

back to the American people. So the average family got the \$300 check or the \$600 check and said: That is fine. I will find something to do with that.

But the net result of all of it is we are in a situation now where we are dealing with debt and deficit which we did not anticipate. The guesses and forecasts and speculation of President Bush's best advisers were just plain wrong. The surplus that was projected for 10 years has disappeared. It is totally gone. We were not prudent. We were not cautious. We were not careful. We put in tax cuts that will be in place for 10 years and we cannot pay for them and we are going in debt. No, let me take it back. We are taking money out of the Social Security trust fund to pay for it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 10 minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent for 5 additional minutes.

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

Mr. DURBIN. The point we are making is that we are dealing with a tax cut that frankly has brought us back down into a deficit situation and increased our national debt and increased the interest on which future generations will pay. That tax cut, when you look at benefits of it—take a look. If you happen to be down making \$9,300 a year, the President's tax cut is worth \$66.

Average annual tax cut by income range: If you are making \$20,000 a year, it is worth \$375. If you are up to \$39,000 a year, it is \$600. If you are making \$56,000 a year, it is \$1,000. If you are making \$97,000 a year, it is about \$2,200. If you are making \$220,000, it is worth \$3,000 to you. But hold on tight. If you are in the top 1 percent of wage earners in America making an average of \$1.1 million a year, the President's tax cut is worth \$53,000. It is small change down here for most working families. But it is \$53,000 for people who are already making \$1 million a year.

You say, of course; they pay all the taxes; they should get the tax break. That isn't how it works. Under the President's plan, it doesn't directly track the taxes we are paying. So the people who are getting the biggest tax cut are not proportionately paying the most in terms of taxes to the Federal Government.

The Bush economic record and what it means to you is, in effect, a 10-year surplus has disappeared from \$5.6 trillion, which was projected by the President just last year. Now we are down into a deficit situation over the same 10-year period of time.

I mentioned earlier the impact of the stock market. Everybody, I think, knows this. You see what is happening to our stock market. The value of all the stocks in the stock market when the President took office was \$16.4 trillion. The value today is \$11.9 trillion, and going down. We have lost \$4.5 trillion in value—about 25 percent of the value of the stock market. Forget

about the value of the stock market. It is the value of savings, the value of pension plans, and the value of college savings accounts. Those are the things that have taken a beating.

I think the point is clear. This administration wants to talk about every issue they can think of except economic security, except the state of the economy, and except the fact that average families, average businesses, and average individuals in this country are struggling with an economy that is flat on its back.

The best the President had to offer was a meeting in August down in Texas where he called some close friends and corporate leaders and asked, What do you think? A lot of them said, Stay the course; couldn't be doing better.

We can do a lot better. We can do better with leadership—not just from the White House, but from Congress. Sadly, this Congress will not produce legislation that will address these problems. What could we do? We believe on this side the first thing we ought to do is extend unemployment insurance benefits to the people across America who are about to run out of unemployment insurance. We should extend the benefits for another 13 to 26 weeks. We did that five times under President Bush's father, the last time we had a recession. This President has refused to do it one time. That is not fair to these people or their families.

Second, we believe we need pension protection for families across America who are vulnerable; for people who are 62 years old and wanting to take their retirement, and watched their pension disappear before their eyes, and no health care. We need protection for those employees who are in that circumstance.

What about the millions of Americans on minimum wage? It has been 5 years since we raised the minimum wage. It is stuck at \$5.15 an hour. That is not going to make America stronger.

Let me also tell you when it comes to the cost of health, we should understand it is absolutely essential that we accept this as a highest priority. We heard this morning from a major union working with a major company. The people who ran the company came before them and said, Listen, we don't know what we are going to do next year. We have a \$1 billion health insurance bill. We don't know how we are going to do it.

I have heard the same thing from labor unions and small businesses. This government ignores it.

We talk about tax cuts for the wealthiest instead of tax credits for businesses that offer health insurance. We talk about tax cuts for the wealthiest instead of helping average families struggling to pay to get their kids through college. Why in the world don't we make the cost of college tax-deductible for working families before we award these great tax breaks for families making over \$1 million a year?

This is the agenda Americans face every day. After they turn off the news,

they talk about a variety of other issues. They sit down and try to figure out how to grapple with these issues. I think this is the agenda which the American people want this Congress to work on. Sadly, because of lack of leadership downtown, and because of lack of leadership here on the Hill, we have done precious little to address the real issues facing American families.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have a couple of Senators who wish to speak. Senator HARKIN has been on the floor. I do not know if there is anyone on the minority side who wishes to speak. I would like to get a routine set up here. Does the Senator from Missouri wish to speak today?

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, to respond to my colleague from Nevada, I was preparing to speak. The Senator from New Mexico wants to bring up the health insurance bill. I just walked in to debate another matter.

Mr. REID. We will wait until the Senator from New Mexico shows up and try to work something out. Is that OK?

Mr. BOND. That works for me.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Iowa be recognized. I don't know if Senator KENNEDY is still here. He had been waiting. I ask unanimous consent that Senator HARKIN, Senator HOLLINGS, and Senator KENNEDY be recognized in that order. Following that, we would be happy to work out whatever we can with the Senator from Missouri. We had a number of speakers here today, most of whom have been for the Republicans.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I was so promptly reminded that I forgot Senator BYRD. Senator BYRD would be happy to go following Senator KENNEDY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BOND. I didn't hear the request.

Mr. REID. We have in order Senators HARKIN, HOLLINGS, KENNEDY, and BYRD. As I indicated to the Senator from Missouri, following one of those statements from the Democrats, if Senator DOMENICI shows up, and you and he went into a colloquy, we would be happy to stick you in there.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, might I ask if Members on my side come, we could intersperse them in the makeup?

