

As others have noted, this budget resolution is not perfect.

No one of us would have proposed precisely the same combination of provisions we have in this resolution, that is the nature of political compromise.

The result, however, is a package of provisions that does provide the opportunity to reach balance.

Mr. President, balancing our budget has been my highest priority as a Member of this body.

I ran on that issue in 1992, and I am pleased that we will enact a budget outline that puts us on track to achieve that goal.

Mr. President, it is important to note that this agreement would not have been possible without the President's deficit reduction package enacted in 1993.

Some now estimate that package achieved approximately \$2 trillion in deficit reduction between 1993 and 2002.

By contrast, the deficit reduction achieved in this year's budget outline is much smaller, but it is still an important accomplishment.

Mr. President, I think it also needs to be said this important accomplishment was achieved without amending our Constitution.

Indeed, I am convinced that the lack of a constitutional amendment pushed both sides to get the job done right now.

No one was able to say to their constituents: "Well, we passed a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, now it's up to State legislatures."

Mr. President, we still have a ways to go.

This budget resolution is only the beginning; we still have to enact the necessary spending cuts to reach balance.

More importantly, our longer-term budget prospects need much more serious work.

In fact, my biggest concern is that the agreement leaves enough room for either or both sides to push tax or spending policies that worsen our longer-term budget prospects.

I am particularly concerned that while the tax cut agreement may look sustainable in the budget resolution, it may become entirely unsustainable in the long-run, and only aggravate the serious budget problems we know we will face with the retirement of the baby boomers.

We all must continue the bipartisan commitment reflected by this budget agreement to ensure the resulting tax and spending legislation does not undermine either the immediate goal of that agreement—balancing the unified budget—nor our ability to take the next critical steps—enacting necessary entitlement reform, balancing the budget without relying on the Social Security trust funds, and beginning to reduce our national debt.

Mr. President, while many can be congratulated for the work done to produce this budget, I want to note especially the work done by our Budget Committee Chairman, the senior Sen-

ator from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI] and our ranking member, the senior Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG].

I joined the Budget Committee this past January, and this is my first experience as a member in working on a budget resolution.

To say the least, Mr. President, it has been a remarkable first experience.

We all realize that reaching this kind of settlement is not simply a matter of finding policies on which there is agreement.

The character and good will of the negotiators makes an enormous difference, and both sides of the aisle were well represented in this regard.

Mr. President, understandably, we often find ourselves focusing on the developing details of the agreement as the negotiations proceeded, and we all have specific matters to which we pay special attention.

All of that is appropriate.

But we often lose sight of the big picture, and the big picture here is that this budget resolution gives us the opportunity to actually achieve balance in the unified budget by 2002.

That is an historic achievement, and a great deal of the credit for that achievement should go to our chairman and ranking member.

I am proud to serve with them, and delighted to be a member of the committee they oversee.

I look forward to working with them next year on a budget resolution that takes the next important steps: enacting necessary entitlement reforms, achieving true balance without using the Social Security trust funds, and reducing the national debt.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask unanimous consent there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes each.

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

OECD SHIPBUILDING AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION

Mr. LOTT. The congressional participation in the OECD shipbuilding agreement continues in the 105th Congress. On April 22, 1997, Senator BREAUX introduced S. 629, the OECD Shipbuilding Agreement Act. On April 30, 1997, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, chaired by Senator MCCAIN, held a hearing on trade matters which included the OECD shipbuilding agreement. On June 5 that hearing will be continued with the focus on this particular maritime trade policy.

I must say that S. 629 represents the administration's attempt to reconcile their earlier legislative proposal made in the 104th Congress with the successful amendment made by the House of Representatives to that bill. Let me be

clear, while the current bill does not address all of the concerns voiced by America's largest shipbuilders, it is a positive step in the right direction. My colleagues must not ignore it.

It also begins to deal with issues I raised in my two colloquies in the Senate with Senator SNOWE.

I intend to work with Senator BREAUX to amend S. 629 so that all appropriate maritime solutions are incorporated. At a recent maritime function, I challenged the audience to examine the new language and to offer constructive improvements. Our Nation has international maritime responsibilities and we must respond to the challenge.

I believe that with the introduction of S. 629, the administration has made an honest attempt to address the majority of the concerns.

I plan on working with my colleagues in both the Senate and the House of Representatives to ensure that acceptable ratification and implementation legislation for the OECD shipbuilding agreement is passed by this Congress.

Mr. BREAUX. I thank the majority leader for his efforts to address the concerns of all U.S. shipbuilders while achieving proper ratification and implementation of this important international agreement.

Mr. LOTT. A primary thrust of the amendment in the 104th Congress by the House of Representatives was to clarify that the agreement shall not affect in any way the Jones Act and other laws related to our essential coastwise trade. My colleagues know my position on the Jones Act—I support it unequivocally. I believe the language in S. 629 also supports the Jones Act by requiring the withdrawal of the United States from the agreement if it interferes with our coastwise trade laws. However, I am continuing to work with Senator BREAUX to further strengthen this provision.

Mr. BREAUX. I agree with the majority leader. This legislation represents a strong reaffirmation to the world of the United States steadfast support for the Jones Act.

