

a government-run national health care system. Ultimately, these reservations dictated a vote against this portion of the legislation.

I have been a strong advocate for a balanced budget, tax relief, and entitlement reform for the past thirteen years and I am elated that we have finally made it here. I support the tax cut portion of the Balanced Budget Act, which provides \$95 billion in tax cuts for American families including a \$500 per child tax credit, tuition tax credits, IRA expansion to include non-working spouses, a capital gains reduction to create jobs, and reductions in the inheritance tax. These initiatives are long overdue, and I am proud to be an early and vocal supporter of tax relief. However, I am concerned that the spending portion of the budget deal creates a new entitlement program, threatens to move us toward government-run health care, and significantly increases social spending which could negatively impact the Balanced Budget Agreement.

Given that President Clinton submitted a budget earlier this year which would have added \$200 billion to the deficit, the Republican-led Congress can take pride in this final agreement that implements the tax cuts fought for by our party for so long. The Tax Relief Act will help American families keep more of what they earn, save for their retirement, and promote job creation and economic growth. I support a balanced budget and look forward to voting to give New Hampshire families their first tax cut in sixteen years.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REVITALIZATION ACT

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I would like to comment on Title XI of this legislation, the District of Columbia Revitalization Act. This is a major piece of legislation, and in many ways a major accomplishment, given that it was hammered out by a broad group of interested parties, including members and staff from the Governmental Affairs Committee, over a relatively short period of time. Agreement on this package was preceded earlier this year by considerable work in the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee chaired by Senator BROWNBACK. Similar efforts were undertaken by the House Subcommittee on the District of Columbia. This Revitalization package was put together quickly, in a combined effort by all concerned parties, because of a mutual recognition that the District of Columbia's problems had become untenable. The broad recognition of the magnitude of the problem plus the possibly unique opportunity to come to agreement and enact reforms was what led so many people to agree on a package that virtually everyone regards as less than their ideal.

One significant concern I have about this package is the major financial responsibility the Federal taxpayer is un-

dertaking in the years to come. Technically, the D.C. Revitalization package meets the scoring requirements of this Balanced Budget Act, but the out-year costs are enormous and have not been dealt with. We are still evaluating the full impact of this package, but Members should be aware that the \$4.8 billion in pension liability the Federal Government will be assuming is actually closer to \$48 billion over time. I do believe it may be possible for these potential out-year costs to be reduced. The Revitalization package includes a provision which I requested requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to conduct a study of the D.C. pension assets and report back within a year on how the Federal Government might put them to best use. The Governmental Affairs Committee will then have the opportunity to consider whether additional legislation in this area could improve the financial outlook. The Administration has indicated a willingness to work further on this issue with the Committee, and I certainly look forward to that. We should be working together to institute reforms that make the District work independently, not simply encouraging a Federal Government takeover of all of its problems. There are assets currently in the D.C. pension fund, and rather than simply spending down those assets, we should build upon the assets so the funds are available to make payments in the future.

Another area in which I question estimates of future costs is with the transfer of D.C. Corrections to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. I know the pressure was intense to close the Lorton Correctional Complex in Virginia, but here again this bill makes the federal bureaucracy responsible for absorbing the District's prison population. While the bill incorporates provisions for privatization, I believe the record will show that the Bureau of Prisons has consistently stood in the way of increased privatization in the Federal prison system. I have no reason to believe they will have a different response with regard to the Lorton prisoners.

Many may not know that the District of Columbia was already engaged in a program to privatize the corrections function and has already entered into private contracts for housing 2,400 prisoners. I know well from my experience in Tennessee that private corrections facilities are a cost-effective, efficient and safe alternative to publicly-operated facilities. I am disturbed that Congress has substituted its judgment for the District's in this instance without evaluating whether the District's privatization initiative for corrections would work.

Privatization can save valuable taxpayer dollars. In this instance, it is conceivable that the Federal Government could save the entire \$885 million estimated for construction of new facilities if the District were allowed to continue on its current course. Because

I believe these cost savings are important—and because this agreement was reached without sufficient debate—I want my colleagues to be aware that I, and other of my colleagues, want to work on follow-up legislation in this area as well. I think we can do better and I want to work toward that end.

