of circumstances is a terrorist act and needs to be dealt with.''.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the statement of Tom Ridge under subsection (a) accurately describes the link between the use of firearms and acts of terrorism.

SA 272. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DAYTON, and Mr. REID) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 23, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Governments for fiscal year 2004 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2003 and for fiscal years 2005 through 2013; as follows:

On page 45, beginning on line 13, strike subsection (a) (the reconciliation instruction to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources).

SA 273. Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. KOHL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 23, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Governments for fiscal year 2004 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2003 and for fiscal years 2005 through 2013; which was ordered to lie on the table as follows:

Viz:

On page 3, line 10, increase the amount by $240,000,000.

On page 3, line 11, increase the amount by $500,000,000.

On page 3, line 12, increase the amount by $500,000,000.

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by $700,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by $240,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by $560,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by $500,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by $700,000,000.

On page 4, line 15, increase the amount by $988,000,000.

On page 4, line 16, decrease the amount by $13,000,000.

On page 4, line 17, decrease the amount by $28,000,000.

On page 4, line 18, decrease the amount by $46,000,000.

On page 4, line 19, decrease the amount by $46,000,000.

On page 4, line 20, decrease the amount by $36,000,000.

On page 4, line 21, decrease the amount by $38,000,000.

On page 4, line 22, decrease the amount by $41,000,000.

On page 4, line 23, decrease the amount by $43,000,000.

On page 4, line 24, decrease the amount by $45,000,000.

On page 5, line 5, increase the amount by $118,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by $267,000,000.

On page 5, line 7, increase the amount by $222,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by $304,000,000.

On page 5, line 9, increase the amount by $410,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, decrease the amount by $36,000,000.

On page 5, line 11, decrease the amount by $38,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, decrease the amount by $41,000,000.

On page 5, line 13, decrease the amount by $43,000,000.

On page 5, line 14, decrease the amount by $45,000,000.

On page 5, line 18, decrease the amount by $122,000,000.

On page 5, line 19, decrease the amount by $293,000,000.

On page 5, line 20, decrease the amount by $278,000,000.

On page 5, line 21, decrease the amount by $396,000,000.

On page 5, line 22, increase the amount by $410,000,000.

On page 5, line 23, decrease the amount by $36,000,000.

On page 5, line 24, decrease the amount by $38,000,000.

On page 5, line 25, decrease the amount by $41,000,000.

On page 6, line 1, decrease the amount by $43,000,000.

On page 6, line 2, decrease the amount by $45,000,000.

On page 6, line 6, decrease the amount by $122,000,000.

On page 6, line 7, decrease the amount by $415,000,000.

On page 6, line 8, decrease the amount by $693,000,000.

On page 6, line 8, decrease the amount by $1,089,000,000.

On page 6, line 10, decrease the amount by $679,000,000.

On page 6, line 11, decrease the amount by $716,000,000.

On page 6, line 12, decrease the amount by $754,000,000.

On page 6, line 13, decrease the amount by $795,000,000.

On page 6, line 14, decrease the amount by $838,000,000.

On page 6, line 15, decrease the amount by $883,000,000.

On page 6, line 19, decrease the amount by $122,000,000.

On page 6, line 20, decrease the amount by $415,000,000.

On page 6, line 21, decrease the amount by $693,000,000.

On page 6, line 22, decrease the amount by $1,089,000,000.

On page 6, line 23, decrease the amount by $679,000,000.

On page 6, line 24, decrease the amount by $716,000,000.

On page 6, line 25, decrease the amount by $754,000,000.

On page 7, line 1, decrease the amount by $795,000,000.

On page 7, line 2, decrease the amount by $838,000,000.

On page 7, line 3, decrease the amount by $883,000,000.

On page 36, line 15, increase the amount by $1,000,000,000.

On page 36, line 16, increase the amount by $120,000,000.

On page 36, line 20, increase the amount by $280,000,000.

