

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.

In addition, it supports prepaid tuition plans that many of our States are now pursuing, where parents can actually choose a college or group of colleges within a State and pay the tuition early and thus avoid the cost of inflation and put themselves in a position where they can better afford the cost of education as their children get older and the costs go up.

In addition, it expands the deduction for student loan interest, a very important element in having the ability to go to college or go to graduate school and to be able to get a loan and still be able to pay it back. This expansion of the deduction will have a positive impact in that area.

It expands study awards and assists employers who are assisting their employees in higher education. It is a very significant effort to make higher education more affordable for the families of America.

In addition, the bill has another major element which is absolutely critical, especially in New Hampshire. That is, it says that the Federal Government is financially going to step up to its obligation to special ed children. A long time ago we passed something called 94142, which was an excellent bill, the purpose of which was to make special education more readily available to children who needed it.

The concept was that the Federal Government would pay 40 percent of the cost and the States would pay 60 percent of the costs. Today, unfortunately, the Federal Government is only paying about 6 percent of the costs that are borne in order to care for a child who has special requirements in education.

As a result, this has put a huge burden on the local communities and the local school systems. States like New Hampshire, which rely heavily on real estate taxes to support their schools, or even States that rely on State government income taxes or sales taxes, find that a large percentage of the tax dollars they are raising for education are going to support what should have been the Federal obligation to help out with the special education child.

As we all know, the special education child can, in instances, cost \$100,000 or more as compared with a child going through the system in an average school system which may cost \$4,000. So it can skew dramatically the ability to apply resources to benefit other children in the system because of the fact that the Federal Government has shirked its obligation to come forward with its 40 percent, as it said it would when it initially passed this bill a long time ago.

So what we have proposed as Republicans is that the Federal Government will finally step forward and fund special education at near the 40-percent level. We are talking about a \$10 billion increase in funding for special education, which increase will be met by ramping up, over a series of years, 7 years, and thus allowing the States and

the communities to free up those education dollars which they are now using in order to support the Federal obligation to care for the special ed child, to educate the special ed child, to free up those dollars to use them to expand education activity for other children in the school system.

If you want to look at it in its cleanest sense, it is actually going to be the largest block grants to local education the Federal Government has ever pursued. It should have occurred earlier, but it is going to occur now as a result of the commitment that has been made by the Republican majority here in the Senate.

The sign that it is going to occur is the fact that we already made the downpayment. In the last session—and this did not get much attention unfortunately; it should have gotten a lot more attention; I do not know why it did not get a lot more attention; maybe it was because of a national election and people wanted jingle on their positions—but in the last budget process last September we, as Republican Members of the Senate, put \$730 million more into special education than the present funding was. We increased it by that amount of money.

It was a downpayment on this effort to try to fully fund the 40 percent that the Federal Government originally said it was going to fund. As a result, a State like New Hampshire will receive an increase of approximately \$3 million. That is a lot of money to help out with the special education issues.

So we are not talking in rosy scenarios here. We are not using words. We are not trying to create perceptions. We are talking in terms of deeds. We have already made the downpayment on this effort to expand our commitment to special education. And now with the putting forward of the Republican list of initiatives for this Congress, we are making it very clear that we are going to follow through on that commitment.

This will be positive for the children across this country and for the educational systems across this country. I think Republicans can take great pride that we at least have been willing to step up to this very critical issue of first educating our children in college and relieving the pressure on parents who are trying to send their children to college; and, second, helping out with the special ed needs which the States have for so long borne but which the Federal Government has for so long said it would bear.

Madam President, I yield back my time.

Mr. FORD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. FORD. Madam President, I want to use the 5 minutes that has been assigned to the minority, and I ask unanimous consent I have such time as I need beyond that.

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

Mr. FORD. I thank the Chair very much.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IN THE 105TH CONGRESS

Mr. FORD. Madam President, as we begin a new Congress, we begin with the hope that the bipartisanship that existed at the end of the 104th Congress will carry through the 105th Congress.

Together, Democrats and Republicans were able to put aside partisan differences and pass meaningful and important legislation, from raising the minimum wage to the Kennedy-Kassebaum health care bill, to the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration and the airport improvement program, and adding additional funds to education.

Madam President, I think in not only the minds of some in this body but the general public, one glaring example where we fail to come together is campaign finance reform. While the American people saw that we can work together to pass legislative solutions to everyday problems, the American people also saw our failure to restore integrity to our political system with the passage of campaign finance reform.

Unfortunately, this last election cycle once again demonstrates that we need fundamental campaign finance reform. This last election cycle demonstrated that the money chase continues. Only this time, the pace was more intense.

Preliminary figures from the Federal Election Commission for the 1996 cycle are astounding. Fundraising by the Republican and Democrat Parties—"parties" I underscore—in the period from January 1, 1995, through November 25, 1996, totaled \$882 million. That represents a 73-percent increase over the same period for the 1992 Presidential election cycle.

The largest increase in funding and spending by the parties was soft money. The Republican National Committee raised \$141.2 million, a 183-percent increase over 1992's \$49.8 million. Republicans spent \$149.6 million compared to their spending in the 1992 election cycle, an increase of 224 percent. Democrats raised \$122 million, a 237-percent increase over 1992's \$36.5 million, and spent \$117.3 million, a 250-percent increase over 1992 when Democrats spent \$32.9 million.

Madam President, the money chase does not stop there. Based on reports by the Federal Election Commission, congressional candidates—that includes the House and the Senate—spending may be at an all-time high. Totals for both the House and the Senate general election candidates show they raised \$659.6 million, an 8-percent increase over 1994. That is in addition to the other money that I am talking about. So we are nearing the \$2 billion figure as it relates to spending in campaign finance in campaigning.