In conclusion, while this D.C. Revitalization Act is the result of a major, almost unprecedented effort by many with the best interest of the citizens of the District in mind, the reforms will require some additional thought and work to make the package live up to its full potential.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, how much time do we have on each side equally?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico has 10 minutes remaining, and the Senator from New Jersey has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I yield myself 5 of our 10 minutes.

First, Mr. President, usually we thank a lot of people. There are so many staff people that I am not going to thank them all, but I will put all of their names in the RECORD. There are so many heroes.

But I do want to pay tribute to a staff member from the House. His name is Rick May. He has been staff director of the Budget Committee in the House. He is a graduate of Ohio State. He works for Representative JOHN KASICH. He has been their budget overseer for 10 years, working on budget issues since 1983. He helped put together the alternative that JOHN KASICH offered in 1989. It started with just 30 votes. JOHN KASICH's leadership has grown. And right at his right hand has been Rick May. He is going to join a firm here in town, and I wish him well, and want the Senate RECORD to reflect that we appreciate what he has done.

Mr. President, before I begin my remarks, I would like to take a moment to thank all of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, who have seen me stand in this well time and time again, and have listened to me speak about a balanced Federal budget. I want to thank you all—from the bottom of my heart—for your patience and your support.

Mr. President, I would like to thank the ranking member of the Budget Committee, Senator LAUTENBERG. I turn to him and just say thank you.

You have been an active member of the Senate Budget Committee for many years, but in your first year as ranking member you have represented the interests of your party and your constituents in an honest and forthright manner. I have enjoyed working with you.

I would like to thank the chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator ROTH. Few have worked harder or longer to ease the tax burden on American families. But the package that you helped fashion, Senator ROTH, of lowering taxes is a significant step forward. It addressed a need that has been

there for almost 16 years as far as middle-income America is concerned.

The package that you helped fashion in the Finance Committee was not only a significant step in support of lower taxes, but also boldly addressed the need to reform Medicare and protect it for those who depend upon it today, and those who will need it in the future. Unfortunately, we were not able to hold those reforms in our conference but I believe your action has put us on the road to reform. Thank you and your staff for your support.

In addition to that, we praise the Finance Committee and its leader Senator ROTH for reforms in Medicare. The protection of that will depend upon whether these reforms work and whether we are successful in the future in a major reform package for Medicare.

Finally, to our leader, Senator TRENT LOTT. In short, Mr. President, we would not be standing here today, about to pass this historic balanced budget package, if not for the leadership, the support, and the efforts of TRENT LOTT. As majority leader I don't believe a day has gone by when he didn't take some action aimed at producing a balanced budget for the American people. He has been direct, he has been focused, and he has done everything you could ask a leader to do to get us to this point. The American people should know, that this bipartisan budget and tax relief package is due, in no small part, to his determination, his drive, and his commitment. Mr. Leader, I thank you for your leadership and your support.

I thank him for the support he has given me. I hope that I have been of support and help to him as we move down this course of very complicated negotiations as evidenced by the size of the bills we have and the scope of what we are accomplishing.

Mr. President, I began this debate by quoting from a newspaper that this agreement is a big deal. And, I believe it is. Because while it has taken us 7 months to put this specific balanced budget and tax relief package together, the pathway to this point has been years in the making.

This legislation is a big deal because we have followed through on our bipartisan commitment to implement the bipartisan budget agreement reached in May. It is a big deal because it will balance the Federal budget for the first time in 30 years. It is, in short, a great victory for the American people who are entitled to expect of their adult leaders that they work together in the best interests of our country.

For the past 2 years, many of my colleagues and I have insisted that any budget passed through Congress be a balanced budget, one which is fiscally responsible, reduces the deficit, protects our children, provides much-needed tax relief for working American families, while preserving and strengthening Medicare and encouraging economic growth. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 does just that.

It covers hundreds of Government programs; it has taken thousands of man-hours to put together; it will help millions of our citizens; and save billions and billions of dollars.

The budget we will vote on today is a big deal because it offers America hope. But not only is this package a big deal it is also a good deal.

It is a good deal because it is a budget designed to help American families, to make them more secure—in their homes, in their communities, in their jobs.

It offers them a more efficient government—one dedicated to economic growth and security, support for our children, and lower taxes on America's workers.

