

today. It recognizes the fact that, you know, a 1960 system, where the Federal Government basically picks who you can have health care with, simply does not work. You have to use the marketplace.

The third element of this American productivity renewal package is to look at the tax laws and acknowledge the fact that the tax laws are arbitrary. They are as arbitrary as some bureaucrat in Washington could possibly make them, or some Member of Congress could possibly make them. Why should somebody be a winner and why should somebody else be a loser under the tax laws? Simply because a Member of Congress or somebody at Treasury decided unilaterally to affect the marketplace by making the decision that this person will be a loser and this person will be a winner, that is not right. That perverts the flow of capital; it perverts investment; it perverts the manner in which people go out and make decisions in the marketplace. It causes an inefficient use of dollars that are used to create capital and create savings.

So we need a flatter system. We need a system that eliminates the vast majority of the deductions and says to the taxpayer, "You can fill your form out on one page, one postcard, and in doing that, we won't control how you make decisions with your money. We'll take your taxes still, but we won't control whether or not you invest in this item or that item. That is simply a decision as to whether or not you're going to get better or worse tax treatment." And, thus, capital will flow much more efficiently to those items which are most productive and those items which will create the most prosperity, because that is the way a capitalist system works and a marketplace system works.

So by addressing these three core issues of fiscal policy from a marketplace approach as versus from a centralized planning approach, which is what has been done for the last half century, we can, I believe, ready ourselves for the next century, make this country more competitive, and, most importantly, put the country in a position where our children will be assured that we are going to be a fiscally solvent place and a prosperous place for them to raise their children, rather than a place subject to the vagaries of a huge Government debt and inflation that would cause a bankruptcy of the Social Security system.

Mr. President, I appreciate your time. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mrs. HUTCHISON pertaining to the introduction of S. 411 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have 7 minutes as in morning business.

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

IT'S FOR KIDS II

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in December, the Department of Health released annual figures on teenage drug use. As in the preceding 3 years, what the numbers showed was a continuing, alarming increase in teenage drug use. The number of eighth graders using any illicit drug in the year before the survey has almost doubled since 1991, from 11 to 21 percent. The proportion of increased use among 10th graders has risen by almost two-thirds, from 20 to 33 percent. It has risen by almost 50 percent among seniors in high school, from 27 to 39 percent. Stop for a minute and think about the reality behind the numbers.

One in every five 13 year olds has used an illicit drug in the last year. One in every three 15 year olds and close to two of every five seniors have used drugs. Marijuana use is leading the way. Regular use of marijuana by kids is on the rise. Nearly 1 in every 20 seniors now uses marijuana daily. We know from bitter experience, that marijuana use, especially regular use, increases dramatically the likelihood of further, more serious drug use. We know only too well that such use leads to dramatic increases in addiction, violent crime, treatment dependency, and a cycle of hurt that can endure for years.

Moreover, the recent survey reveals that teenage attitudes about the dangers of drug use are also changing—for the worse. An increasing number of young people at younger ages no longer see drug use as dangerous.

Just this past Tuesday, the Partnership for a Drug Free America released information that showed that kids at younger ages, including kids in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades, are starting to try drugs.

We have not seen increases in use or changes in beliefs about the dangers of use like this since the late 1960's and 1970's. Those of us who are adults today know what that increase in use and changes in attitudes did to this country. We are still living with the consequences of social attitudes that le-

gitimized drug use. We are still paying the costs to treat the addicts that began as teenage users then.

Let's remind ourselves of a simple truth. The most likely users of drugs are kids. Not adults. Not grown men and women. Not our peers and friends and colleagues. Not our business partners or professional associates. Kids. It begins with kids. Most addicts today began as teenagers. Most addicts tomorrow will begin as teenagers or younger. And whom do the pushers of drugs target? Kids. Whom do the purveyors of drug messages in our movies and popular music target? Kids.

You do not have to go very far to discover why. Young people are more vulnerable to messages that would have them test limits. They are less aware of long-term consequences for present acts. They are more easily influenced by peers and fashions. It is our kids that are most at risk for messages about drug use. It is in order to protect kids that we take steps to control drugs in our society. Even the majority of the most ardent legalization advocates do not advocate drug use by kids. Most of them draw the line at that. Most.

