

(1) A substantial majority of the tax cut benefits provided in the tax reconciliation bill will go to middle class working families earning less than approximately \$100,000 per year; and

(2) The tax cuts in the tax reconciliation bill will not cause revenue losses to increase significantly in years after 2007.

ROBB AMENDMENT NO. 356

Mr. ROBB proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution, Senate Concurrent Resolution 27, *supra*; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

SEC. . . SENSE OF THE SENATE ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND RETIREMENT SAVING.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) Payroll taxes provide the basic funding source for Social Security, the most popular and successful government program in reducing the rate of poverty among the elderly;

(2) For a majority of Americans, the payroll tax burden imposed for Social Security is now greater than the income tax burden, making it difficult for many families to invest for their own retirement;

(3) Payroll taxes collected for Social Security currently exceed the amounts necessary to fund Social Security benefits;

(4) Excess Social Security revenues finance current consumption rather than being saved and invested for the benefit of today's employees, denying them an opportunity to share in the benefits of the increasing value of capital in a global economy;

(5) Increased personal savings is necessary to provide secure retirements and enhance future productivity and economic growth;

(B) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the provisions of this Resolution assumes that—

(1) The Senate will consider using the amounts currently reserved for tax cuts for individuals to use a portion of their Social Security payroll tax contribution for personal retirement accounts.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Small Business will hold a hearing entitled "Small Business Perspectives on Mandates, Paperwork, and Regulation." The hearing will be held on June 4, 1997, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

For further information, please contact Suey Howe at 224-5175.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Wednesday, May 21, 1997, at 2 p.m. in open session, to receive testimony regarding the quadrennial defense review and its impact on the future years defense program.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on May 21, 1995, at 9:30 a.m. on program efficiencies at the Department of Transportation.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 21, for purposes of conducting a Full Committee Business Meeting which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to consider pending calendar business.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, The Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, May 21, 1997, beginning at 10 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the Finance Committee Subcommittee on Social Security and Family Policy requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, May 21, 1997, beginning at 2 p.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 21, 1997, at 10 a.m. to hold a business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 21, 1997 at 9:30 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Building to conduct an Oversight Hearing on programs designed to assist native American veterans.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I am proud to be a cosponsor of Senator HAGEL's legislation commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Senate Resolution 87. His resolution is a fitting tribute not only to the wall itself, but to the 58,196 American men and women who gave their lives for this country in Southeast Asia or who are still missing nearly 20 years after the conclusion of the war.

The memorial, the names of Americans killed and missing engraved in its marble edifice, is an eery reminder of the sacrifice made by so many young men and women for a cause many here at home disputed. Nearly 9 million Americans served in Vietnam. Their valor in war was too often greeted with disrespect upon their return home. That is why the Vietnam Veterans Memorial plays such an important role in honoring the bravery and sacrifice of the soldiers who served in an unpopular war at a tumultuous time in American history.

While the memorial's design was at first controversial, it has become an important aspect of the National Mall in Washington, DC, visited by tens of thousands of tourists every year. For those whose loved ones perished in Vietnam, it is an opportunity to see firsthand, that their friends or relatives will be revered and remembered for a long time to come. For those who were not touched personally by the war, the memorial is a chance to understand and experience Vietnam. And for all Americans, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a lesson about the dangers of war and the bravery, character, and patriotism of the men and women of our Armed Forces.

On this, the 15th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Senator HAGEL's resolution is a timely and appropriate way to honor all those who served in Vietnam. I am proud, Mr. President, to be an original cosponsor.●

LOBBYING DISCLOSURE TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I wish to add to the statement I offered last week when I introduced S. 758, the Lobbying Disclosure Technical Amendments Act of 1997. In my statement, I noted that a similar piece of legislation that Congressmen CHARLES CANDY and BARNEY FRANK sponsored last year and moved through the House of Representatives, was unable to gain passage in the Senate because of a provision that some Members of the Senate found problematic. I emphasized that the bill I have introduced omits that provision.

Although that revision is, in my view, the key difference between the bill I have introduced and last year's version, I should also point out a second change. S. 758 omits a provision that would alter the language in those sections of the Lobbying Disclosure Act (the "LDA") requiring LDA registrants to identify certain foreign entities that have an interest in the outcome of their lobbying activities. As it stands now, the LDA provides that registrants need to identify foreign entities that have a direct interest in their lobbying. The provision in last year's House-passed bill and which is not included in S. 758 would have added the word "significant" to that phrase. Under that provision, registrants

would have to disclose foreign subsidiaries only if they have a significant direct interest in the lobbying.

In my view, changing direct interest to significant direct interest would be counterproductive, especially since the provision in question does not define what the word "significant" means in this context. At what point does a direct interest become a significant direct interest? If foreign entities have a direct interest in the lobbying of a registrant, but the registrant insists that interest is not significant, how can we judge that contention? In the absence of clear answers to those questions, I believe the provision I have omitted could weaken the LDA. By introducing an element of vagueness into the act's language, it could undercut the act's ability to fulfill the information-gathering function that we had in mind when we passed it.

As I emphasized in my initial statement, my purpose in introducing this technical amendments bill is to make the LDA even more useful than it is now. I do not want to do anything to weaken the act, and S. 758 is shaped in accordance with that guiding principle.●

LAMENTATION

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask that a poem by Virginia Louise Doris be entered in the RECORD. Ms. Doris, distinguished poet and historian from my hometown of Warwick, RI, has written this poem to commemorate those who lost their lives in the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City over 2 years ago.

The poem follows:

LAMENTATION

(By Virginia Louise Doris, composed April 19, 1997)

"A Song that wanders only where an elegy sent".

DE PROFUNDIS

We tarry, roses breathing vanished-times broken,
in this green-parting glade where agonies spoken.

Oh! waiting heart! shall thy pulses always beat

to the serephs pause of a presence so dear,
that all dove-cote lowing cadance repeat
its sweet, floating, accents to thine ear?
Charcoal shadows lay their twilight fingers
upon a barren wall, where roses sang a
climbing song, and declivous wings brushed
in summer flight, each petal instill life's
incense to fulfill; the roar of fate decrees
a sundered cherish.

IN EXTREMIS

In the long noon-tide of our sorrow, we questioned
of the eternal morrow; we gaze in bonded awe
far through the daystar's candle dimmed, or charnel
tears and dust which tell our kindred roam.
The beloved is keeping all, the waiting, murmuring,
beloved lets nothing go, of clasp and want
which tolls our famished moan, illumed by lyric
cerement, spheres gush of dewy, languored,
woes cascading vernal, flamy, biers of memory,

the enchanted years.

IN NOMINE

Oh! waiting heart! Shall thy images always keep
the remembrance of lost, embroidered-time,
our realm-blessed joy unrolled, to weep
unstemmed amid this sable, wounded, clime?
We tarry, roses breathing vanished-times
beckon,
in this green-parting grove where seasons reckon.

IN MEMORIAM

April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City, the Murrah Building.●

ENHANCING OUR DIPLOMATIC READINESS—A CRITICAL TEST OF AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, last week a bipartisan budget agreement was successfully reached between the Administration and Congressional leaders of both parties.

This is a seminal achievement that will lead us to a balanced budget for the first time in 28 years.

I would like to congratulate the budget negotiators on this important accomplishment.

I would like to call particular attention to their leadership in funding international affairs.

In February, I wrote the Budget Committee asking that the President's budget request of \$19.45 billion for international affairs spending be regarded as the absolute minimum essential to effectively carry out the national interests of the United States.

Yesterday, the Budget Committee reported a resolution establishing these enhanced levels of funding as a priority for fiscal year 1998.

I commend the Budget Committee for recognizing the importance of funding this year the full amount of the President's request for foreign affairs.

This was an important first step.

I look forward to continue working with Chairman HELMS on the Foreign Relations Committee and with the Appropriations Committee to insure that sufficient funds are authorized and appropriated to restore our resources for diplomatic readiness abroad.

But it was only the first step. In recent years, funding for international affairs has plummeted in real terms to its lowest level since World War II.

Yet all the while, due to the downsizing of U.S. overseas military forces, diplomacy has become more important than ever as a vital front-line defense of American interests.

Although the cold war has ended, challenges to our security remain.

We live in an age in which international threats such as terrorism, narcotics trafficking, and nuclear proliferation continue to imperil our Nation's security and prosperity.

American diplomats in the field and on the ground are essential to understanding complex political and economic forces affecting our allies and adversaries alike.

Despite the reduction in our military readiness abroad, the increased impor-

tance of diplomatic readiness to our Nation's security has not been reflected in the Federal budget in recent years.

To the contrary, international affairs funding has suffered drastic budget cuts, a point which I will demonstrate today. These cuts have already begun to have noticeable effects on our Nation's diplomatic readiness.

Thus, this year's budget agreement must be seen as only the first step toward restoring and enhancing America's diplomatic preparedness.

Before discussing the decline in resources for foreign affairs, it is worth pausing to address a threshold question: What kind of foreign policy do we want to have?

Stated more bluntly—are we prepared to remain engaged in the world, or are we headed down the path of isolationism?

For it is only after we answer this fundamental question should we make decisions about the budgetary resources for foreign affairs.

Mr. President, how we fund our diplomatic resources abroad presents another test for American leadership—whether the growing forces of neoisolationism or those favoring engagement are going to prevail in this congress.

It is commonly asserted these days that the American people are weary of international involvement, and want us to cut back from our commitments abroad.

Over the course of the last 50 years we have seen an enormous technological revolution take place in the areas of information, communication, transportation, medicine, manufacturing, and world trade.

For better or worse, this revolution—at least for large segments of the world—has fundamentally transformed the way we live.

Within and among nations, people today are more closely connected than ever by fast and affordable travel, instant electronic communication, and standardized products.

For Americans, who for much of our history enjoyed a sense of separateness from the world, global interdependence is no longer an academic abstraction; we experience it daily. The lesson of the two world wars in this century—that we cannot preserve our own well-being in isolation from the world's problems—has now been compounded by technology.

For the last 50 years, the major threat to our Nation's security was the global spread of communism. Today, a host of other threats—no less dangerous—to our future security and prosperity exist: the proliferation of dangerous weapons; the threat of terrorism, narcotics, and international crime; the spread of deadly diseases; the degradation of the environment; and increasing economic competition.

On every continent, we face many challenges, new and old:

In Europe, we work to reinvigorate the NATO alliance by engaging in new missions and expanding to the east;