people that we are responsible. This bill will prove restraint by constitutionally limiting the ability to spend taxpayer dollars. Let us not fail them or ourselves.

We have the longest continuous government on the face of the Earth. This bill is a critical link to the future. We must preserve and protect our Nation and do it for our children and our grandchildren. This is the turning point. What will history say about each of us?

I urge my colleagues to support the balanced budget amendment.

#### CONGRATULATING SENATOR ENZI

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I must rise to congratulate our colleague, the new Senator from Wyoming, Senator ENZI, for his statement. I think it is an outstanding statement—his first speech, as I understand it, on the floor on our first legislative day. I just wish to compliment him. I hope every American could hear that speech, a very well-thought-out speech on the necessity and importance of a balanced budget amendment.

I think Senator ENZI's credentials are certainly meritorious of that statement, the fact he is an accountant by trade, a businessman, former State legislator as well as mayor. I compliment him and thank him for his well-thought-out speech. I hope everyone will pay attention to it and follow his advice and pass this amendment.

I thank him again for his speech.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business for a period of 5 minutes.

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

#### CONGRATULATING SENATOR ENZI

Mr. GREGG. I wish to thank the Senator from Kentucky for allowing me to proceed even though he had prior permission.

I also want to congratulate the Senator from Wyoming on his superb discussion of the balanced budget amendment. It was thoughtful, to the point, focused, and really highlighted the importance of that amendment, which happens to be the first item on the agenda for the Republican majority in the Senate. Of the 10 items listed by the majority leader today as being the priority items which the Senate shall pursue under the Republican agenda, No. 1 was the balanced budget amendment.

The Senator from Wyoming has done a superb job of pointing out why it is absolutely essential that we pass that amendment.

#### EDUCATION IN AMERICA

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I want to speak briefly here to the second item on the agenda, which is education. Obviously, we all recognize the significance and importance of education. We also recognize, those of us who have been involved in the issue for a while, that the issue of education is, for the most part, settled at the local school level, at the local community level, especially as it involves elementary and secondary education, and that the Federal role is narrow and one which is focused on specific areas. It is not the Federal Government's obligation nor is it appropriate that the Federal Government step into the designing or the curriculum or the choosing of the proper activities for school systems.

Rather, it is the Federal Government's role to pick areas where it can assist the local school districts and can assist parents in helping their children to get a better education. The proposal that has been put forward by the Republican Senate today, Republican Members of the Senate, as the second item on our list of 10, is a very strong proposal on behalf of the parents of America and the students of America.

It is an effort to identify a number of areas where we think the Federal Government can assist parents in helping their children get a better education. We all recognize that education is the core activity that we must undertake if we are to have a competitive society.

We especially recognize this in New England where we depend so much on brainpower because we have no great natural resources. Our natural resource is the intelligence of our citizenry, which is extraordinarily high and depends on a strong education system.

In this area I want to highlight two activities that have been pointed to by our proposal. The first is that we understand that there is this huge baby-boom generation—of which Bill Clinton happens to be the most visible individual—which happens to also have children. And all those children of that baby-boom generation, people like Chelsea, people like my own children, are moving into the college-age years.

There are a lot of parents who are very concerned about how they are going to pay for the high cost of higher education. This proposal gives parents an option. It gives them an opportunity, sets up the Bob Dole grants, which are the specific vehicle that allows parents to invest for their children's education, to save for their children's education, and be able to plan ahead so that they can use the vehicle of, basically, a designated savings account which will receive significant tax benefits to assist them in getting ready for their children's college education.