This budget is a good deal because it recognizes the simple notion that our Government cannot simply go on borrowing and spending our children's money. It will finally drive a stake through the heart of the Deficit Dragon, and put an end to mounting Federal debt, a Medicare system that will go bankrupt and a crushing tax burden on those just starting out in life.

The budget is a good deal because it will strengthen America. It will change the way our Government works—to make it more efficient, more responsive, and less expensive. And, most importantly, it will ensure a better future for our children and our Nation.

This budget is a good deal because it reflects our commitment to fiscal responsibility, generating economic growth, creating good jobs with a future, and protecting the American dream for all our citizens—young and old alike.

This budget is a good deal because it will restore America's fiscal equilibrium. It will reverse the tide of 50 years of power flowing for the rest of the country to Washington. We want to provide more freedom and opportunity to people at the local level so they might have more control over the decisions on programs that effect their lives, their children, and their communities.

This budget is a good deal because it recognizes the need to ease the tax burden on America's middle-class working parents, to give them a \$500-per-child tax credit. This credit will help more than 50 million American children in nearly 30 million families. Under this plan a family with two children under age 17 would receive \$1,000 in permanent tax relief.

It's also a good deal for family farmers and small business men and women; for homeowners who will someday sell their home; and for all those who want to create incentives for economic growth and job creation.

And, this budget is a good deal because while we are working toward balance and tax relief, we continue to support programs which provide needed services to our citizens and we have been painstakingly careful to preserve a safety net for those in need.

To provide health care for poor children who have none. To strengthen

Medicare and provide more health care options for our seniors. To improve access to higher education and help parents and our young people pay for college.

We support programs aimed at keeping Americans safe—in their home, schools, and neighborhoods—by funding needed crime programs.

The question whether one generation has the right to bind another by the deficit it imposes is a question of such consequence as to place it among the fundamental principles of government. We should consider ourselves unauthorized to saddle posterity with our debts and morally bound to pay them ourselves.

Mr. President, we might wonder where that came from. Was that just a statement here lately when our deficit and debt grew? No, it wasn't. It was made by Thomas Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson was a wise man. He wrote the Constitution. And he understood that if you pass on to the next generation, and the next generation—as he calls it, posterity—the debts of your generation, you take the chance that their life being reasonable, good, prosperous, and successful is limited. It limits their freedom. That is why we have been so worried about the debt, and the annual deficit that contributes to it.

Today we will cast a vote of great significance to the future of America. It is the vote so many of us have said we wanted—a vote to finally balance the Federal budget.

One of freedoms great leaders Winston Churchill told us the "price of greatness is responsibility." We in government shoulder that responsibility. We actively seek it by running for public office. I believe the time has come to shoulder our responsibility and enact a balanced Federal budget.

In doing so, we are casting a vote in support of America's future. You may serve here for years and never cast a more important vote. Because you now have a chance to vote to protect America, to strengthen it, and improve it.

Today we can begin writing a new chapter in American history. That is why this is a big deal and that is why it is a good deal.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a compilation of extraneous provisions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EXTRANEIOUS PROVISIONS—H.R. 2015—BALANCED
BUDGET ACT OF 1997

Conference	
Provision	Comments/violation
Title III—Communications and Spectrum Allocation	
Section 3002(a)(1)(C)(iii) ...	Requires FCC to set a reserve price or minimum bid for auctions, unless not in public interest. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Section 3004-adds "Sec. 337(e)(2)" and "(f)(2)".	Directs FCC to consider needs of low-power television stations in conducting transition to digital TV, which the FCC is already doing under current law. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Title IV—Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Provisions	
Sec. 4021	Medicare Commission. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.

