

It has been here for a year, and then to say it is up to the President, I do not agree with that.

Each of us in this body has some responsibility to give thought to what we can do to help strengthen this economy, which everyone in this country wants us to do.

In addition to that, of course, it seems to me we ought to be moving on an energy bill. This is very important to us, not only to the economy, but we are going to see some more impacts of it, of course, in the winter. We can do that. We started to work on pharmaceuticals. The budget contains opportunity for that. We can do that. Education has been passed by both Houses of Congress and still remains in conference.

I know many in the leadership on both sides are very anxious to work together and show evidence of working together and want to work together. I certainly encourage that be done so we can do what we are here to do, which is to solve the problems before the country, the legitimate problems for the Federal Government.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

THE BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend from Wyoming, it is true we have the second largest surplus in the history of this country; however, it is all Social Security money.

The administration keeps talking about this huge surplus. They never give a caveat, saying, yes, we have the second largest surplus, but the reason we have that is because in 1983, the Congress, with Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, Claude Pepper, Senator BYRD, and President Reagan, got together and said, let's forward fund Social Security. In fact, Social Security has been forward funded, recognizing the baby boomers would have to receive large sums of money up front. So when the baby boomers come, there will be money. If we did nothing with Social Security, everyone would draw 100 percent of their benefits until about the year 2030. After 2030, if we did nothing, they would still draw 75 to 80 percent of benefits. The debate is to make sure after the year 2030 Social Security recipients receive all their benefits.

For Members to say President Bush is such a great guy, he has the second largest surplus in the history of the country, is disingenuous. It is not factual. The surplus is as a result of Social Security.

My friend from Wyoming said we should move forward. We have been trying to move forward. We would have already completed the appropriations bills but we have been prevented from moving forward on them. When we finished the legislation last week that we worked so hard to complete, the Export Administration legislation—which, by the way, was held up strictly by people

from the Republican camp, totally, for weeks and weeks, and months, and more than a year; we were finally able to get to that legislation after being held up for several days—after we finished that bill we wanted to go to Commerce-State-Justice but they would not let us. There was an objection to a motion to proceed.

Members can come to the floor all they want to talk about what is going on, but Members should state the facts. The facts are, we have been trying to move forward. If it had been up to us, we would have completed all the appropriations bills.

The economy is in trouble. Whether we like it or not, the President of the United States is seen to be the person directing the economy of the country. Basically, that is true.

Over the weekend, the press reported all over America a conversation between Speaker HASTERT and the President of the United States, George W. Bush. I quote Speaker HASTERT: A year from now is when it matters. He is talking to the President about the terms of the economy. A year from now is when it matters.

Let's see, a year from now is real close to midterm elections. Is that what they are talking about? Of course it is.

President Bush responds: "It's my timeframe, too." So we have the Speaker and the President saying they are not concerned about the economy now, but they are concerned about what happens a year from now. That is too bad. We have to be concerned about the economy today, not a year from now. We have an economy that is in real trouble. That is a fact. Rarely do all economists agree on everything, but when it comes to the current state of our economy, there is uniform agreement that things are getting worse instead of better.

As a result of the 1993 Budget Deficit Reduction Act, which was a very difficult vote, President Clinton gave us that budget. It was a tough vote for all Members. In the House of Representatives, without a single Republican vote, it passed by one vote. Courageous people lost their seats in the House of Representatives. The hero that I look to is MARIA CANTWELL. She served one term in the House of Representatives. She knew if she voted for that Budget Deficit Reduction Act it would hurt her in reelection, and it did, but she did the right thing and now is a Member of the Senate. Not all people were as fortunate as MARIA CANTWELL. Some lost and their political careers ended.

In the Senate of the United States, the vote was a tie and the Vice President of the United States came over and sat where the Presiding Officer is now sitting and cast a tie-breaking vote to allow that budget deficit plan to go forward. As a result, we had 7 years of really good times in this country. The votes were tough. We reduced unemployment by over 300,000 people, excluding the military. We had the

lowest inflation, lowest employment in more than 40 years, created 25 million new jobs, reduced the deficit from \$300 billion a year to surpluses.

Now, with this great budget we have been given by George W. Bush, we are in trouble already. Everyone acknowledges that we don't have the money for these tremendous tax cuts in the future. It has put a real damper on our economy.

Since the passage of the President's budget, we have witnessed a steady decline in the number of economic indicators. Each week there is a new economic indicator indicating we are in trouble. Majority Leader DASCHLE said this weekend, when you take a U-turn on economic policy, you can expect a U-turn in the direction of the economy.

That is what we have. The problems we face because of the President's budget deserve immediate attention.

My friend from Wyoming said it is really not the President. It is the President. He got us into this mess. He needs to give us a blueprint for trying to get out of this mess. We are going to go ahead and do the country's business and work our way through the appropriations bills the best we can. We have a one-vote majority. That makes it tough in the Senate. We need some leadership from the President of the United States, other than saying "a year from now is when it matters."

It matters right now. The current state of the economy is one of people losing jobs; the surplus has already disappeared. We are going back to the days of deficits already. And the fact that the ranking member of the Budget Committee, my friend from New Mexico, Senator DOMENICI, was quoted in the press, saying maybe we should spend Social Security surpluses.

To show the disarray on the other side, we have some who are calling for more tax reductions to solve the problems of this economy and to reduce the capital gains taxes. The thing we are now hearing is the Republicans are fighting among themselves as to whether that is a good deal.

The President of the United States today, as we speak, is in Florida talking about the need to pass an education bill. The first thing the Democrats did upon taking power in the Senate was pass the education bill. We did that. Senator DASCHLE could have brought up all kinds of other legislation, but the majority leader placed education on the agenda. And we worked our way through that and passed it. There were some battles as to whether we should do this or that, but it was passed. There was compromise. Legislation is about the art of compromise.

For the President of the United States to be in Florida saying, "Pass my education bill," which is now in conference, takes money, dollars, not to just go around talking about what a great bill we have.

I can remember when I was not as educated in "things Washington," and I would read in the newspapers that

someone in the Nevada delegation issued a statement that some bill had passed. Oh, I thought, good times are here. Little did I know that what you needed was an appropriation to go along with that authorization. I do not think the President of the United States is being fair to the American public by not recognizing that you need to do more than authorize; you need to appropriate. And he will not help us with that. So to go down to Florida today and have a big cheerleading session with students about "I am the guy who is going to help you with education" when he is unwilling to help us finance education is wrong.

I don't know how many more people have to lose their jobs, lose their cars, lose their homes. How many will it take before we have the President telling us we need a new budget? The old budget will not work. The economy will not be fixed by hastily arranged press conferences such as we had last week when they found there was a 4.9-percent unemployment rate. There was a quick press conference held, and all the congressional leadership ran to the White House, and that is where they came up with this brilliant statement; it doesn't matter what is happening now; what we need to look at is what going to happen a year from now.

We need to work with the President in righting this problem, but we need some direction from the White House.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 3 years ago a young man by the name of Steve Rigazio, president and chief operating officer for the largest utility in Nevada, Nevada Power—a fine, fine young man—was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. It is a devastating illness that affects the nerve cells in the spinal cord and causes muscles to wither and die very quickly. He has lived longer than people expected. The normal time from the time of diagnosis, when you are told you have this disease, until the time you die, is 18 months. He has lived 3 years. He no longer works. He finally had to give up his job.

Because Lou Gehrig's disease attacks the body but leaves the mind intact, this vibrant man has had to watch his body deteriorate around him. He is a man of great courage, and I hope he lives much longer than people expect. He deserves it.

I have had visiting me for a number of years now two beautiful little girls from Las Vegas. They are twins. They are now 12 years old. One of the twins, Mollie Singer, has struggled with juvenile diabetes since she was 4 years old. She has had thousands of pricks of her skin—thousands. She is a beautiful little girl who believes that we in Washington can help her not have to take all these shots. As do the million Americans who suffer from this illness, Mollie fears that her kidneys will fail, she will get some kind of infection and

have one of her limbs amputated or even lose her sight as a result of this diabetes.

There is something that gives Mollie and Steve hope, and that is stem cell research. It gives hope to tens of millions of Americans and their families who, like Steve Rigazio and Mollie Singer, suffer from Lou Gehrig's disease, diabetes, or Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, lupus, heart disease, spinal cord injuries, and other illnesses. Since stem cells can transform into nearly all the different tissues that make up the human body, they can replace defective or missing cells. Scientists are really very optimistic that one day stem cells will be used to replace defective cells in children with juvenile diabetes or even to create rejection-free organs.

Knowing that stem cells may have the power to save and improve lives, we cannot deny researchers the tools they need to fully realize the potential of stem cells. If we fail to seize promising research opportunities, we will fail millions of Americans and their families and people all over the world.

Early last month, President Bush announced he would limit Government funding for research to the stem cell lines that already existed at the time of his announcement. This was obviously a political compromise. I am pleased that the President left the door open for Federal funding of stem cell research in some capacity, but I am very concerned that he has not opened the door far enough to allow scientists to fully realize the life-saving potential of stem cells.

Last week, Secretary Thompson announced that no more than 25 of the 64 stem cell lines the National Institutes of Health listed as falling under the President's criteria are fully developed. We still do not know whether the remaining 40 stem cell lines would be useful to science. What we do know about the 25 viable stem cell lines that fall under the President's guidelines is very troubling. Why? Most, if not all, of the existing stem cell lines have been mixed with mouse cells. As a result, these cells could transfer deadly animal viruses to people, human beings.

It is also unclear whether these cells will be suitable for transplanting into people. Just last week, Dr. Douglas Melton, a professor of molecular and cellular biology at Harvard, testified that cells derived from mice "have proven unreliable over time for research, either dying out or growing into diseased forms."

Even though scientists are working on ways to grow human embryonic cell lines without using mouse cells, they will not be eligible for Federal research money because they will be created after President Bush's arbitrary August 12 deadline. Last week the administration confirmed it would not reconsider this deadline, even if it were later discovered that none of these cell lines was suitable for long-term research.

If we fail to fund research for the new stem lines that are created without mouse cells, foreign scientists will still conduct research on stem cell lines that fall outside his guidelines. This research is going to go forward. Shouldn't it go forward under the greatest scientific umbrella in the history of the world, the National Institutes of Health? The answer is yes, that is where it should go forward, not in the little communities throughout the world that are trying to get a step up on the United States. This research is going to go forward. Let's do it the right way.

As a result of the guidelines of the President, we will not have the ability to provide any oversight of this research, if it is done overseas, to ensure that it is conducted by ethical means. Not only will we risk losing our most talented scientists to foreign countries, but we also jeopardize our potential as a nation to remain a world leader in stem cell research.

Over the course of the next several months, scientists will continue to determine whether President Bush's policy will allow stem cell research to advance at a reasonable pace. As we continue to evaluate the President's funding guidelines, we need to keep in mind that millions of Americans who suffer from devastating illnesses do not have the luxury of time—Steve Rigazio as an example. We cannot continue to dangle the hope of cure or the promise of scientific breakthrough before these patients and their families without adequately supporting research to allow scientists to achieve these very important discoveries.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEAHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2500, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2500) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from South Carolina, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, is recognized.