Mr. REID. That is why I said if Senator DOMENICI, for example, shows up, we will be happy to have a Republican in between the Democrats I announced.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, the unanimous consent request, as modified, is objected to.

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

The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader, after consultation with the Republican leader, may turn to the consideration of S. 2776, the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, on behalf of the minority leader, we object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I thank the leader and the assistant majority leader, Senator REID, for attempting to bring forward this Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill. I am disappointed some in this body don't want us to move forward with this vital piece of legislation for the American people.

I invite my colleagues to take a hard look at the bill. It is a good one. It is a bipartisan bill. I invite my colleagues, especially on the Republican side, who objected to bringing this up to take a look at the cost of our inaction and what it will mean for America's school children this year.

As I have said, this is a bipartisan bill. It passed both the subcommittee and the full committee unanimously. One reason for that is the good allocation my subcommittee was provided by our chairman, Senator BYRD, and the ranking Member, Senator STEVENS. Another reason is the bipartisan partnership Senator SPECTER and I have enjoyed for many years. I thank each for their efforts.

Why can't we move forward now? Nothing is happening here. Look at the Senate. Nothing is happening. Nothing is happening, and we want to bring up our education bill to fund America's schools, and the Republicans won't let us. I ask why? Why is there an objection today to bringing up the funding bill for education?

I have heard the President pounding on the podium in cities and towns all across the country saying the U.S. Senate needs to act. I agree. It is time to act. It is time to live up to the promises the President and this Congress made on education. We are ready to act. We didn't object. The Republicans objected to bringing up our education bill.

Not incidentally, it is time to live up to the promise we made on a bipartisan basis to double the funding for the National Institutes of Health. With this bill, we would have completed that 5-year goal. Now that has been put on the back burner. With this bill, we could have completed that 5-year goal. And that is put on the back burner. It is all in jeopardy, as is the promise of the Leave No Child Behind Act.

Last year we came together on a bipartisan basis to demand more of our

public schools. We said the status quo was not good enough; we had to do better. Now, by not acting on this bill, we have passed mandates on our public schools, mandates about leaving no child behind, and now we are not coming forward with the funding to help them.

Now we are going to do a continuing resolution. That is what they tell me. What does passing a long-term continuing resolution mean? I talk about that with my constituents. I talk about a CR, a continuing resolution, and their eyes glaze over. What does that mean?

In real terms, the objection by the minority side today means \$3.2 billion less for education overall for this year, the one we are in now, and \$1.5 billion less for title I, which is most important for implementing Leave No Child Behind.

Since the objection was made on behalf of the minority leader, the Senator from Mississippi, I point out that in Mississippi that would be \$5.3 million less this year for title I if we do not get this bill through.

The ink isn't even dry on the Leave No Child Behind bill and already we are undercutting the schools. I have talked with a lot of my principals in Iowa and they are deeply concerned about what is going to happen when they have to meet their annual yearly progress standards and yet we have not given them the tools by which they can do so. It will be a cruel joke on them to have passed Leave No Child Behind and not pass the funding.

How about special education? A long-term continuing resolution, without this bill, means \$1 billion less for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Again, since this objection was made on behalf of the Senator from Mississippi, I will point out that for Mississippi it means they will get \$10.7 million less this year for special education because the minority leader objected to moving to the education appropriations bill.

It is time we pass the money for special education. Last year Senator HAGEL and I came together on a bipartisan amendment to do it, but the President and the House punted and said no. And they are doing it again.

I say to colleagues, ask your principals and your school boards about their need for special education funding and you will find out how much it is needed. Because this objection was made today, \$1 billion less will be made available to our public schools in America.

For student financial aid—for those going to college—a long-term CR means \$100 less for the maximum Pell grant, and not a single dollar more for student loans and other college aid.

In my own State of Iowa, because of the downturn in the economy, we have seen a 20-percent tuition increase at our public universities. These schools are critical to helping middle-class kids climb the ladder of opportunity.

Yet today the minority leader says no to helping these middle-class kids get a college education.

The world has changed a lot from a year ago. There is no denying that. We have different priorities, as well we should. But if we cannot ensure that every child in America has the best public education, then what kind of a nation are we fighting for?

President Kennedy once said of education:

Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.

It is the private hopes and the private dreams of the families of these kids in public schools—in elementary school and high school, and now wanting to go to college—it is their private hopes and dreams that are being stunted by the objection by the minority leader today in not going to the education funding bill.

We are here in the Senate. We are not doing a cotton-picking thing. We are just sitting around. Why? Because the minority leader will not let us do anything. They may think it is good politics. Maybe they can go out there and now argue: Well, we can't get anything done in the Senate. We can't get anything done in the Senate. Well, not because of what the Democrats are doing. We want to bring up the education funding bill. It is the minority leader who is objecting. The Republican leader is objecting.

We could bring it up. As I say one more time, this education funding bill passed the subcommittee and the full committee unanimously—unanimously. So for what possible reason would the minority leader object to bringing up the education funding bill when we are not doing anything anyway? It would seem to me we could bring it up, debate it this afternoon, and probably get it passed tomorrow, since it was supported unanimously on both sides of the aisle.

It is time for us to act to get the money out for special education, title I, for elementary and secondary education, help for our middle-class kids going to college. The minority leader today has said no. He said that politics comes first. I think our kids should come first.

Well, they have objected today, Mr. Leader. I will attempt again tomorrow to bring up the education funding bill, and every day that we are here, to bring it up to let the American people know that we, on this side, and I, as chairman of the subcommittee that funds education, want to bring it up. We want to get it through. I am just sorry that the minority leader has objected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

INACTION ON APPROPRIATIONS
BILLS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, on one point I agree with my colleague from