EXTRANEOUS PROVISIONS—H.R. 2015—BALANCED
BUDGET ACT OF 1997—Continued

Conference	
Provision	Comments/violation
Sec. 4022	Authorization of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Sec.	Study on Definition of Homebound. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Sec.	Study and Report on the Boren Amendment. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Title V—Welfare and Related Provision	
Sec. 5001(f)	Evaluations. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Sec. 5001(h)	Clarification that sanctions against recipients under TANF Program are not wage reductions. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Sec. 5001(i)	GAO Study of effect of Family Violence on Need for Public Assistance. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Sec. 5002	Limitation on amount of Federal Funds transferable to title XX programs. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Sec. 5003	Limitation on number of persons who may be engaged in work by reason of participation. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Sec. 5201	Clarification of authority to permit certain redisclosures of wage and claim information. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Sec. 5408	State Program Integrity Activities for Unemployment Compensation. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Sec. 5702	Authorization of appropriations for enforcement initiatives related to the earned income credit. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Title VIII—Veterans and Related Provisions	
Sec. 8023(a) 1729A(e)	Report to Congress. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Title X—Budget Enforcement and Process Provisions	
Title X	Budget Enforcement and Process Provisions. Byrd rule(b)(1)(A): Produces no change in outlays or revenues.
Title XI—District of Columbia Revitalization	
Under Review.	

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I note the presence of our distinguished majority leader. I wanted to reserve the remainder of the time for him.

I yield the floor.

I understand the minority party has about 10 minutes and we have about 5 minutes for you, Mr. Leader.

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. DOMENICI. 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. DOMENICI. Senator LAUTENBERG, is it your desire to yield the remaining time to the majority leader?

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I will in just a couple minutes because I want us to be able to hear from the leadership. I did not know whether or not Senator DASCHLE had some remarks that he wanted to make, but I would certainly be delighted to yield the time so that we apportion it with the time remaining on the majority side, so that the distinguished majority leader has the time that he needs to make his remarks. For the moment, I would just say that we are not done yet, in the words of the distinguished New Jersey philosopher Yogi Berra, who said, "It's

not over 'til it's over." We are getting ever closer. I don't yet feel the attention that comes with championship bouts or things of that nature; we have another 10 hours' worth of debate on the second part of the reconciliation bill.

At this point, I would be happy to yield the time back that we have, if the Parliamentarian could tell us how much time is remaining on our side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Eight minutes. If I were to give up 5 minutes of that time, how much combined time would the majority leader have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A total of 8 minutes. The majority has 5 minutes.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. We will yield 5 and you have 5 so that the majority leader can have 10 minutes.

Senator DASCHLE is on his way, and I know he would like to have a couple words, so we can extend the time if we need for just a couple of minutes.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I indicated last Saturday on a radio show that if we could get this answer to the American people's prayers this week, I would whistle "Hail to the Chief" in the Senate.

Well, the rules do not allow that. I am afraid that Senator BYRD would come down and chastise me if I whistle, but let me tell you I am humming "Hail to the Chief" to the American people today because we have accomplished an awful lot in reaching the agreement on these two major bills.

I was reading an article last night entitled, "O Ye of Little Faith," and it made me think about what we have gone through the last few weeks. I just have to ask the Senate this morning, how many of us really, really thought we were going to get this done and that we were going to get it done this week? Even 1 week ago there were those who were saying, "Oh, no, you can't get that done before we go out for the August recess. Wait until September; we will do it then."

But we persisted. We just kept saying we can get through this. We can do this together. We can do the right thing for the American people, and we can do it now, because it has been a long time coming.

I think it is appropriate that on both sides of the aisle and both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate, and, yes, the President, all are saying this is good for America.

It is not utopia. It does not solve all the problems. There are some things in here I do not like. There are some things in here that the Senator from New Jersey does not like. But it is a major step forward—maybe not a leap but a major step forward. We are doing some things we promised the American people, things that really matter. It matters that we are going to get to a balanced budget, and this time it is

with honest numbers. We are really going to do it. And for a lot of reasons we may do it before the year 2002. This is the type of commitment that I have not seen in the Congress in a bipartisan way in the 25 years that I have had the honor of serving the people of Mississippi. So I think we should declare this is a very important step forward. It is worth having.

I was doing an interview yesterday and somebody said: Well, not enough in the tax bill, not enough tax relief. Why wasn't there more? Why didn't you insist on this? Why didn't you insist on that?

I have a simple question. Is some tax relief better than no tax relief? There are those who would rather have nothing if they cannot get everything. Ladies and gentlemen, my colleagues in the Senate, these bills are worth having. I am proud to say that I worked on it for 8 months of my life. This past Saturday night and Sunday morning, I thought we had lost it. I was boiling inside. I was disturbed. I was hurt that we were going to let this moment get away from us. But I guess maybe after a Sunday morning of reflection and prayer, we said, no, we are going to do this. And so we did. The President made a commitment. He wanted to get it done. The leadership in the Congress, House and Senate, Republican and Democrat, wanted to get it done, and that is why we just did it. We went ahead and did it.

Let me say to my colleagues here today, there are so many I want to thank and congratulate for this step forward, but I have to begin with the distinguished Senator from New Mexico. None of us has worked longer, none of us has contributed more, none of us knows more about what is in this bill than Senator PETE DOMENICI of New Mexico. He has been my confidante. He has been my trusted ally. He has done this when, in his own personal life, he has had problems to worry about. And so I know that the President, the Democrats and Republicans on both sides of the aisle, want to say thanks a lot, PETE. You did a great job for your country.

His colleague on the other side of the aisle, Senator LAUTENBERG, could have walked away from this. Even at the last moment, something he cares about tremendously, guaranteeing we get the Amtrak funds—it is in there, but with a condition—he could have said, if I can't get what I want, I am not going to do this.

He is not going to do that. He is going to do what is right for his State and the country.

My colleague, TOM DASCHLE, from South Dakota, yesterday said some very nice things about my efforts, and I have to say the same about him. He was reliable. He was honest with me. He stayed the course. He came to the meetings. There were some meetings he didn't get to come to. A lot of people had an opportunity to get their egos hurt, but everybody rose above it.

PAT MOYNIHAN, Finance Committee, bipartisan effort. We reported one of these bills, I think it was 18 to 2, the other one 20 to nothing, out of the Finance Committee, but it began with BILL ROTH, the chairman of the Finance Committee, and the Senator from New York. They made up their minds they were going to get it done, and they were going to do it together, and the rest of us could come along if we wanted. Our scholar Senator helped lead the way.

I have to say again about BILL ROTH, patience, tenacity, he was not going to relent on getting this job done. And the Finance Committee had both of these bills. No other committee in Congress had to do it that way. In the House, it was Ways and Means and Commerce Committee as well as Budget. Over here, it was just Budget and Finance. He did a great job. We would not have what we have in the tax bill on IRA's; we would not have what we have on Amtrak; we would not have what we were able to get on a myriad of issues in this legislation. He did a fantastic job.

I could go on down the list, but it truly is a bipartisan effort, and I am proud of that. Some people say, "Why don't you draw the line and fight?" I have done that. Sometimes it is fun, but it doesn't produce anything but a fight most of the time.

So there will be another day to differentiate between the parties, but today we are going to do what is right for the country. This bill is rightly called the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. It contains literally hundreds of positions that will get us to that balanced budget. But the bottom line is, it is something the American people have been waiting to hear for many years. We will have a balanced budget by the year 2002 and thereafter.

How is that accomplished? Well, it does have spending reductions of approximately \$270 billion over 5 years. It has \$140 billion in restraint on appropriated accounts. It has \$132 billion in entitlements and net interest savings. It does provide help for children's health, and that is a bipartisan effort.

Most of us are parents. Most of us have children in our States who are not covered. We disagree about how much we should pay for it, how much should be done, but it is something we care about and we should do. And we get it done in this bill.

Now, we give as much flexibility as we can to the States, and that is the way it should be. I have faith in my own Governor and my own legislature. I want these decisions to be made as close to the people that need this help, as close to the children as possible. What they need in West Virginia may be different from what they need in Arizona. Give that flexibility so that the decisions are close to the people and so it is provided in a way that will really provide the help it should.

I want to make this important point about Medicare. We are going to im-

prove Medicare. We are going to save Medicare from going insolvent for another several years at way out to, I believe, close to the year 2007 probably, and we are going to do it with flexibility. We are going to give the seniors a chance to choose. They can go with the old system; they can go with an HMO; they can go with a professional services organization; they can have medical savings accounts.

We have done what we have been arguing about for 4 years. We are actually doing it. We are doing what we said we were going to do in Medicare and that alone, what we are doing in Medicare alone is worth voting for this legislation. What other problems you may have with this bill—some of the changes in welfare, I think, go the wrong direction; we really want to get people from welfare to work. This bill has some problems, but just the Medicare provision makes it worthwhile.

We have some savings in Medicaid. The States will have a greater ability to deliver health services more efficiently for poor persons. When you look through the list of things that we have done here, in instance after instance, I think we should be very proud.

I am here today to tell you that I am going to vote for this legislation with pride, not with fear and trepidation, not with reservations or grumpiness because I didn't get everything I wanted, but because the process worked. Our system of Government worked here like I think our forefathers intended for it to work, and we are going to produce genuine results that will be of benefit. In this bill and in the other bill we will pass for our children our educational system in America, child health care, the guarantee of the important programs that we want for our seniors. From the day we are born to the day we die, there will be benefits coming out of this legislation.

So I urge my colleagues, let us make this an overwhelming vote. I think we will have as near to a unanimous vote as you will ever get in the Senate on a bill of this magnitude, a bill of this size. I think when we vote on it, it is going to pass overwhelmingly. Then we are going to go to the tax relief package, which I am tremendously excited about.

I am glad to have been a part of this effort. It has been worthwhile. It has been long. It has been tedious. It has tried my patience. I lost my temper a few times, along with others, and for those occasions I apologize. But we got it done, and we will have more decisions made by the people at the State level; we will have genuine tax relief; we will have security for our seniors, and now and then we can move on and address other problems that we need to take up for the future of our country.

I thank the Chair and I thank all Senators for what you have done on this.

Mr. DOMENICI. Will the Senator yield for 30 seconds?

Mr. LOTT. I yield to the great senior Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I believe we have an opportunity to write a new chapter in American history, and I am very proud to be part of it, and I thank the Senator for his kind words.

Mr. LOTT. It would not have happened without the Senator from New Mexico, and I thank him once again for all of his long hours and great leadership.

(Mr. SMITH of Oregon assumed the Chair.)

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Will the leader yield for 30 seconds?

Mr. LOTT. I will yield to the Senator from New York.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Might I thank him on behalf of Senator ROTH, who is not present at the moment, for his very generous remarks about the Finance Committee, of which he is a member—not hardly the least of us. It is true that the overwhelming portion of both these measures fell to the Finance Committee, and we voted nearly, in one case, a unanimous measure, on one bill we are about to vote on, 18 to 2, the bill we are going to take up.

I think that has contributed considerably to the momentum that has surrounded us and brought us to this moment. I thank the distinguished majority leader for his generous remarks.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Senator from New York.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, do we have any time left here?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 3 minutes.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. If the majority leader will yield?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am glad to yield the floor to the Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. We will try to split the time. I want to say, also, to the majority leader, thank you for the accolades and for the encouragement that you gave Senator DOMENICI and me throughout the process and for the comments about our other colleagues, all of whom worked diligently, worked honestly on getting the mission accomplished. At times, I can tell you that Senator DOMENICI—it's no secret—would kind of lay down the book and say, "We have to check this upstairs." I don't think he meant all the way up. I think he meant only as far as the majority leader's office. Or, "We have to turn to the leadership." I would do the same thing.

But persistence was the keynote, persistence and patience. I want to say this about the majority leader and about the way he has conducted things. Serving in the minority, it's easy to find fault with the majority leader. But one has to give credit where due. The fact is that this majority leader has, with diligence and persistence, moved legislation through this place. He has come up to me, and I am sure other colleagues, and said, "Frank, let's try to make sense out of this. What is it that you are trying to accomplish? Can

it be done this time? Well, I don't think so. I think we can get halfway there, I think we can get three-quarters of the way." Or he'll say, "That's not a bad idea and I do want to help you with that." And he made a commitment with me on trying to make sure our national passenger rail system keeps on functioning. He reaffirmed his commitment to help find a way to get that done.

So I want to say, relatively, as we say around here—looking around here, looking at my white hair, I can say it comfortably—the new kid on the block, the majority leader, has done a good job. It's particularly evident when we look at the accomplishment of this piece of legislation, the one we are about to pass. And he is right; it's going to pass overwhelmingly. We want to have as many people on both sides say yes as we can, to indicate to the American people that we believe in this assignment that we took on.

So, I thank the majority leader for his skill, his patience, and his persistence. I think he helped calm the waters a little bit. Because I don't remember, throughout the 7 or 8 months of discussion, often late at night, often without lunch, munchies, or otherwise, that the patience—the tempers never really got real hot. Am I right? Pete, once in a while, you know, would stamp on the floor or something like that, but he would come right back, bouncing up. We pushed our way through.

