

the House, would profess their undying love for the National Park System, but we simply are not putting the money where our mouth is.

That is the only point I want to make this morning, and that is the point this article makes in U.S. News & World Report. I see the distinguished Senator who is now the chairman of the same committee I mentioned I chaired for many years. I will be happy to yield to him.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask the Senator if he is aware that the subcommittee is now in the process of seeking to put together a plan, a long-term plan? All of us who understand that parks and their resources are one of the most valuable resources that we have, that there are troublesome things happening and frankly there is no plan in place and we need to have one—we need to talk about finances. There needs to be some additional resources for finances in addition to the appropriations. We need to talk about how we do some bonding, how we do some private investment, how we do some other kinds of things. In addition, we need to talk about the concessionaires. We need to get that straightened out so it moves. We need to talk, frankly, about the management of the parks so we have a plan that has measurable results so the plans that are set for the Nation will also be applied in the parks. And we have invited the administration to participate.

Fortunately, this morning we have a nominee for the Park Service. We have not had a Park Service Director. So I want to assure the Senator that there is underway an effort to basically reform and move forward and, also, I forgot to say, to have something that defines more clearly what kind of a park is appropriate to be part of the National System so we are not taking in what is more appropriately local recreation areas to be managed by the National Park Service.

So I couldn't share more the concerns that people have, but I wanted to tell my colleague that we are moving forward with that and intend to have a plan before this Congress by the end of the year.

Mr. BUMPERS. I thank the Senator very much. I do not want to take any more time of the Senator.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I wonder if I could ask, colleagues have been involved in an important discussion. I think they probably would want to go on more, but I know Senator DEWINE and I want to introduce a bill. We thought we might have a little more time. I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended for an additional 15 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. STEVENS. Would the Senator repeat his request?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I asked unanimous consent that morning business—

we were hoping we would be able to introduce a bill and talk about it a little while. Given the important discussion that took place, I asked whether or not we could extend 10 minutes beyond what we had originally planned for morning business.

Mr. DEWINE. That would be 11:40.

Mr. STEVENS. May I inquire, how many Senators are involved?

Mr. WELLSTONE. Senator DEWINE and I wanted to introduce a bill. This would give us altogether maybe 15 minutes between two people.

Mr. STEVENS. I will not object if it's just 10 minutes past the half-hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. DEWINE and Mr. WELLSTONE pertaining to the introduction of S. 1029 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS. Does the Senator yield back any time he might have?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I do.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask that we proceed with the regular order.

#### TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report S. 1023.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1023) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CAMPBELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, my colleague, Senator KOHL, and I are bringing before the Senate today the Senate Appropriations Committee recommendation for the fiscal year 1998 appropriations for the Department of the Treasury, U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies. The bill we are presenting today contains a total funding of \$25,206,539,000. This is \$1,104,116,000 more than the fiscal year 1997 level, and \$455,866,000 less than the President's request. We are recommending a total of \$12,321,339,000 in discretionary spending and \$12,885,100,000 for mandatory programs over which this subcommittee has no control.

Reaching this level has not been an easy task, and I certainly thank Senator KOHL, who has yet to arrive on the floor, for his hard work and continuing support and advice as we put this bill together.

Mr. President, this bill includes \$11,315,801,000 for the Department of the Treasury. As my colleagues are aware, the Department of the Treasury has a wide range of responsibilities directed not only at the revenues and expenditures of the Government, but law enforcement functions as well.

The Treasury Department is responsible for 40 percent of all Federal law enforcement, and adequate funding for this function has been a priority for both Senator KOHL and myself. The subcommittee has done what we can to ensure that law enforcement agencies funded in this bill have the resources to do the job that we asked them to do in the so-called war against crime. In addition, we have provided a total of \$131 million in the violent crime reduction trust fund. This is \$12.7 million more than requested by the President and \$34 million more than provided in fiscal year 1997.

This bill includes \$121,124,000 for payments to the U.S. Postal Service to reimburse them for providing free mail for the blind and for overseas voters and for payment to the Department of Labor for disability costs incurred by the old Post Office Department.

The Executive Office of the President and funds appropriated to the President total \$485,225,000. This includes the Office of Drug Control Policy.

As many of our colleagues know, the bill includes the administration's proposal for a 1-year moratorium on new construction projects through the General Services Administration Federal Buildings Fund. It is unfortunate, when we need so many renovations on courthouses, that the GSA calculation of rent income to the Federal building fund has been so inaccurate in the past years that we are at a point where there is just barely enough money to continue ongoing projects.

There is also \$12.7 billion in mandatory payments through the Office of Personnel Management for annuitants' life and health insurance, as well as retirement benefits.

There has been considerable discussion over the past couple of years about the funding level for the Internal Revenue Service. Many of us are very disturbed that significant amounts of money, over \$4 billion, was wasted on the tax modernization system. As a result, we have very carefully reviewed the budget request from the IRS. We believe that the IRS should have sufficient resources to maintain and even increase customer service levels, and there must be enough to continue efforts to collect taxes due. As a result, we have proposed appropriations at the level requested by the President for the three permanent accounts. However, we did not agree to the President's request for an advance appropriation of \$500 million to set up an account for future computer modernization efforts.

Although the IRS has developed and circulated a modernization blueprint, that is only a first good step. It was the judgment of the subcommittee that

there must be more detailed information before we agree to additional funds for future computer modernization.

The most critical problem facing IRS is a century date change project. As a result, we have set aside \$325 million for this effort, in addition to funds already appropriated in fiscal year 1997 and requested for fiscal year 1998.

Mr. President, this bill is the result of long, hard hours of work on the part of the members and staff of this subcommittee. I want to thank them for all of their efforts. I believe we have put together a very worthwhile bill and hope we will have the support of the Senate.