On page 36, line 24, increase the amount by $250,000,000.

On page 37, line 3, increase the amount by $350,000,000.

On page 40, line 6, decrease the amount by $2,000,000.

On page 40, line 7, decrease the amount by $2,000,000.

On page 40, line 10, decrease the amount by $13,000,000.

On page 40, line 11, decrease the amount by $13,000,000.

On page 40, line 14, decrease the amount by $28,000,000.

On page 40, line 15, decrease the amount by $28,000,000.

On page 40, line 18, decrease the amount by $46,000,000.

On page 40, line 19, decrease the amount by $46,000,000.

On page 40, line 22, decrease the amount by $46,000,000.

On page 40, line 23, decrease the amount by $46,000,000.

On page 41, line 2, decrease the amount by $36,000,000.

On page 41, line 3, decrease the amount by $36,000,000.

On page 41, line 6, decrease the amount by $38,000,000.

On page 41, line 7, decrease the amount by $38,000,000.

On page 41, line 10, decrease the amount by $41,000,000.

On page 41, line 11, decrease the amount by $41,000,000.

On page 41, line 14, decrease the amount by $43,000,000.

On page 41, line 15, decrease the amount by $43,000,000.

On page 41, line 18, decrease the amount by $45,000,000.

On page 41, line 19, decrease the amount by $45,000,000.

On page 45, line 24, decrease the amount by $2,000,000,000.

On page 47, line 5, increase the amount by $1,000,000,000.

On page 47, line 6, increase the amount by $120,000,000.

On page 47, line 15, increase the amount by $280,000,000.

On page 79, after line 22, add the following:

SEC. 308. FUNDING FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) State and local law enforcement officers provide essential services that preserve and protect our freedom and safety;

(2) with the support of the Community Oriented Policing Services program (referred to in this section as the ''COPS program''), State and local law enforcement officers have succeeded in dramatically reducing violent crime;

(3) the COPS program is the only program in the Federal government that provides homeland security resources directly to law enforcement first responders;

(4) on July 15, 2002, the Attorney General stated, ''Since law enforcement agencies began partnering with citizens through community policing, we've seen significant drops in crime rates. COPS provides resources that reflect our national priority of terrorism prevention.'';

(5) On February 26, 2002, the Attorney General stated, ''The COPS program has been a miraculous sort of success. It's one of those things that Congress hopes will happen when it sets up a program.'';

(6) the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Assistant Director for the Office of Law Enforcement Coordination has stated, ''The FBI fully understands that our success in the fight against terrorism is directly related to the strength of our relationship with our State and local partners.'';

(7) as a result of the COPS program, State and local law enforcement agencies have received funds for more than 117,000 officers,

87,300 of whom are on the beat, fighting crime, and improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods and schools;

(8) the COPS program has assisted in advancing community policing nationwide;

(9) 86 percent of the Nation is served by a law enforcement agency that has full-time officers engaged in community policing activities;

(10) the continuation and full funding of the COPS program through fiscal year 2009 is supported by several major law enforcement organizations, including—

(A) the International Association of Chiefs of Police;

(B) the International Brotherhood of Police Officers;

(C) the Fraternal Order of Police;

(D) the National Sheriffs' Association;

(E) the National Troopers Coalition;

(F) the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association;

(G) the National Association of Police Organizations;

(H) the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives;

(I) the Police Executive Research Forum; and

(J) the Major Cities Chiefs;

(11) several studies have concluded that the implementation of community policing as a law enforcement strategy is an important factor in the reduction of crime in our communities;

(12) Congress appropriated $1,050,000,000 for the COPS program for fiscal year 2002 and $928,900,000 for fiscal 2003; and

(13) the President requested $164,000,000 for the COPS program for fiscal year 2004, $886,000,000 less than the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2002.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the levels in this resolution assume that an increase of $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Justice's community oriented policing program will be provided without reduction and consistent with previous appropriated and authorized levels.

SA. 274. Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 23, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Governments for fiscal year 2004 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2003 and for fiscal years 2005 through 2013; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 79, after line 22, add the following:

SEC. 308. SOCIAL SECURITY RESTRUCTURING.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) Social Security is the foundation of retirement income for most Americans;

(2) preserving and strengthening the long term viability of Social Security is a vital national priority and is essential for the retirement security of today's working Americans, current and future retirees, and their families;

(3) Social Security faces significant fiscal and demographic pressures;

(4) the nonpartisan Office of the Chief Actuary at the Social Security Administration reports that—

(A) the number of workers paying taxes to support each Social Security beneficiary has dropped from 16.5 in 1950 to 3.3 in 2002;

(B) within a generation there will be only 2 workers to support each retiree, which will substantially increase the financial burden on American workers;

(C) the implementation of a Social Security ''lockbox'' would have no direct effect on the future solvency of Social Security;

(D) without structural reform, the Social Security system, beginning in 2018, will pay out more in benefits than it will collect in taxes;

(E) without structural reform, the Social Security system, by 2042, will be insolvent and unable to pay full benefits on time;

(F) without structural reform, Social Security tax revenue in 2042 will only cover 73 percent of promised benefits, and will decrease to 65 percent by 2077;

(G) without structural reform, payroll taxes will have to be raised 50 percent over the next 75 years to pay full benefits on time, resulting in payroll tax rates of 16.9 percent by 2042 and 18.9 percent by 2077;

(H) without structural reform, Social Security's total cash shortfall over the next 75 years is estimated to be more than $25,000,000,000,000 in constant 2003 dollars;

(I) without structural reform, real rates of return on Social Security contributions will continue to decline dramatically for all workers; and

(J) absent structural reforms, spending on Social Security will increase from 4.4 percent of gross domestic product in 2003 to 7.0 percent in 2077; and

(5) the Congressional Budget Office, the General Accounting Office, the Congressional Research Service, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security have all warned that failure to enact fiscally responsible Social Security reform quickly will result in 1 or more of the following:

(A) Higher tax rates.

(B) Lower Social Security benefit levels.

(C) Increased Federal debt.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the President and Congress should work together at the earliest opportunity to enact legislation to achieve a solvent and permanently sustainable Social Security system; and

(2) Social Security reform—

(A) must protect current and near retirees from any changes to Social Security benefits;

(B) must preserve Social Security's disability and survivors insurance programs;

(C) must not allow the government to invest directly the Social Security trust funds in the stock market;

(D) must not raise Social Security payroll tax rates;

(E) must reduce the pressure on future taxpayers and on other budgetary priorities;

(F) must provide competitive rates of return on Social Security contributions; and

(G) must preserve and strengthen the safety net for vulnerable populations.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I announce that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will conduct a hearing on March 20, 2003, in SR–328A at 10:30 a.m. The purpose of this hearing will be to consider the nomination of Vernon Bernard Parker to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the hearing before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources scheduled for March 25 has been modified to include additional agenda items. In addition to the original intent of the hearing, the Subcommittee will receive testimony on S. 634, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to study the feasibility of designating the Trail of the Ancients as a national historic trail, and S. 635, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary to update the feasibility and suitability studies of four national historic trails, and for other purposes.

The hearing will take place on March 25, 2003, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, SD–364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510–6150.

For further information, please contact: Tom Lillie at (202) 224–5161 or Pete Lucero at (202) 224–6293.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 25, at 10:00 a.m. in Room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 520, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities to the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District in the State of Idaho; and S. 625 a bill to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct certain feasibility studies in the Tualatin River Basin in Oregon, and for other purposes. (Contact: Shelly Randel 202–224–7933 or Jared Stubbs at 202–224–7556).

Because of the limited time available for the hearings, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Subcommittee on Water and Power, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510–6150.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, March 27, at 9:30 a.m. in Room SD–106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on various electricity