

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing a resolution regarding recent reports coming out of the U.S. Postal Service.

On Tuesday, the United States Postal Service in an effort to cut costs announced that it may eliminate Saturday mail delivery, thus reducing home delivery to five days a week.

I believe this would be a terrible mistake. Saturday delivery is an essential service, and we should make sure it continues. Eliminating the sixth day will lead to inevitable delays for mail delivery as well as higher costs to pay overtime to our postal workers.

So my resolution would put the Senate on record as strongly opposed to a cut in service. The amendment will also call on the governing body of the Postal Service to take the necessary steps to ensure the essential service goes uninterrupted.

Cutting out the Saturday delivery would represent a major change for the service, a service that many Americans, especially our seniors who don't use e-mail, have depended on for decades.

People across America depend on the services of the Postal system. Millions of working families depend on the mail for their pay checks, millions of seniors depend on the mail for their Social Security checks, and millions of poor Americans can't afford computers and don't have access to things like e-mail which many of us take for granted. We should not let them down.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 351. Mr. BOND proposed an amendment to amendment SA 170 proposed by Mr. DOMENICI to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 351. Mr. BOND proposed an amendment to amendment SA 170 proposed by Mr. DOMENICI to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011; as follows:

On page 36, line 6, increase the amount by \$967,000,000.

On page 36, line 7, increase the amount by \$967,000,000.

On page 43, line 15, decrease the amount by \$967,000,000.

On page 43, line 16, decrease the amount by \$967,000,000.

On page 48, line 8, increase the amount by \$967,000,000.

On page 48, line 9, increase the amount by \$967,000,000.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2001

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 23, the Senate resume H. Con. Res. 83, and the majority leader, or his designee, be recognized to make a motion for the Senate to insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes thereon, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, those conferees being: Senators DOMENICI, GRASSLEY, and GRAMM, and Democratic nominees to be announced on Monday, April 23. There will be two of them.

Further, there will be 4 hours equally divided for debate only, and following that debate, the motions be immediately agreed to without any intervening action, motion, or additional debate, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could take a moment while Senator DASCHLE is present, I thank the managers of this legislation on behalf of all the Senate. Being chairman of a committee and ranking member of a committee always has its challenges. And when you manage a bill on the floor, any of them can present difficulties and take quite some time. But probably no bill is any more difficult than the budget resolution because you have so many different parts. You are dealing with mandatory programs, appropriated accounts, the aggregate numbers, and those categories, as well as what you are going to do with regard to tax policy. It is not an easy job.

I must say that Senator DOMENICI, the chairman of the Budget Committee, and Senator KENT CONRAD, the ranking Democrat on the committee, have done an excellent job. We really appreciate it. It has been long hours. But I watched you working last night and again this morning, and I am sure there are many Senators who would not have believed we would be where we are at this moment—20 minutes to 3—having completed a bipartisan budget resolution.

I am sure many of us would make changes and say it is not perfect, but in the years I have watched votes on budget resolutions—and they now go back over some 25 or 26 years since we first started the budget resolution—I only remember two or three times where it was really a bipartisan budget resolution. This vote of 65–35 was, I think, a good vote, a positive vote, and a good step toward completing our work this year on all the different components of this bill. So I congratulate you and thank you for your work.

I say to Senator DASCHLE, would you like to comment?

Mr. DASCHLE. If the majority leader will yield, I only add my voice to the majority leader's. He has spoken for both of us again in complimenting our chair as well as our ranking member.

This is the first managerial responsibility, under our Budget Committee, that our ranking member has had. I must say, he has made us all proud and very grateful. He has done an extraordinary job. And his staff has been very helpful, as we worked through many of the legislative landmines we faced over the course of the last several days.

I would also like to thank our Democratic whip, Senator REID of Nevada, for the outstanding job he did in helping our ranking member and working through the many challenges we faced. He, as he always does, has been just a tremendous workhorse. Senator REID deserves our thanks and our debt of gratitude as well.

I thank the majority leader for yielding.

Mr. LOTT. In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to join in expressing appreciation for Senator REID. We consider him the utility player for both sides. He does wonderful work. We do appreciate it.

Also, I want to take note that Senator DOMENICI, as chairman of the committee or ranking member, has been involved in every budget resolution we have worked on since the law went into effect back in the 1970s; and he has been the manager on our side 14 times.

So we have the old pro here, and we have the new ranking member, and they both did a great job and worked together quite well. We do appreciate it.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I say to my good friend, Senator KENT CONRAD, it is a pleasure working with you. I extend my congratulations for a superb job. It was a very difficult budget from the standpoint of both of us. In the last 36 hours, you and HARRY REID have been miracle workers. We very much appreciate your willingness to help us get through this, and get through quickly, so that our Senators can get on with their Easter recess and so that we could do something significant before we leave.

Mr. CONRAD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, first of all, I thank the majority leader and the Democratic leader for their kind comments. It has been terrific working with them. I also want to highlight the work of the chairman of the committee who has done a very fair-handed job of managing the Budget Committee. We thank him for his fairness, and we appreciate very much the working relationship we have established throughout the year.

I think our committee was one of the first to reach agreement in this power-sharing arrangement. And certainly here on the floor, Senator DOMENICI worked in such a constructive and gracious way. We appreciate it very much.

If I might talk, for just a moment, on the reasons I voted in opposition to this budget resolution after these long hours of work. I would sum it up in the following ways.

No. 1, I wanted to do more debt reduction than we ultimately did here. I wanted to reserve 70 percent of the forecasted surpluses for debt reduction. Unfortunately, we fell well short of that. So my first concern with what we passed is there is not sufficient debt reduction.

My second concern is that after a detailed analysis of all the amendments that have passed, we are into the Medicare trust funds in the years 2002, 2005, 2006, and 2007, to the tune of \$54 billion. As I enunciated when I laid down a budget alternative, I do not think we should use any of the trust funds of Social Security or Medicare for any year. So that would be the second reason I voted in opposition.

The third reason was that the tax cut we are left with of \$1.2 trillion over the 10 years is simply too large to accommodate the kind of additional debt paydown that I believe is in the best interest of the country. Instead of paying down the publicly held debt to about \$500 billion, this budget resolution pays down the publicly held debt to about \$1.1 trillion. So I would have liked to have seen us pay down the publicly held debt by another \$600 billion.

Finally, Mr. President, in the option that I offered our colleagues, we reserved \$800 billion to strengthen Social Security for the long term. This budget will fall far short of that at about \$160 billion that is available to strengthen Social Security for the long term.

So for those reasons, I voted in opposition.

In saying that, I do want to indicate that we improved this budget substantially. From what we started with—from what we started with; not from my plan, but from what we started with—we reduced the tax cut, we increased the amount of publicly held debt paydown, and we reserved additional resources for improving education, for a prescription drug benefit, for our national defense, and for agriculture.

So those were important improvements. I just would have liked to have seen us do somewhat better. I would have liked to have seen us put more of an emphasis on debt reduction. But we will have other opportunities to make those points and other opportunities to vote on those priorities.

I conclude by thanking all of our colleagues for their patience and their graciousness during this period.

I also want to take this moment to thank the staffs who worked so hard during this period because these have been long nights and difficult days.

I want to start with Mary Naylor, my staff director on the Senate Budget Committee, who did a superb job under difficult circumstances; and Jim Horney, who is also a top staffer, the

deputy staff director for the Senate Budget Committee; Sue Nelson, who produced chart after chart that showed us where we stood at every juncture so we knew precisely where we were, which I think helped us make wise decisions; Lisa Konwinski, our counsel, who Lisa drafted amendment after amendment, not only for me but for our colleagues, and did a superb job; Sarah Kuehl, who has primary responsibility in the Social Security area; Steve Bailey, our tax counsel; Dakota Rudesill, who handles national security issues and national defense; Scott Carlson and Tim Galvin, who handle agriculture for the committee; Shelley Amdur, who is our education specialist; Jim Esquea and Bonnie Galvin; Chad Stone, our economist; Rock Cheung, who helped produce those charts, and I think helped us be more successful than we would have otherwise been; and certainly Karin Kullman, who joined the staff to help us do outreach to groups who were interested in the budget; and, finally, my terrific press team, Stu Nagurka and Steve Posner, who had their hands full.

Goodness knows, I appreciate the work all of you have done. I appreciate very much the long hours you have put in and your real dedication. You have made me proud. I think you have helped us improve the budget for our country.

I thank the staff on the other side, especially the staff director for Senator DOMENICI, Bill Hoagland, who is a class act. He deserves all of our thanks for the professionalism with which he conducts himself.

Mr. President, again, I thank everyone who has made this an interesting first experience for me in my position on the Budget Committee.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT HOFFMAN

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to say thank you—thank you to my legislative director for the past four years, Mr. Robert Hoffman. Robert—my right-hand man—will be leaving Capitol Hill shortly for a promising career in the private sector.

But I speak for a lot of people on the Hill—Members and staffers, alike—when I say that although we are very happy for Robert and we wish him well, we are saddened by his upcoming departure and will miss him dearly.

We will miss Robert's dedication to this institution.

We will miss his optimism and his sense of humor.

We will miss his unstoppable work ethic.

But most of all, we will just miss him.

Robert Hoffman has, himself, become somewhat of an institution here on Capitol Hill. Almost exactly twelve years ago today—April 3, 1989—Robert started working in Washington for former California Senator, Pete Wilson.

Robert, a California native, didn't start off as Senator Wilson's legislative director. Oh no. He started in the mail room. His dogged determination and his amazing ability to absorb issues quickly propelled him upward within the Wilson operation. In less than a year, Robert had become a legislative correspondent and within another year, he was working in Sacramento as deputy speech writer after Senator Wilson became Governor of California.

Robert, though, missed Capitol Hill—and Capitol Hill missed him. By May 1991, he was back in Washington, this time working as a legislative assistant for another former California Senator, John Seymour. Robert thrived as a legislative assistant, handling complex issues ranging from crime to immigration.

In practically no time, Robert was ready for a managerial role. In December 1992, he started a long tenure with our former colleague from South Dakota, Senator Larry Pressler.

By the young age of only 27, Robert was serving as Senator Pressler's legislative director. Though Robert's loyalty to Governor Wilson called him back for slightly over a year to work as the Governor's Deputy Director of his Washington office, Robert stayed with the Pressler organization until January 1997. To this day, Senator Pressler is thankful for having had Robert at the helm of his legislative operation.

The Senator has described Robert as one of the “all time finest legislative assistants and legislative directors on Capitol Hill. He is a man of great personal values and decency—a decency that is contagious.”

Senator Pressler said it well.

I know, too, that Senator Pressler greatly valued—and still values, as I do—Robert's deep grasp and understanding of foreign policy and national security matters. Robert accompanied Senator Pressler and Senator SPECTER on a trip to Africa. Senator Pressler speaks fondly of that trip and of Robert's “superb job of managing it.” According to Senator Pressler: “Robert made that trip. He got us there and back in one piece, which was no easy feat! He managed the whole thing, dealt with heads of state, and knew all the issues—forward and back.”

Robert came to my office in February 1997. He's been my legislative director for over four years now. And, during that time, I have learned a great deal about this fine man.

I have learned that he is loyal to a fault.

I have learned that he is a workhorse.

I have learned that he is an incredible strategist, manager, teacher, thinker, leader, and friend.

I have also learned that there is nothing Robert Hoffman can't do. To use one of Robert's favorite phrases: “He just gets it. He just gets the joke.”

Robert is one of the best “big picture” thinkers I have ever encountered. He gets the whole scene; he understands it. He can put things in their