I now yield to our ranking member, my good friend, Senator KOHL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin is recognized.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I thank the Senator.

As the distinguished Senator from Colorado has just indicated, we are bringing to the floor recommendations on the fiscal year 1998 appropriations level for the Treasury, general Government agencies.

First, I thank Senator CAMPBELL for his dedicated work on this bill. He has worked long and hard on the difficult issues that he has just outlined for our colleagues. As a result of his efforts, I believe the committee has developed a balanced approach for dealing with the many programs and activities under the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, while staying within the budget allocation.

Since this budget allocation was \$489 million below the administration's request, we have been required to make some substantial reductions. However, the subcommittee actions have resulted in a bill that is both fiscally responsible and I also believe very reasonable.

Senator CAMPBELL has discussed the major funding highlights, and rather than repeating those highlights, I will limit my comments to a few areas that I would like to emphasize.

First, the funding provided for IRS activities. Tax processing, tax law enforcement and information systems is at the President's request. Additionally, \$325 million has been provided for an information technology fund. While we continue to have concerns over the IRS modernization efforts, we believe that it is important to provide the IRS with the tools necessary to collect taxes owed. By providing full funding, we can be assured that the critical century date change and data center consolidation occur in a timely manner and allow the IRS to continue smooth operations into the year 2000.

Second, the national media campaign proposed by the Office of National Drug Control Policy is not fully funded. I fully support, of course, the efforts to combat the drug problem in this country, and I support the efforts in leadership of Gen. Barry McCaffrey, but I am reluctant to provide billions of dollars

for an untried and untested media program. So I supported funding at a smaller pilot program level, which would provide the administration and Congress with the evidence of the success that is necessary when we are committing such huge taxpayer dollars.

However, Senator CAMPBELL and I have come to a compromise position: funding the national media program for 1 year at \$110 million, after which the program will be evaluated.

We are also providing over \$35 million for community-oriented drug prevention programs, such as a drug-free prison zone program and the initiation of the Drug Free Communities Act grants.

Finally, I want to highlight that no funds are provided for the General Services Administration's Construction and Acquisition Program. The Federal buildings fund is experiencing a shortfall in revenue resulting from GSA miscalculating rent income and miscalculating construction completion dates. While I am concerned over the financial situation generating this shortfall, I believe it provides a good opportunity to review the principles applied to the Courthouse Construction Program. As a result, the report accompanying the bill contains criteria that the General Services Administration and the Administrative Office of the Courts must apply to future courthouse construction projects.

According to these criteria, projects included in future requests must:

One, meet the design guide standards for construction;

Two, reflect the priorities of the Judicial Conference of the United States;

Three, be included in the approved 5-year construction plan;

And four, must be accompanied by a standardized courtroom utilization study.

It is hoped that the application of these criteria will result in a well-justified Courthouse Construction Program in the future.

Mr. President, that concludes my highlights of the bill's funding levels. We believe we have provided the best funding levels possible under the funding restrictions.

Before I yield the floor, I also want to acknowledge the fine work done by the staff on this bill:

Pat Raymond, Tammy Perrin, Lula Edwards, Frank Larkin, and Barbara Retzlaff, and others. I thank them for all their hard work in helping to bring this bill before the Senate.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CAMPBELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). The Senator from Colorado.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following individuals be granted privilege of the floor for the duration of the consideration of S. 1023, the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act of 1998: Patricia Raymond, Tammy

Perrin, Lula Edwards, Barbara Retzlaff, Frank Larkin and Jay Kimmitt.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 921

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL] proposes an amendment numbered 921.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN FISH.**

(a) IMPORT COMPLIANCE.—Section 6(c) of the Atlantic Tuna Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971d(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(8)(A)(i) Not later than January 1, 1998, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State, shall promulgate regulations to ensure that fish in any form that are—

"(I) subject to regulation pursuant to a recommendation of the Commission; and

"(II) presented for entry into the United States;

have been taken and retained in a manner and under circumstances that are consistent with the recommendations of the Commission described in clause (ii).

"(ii) The recommendations described in this clause are recommendations of the Commission that are—

"(I) made pursuant to article VIII of the Convention; and

"(II) adopted by the Secretary in the regulations promulgated pursuant to this section.

"(B)(i) The regulations promulgated under this paragraph shall include, at a minimum, a requirement that the fish described in subparagraph (A)(i) are accompanied by a valid certificate of origin that attests that the fish have been taken and retained in a manner and under circumstances that are consistent with the recommendations described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

"(ii) A certificate described in clause (i) may be issued only by the government of the nation that has jurisdiction over—

"(I) the vessel from which the fish that is the subject of the certificate was harvested; or

"(II) any other means by which the fish that is the subject of the certificate was harvested.

"(C) The regulations promulgated under this paragraph may limit the entry into the United States of fish in any form if that limitation is necessary to carry out the purpose of this paragraph.

"(D) Beginning on February 1, 1998, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prohibit the entry into the United States of fish in any form that does not comply with the regulations promulgated pursuant to this paragraph."

(b) REPORTS.—Section 11 of the Atlantic Tuna Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971j) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) lists each fishing nation from which fish in any form was prohibited entry into the United States pursuant to section 6(c)(8);".

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from Kansas, Mr. BROWNBACK, for the purpose of offering a second-degree amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

AMENDMENT NO. 922 TO AMENDMENT NO. 921

(Purpose: To provide that Members of Congress shall not receive a cost of living adjustment in pay during fiscal year 1998)

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK] proposes an amendment numbered 922 to amendment No. 921.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place in the amendment, insert the following new section:

SEC. . Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 1998.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I have put forth this amendment in working with the manager of the bill, the author of the first-degree amendment. I believe he has agreed to it being a second-degree amendment. And I ask for its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, to my knowledge, there is no opposition on the majority side. We are prepared to accept this by a voice vote.