But our problem lies in this. We cannot be halfhearted and ambivalent in our counterdrug messages if we are to tell our kids not to use drugs. We cannot, on the one hand, make drugs readily available and condone their use by law and custom and keep them from our kids. We have ample evidence of this in legal drugs, in the problems of teenage use of alcohol and tobacco.

But I am talking about substances that are far worse and more dangerous. We cannot afford to make these drugs part of our daily lives. The public is aware of that. They oppose it. But what we see is a growing effort by a few to get around that opposition. Ultimately they are not likely to succeed. But they can and have so muddled the public message as to send mixed signals to the very people we want to protect. Kids.

From music to videos to movies and political campaigns, we are seeing efforts once again to glamorize drugs. We are seeing opinion leaders and members of our cultural elite portray drug use as simply a personal choice that is harmless and benign. Many of these individuals act as if the only issue is for responsible adults to decide for themselves. They speak as if it is only adults that we need to think about. This, however, is not in fact the case.

If you do not believe this, talk to parents. Talk to teachers. Talk to the health and law enforcement professionals who daily see the consequences. Most important, listen to what kids are telling us about what is happening in their schools. To their friends.

Like other Members here, I receive mail from many people. Among them are our young people. Their letters are full of concern and hope. One of the concerns is about drugs in school. Thus Byron, 14 years old, writes, "As I have

grown up, I have begun to notice more and more people I know using legal and illegal drugs. Never before did I even know 'Meth' existed. But now, my school feels there is a need to take courses about it. I agree with you that drug use should stop, and fast." Or Christina, 12, who writes about her concern for what's being done to stop underage drug use. Or Heath, a senior, concerned about growing use in junior high and elementary schools. Or Jennie, a junior, who has seen peers using PCP and crack or acid. Or the many others who have written confused about what they should think or what our policy is.

It is to this and following generations that we are responsible for and to. They look to us for guidance. They rely on us to protect them and their futures. That is what is at issue here. The efforts that we undertake to keep our society drug free are the things that we do to protect our kids. We do this because it is the responsible thing to do. We do this because no sane or civilized society can long endure that fails its children.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 5, the Federal debt stood at \$5,359,515,287,678.12.

One year ago, March 5, the Federal debt stood at \$5,016,462,000,000.

Five years ago, March 5, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,849,118,000,000.

Ten years ago, March 5, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,258,090,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, March 5, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,045,007,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,314,508,287,678.12—during the past 15 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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 a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT CONCERNING THE TRADE POLICY AGENDA AND THE TRADE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 21

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 Finance.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2213), I transmit herewith the 1997 Trade Policy Agenda and 1996 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 6, 1997.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 513. An act to exempt certain contracts entered into by the government of the District of Columbia from review by the Council of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 4. Concurrent resolution commending and thanking the Honorable Warren Christopher for his exemplary service as Secretary of State.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 17. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of Guatemala on the success of the recent negotiations to establish a peace process for Guatemala.

H. Con. Res. 18. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of the Republic of Nicaragua on the success of their democratic elections held on October 20, 1996.

H. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the display of the Ten Commandments by Judge Roy S. Moore, a judge on the circuit court of the State of Alabama.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 513. An act to exempt certain contracts entered into by the government of the District of Columbia from review by the Council of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

The following measures were read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 17. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of Guatemala on the success of the recent negotiations to establish a peace process for Guatemala; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 18. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of the Republic of Nicaragua on the success of their democratic

elections held on October 20, 1996; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the display of the Ten Commandments by Judge Roy S. Moore, a judge on the circuit court of the State of Alabama; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1318. A communication from the Administrator of the Food and Consumer Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Food Assistance in Disaster and Distress Situations" received on February 26, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1319. A communication from the Secretary of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Anti-manipulation Rules Concerning Securities Offerings" (RIN3235-AF54, AF97); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1320. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "New Starts Criteria" (RIN2132-AA50) received on February 27, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1321. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, case number 95-16; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1322. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, case number 95-14; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1323. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, four rules including a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans" (FRL5660-2, 5698-1, 5697-9, 5688-8) received on March 5, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1324. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations" (RIN2115-AE46) received on February 27, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1325. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Regulatory Flexibility Analysis" received on March 6, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1326. A communication from the Vice-Chairman of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to the D.C. fiscal year 1998 Budget and Financial Plan; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1327. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled