

and also the kind of contributions that have been made, once again, to see that there would be the same enthusiasm for fitting within this budget framework some of the benefits we would like to provide for our citizens, the same as we provide for the very wealthiest corporate executives who seem to be doing very well despite the difficult economic times.

I thank the Senator from Florida for bringing these matters to the Senate this evening. It was an excellent discussion. I look forward to our continuing it again soon.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I thank my distinguished colleague. It is always a pleasure to hear from him. I appreciate his undergirding of my comments this evening.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 123

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives a continuing resolution from the House, provided it is identical to H.J. Res. 123, the Senate proceed to consider the resolution, that it be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate.

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

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that a copy of the resolution be printed in the RECORD upon the granting of this consent.

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

H.J. RES. 123

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 107-229 is further amended by striking the date specified in section 107(c) and inserting in lieu thereof "November 22, 2002".

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as we all know, Congress has not yet completed action on 11 appropriations bills. These bills fund such important domestic priorities as homeland security, education, and veterans medical care.

In order to keep these important functions of Government up and run-

ning, we have already worked with the House to pass two continuing resolutions, the last of which expires on Friday.

The House of Representatives has just passed and sent to the Senate a third continuing resolution. House Republicans are now proposing that we leave town and let the Government run on autopilot until November 22.

Why November 22? By picking a Friday a week before Thanksgiving, House Republicans are signaling they are not serious about completing the appropriations bills in November either. It will be extraordinarily difficult, in the several days before Thanksgiving, for us to get all the parties together to settle all the issues that have been insoluble for the past several months.

The House Republican proposal seems designed to be an auto-pilot until next year, a recipe for a CR that starves basic Government programs essential to the health and well-being of millions of Americans. Indeed, several leading Republicans have indicated this is really their preference.

Senators should not be under any illusion: a long-term CR will do just that. It will starve vital functions of Government. And you don't have to take my word for it. According to Representative BILL YOUNG, the Republican chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, a long-term CR, "would have disastrous impacts on the war on terror, homeland security, and other important Government responsibilities."

Chairman YOUNG wrote that sentence in a memo he sent to Speaker HASTERT. The memo went even further, detailing the impact of a CR on a host of important domestic programs. Here is a sampling of what Chairman YOUNG said will be cut: FBI, funding to hire additional agents to fight terrorism and to continue information technology upgrades would be denied; bioterrorism, no funding for President's \$800 million initiative to increase funding for new basic bioterror research, to develop and test a new improved anthrax vaccine, and to assist universities and research institutions; first responders, no funding for President's \$3.5 billion initiative to provide assistance to local law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency response teams; SEC/corporate responsibility, insufficient funding to support current staffing requirements let alone significant staff increases needed to monitor corporate behavior; veterans medical care, long-term CR would leave veterans medical health care system at least \$2.5 billion short of expected requirements; firefighting, \$1.5 billion taken from other Interior Department programs to pay for firefighting costs will not be replaced; Pell grants, a freeze in this program will result in a shortfall of over \$900 million; Medicare claims, no funding for the President's \$143 million increase to ensure that the growing number of claims are processed in a timely manner; Special Sup-

plemental Feeding Program for WIC, funding would be reduced by \$114 million below current levels, meaning less will be available for families that depend on this program; Social Security claims, no funding for the President's increase to process and pay benefits to millions of Social Security recipients.

In addition to the program cuts listed by Chairman YOUNG, the House CR omits assistance for thousands of farmers all over this country who are confronting the worst drought in more than 50 years.

This is the wrong way to do business. We should be completing our work on the bipartisan appropriations bills, not cutting education, veterans affairs, homeland security and other important priorities.

Each of these bills properly funds key priorities. And, most importantly, each enjoyed the unanimous support of the Democrats and the Republicans on the Committee.

There is no reason why the full Senate cannot do the same. Passage of these bills would fund Government for a year, with no need for any more stop-gap, starvation diet CRs.

Regrettably, our Republican colleagues in the House have refused all year to consider appropriate funding levels for crucial functions of Government, even though all Senators on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Democrats and Republicans, were able to agree on all 13 bills.

The difference between the aggregate total of spending for the bipartisan Senate bills and the aggregate total proposed by the House Republican budget resolution is roughly \$9 billion in budget authority. That's a tiny fraction of the \$5.6 trillion 10-year surplus that's been squandered since the current administration came to office.

To hold up funding for all the non-defense areas of Government in order to claim credit for fiscal responsibility over such a tiny proportion of overall spending is the height of irresponsibility.

Unfortunately, it is crystal clear that is precisely what our Republican colleagues would like to see happen. They want to run the Government on a starvation diet into next year. Because the House resolution is now the only way to keep the Government operating, it will be passed by voice vote. But I want to be very clear that, if there had been a recorded vote on this measure, I would have voted no.

Mr. REID. Madam President, basically what we have just done is pass a continuing resolution until November 22. This is done with some trepidation and really with the complete understanding that this is not the right way to run Government. It would have been so much better had we been able to pass our appropriations bills. We have not been able to do that. We have 13 appropriations bills we should pass every year. I don't have the exact number, but I think following the passage of the Defense appropriations bill, we have

passed four bills, maybe only three, leaving tremendous work that should have been done in committee.

We have tried on a number of occasions to offer consent resolutions that we could pass the appropriations bills. Senator BYRD wanted to ask unanimous consent that we pass them all at once. They passed the Appropriations Committee unanimously; that is, Democrats and Republicans approved these bills. So it is just a shame.

In fact, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, a Republican, sent a resolution to Speaker HASTERT, which has been around. Other people have seen it. It is not very private. It is one of those things here in Washington that is about as private as going to Tysons Corner shopping—not very private. It is a memo to the Speaker from the chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Among other things, he says:

A long-term continuing resolution (CR) that funds government operations at FY02 levels would have a disastrous impact on the war on terror, homeland security, and other important government responsibilities.

He sets out, in a four-page memorandum, all the things that would be hurt. He does list those, including Social Security, Pell grants, Medicare claims, a large number of items. And he leaves out a number of them that I personally believe and many Democrats believe are as important as those he lists in this memorandum that should be passed.

Had this matter come before the Senate and there had been a rollcall vote, there is no question that a significant number of Democrats would have voted in opposition. That is the way things worked out. We could not be responsible for shutting down Government, because that is what it would have amounted to.

We are doing this reluctantly. I hope that when we come back, Chairman YOUNG prevails and at that time we can sit down and pass the appropriations bills. It is important to every State in the Union that we do this.

There is a tremendous need to do things such as Government setup, such as pass the yearly appropriations bills. This is not the right way to fund Government.

Some have said, including Senator Pat Moynihan, that this is a plan. These programs that they want to hurt, they can't do it head on, they can't do it directly, so they do it indirectly.

I am glad that Government is going to be funded. We went through the Gingrich years where he and his compatriots shut down the Government. We are not going to do that. We are going to act responsibly. That is why we allowed this measure to go forward. But we do it with concern, reservation, and, as I have indicated, with trepidation.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the memorandum from Chairman YOUNG and Speaker HASTERT to which I referred.

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

MEMORANDUM

To: Speaker Hastert.

From: Chairman C.W. Bill Young.

Re: Impacts of a Long-term Continuing Resolution.

Date: October 3, 2002.

Pursuant to my October 1st correspondence regarding the state of the appropriations process, I want to provide you with further analysis of the potential impacts of a long-term continuing resolution (CR). These projections assume a current-rate CR excluding one time expenditures that extends through February or March.

A long-term continuing resolution (CR) that funds government operations at FY02 levels would have disastrous impacts on the war on terror, homeland security, and other important government responsibilities. It would also be fiscally irresponsible. It would fund low-priority programs the President has proposed to eliminate.

Homeland Security—The President has proposed a nearly \$40 billion increase for homeland security in his FY03 budget. None of these funds would be provided under a long-term CR. Assuming Congress completes work on creating a Department of Homeland Security, a long-term CR would leave this new agency with very little resources to carry out its new mission.

Projects—A long-term CR ensures that no Member of Congress would receive a single project. The Committee has received tens of thousands of requests for billions of dollars from almost every Member of Congress.

War Supplemental—It is likely that the first item Congress will consider when we reconvene after the election is a major supplemental to fund possible military operations in Iraq. It would be highly problematic to expect the Congress to complete work on 11 spending bills while working on an urgent war supplemental.

HOMELAND SECURITY IMPACTS OF LONG-TERM CR

FBI—We would not have sufficient funding to hire additional agents to fight terrorism and to continue IT upgrades that will help the FBI “connect the dots” through data mining proposals and other information infrastructure enhancements.

TSA—Efforts to improve aviation, maritime and land security would be seriously curtailed. Port, cargo, and trucking security would seriously deteriorate. If emergency funds are excluded from the CR calculation (which is historically the case), TSA would be under an annual rate of \$1.5 billion for the life of a long-term CR. This would be only 28% of their FY03 budget request (\$5.3 billion). At this level, it is unlikely TSA could maintain their current workforce of 32,000 screeners as well as air marshals. TSA would likely face personnel RIF's. Most airports would not be able to meet the deadlines for security improvements established by Congress last December.

Coast Guard—The Coast Guard is requesting a large (\$500 million) budget increase in FY03, and much of this is to hire additional security personnel, such as Maritime Safety and Security Teams to patrol harbors and respond to suspicious activity. It also includes funds to expand the sea marshal program, which escorts DoD and high-risk commercial ships into port. Under the FY02 level, these safety expenses would be deferred, or would require diversion of funds from other critical missions such as drug interdiction or search and rescue. Coast Guard “deepwater” program is slated to expand from \$500 million in FY02 to \$725 million in FY03. The contract

was just signed this past June. Under a long-term CR, the effort will have to be scaled back due to lack of funding. This will impact shipyards, design companies, aircraft manufacturers, and integration companies, all around the country.

Bioterrorism—President has proposed a nearly \$800 million increase for new, basic bioterror research, \$250 million to develop and test a new improved anthrax vaccine, and \$150 million to assist universities and research institutions in upgrading research facilities to conduct secure, comprehensive research on biological agents. None of these important initiatives to combat, study and prevent bio-terrorism would be funded under a long-term CR.

Border Patrol/INS—Efforts to deploy any additional Border Patrol agents and immigration inspectors at land ports-of-entry along both the northern and southern borders would be stalled. Likewise, construction projects that are necessary to house these additional Border Patrol agents would be delayed. No funding would be available to continue planning and implementation of the INS' Entry Exit system, a program designed to facilitate more secure and controlled access to this country by non-U.S. citizens.

First Responders—The President has proposed a new initiative to provide \$3.5 billion in assistance to local law enforcement, fire departments and emergency response teams across the Nation. No funds would be provided for this program, one of the highest domestic security priorities for the President and his Homeland Security advisor, Tom Ridge.

Hospital preparedness—We would not have sufficient funds to assist hospitals in making the necessary infrastructure improvements and expansions so that they are prepared to respond to bio-terrorism emergencies.

Diplomatic security—We would not have the funds to hire additional State Department security staff for deployment overseas, or to carry out needed technical and physical security upgrades.

Office of Homeland Security—The Office of Homeland Security was funded through the \$20 billion supplemental. Under a clean CR, this office would not be funded.

PROGRAMMATIC IMPACTS OF LONG-TERM CR

SEC/Corporate Responsibility—We would not be able to fund current staffing requirements, let alone support significant staff increases needed to fight corporate fraud and protect investors.

Veterans—The veterans medical care system will likely be at least \$2.5 billion short of expected requirements. Veterans would be deprived of significant increases in medical care proposed by the President and the House budget resolution.

NIH—We would not be able to scale-up significantly Federal support for bio-preparedness research and development as proposed by the President. Anthrax vaccine research and development also would be slowed. It would forgo the nearly \$4 billion proposed for the National Institutes of Health which is consistent with Congress commitment to double funding for NIH over a set period of time.

Foreign Operations—Afghanistan reconstruction, including the famous Presidential ring road, would stall, increasing chances that unrest and killings would resume there as the Iraq matter comes to a head. It will severely cut the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and reduce by 30% funds for Plan Colombia.

Firefighting—Interior has already spent \$1.5 billion on firefighting above what provided in FY02. This has come at the expense of other programs including Member

projects. These bills would not be paid under a long-term CR.

Pay—All agencies would have to absorb Federal employee pay increases due in January. This will make it much more difficult for agencies to operate under a current rate and result in widespread layoffs and furloughs.

Pell Grants—A freeze in the Pell program will result in the accumulation of a significant shortfall. There will be a shortfall of over \$900 million, even when factoring in the \$1 billion supplemental appropriation provided to the program in fiscal year 2002.

DEA—We would be unable to hire new agents in response to FBI restructuring, which shifted 400 FBI drug agents to counter-terrorism. We have proposed to hire hundreds of new agents to fight the war on drugs. Not a single new agent would be hired under a long term CR leaving a significant gap in the federal government's drug enforcement capabilities.

GSA Construction—No new starts for any GSA line-item construction (\$630 million); would delay \$300 million for 11 courthouse construction projects, \$30 million for 6 border station construction projects, and \$300 million for 5 other construction projects, including funds for consolidating Food and Drug Administration facilities, a major Census building, and the US mission to the UN in New York. Projects would become more expensive due to inflation.

Campaign Finance Reform—No funding for implementation of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act making it difficult for the Federal Elections Commission to implement the reforms signed into law by the President.

Federal Prisons—Insufficient activation funds to four Federal prisons that are scheduled to open in FY 2003, exacerbating the already overcrowded conditions in the Federal prison system.

Medicare claims—We would not be able to provide additional funding, as proposed by the President, to handle the increased Medicare claims volume in a timely manner. The President proposed a \$143 million increase to adequately process the growing number of claims. A long term CR would significantly slow down the claims process and unnecessarily inconvenience Senior Citizens who depend on Medicare.

Yucca Mountain—A CR at the FY2002 enacted level of \$375M would significantly cut DOE's nuclear waste repository program by over \$200 million. This would cause real delays in the scheduled opening of the facility.

The Special Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) would be reduced \$114 million from current levels. This would result in less assistance being available for families who depend on this important program, especially in uncertain economic times.

The Food and Drug Administration would be reduced by \$138 million which would result in immediate furloughs and RIFs among newly hired employees responsible for enhanced availability of drugs and vaccines, and for increased food safety activities (primarily surveillance of imported food products, an identified vulnerability).

Social Security—The President also asked for a significant increase in funds to process and pay benefits to the millions of Social Security recipients.

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

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my understanding is we are in a period of morning business. Is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

MISSING CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today as an original cosponsor of the Missing Children's Assistance Act and to urge its prompt consideration by this body.

The Justice Department recently reported that in 1999, 797,500 children were reported missing to police or to missing children's agencies. That is equivalent to a startling 11.4 children per 1,000 in the U.S. population. There were 58,200 children who were victims of a non-family abduction in 1999. One hundred fifteen of these children were taken in a manner that we would think of as a stereotypical kidnapping, and tragically, in half of these cases, the child victim was sexually assaulted by the perpetrator. These statistics are unacceptable. As a Nation we should strive every day to eliminate the scourge of abducted children.

That's exactly what the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is all about. Since it was established in 1984, the Center has served as a resource to parents, children, law enforcement, schools, and the community to assist in the recovery of America's abducted children. It has worked on over 73,000 cases of missing and exploited children and successfully returned more than 48,000 of these children to their families. The Center is constantly striving to raise the Nation's awareness of preventative measures that can be taken to keep our children safe from abduction, sexual exploitation, and molestation. These notable endeavors have contributed to a substantial increase in nation's recovery rate of missing children from a dismal 61 percent in the 1980s to 91 percent today.

For these reasons, I rise today with the Senator from Utah and the Senator from Vermont to introduce the Missing Children's Assistance Act. This act will expand the ability of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to protect our children by doubling the Federal contribution to the Center to \$20 million a year and by ensuring that Congress will continue to support the Center's noteworthy efforts through 2006. The act also authorizes the creation of a CyberTipline. As technology continues to transform and modernize our lives, we must make provisions to insure that our children will be safe from perpetrators who prey on children through the Internet. The CyberTipline will provide a forum for individuals to contribute tips and suspicions of Internet-related and other types of sexual impropriety directed towards minors to

the authorities. It will allow those wary of contacting law enforcement a safe place to do so, while making it possible for law enforcement and missing children agencies to send email alerts to thousands of individuals instantaneously.

In the end, I believe that this act will make the Nation a safer place for our children. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has done a tremendous job of raising the nation's awareness of child abduction, and this act will make it possible for the Center to continue with these endeavors. I urge support for the Missing Children's Assistance Act. It is fundamental that our children's safety remain at forefront of our national agenda.

BANKRUPTCY CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to inform my colleagues that I have requested to be notified of any unanimous consent agreement before the Senate proceeds to the consideration of S. 3074 or any other legislation creating new bankruptcy judgeships. I believe that these changes should be enacted as part of the comprehensive bankruptcy reform conference report. Majority Leader DASCHLE has indicated that there will be a lame duck session, and he has indicated that the bankruptcy conference report will be taken up and passed. So I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to pass the comprehensive bankruptcy reform conference report.

CONFLICT DIAMONDS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, recently, the Prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone briefed the staff of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee. He spoke about his efforts to prosecute those responsible for the horrific crimes that were committed there and to help this nation emerge from a tragic episode in its history.

Whenever something like this occurs, the question that first comes to mind is why did it happen? Was it a political struggle? Was it because of religious extremism or ethnic hatred? Unlike Yugoslavia or Rwanda, most experts believe that the driving force behind this brutal conflict was control of resources, especially diamonds.

The problems associated with conflict diamonds in Sierra Leone are not confined to West Africa. They also have an impact in the United States. According to the Washington Post, al Qaeda reaped millions of dollars from the illicit sale of diamonds, and law enforcement officials have said that in order to cut off al Qaeda funds, you have to cut off the diamond pipeline.

With all that is happening in the world, it may be understandable that the issue of conflict diamonds is not front page news. However, we are starting to make some progress on this important issue.