Mr. KOHL. Likewise.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendment No. 922.

The amendment (No. 922) was agreed to.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Does the Senator have further comments?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there debate now on the first-degree amendment, as amended?

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWNBACK. 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. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I would like to speak for 2 minutes on the amendment, my amendment that was just agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to say that the amendment that was just agreed to was to eliminate the cost-of-living adjustment for the Members of Congress.

I think it is important that at this time when we are seeking to balance the budget, we not be seen as giving ourselves a pay raise, to be able to establish this as an important issue. I do not say that Members are overpaid, because I do not believe they are. But I do think we are moving forward to balance this budget, and we need to show leadership by not receiving this COLA. And that is why I put this amendment forward. I am very appreciative that the author of the first-degree amendment, the manager of the bill, has agreed to it and that it has been accepted.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CAMPBELL. 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. CAMPBELL. I also ask unanimous consent to have Senator WELLSTONE and myself added as cosponsors to the Brownback amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, several Senators have said they wish to speak on this issue. Senator BYRD has indicated he would like to. He is in a meeting and will not be here for a short period of time. But those Senators who would like to make comments on that, we will do that. And we will take something else up if he does not get here in a reasonable time.

I would like to point out to my colleague from Kansas that this issue of so-called pay raises has always interested me. As I looked up some of the figures, I am sure that most of my colleagues are aware that they do not have to take the cost-of-living increase allowance. They can turn it back to the Treasury if they do not want it. They can give it to charities. There are all kinds of things they can do with it.

But to put it in some perspective, since it seems to get an awful lot of discussion, particularly in election years, about Congress people and Senators getting an increase in salaries, I thought I would contact the Congressional Research Service and find out just how much taxpayers' money goes into salaries for Congressmen and Senators.

They tell me that one-tenth of one penny—one-tenth of one penny—is the average amount a taxpayer pays to congressional salaries.

I know some people think we are not even worth that much, so we probably did a good thing by passing this amendment on a voice vote. But I would like to point out a couple of things that might put it in perspective.

For example, in Senator D'AMATO's and Senator MOYNIHAN's State, the great State of New York, the mayor of New York City earns \$31,400 more than they do, the Senators of that State.

In Dade County, FL, Senator MACK's and Senator GRAHAM's State, the superintendent of the county gets \$51,400 more than the Senators of that State or the Congressmen.

The sheriff of Los Angeles County receives \$88,400 more than anybody in the congressional delegation from California.

I guess my message to the average voter would be, if you are really concerned about elected officials, you ought to look at all of them, top to bottom, and not just because Congress gets so much media attention whenever they deal with this COLA or so-called pay raise.

Many of the other areas of the country—I do not have the numbers right in front of me—but if you track the increases from 1970 to 1998, in fact, the amount that congressional salaries have increased has been less than postal workers, Social Security recipients, military wages, private-sector employees, Federal employees, most civilian employees, and literally everybody else. But I would like to put that in context.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. We will have some discussion on this issue, I gather. And I wanted to say to my colleagues, that several days ago I sent a letter out to every colleague saying that I was going to have an amendment out here opposing the cost-of-living adjustment for members of Congress—and you are quite right, I say to my colleague from Colorado, this is not a pay increase. This was just a cost-of-living adjustment. I would like to explain a little bit about why I did this.

Senator BROWNBACK has now come out with the same amendment, so we will work together. And it does not matter to me who does the amendment. What matters is the effect of it all. But I think that I may have somewhat of a different framework than my colleague from Kansas, and so I want to spell out my reasons why I support this amendment. And I am not going to spend a lot of time on it.

First of all, when I sent this letter out, I sent it only to my colleagues. I was not interested in this becoming a major public issue, although when we work this out on the floor, I suppose it is a public issue. The reason for addressing my colleagues is that I really think that if this amendment becomes a bashing of public service—and I know

some colleagues will interpret it that way—then it is a big mistake. If that is what the net effect of this amendment is, I made a big mistake.

I think there are people here—Republicans and Democrats; Democrats and Republicans—who have a highly developed sense of public service. If this amendment, which is likely to be accepted, contributes to an across-the-board denigration of public service and all people in public service, then sending this letter out to my colleagues and saying that I would introduce this amendment would have been a mistake. But I now join in sponsoring this amendment.

This amendment will not make some people feel better about it. The reason I introduced it, and I wish to make this very clear—is because this past year, in our deficit-reduction plans, as the Center on Budget Alternatives and Priorities points out, 93 percent of the cuts we made in discretionary spending affect low-income people and some of the most vulnerable citizens in our country.

In the welfare bill that we passed, \$55 billion of cuts disproportionately hurt legal immigrants—not illegal—many of them elderly, many of them living alone, many of them with a combined income of \$525 a month—all their Federal assistance was eliminated. Only part of it was restored.

And the other major area that suffered was in food nutrition programs—the vast majority of the cuts in the welfare reform bill passed last Congress were in the Food Stamp Program. Most of the beneficiaries hurt were working poor people, many of them children.

So it just seems to me that if we are going to be making, in the name of deficit reduction, cuts in programs, and the disproportionate share of those cuts affect the most vulnerable people in our country, many of them children, many of them poor, I just cannot see how we can give ourselves a cost-of-living increase.

I do not even know what we make—I guess around \$130,000 a year. I put high value on the work we do here. But I just want to point out that a colleague asked me yesterday, after I sent this letter out, “Well, come on, PAUL. Would there be a time where you would vote for this? Isn’t this just what you do every year?” Well, I do not offer this amendment every year. So I said, “Absolutely, yes, but not in the context of what we have done as a Senate and a House.”

I am sure some people believe we have done the right things here in Congress. No one has a corner on political truth. Maybe people felt the votes we have made, for deficit reduction and for cuts in different programs, were the right thing to do and had to be done. But it does seem to me that it is just not right, if we are going to call on many citizens to sacrifice for deficit reduction, and in particular, call on low- and moderate-income families to

sacrifice all in the name of deficit reduction, and if we are going to make cuts in the most effective child nutrition safety program that we have ever had, then I just do not think this is a time for us to be giving ourselves a cost-of-living increase.

In some context, I can see how the argument over this cost-of-living increase can be said to be about apples and oranges. I really can. But the way I see it as a Senator, in the context of still calling for people to make sacrifices in our country, that there ought to be shared sacrifice. And I think, given the fact that we all do well financially in Congress, that it is a mistake to go forward with the cost-of-living increase. That is why I sent the letter to my colleagues 2 days ago and why I announced my intention to introduce an amendment.

Senator BROWNBACK has now come out with an amendment. We will join together on this. The Senator can speak for himself, but I wanted to make my framework clear on why I am against a cost-of-living increase.

If there is further debate on this, I have a more complete statement, but I have stated what I believe and there is no reason to speak at any greater length now.

I thank my colleagues.

Mr. STEVENS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I understand the temper of the times, but I think some of us who have been through this time and again have the duty to come forth and warn the Senate what it is doing.

Since 1970 to this year, 27 years, in 17 of those years the Senate has denied itself the cost-of-living adjustment. The net result is that while Social Security recipients’ pay, whatever you want to call it, their checks have gone up by 421.3 percent in that period, the pay for Members of Congress have gone up 214.4 percent.

I will mention a lot of statistics here, Mr. President, so I ask unanimous consent the two documents I have, one entitled “Increases, 1970-1997,” and the other, “Percent Changes 1970-97,” be printed in the RECORD after my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, the last time congressional salaries were given a cost-of-living adjustment—and this is not a pay raise—was in 1993. The pay raise for Federal employees that year was 3.7 percent, the COLA’s for Congress were 3.2 percent. In 1992, the cost-of-living adjustment for Federal employees was 4.2 percent, and for Members of Congress it was 3.5 percent.

We are now in a situation where, in my judgment, if we don’t take this cost-of-living adjustment for this year, I am sure we will not take it next year being an election year. That means we will not take it until 1999. Since that is

the year before a Presidential election year, we will not take it then either. We will not take it in the year 2000, which is a Presidential election year. I suggest we are going into the next century with this maladjustment, as far as congressional salaries.

It does not make any difference to me. It does not make any difference to any of us. We are here. We made our commitment. What about those out there who should come and serve their country by being part of the legislative branch of this Federal Government? We have raised the salaries of the people who are Federal civilians downtown. We have raised the salaries of the Federal employees. We have raised the payments made to Federal retirees. We have raised Social Security recipients. We have not raised for Members of Congress, and I predict we will not do it unless we face up to the problem now.

The problem is not ours. The problem is what is going to be the judgment of the people who want to serve in the Congress when they start looking at the income levels here in Congress compared to their own income levels.

Now, Mr. President, in 1970—and I was here then—my wife and I had just bought a home here in Washington the year before for \$65,000. At the time, our pay was \$42,500. That house has now sold—we sold it some time ago—but I know that it sold for \$450,000. Our pay here is roughly—not quite, but roughly—three times the salary we had then.

What I am trying to make people in the Senate think about is, what will be the decision made by young people who are thinking about coming here when they look at the cost of living in Washington, DC, which is the highest now in our Nation—the cost of property here, the cost of renting a home or a condominium. I am talking about family people. When we came down here, we came down here with five children and had to have a home that five children could live in. There is no way a person can come here now at the salary level we have now and buy a home for that, where five children can live with their mother and father, unless they are extremely wealthy.

What the Senate is doing, in my judgment, is setting the course to assure that the people serving in this body will either be multimillionaires or they will be the people who are not capable of earning over \$100,000 anyway. Now, maybe I am being too tough about this, but I think it is time to get tough about this issue and have people understand that the cost-of-living adjustment is less than the Consumer Price Index increase—less. In other words, it means for people living here now, we are adjusting their salaries now with a cost-of-living adjustment, for the cost increase, really, for the period starting 18 months ago until 6 months ago, and we are trying to adjust it now for what the costs were back then. It is not a salary increase. This is for the cost of living in this area.

Now, people talk to me, well, you can live in Minnesota or maybe you can live in Kansas, maybe you can live somewhere else for a lot less money. It happens to be, in my case, my cost of living in Alaska is just slightly higher than this. But as a practical matter, the judgments made by future generations will be: We, as a family member, cannot take that job.

Now, we get a lot of demagogic type of letters—they come in from my constituents, too—"You are not worth that money; why don't you come home?" The real question is, what would they do if the people were here that they believe should be here? The people would either work for nothing, because they are so rich they can, or the people that could not make the money that they would make here would come for the pay. Now, Mr. President, we have to make up our mind what kind of a body we want in the Congress. From my point of view, we want people with capabilities who can perform jobs that are needed to be performed.

Take my colleague from Wyoming, Senator ENZI, the only accountant in this body—the only accountant in the Senate. What are we dealing with now? Massive, complex tax issues, complex problems of accounting. The people that are going to come here are going to be motivated by trying to do a job. The ones who cannot come here, despite that motivation, will be the ones who cannot afford to live a family life in this town at that salary.

Keep in mind something else. We don't come here permanently. As a matter of fact, most people who would vote for this do not want us to come for more than two terms anyway. But as a practical matter, we all maintain a home in our home States. We have expenses there and we have expenses here. There is no one in the employment scene today that has that situation other than Members of Congress.

Now, I voted—it was a voice vote—but I voted against it and I would vote against it on a recorded vote because we were taking an action to deny Members of Congress, for the fifth time, a cost of living, which is a structural change. What it will mean is, downstream someone will have to have the courage to make the adjustment. Incidentally, we have had three times when that happened. In 1977, the Congress made a 28.9-percent change. That was a salary increase, but it was to make up for the fact that in 6 of the previous 7 years Congress had not taken the cost-of-living adjustment. Again, in 1982, we took a 15-percent change. It was because in 3 of the previous 4 years Congress had not taken a cost-of-living adjustment. In 1987, we again took a change. It was because, again, we had in 2 of the previous 4 years not taken the cost-of-living adjustment. Again, in 1991, we had a 27.1-percent increase.

What I am saying is, you kid yourself as much as you want, the time will come when Congress will have to recog-

nize that this structural change in the salary, vis-a-vis the salaries of comparable jobs in the economy, that the salary increase must come. So instead of recognizing this as a cost-of-living adjustment and treating it as such and providing that we take a minimum amount—and by the way, in most instances we have taken less than was available. For instance, in 1979, the Federal employees got a 7-percent increase, Federal retirees got 11.1, Congress gave itself 5.5. We kept the cost of living down each time. But when we did it, we did not have the total structural impact of denying it altogether.

Now, the structural situation will be, if I am right, that we will not have a cost-of-living increase next year or the next 2 years. We will go into the 21st century with a salary level of 1993. In that year, again, we had a 3.2-percent COLA and Federal employees had 3.7 percent. If you look at my charts that are included in the RECORD, using the CPI in this period of 27 years, which has been 315.7 percent, we have taken a 214.4-percent total cost-of-living change. Social Security recipients had 421.3 percent; postal workers, 370 percent; the military, 360 percent; Federal retirees, 328 percent; private-sector employees, 265 percent; Federal civilians, 334 percent. We are at least 100 percent structurally below the comparable salary base in this 27-year phase.

What does that say to young people about serving in the Congress? Even if it is on a two-term basis limit, to be here for 12 years and take a structural level of 15 years to start with and serve with people who will not take the cost-of-living adjustment while you are here anyway, I think this is destroying the system that we have today of citizens who commit themselves to be part of a great democracy. We have not done this to the people who work downtown for the President. Presidential salaries have changed and so have the salaries of the executives on a Presidential appointment level.

We have, by the way, impacted the Judiciary, and I think that is something other people will talk about and I will talk about later, too, because the Federal Judiciary, while it does have a better system in the sense there is no contribution for a Federal judge for his or her retirement, as we contribute, it is lifetime pay. When they retire, they get the full amount of their salary, not a percent as we do based on the number of years we have been here. But as a practical matter, with the three branches of Government, the only part, through self-flagellation, that destroys the future of the body is the Congress itself. It is a great mistake. It is a great mistake. I think we all make sacrifices to come to this job, anyway.

I can tell the Senate that when I came to the Senate, I was making more than three times my salary as a private lawyer in Alaska. Many people come here and take a reduction in income. There are others who come here and it makes no difference, because of

either their great wealth or their inability to earn the same amount of money before they got here. Many people take a sizable decrease in income to come here. But what we are telling the younger people now—and we are trying to attract younger people. When I came here, the average age was almost 70; today, I think it is down to almost 50. We are still trying to attract younger people. This is a dynamic society and we should do that. But can you do that, Mr. President? Can you look a young man or woman in the eye and say: You can move to Washington, you can afford to live there and serve for 2 years in the House or 6 years in the Senate, or maybe two terms. You can keep your family there, and you can keep your house at home, and you can be able to return to your life when you finish the service, without having lost your future as far as your career is concerned.

This is not right. It is not right. I have made this speech before and it doesn't seem to make any difference to anybody. But I am compelled to do it again because I have served here longer than any Member of our side of the aisle on the committee that has jurisdiction on this subject. I cannot believe we would continue to make this error. I believe that Members have left this body—and there are some leaving it now—not because they have served too long, or they don't like the job, or they haven't done a good enough job, but they cannot plan for their future. At one time, I had five children in college. At that time, thank God, there were jobs they could get during the summer, and we were able to help them and they all got through. But, today, a Senator with five children, with the cost of housing, and five going to college, why, that person would have to vote from the poor house, Mr. President.

This job ought to pay what it is worth to society. This is the job of the continuity of the American system. We serve for 6 years. We volunteer for that job and we are the institutional memory of the American democracy. I am alarmed that there are not enough people on this floor that realize that. I am truly alarmed at the number of people that, for political reasons, or other reasons, or campaign promises, would harm the future of the Senate, would harm the democracy by telling the American people that you will either turn the Senate over to the very, very wealthy or those who could not earn as much anywhere else.

Now, the time will come when we will face up to this. It will probably be in 2001. As I add it up, roughly, the percentage of pay increase then to recover the structural balance will be in the vicinity of 35 percent. How many people are going to want to do that in their first term? How many people are going to want to do that, who are just up for election? I have just mentioned two-thirds of the body then.

So I say the demise of the American democracy is here. That is why the

Constitutional Convention argued about who should determine what Members are paid. They were talking about citizen legislators then, not people who came here and stayed 7, 8 months a year. They are talking about people who could go home, people who lived within the original 13 States. My home is closer to Beijing than it is to Washington, DC, and this is a 50-State Union now. My colleague from Hawaii lives almost as far away. If anyone wants to look at costs, they ought to look at the cost of representing those two States. But the main thing is, we think about the structural salary level for the future. I am not going to be around here that long—maybe longer than some people think. But, Mr. President, we will witness the decline in the value of the Congress and the American society if we don't have the guts to stand up to the demagogues and tell them that pay for the Congress ought to be sufficient to attract the most capable people in our society. The capability is what counts.

I am disturbed that, once again, we will deny the economic cycle that causes an adjustment being necessary, and we will say, as soon as we balance the budget in 2002, if I am hearing right, it may be 2003 before it is changed. That would be 10 years. How many people will decide not to come because of that, Mr. President? How many brilliant minds will be denied the American Congress because of that? I think it is wrong.

I am going to speak at length when the time comes, and I am going to show what has happened to other countries when they followed and pursued this course and how they have deteriorated. The deterioration of America is something that we should worry about in terms of democracy. My predecessors used to go take the train across the country and then take a steamship up to Seward in our State and a railroad up to Fairbanks and go home once a year. I go home 15 to 30 or 35 times a year. It is a different society.

I am telling the Senate, unless we are willing to recognize this different society and the dynamic society that needs people who are family people, who must make sacrifices to start with, but should not have to make this kind of sacrifice, to accept a structurally imbalanced salary caused by the inability of each successive Congress to face up to reality.

EXHIBIT 1  
INCREASES, 1970-97  
(In percent)

Year	Members of Congress	Federal employees	Federal retirees <sup>1</sup>	Social Security <sup>3</sup>
1970 (Jan.)	0	6.0	5.6	15.0
1971 (Jan.)	0	6.0	4.5	10.0
1972 (Sept.)	0	10.9	4.8	20.0
1973	0	4.8	6.1	11.0
1974 (June)	0	5.5	12.1	8.0
1975 (June)	5.0	5.0	12.8	6.4
1976 (June)	0	4.8	5.4	5.9
1977 (June)	28.9	7.1	9.3	6.5
1978 (June)	0	5.5	7.4	6.5
1979 (June)	5.5	7.0	11.1	9.9

INCREASES, 1970-97—Continued  
(In percent)

Year	Members of Congress	Federal employees	Federal retirees <sup>1</sup>	Social Security <sup>3</sup>
1980 (June)	0	9.1	14.2	14.3
1981 (June)	0	4.8	4.4	11.2
1982 (June)	15.0	4.0	8.7	7.4
1983 (Dec.)	0	0	3.9	3.5
1984 (Dec.)	4.0	4.0	0	3.5
1985 (Dec.)	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.1
1986 (Dec.)	0	0	0	1.3
1987 (Dec.)	18.6	3.0	1.3	4.2
1988 (Dec.)	0	2.0	4.0	4.0
1989 (Dec.)	0	4.1	4.0	4.7
1990 (Dec.)	57.9	3.6	4.7	5.4
1991 (Dec.)	69.9	4.1	5.4	3.7
1992 (Dec.)	62.1	4.2	3.7	3.0
1993 (Dec.)	3.2	3.7	3.0	2.6
1994 (Dec.)	0	24.23	2.6	1.8
1995 (Dec.)	0	23.22	2.8	2.6
1996 (Dec.)	0	22.54	2.6	2.9
1997 (Dec.)	0	23.33	2.9	.....
Totals <sup>4</sup>	214.4	334.3	328.2	421.3

<sup>1</sup> Reflects COLAs paid to CSRS retirees.

<sup>2</sup> Reflects Washington, D.C. pay adjustment.

<sup>3</sup> Benefit increases are actually paid in checks issued the first of the following month.

<sup>4</sup> Totals reflect compounding, hence they sum to more than the annual increases.

<sup>5</sup> Representative. <sup>6</sup> Senator.

#### Percent Changes 1970-97 in—

Indexes for:	Percent
CPI (projected)	315.7
ECI (projected)	311.4
Wages or pensions for:	
Postal workers, wages	370.6
Social Security recipients	421.3
Military, wages (excl. fringe benefits)	360.3
Private sector employees, wages	265.1
Federal retirees	328.2
Federal civilians (GS), wages	334.3
Members of Congress, wages	214.4

#### Amounts Congressional Salary would be if Adjusted by Percentage Change in Above Categories:—

	Amount
CPI (projected)	\$176,700
ECI (projected)	174,800
Postal workers, wages	200,000
Social Security recipients	221,500
Military, wages (excl. fringe benefits)	195,600
Private sector employees, wages	155,200
Federal retirees <sup>1</sup>	182,000
Federal civilians (GS), wages <sup>2</sup>	184,600
Actual 1997 Congressional salary	133,600

<sup>1</sup> Reflects COLAs paid to CSRS retirees.

<sup>2</sup> Reflects Washington, D.C. pay adjustment.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, as I said earlier, I sent a letter out to my colleagues a couple of days ago and now this amendment has been introduced. I spoke earlier about it, and I will again. I want to respond to some comments—if the word “demagog” is going to be used, I want to respond.

I said earlier that if the net effect of this amendment is to encourage the denigration of public service and people in public service, then I am mistaken in offering this amendment—the Wellstone-Brownback amendment. Several days ago, I felt that I needed to get started on this and announced I would do it when this bill came to the floor. I then went on to say that in the context of what we have been doing

here in the Congress, and the sacrifices that we have asked of all Americans, especially low- and moderate-income people that I believe it is wrong for the Members of Congress to receive a cost-of-living increase. We have made a lot of cuts in programs. Again, in the 104th Congress, more than 90 percent of the budget reductions in entitlement programs came from programs affecting low-income people. If we are going to argue that that has to be a part of the sacrifice, I don't see how we can then go forward with a cost-of-living increase. We will still be making more than \$133,000 next year without the increase.

But, Mr. President, my colleague from Alaska has come to the floor and has made several arguments that I have to address. First of all, Mr. President, my colleague suggests that if young people know they can only make \$133,000 a year, why would they want to serve in the Senate or House? He goes on to suggest that the only people are going to come here are either millionaires or people who could not make \$100,000 a year.

I was a teacher. I didn't make anywhere near \$100,000. By my colleague's standard, 95 percent of the people of the United States of America are the people who can't make \$100,000 a year, because they clearly don't. Let's not assume that because someone was a teacher or a wage earner, and didn't make \$100,000 a year, that somehow they don't have that much value. What in the world does that comment mean? You know, with all due respect, I think most people in the country would think \$133,000 a year is a darn good salary, because 95 percent of the people in this country don't even make \$100,000 a year. Maybe we just need to get a little bit more real about this for a moment.

I didn't want to get into this argument, but if that's the kind of argument that is going to be made, I would like to make it clear that, having been one of those individuals that falls into my colleague's category of not being able to make \$100,000 a year, I think that this is an argument that is way out of whack with reality.

I doubt whether, if you took a poll, most of the people in the country would believe that a salary of \$133,000 a year is a disincentive for somebody wanting to take this job. I don't believe that. I don't believe that most young people in this country would not run for the U.S. Senate because they are only going to be able to make \$133,000 a year. I don't believe that for a moment. When some of my colleagues say that this would be a reduction in salary, the vast majority of the people in the country would not view it that way. That argument just doesn't make sense to me. As I said, I didn't want to get into these arguments, but if the word “demagog” is going to be used, then I do want to respond.

Second of all, Mr. President, if we are going to start talking about the financial pressures that we as Senators feel

with our income, for those of us who aren't independently wealthy, and talking about our need for two homes or to send children to college, that's a valid point. A lot of people feel that pressure. The median income in our country is around \$36,000 a year. There are a lot of people with two or three children. There are a lot of people trying to figure out how to afford to send their kids to college. There are a lot of people who are trying to get affordable child care or to figure out how to buy a home or pay rent. And by the way, when we talk about trying to pay rent, I note that we have also been cutting low-income housing assistance. So when I hear this argument that the only people that are going to come here are millionaires or people who can't make \$100,000 a year, there is an implication that these aren't the people you want to have come here. I think it would be good if we have lots of those people here. I sure didn't feel like I was not of value to this body because I didn't make anywhere close to \$100,000 a year before I came here.

When I hear the argument made that people would not want to serve, that young people would not want to serve, and people don't want to run for office because they would only be able to make \$133,000 a year without this cost-of-living increase, I frankly think it is not a credible argument. I think 99.999 percent of the people in the country think they could get along on our salaries. The third point, Mr. President, that I want to make is that if we are going to talk about the squeeze that we feel at \$133,000 a year, then how come in some of the decisions that we have made about sacrifice, cuts in health care programs, nutrition programs, housing programs—which basically affect and end up lessening opportunities for low- and moderate-income families—how come we then don't have the same concern for those families?

If we are worried about how, on \$133,000 a year, we can send our kids to college or afford housing, why aren't we as worried about middle-income and working families? I think this is a slippery-slope argument. We had better get to work thinking about the couple who work, in their early thirties and who make, combined, \$35,000 a year. We had better start thinking about them because if all of a sudden we are going to be talking about how we just can't make it on \$133,000 a year, then surely we must understand how people—middle-income and working families with incomes of \$35,000 to \$38,000 a year—feel a terrible squeeze. It is just an inconsistent argument for us to make.

Mr. President, if I am wrong about why we should not have a cost-of-living increase, I have made a big mistake and apologize. But if not having a cost-of-living increase this year and staying at \$133,000 is the reason why people are not going to run for office, which my colleague from Alaska thinks is the case, he is right, and I am wrong. But I don't think that is the major reason why people aren't running.

I think that one of the major reasons people are not running for office is it costs so much money to run for office. If we really want more women and men from all sorts of different social and economic backgrounds to run for office in our country, it doesn't have much to do with whether or not we make \$133,000 or \$134,000 a year. Most people think that is a fine salary. It has much more to do with the fact that people know that they have to raise millions and millions of dollars. Either they themselves are millionaires and they have the money—and we have some people in this Senate who are independently wealthy, who are some of the best Senators. That is a fact. I don't think that is the issue. The issue is all of this money that people have to raise.

Give me a break. Don't tell me that the reason people do not run for office and young people aren't interested in public life is because they are now finding out they are only going to make \$133,000 a year. I think that is ridiculous.

I think the reason many people don't run for office is twofold: First, it costs so much money. It is obscene, and a lot of people do not have the stomach for it. They don't want to do it. And I don't blame them. I think they wonder how we have the stomach for it. I think they think that maybe we are a little off. Or second, and just as important—and I could sure draw from some examples, but I will not because I might be violating Senate etiquette if I do—is why in the world when we have this search-and-destroy, slash-and-burn politics, where people do anything to win—that anybody wonders why people do not want to run for office? Does anybody here, Democrat or Republican alike, really believe that the reason younger people, and not such young people, do not run for office is because they can only make \$133,000 a year? Don't you think it might have something to do with our failure to clean up this mess, to come together and pass some kind of good campaign finance reform bill? And don't you think it has a lot to do, Republicans and Democrats alike, with the way in which we have let all of these handlers move in and run our campaigns, putting attack ads on television which try to destroy candidates? Don't you think this is what makes most people in the country just a little bit skeptical about whether or not they would want to run for office and serve? I would just suggest to my colleagues that this situation is far more the issue than a cost-of-living increase.

Finally, I will just go back to the first point I made today. I was just responding to what was said by my friend from Alaska—and to the concern about demagoguery on this issue. I admire people who come out here and say, "I disagree." I am quite often on the side of something that is not popular. But I do believe that the arguments so far that have been given in opposition to

this amendment don't make any sense. They really do not make any sense.

I believe that it is important that people be able to make a decent income. We should vote, at the right time, for a cost-of-living increase, and not try to do this through the back door. People believe this is the right way to do an increase. But I don't see how we can do it in the context of the decisions that we have made and the sacrifice that we have called for from the people in this country that have been most affected by the decisions. I don't see how, if we are going to make the argument that people feel an economic squeeze at \$133,000 a year, while most of the cuts we make in discretionary programs hurt low- and moderate-income families and their children in the name of sacrifice and in the name of deficit reduction, that this is the right time for us to go forward with a cost-of-living increase.

That is the purpose of what I called the Wellstone-Brownback amendment, or whatever we wish to call it—it's name doesn't matter.

Obviously, this amendment is going to be accepted. Is my understanding correct that this amendment is going to be accepted?

Mr. CAMPBELL. Yes.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I will just say before I yield the floor that I thought it would be done in a short period of time. Are other colleagues going to come out and speak—I understand they are. Is that correct?

Mr. CAMPBELL. Senator BYRD has said he wishes to speak on it. He is in a meeting now, however.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I will yield the floor for now. If other colleagues are going to speak, I will want to come back—I think they may want to take part in this discussion—only because I want to be clear why I am doing this and why I think it is the right thing for Congress. Other people may have very different arguments to make, and if anyone else is going to use the word "demagogue" then I am certainly going to come back out here to debate on this amendment.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. CAMPBELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, Senator WELLSTONE, for his comments.

Just to clarify where we are, the Brownback-Wellstone-Campbell amendment has been accepted by a voice vote.

I ask unanimous consent, if there are no further comments right now, that the pending amendment be set aside to offer two technical amendments.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 923

(Purpose: To move a section to a new location in the bill)

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL] proposes an amendment numbered 923. On page 71, lines 13 to 18, move Sec. 514 to page 93 and insert after the period on line 3.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, this amendment has been cleared by the minority.

I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Colorado.

The amendment (No. 923) was agreed to.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. KOHL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 924

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL] proposes an amendment numbered 924.

Page 49, strike all on lines 11-13, and on line 14, strike the words "the private sector for" and insert in lieu thereof the words "the General Accounting Office shall conduct".

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, this amendment has also been cleared by the minority, and I ask for its immediate acceptance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment? If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Colorado.

The amendment (No. 924) was agreed to.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. KOHL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. CAMPBELL. 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. JEFFORDS. 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 Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to speak as if in morning business for a period not to exceed 5 minutes.

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

#### FLOODING IN VERMONT

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, 3 days ago, the heavens opened over

northern Vermont. Torrential rains sent floodwaters ripping through communities and over farmland, tearing bridges from their foundations, shredding roads and stranding hundreds of people. The floods that swept through sections of northern Vermont were the worst in over 70 years. Up to 6 inches of rain fell overnight. Flash floods turned quiet rivers and streams into raging waterways in the early morning darkness, disrupting the peaceful existence of thousands of Vermonters.

Yesterday, I spoke with several town officials and residents who were hit the hardest. They gave me firsthand accounts of the damage to their communities. In some towns, bridges were swept away, roads were washed out, pavements were ripped up, cars and trucks were overturned, perhaps were destroyed, trees were uprooted, homes were lifted from their foundations and filled with water.

Monday night's torrential rains were followed by a day of heroism—neighbors, rescue workers, families and friends came together in Vermont's close communities. In Eden, 300 Cub Scouts were evacuated after the bridge into their camp was washed away. In Cambridge, rescue workers saved a 14-year-old girl and her dog who were stranded on a washed out roadway. In Montgomery, 11 people were pulled from a mobile home roof and carried to safety in a bucket loader moments before the trailer was swept away. Volunteers made 1,000 sandwiches for rescue workers, and neighbors opened their homes to those who were driven from their own.

There are many courageous stories and events that took place during the crisis, and knowing Vermonters like I do, I know there were many more heroic stories long after the rivers had receded and the officials had left town.

Mr. President, I am proud of and commend the Vermonters who united during this time of disaster to save lives and communities. The damage has been substantial and much work still needs to be done. I stand ready in every way to assist, if possible, the people of Vermont to help rebuild their communities and lives. I know our Governor has surveyed the situation and he has made recommendations to the President for Federal help. I know the congressional delegation from Vermont is doing all it can to make sure the lives that have been disrupted are put back as close to normal as possible as soon as possible.

Mr. President, I thank you for this time. I yield the floor and make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I recognize and appreciate the hard work of the Appropriations Committee staff in putting together this detailed legislation. Members' attention to detail is easily apparent in the thoroughness with which they have presented the committee's recommendations.

There are many good provisions in this bill, particularly the language which would continue the limitations on courthouse construction that are designed to ensure lower costs and standard designs. However, there are many aspects of this bill which cause me serious concern.

First, this bill increases the funding for these agencies by \$1.1 billion over last year's level. Frankly, I believe it is ill-advised for the Senate to increase spending for these Federal agencies at a time when we are struggling to reach agreement on tax relief and spending bills and balancing the budget.

I am sorry to say that this bill and report contain numerous earmarks of new funds for particular States, as well as language designed to ensure the continued flow of Federal funds into certain States.

Let me just mention a few of those projects.

The earmark of an additional \$3 million for Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Assessment Center.

The earmark of \$2.5 million for Globe Trade and Research Program at the Montana World Trade Center, which is described in the report as a one-time appropriation to support the center's research and information dissemination activities on "issues designed to explore, define, and measure contributions to economic globalization."

Mr. President, let me run that by you again. That is \$2.5 million—2.5 million taxpayer dollars—to support the Montana World Trade Center's research and information dissemination activities on issues designed to explore, define, and measure contributions to economic globalization.

A prohibition on IRS field support reorganization in Aberdeen, SD, until the IRS toll-free help line reaches an 80 percent service level.

A prohibition on reducing the number of IRS criminal investigators in Wisconsin below the 1996 level.

A requirement to establish the port of Kodiak, AK, as a port of entry and requiring U.S. Customs Service personnel in Anchorage to serve the Kodiak port of entry.

The earmark of \$4 million for repairs and restoration of the Truman Library in Independence, MO, and \$3 million earmarked for repairs to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, TX, and, very disturbing, various protectionist Buy-America provisions, which are in sections 509, 510 and 511.