So I thank everybody involved in the effort, and I am delighted to be here, to serve in this place and serve at a time like this when we have accomplished something.

Mr. DOMENICI. Would the Senator yield for a minute?

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Yes.

Mr. DOMENICI. You know that little hideaway, the Domenici hideaway with that great view? I think when we are finished, we are going to put a plaque in there; right? It's not mine anymore. But it's going to say, "In this little room this budget agreement was hatched and completed."

Mr. LAUTENBERG. May I add a word of poetry?

We stood and looked away,
Hoping for some accomplishment at the end of this day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired. The question is on the conference report.

Mr. DOMENICI. We don't have the yeas and nays yet. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the conference report. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced, yeas 85, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 209 Leg.]

YEAS—85

Abraham	Feingold	Mack
Akaka	Feinstein	McCain
Baucus	Frist	McConnell
Bennett	Glenn	Mikulski
Biden	Gorton	Moseley-Braun
Bingaman	Graham	Moynihan
Bond	Grassley	Murkowski
Boxer	Gregg	Murray
Breaux	Hagel	Nickles
Brownback	Harkin	Reed
Bryan	Hatch	Reid
Bumpers	Hutchinson	Robb
Burns	Hutchison	Roberts
Byrd	Inouye	Rockefeller
Campbell	Jeffords	Roth
Chafee	Johnson	Santorum
Cleland	Kempthorne	Sarbanes
Cochran	Kennedy	Shelby
Collins	Kerrey	Smith (OR)
Conrad	Kerry	Snowe
Coverdell	Kohl	Specter
Craig	Kyl	Stevens
D'Amato	Landrieu	Thomas
Daschle	Lautenberg	Thurmond
DeWine	Leahy	Torricelli
Dodd	Levin	Warner
Domenici	Lieberman	Wyden
Dorgan	Lott	
Durbin	Lugar	

NAYS—15

Allard	Ford	Inhofe
Ashcroft	Gramm	Sessions
Coats	Grams	Smith (NH)
Enzi	Helms	Thompson
Faircloth	Hollings	Wellstone

The conference report was agreed to.
Mr. LAUTENBERG. I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BUMPERS addressed the Chair.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY H.R. 2014

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, this is a unanimous consent agreement that I have cleared with the minority leader.

I ask unanimous consent that the time controlled by the Democratic leader with respect to H.R. 2014, the revenue reconciliation conference report, that 90 minutes be under my control or my designee's.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection? Hearing none, without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we are glad to have you in this Chamber today.

TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to consideration of the tax fairness conference report regardless of receipt of the papers from the House.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the

amendment of the Senate to the bill H.R. 2014, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections (b)(2) and (d) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of July 30, 1997.)

Mr. NICKLES addressed the Chair.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Oklahoma.

OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL ACT OF 1997

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 134, Senate bill 871.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 871) to establish the Oklahoma City National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System; to designate the Oklahoma City Memorial Trust, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, today, the Senate is considering S. 871, the Oklahoma City National Memorial Act of 1997. This important legislation will establish the Oklahoma City National Memorial as a unit of the National Park Service and create the Oklahoma City Memorial Trust. The memorial will commemorate the national tragedy ingrained in all of our minds that occurred in downtown Oklahoma City at 9:02 a.m. on April 19, 1995, in which 168 Americans lost their lives and countless thousands more lost family members and friends.

The Oklahoma City National Memorial will serve as a monument to those whose lives were taken and others who will bear the physical and mental scars for the rest of their days. The memorial will stand as a symbol to the hope, generosity, and courage shown by Oklahomans and fellow Americans across the country following the Oklahoma City bombing. This will be a place of remembrance, peace, spirituality, comfort, and learning.

Under this legislation, the National Park Service Memorial site will encompass the footprint of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, 5th Street between Robinson and Harvey, the site of the Water Resources Building, and the Journal Record Building. An international competition was held to determine the design of the Oklahoma City National Memorial, and the winning design was announced on Tuesday, July 1. I commend the Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation for an excellent selection of the winning design.

In addition to designating the memorial site as a unit of the National Park Service, this bill also establishes a