Furthermore, the House of Representatives amended H.R. 2754 to clearly preserve the authority of the Secretary of Defense to define, for the purposes of exclusion from coverage under the agreement, the terms "military vessel", "military reserve vessel", and "essential security interest". While the administration and the Office of the USTR attempted to define "military reserve vessel" by including a description of current military reserve vessel programs, some have expressed concerns that this approach might in the future limit the flexibility of the Secretary of Defense to implement additional programs, such as the National Defense Features Program. I am working with Senator LOTT to redraft this provision in a way that will not limit United States national security options.

Mr. LOTT. Acknowledging the valid concerns raised by Representative

BATEMAN is appreciated. I believe together we can find the right definition to ensure our national security is protected. No one wants to jeopardize our military capabilities.

S. 629 would also grant the United States a 2-year extension for the title XI shipbuilding loan guarantee program to continue under its current terms and conditions. This too is a move toward equitable implementing language. However, other signatories, including Belgium, Portugal, Spain, and South Korea, were provided special arrangements, exemptions, and transition programs under the Agreement.

When the House of Representatives amended H.R. 2754 in the last Congress, it provided a 3-year transition period for the title XI program. This is an essential component for a fair agreement and I intend to work with Senator BREAU to restore the full 3-year transition period as provided in last year's House bill.

Mr. BREAU. H.R. 2754, as amended by the House of Representatives, would have required that third country anti-dumping cases taken by the Office of the USTR to the third country be adjudicated in a manner similar to that provided by the agreement. Some were concerned that S. 629 would require that the injurious pricing action be taken in accordance with the laws of that third country, without regard to whether those laws are consistent with the agreement. I intend to work with Senator LOTT to ensure that such third country proceedings are consistent with the injurious pricing actions of the agreement.

Mr. LOTT. Many of our American shipbuilders also expressed their concern to me that several countries with a significant shipbuilding industrial presence are not signatories to the agreement. This reduces the effectiveness of the agreement. S. 629 includes a provision not found in last year's House bill which would direct our Trade Representative to seek the prompt accession to the agreement by these other countries. This is one step in the right direction. Another step is that S. 629 also would direct our Trade Representative to use the mechanisms already available under existing U.S. trade laws to redress efforts by non-signatories to undermine the agreement.

Additionally, I expect our Trade Representative to vigorously protest the recent approval of approximately \$2.1 billion in restructuring aid to shipyards in Germany, Spain, and Greece. I'm sure that all will agree that the agreement has no chance of holding together if any signatories work around its provisions in order to continue unfairly subsidizing their shipyards.

Mr. BREAU. I would also like to note that S. 629 includes another important provision not found in H.R. 2754, as amended by the House of Representatives. S. 629 provides for U.S. shipyards to continue to receive 25-year title XI financing when competing in bids against subsidized non-signatory shipyards.

I want to once again thank the majority leader for his efforts to resolve the differences within the U.S. shipbuilding industry over the agreement and to find an appropriate solution that benefits the entire U.S. maritime industry.

Mr. LOTT. I anticipate a swift resolution of the jurisdictional issue. The Senate should focus on the successful enactment of a corrected version of S. 629.

I look forward to working with the other members of the Senate Commerce and Finance Committees to develop fair implementing language.

I want to personally thank you JOHN for your dedication to America's maritime industry and I look forward to a continued partnership in finding an acceptable consensus for the agreement's implementing language.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, May 21, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,348,057,972,766.87. (Five trillion, three hundred forty-eight billion, fifty-seven million, nine hundred seventy-two thousand, seven hundred sixty-six dollars and eighty-seven cents)

One year ago, May 21, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,115,827,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred fifteen billion, eight hundred twenty-seven million)

Five years ago, May 21, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,923,950,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred twenty-three billion, nine hundred fifty million)

Ten years ago, May 21, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,289,948,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred eighty-nine billion, nine hundred forty-eight million)

Fifteen years ago, May 21, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,068,477,000,000 (One trillion, sixty-eight billion, four hundred seventy-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,279,580,972,766.87 (Four trillion, two hundred seventy-nine billion, five hundred eighty million, nine hundred seventy-two thousand, seven hundred sixty-six dollars and eighty-seven cents) during the past 15 years.

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:58 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 408. An act to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to support the International Dolphin Conservation Program in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1377. An act to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to encourage retirement income savings.

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

H. Con. Res. 63. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the 50th anniversary of the Marshall plan and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to the principles that led to the establishment of that program.

The message further announced that pursuant to the provision of 22 U.S.C. 1928a, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the United States Group of the North Atlantic Assembly: Mr. BEREUTER, Chairman, Mr. SOLOMON, Vice Chairman, Mr. REGULA, Mr. BATEMAN, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. HAMILTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. MANTON.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1650. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Mother Teresa of Calcutta in recognition of her outstanding and enduring contributions through humanitarian and charitable activities, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 408. An act to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to support the International Dolphin Conservation Program in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The following concurrent resolution was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 63. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the 50th anniversary of the Marshall plan and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to the principles that led to the establishment of that program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the second time and placed on the calendar: