

here—take retirement funds of employees and use it to pay the operating expenses of the Federal Government—but that is what we are doing under the President's plan. That is what we will do every year for the next 10 years under the President's plan. In fact, we will not just borrow \$149 billion from Social Security; over the next 10 years under the President's plan, \$2.4 trillion will be borrowed from Social Security with no plan to pay it back.

If you look at just this year, the official deficit now they are estimating at \$422 billion, but what will be added to the debt will be well over \$630 billion. I hope someone is listening out there. The debt of the United States in 1 year is going to increase by over \$630 billion, \$422 billion of deficits plus \$149 billion borrowed from the Social Security trust fund, every penny of which has to be paid back.

The President has no plan to do it.

On top of that, another \$60 billion from other trust funds the President is borrowing. That is not the only place the President is borrowing. He has borrowed over \$600 billion from Japan, over \$150 billion from China. He has even borrowed tens of billions of dollars from South Korea.

This is a course that is utterly unsustainable.

If we look to the future, the President is telling the American people he has a plan to cut the deficit in half over the next 5 years. My advice to the American people is, do not believe it, because it will not happen. The only way the President comes up with that calculation is he leaves big chunks of spending out of the calculation. He leaves out the war cost beyond another \$25 billion. We all know it will be much more than that. On top of that, he leaves out the necessity of fixing the alternate minimum tax which right now affects 3 million people. By 2010, the Congressional Budget Office says it will affect 30 million people. Boy, are they in for a big surprise. They thought they would get a tax cut, but they have coming at them a big tax increase. It costs over \$600 billion to fix it. The President does not have any money in his budget beyond next year to deal with it.

If we put back in all these things the President is leaving out, here is what we see is the long-term outlook for the deficit. We do not see it being cut in half because we put back the need to fix the alternative minimum tax, the war costs, the President's proposal for more and more tax cuts. What we see by 2014 is the operating deficit of this country will be approaching \$800 billion. That is an utterly unsustainable course.

There was an item in this morning's Washington Post that I thought was a bit of a warning shot across the bow. This was a report from the U.S. Navy that says they plan to buy fewer ships. In fact, many fewer ships because of the budget pressure.

It is time to connect the dots. It is time to recognize these large budget

deficits that are mushrooming as we look ahead to future years under the President's plan, because the President says spend more on defense, spend more on homeland security, both of which, undoubtedly, are necessary, but he couples with that massive additional tax cuts when we already have record deficits. How is it possible for any of this to add up? It does not add up, and it threatens fiscally our long-term economic security.

The Navy is planning to buy fewer ships. That is only the Navy. We will find the Air Force will be under pressure, the Army will be under pressure. In fact, every element of Federal operations will be under pressure because fundamentally we cannot be strong if we are financially weak.

This country now is running such massive deficits and adding such enormous sums to the debt—the biggest numbers we have ever seen in the history of the country—that it fundamentally threatens the long-term economic security of this country.

I submit to my colleagues and the American people that the President has us on the wrong course. It is time for everyone, on a bipartisan basis, to get together, to come up with a plan to get us back on fiscal track, a fiscal track that will ultimately lead to balanced budgets. There is no time to spare because the baby boom generation will start to retire in 2008. It is hard to believe, but those baby boomers who were born after World War II are getting ready to retire. They will dramatically increase the number of people eligible for Social Security and Medicare. That is one reason Chairman Greenspan has urged us to cut Social Security and Medicare.

Is that the course we want to go down? That is where the President's budget plan is taking us. He has run up the biggest deficits in the history of the country and there is no end in sight. All of this at the worst possible time, right before the baby boomers retire. What are the results? What are the implications of this plan and policy?

In the warning of Chairman Greenspan we see the implication that the natural conclusion, the natural result of the President's policies is to force cuts in Social Security and Medicare and much of the rest of the Government as we know it. That is because the President's plan is so badly out of balance. The difference between revenue and expenditure is so big—and that is before the baby boomers retire; that is before the number of people eligible for Social Security and Medicare double—this is a course that cannot be sustained.

The quicker we deal with it, the better. Everyone knows when you have a problem, the faster you deal with it, the easier it is to solve. The more time you delay, the more time you wait, the bigger the problem becomes.

I am here in the Senate to say the Congressional Budget Office has sent

us a very clear signal. We have the biggest deficit this year we have ever seen in the country's history. And we can see for the future, if the President's plan is followed, these deficits can only grow as the baby boomers retire.

This President may have left town by that time. But the rest of us who are here—maybe some of us will be gone, as well—but those who are here are going to inherit an extraordinary problem. It is our obligation now to begin to address it. That is the right thing to do for the country. It is the honorable thing to inform the country of how big this challenge is, how deep this deficit chasm has become, and how threatening it is for our future economic security.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to proceed as in morning business.

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

#### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESPN

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I have the high honor and great personal privilege of coming to the Chamber this afternoon to extend my congratulations to everyone at ESPN. All of us who are ESPN sports fans and viewers and those at the network itself are celebrating 25 years of excellence by this remarkable group of people in sports broadcasting.

As a sports fan and a Senator from Connecticut, I speak as one who is very proud that this American dream has occurred in our State, located in Bristol, CT, and a tremendous citizen of the State which brought almost 3,000 jobs to Connecticut. We are very proud in a very direct sense and very grateful to ESPN for all they contribute to Connecticut.

I must say, when I have been traveling, and at the end of a long day when I get to the hotel room and turn on the TV, there is nothing more comforting than turning on ESPN and knowing that signal is coming to me right from Bristol, CT.

I say this is an American dream story because ESPN was the idea of two people, a father and son, the Rasmussens, who thought originally that they would like to find a way to broadcast University of Connecticut sports events to people around the State on cable. Consulting some experts I believe at RCA, they found they could buy satellite time to do that, and then one of the folks at RCA said to them: Incidentally, it will cost you the

same amount of money to broadcast around America and the world via satellite as it will in Connecticut. And that began 25 years ago ESPN, the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network, which is today the worldwide leader in sports. It started small and ended big, going strong, and all as a result of hard work and a lot of innovation.

I had the privilege of visiting ESPN's studios in Bristol, CT, last week. It is really a campus now. I had the thrill of touring the ESPN new digital center. This was about as good as it gets for someone who grew up not dreaming of being a Senator but dreaming of being a Major League baseball player, a center fielder, for that matter—not a preference for political inclinations, not a left fielder or right fielder but a center fielder.

The closest I got to that dream is what I did that day sitting at the anchor desk on the brandnew, very impressive sports center studio set with none other than the closest thing the sports world has to Walter Cronkite, the honorable Chris Berman. It was a lot of fun and a great treat. I also got the chance to look at the new studio we will soon be seeing on the NFL programming and then next year on the baseball programming. There is a lot of excitement there.

As we celebrate ESPN's 25th anniversary, I offer my congratulations on a magnificent first 25 years to George Bodenheimer, ESPN's president, and to the almost 3,000 employees of ESPN who have changed our lives as sports fans and changed so much for the better in the life of the greater Bristol community.

Chris Berman, in addition to my comparison—perhaps a little overstated—to Walter Cronkite, has been the great originator of nicknames. The most famous and the one I love best is when he called a particular baseball player Bert "Be Home" Blyleven. I could go on.

I watched the ESPN retrospective on their first 25 years last night. I did notice in the show that one fan held up a sign that kind of got even with Chris Berman, and it said: "Chris, beast of Berman." Let that speak for itself.

In any case, probably the best tribute one could pay to this extraordinary network and the people who work at it is that as you look back at the 25 years, to paraphrase Berman himself, no one could have guessed that this network could go all the way. It has gone all the way, and it will just keep on going for the next 25 years, more successful than the first 25 years, and beyond. So thanks and congratulations to all the people at ESPN.

I think the most fitting one-word tribute I can use to close a celebration on the Senate floor of ESPN's first great 25 years is to say simply and enthusiastically: Booyah.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, while the distinguished Senator from Connecticut is still on the floor of the Senate, I commend him for his remarks. The real success, of course, is due to NASCAR. I hope the Senator appreciates that. In any event, I share his sentiments.

#### COMMITTEE ON PRESENT DANGER

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I wish to remark on something Senator LIEBERMAN and I had been hoping to launch and then discuss in a little more detail, a subject on all of our minds, and that is the kind of challenge we face as the leading country in the world in this current war on terrorism.

I am very pleased that Senator LIEBERMAN has joined with me and others, or I with him—I think he was the first and I was the second, to put it that way, to correct the record—in a re-institution of the Committee on Present Danger. This is the third iteration of that committee, twice begun during the cold war—during the first stages of the cold war and then the later stages of the cold war—to ensure that America understood and was willing to face the threat of Communists and communism in a way that would result ultimately in victory.

There were times in the beginning of the war where I think there was an inadequate appreciation of the nature of that threat and how long a struggle it would be and how we prepared and how Americans would have to persevere in order to win that cold war, and then at a midpoint in the war when it seemed as if detente and acceptance of a permanent status of communism was really the only way the United States could ensure we would have peace in the future began to creep into our policy in so many ways that, again, the committee was formed and, under new leadership, said there is an evil in the world—communism—and we cannot co-exist in it. In the end, it will have to face its demise, and we will have to win.

President Reagan embodied that spirit in calling the Soviet Union "the evil empire," in both saying and doing that which enabled people to appreciate there could be a winner and a loser against communism, that it was a failed idea, and that we in the United States and the West generally could defeat it, and we did.

Along comes the war against the Islamic radicals who have committed terrorism across the globe, most recently in Russia. But on 9/11, all of the previous attacks of those terrorists who were brought into focus had been treated as a matter of law enforcement. On 9/11, President Bush understood that something much greater was at stake, an existential threat to the United States specifically and to our civilization generally that had to be met with firm resolve because the enemy was not content to seek some kind of peace negotiations or extract

some temporary commitments, but rather by its own declarations was in a fight to the finish: Either they win or we win; either they die or we die.

This existential threat would have to be faced by a nation that was willing to engage in the fight as long as it took with whatever it took, regardless of the costs, because nothing more or less than our survival was at stake.

So this third iteration of the Committee on Present Danger was formed. Senator LIEBERMAN and I have been honored to be the honorary chairmen of this effort, to remind Americans and to educate the rest of the world to the seriousness of this threat, to the fact that this is a war, and in war everyone must make sacrifices.

We send brave young men and women to do military missions that could cost their lives. A couple of my colleagues were on the floor earlier lamenting the cost of this war and the casualties among those who have served. Indeed, each one of us grieves for each one of those casualties, and the families and friends of all involved.

But the President has reminded us that in this case our security is not free and that sacrifices will have to be made.

The point of this committee is to remind everyone what is at stake, how difficult the battle will be, how, although we Americans are generally very impatient people who see a problem, want to get on it, solve it and move on, in this case, as with other wars, we have to be in it until the end, whatever the cost. In this case, like the cold war specifically, it is probably going to be a long conflict that will test our patience and our resolve, but that in the end ironically it is patience and resolve demonstrated to the enemy that are most likely to create the condition for our victory.

In this case, being in some respects a battle of ideas and resolve, if the enemy views us to be a weak horse, as Osama bin Laden has called us, then they will be emboldened to continue the battle and to bring it to the United States. On the other hand, if they view us as a strong horse, then they may appreciate the fact that in the end they cannot prevail. That will, more than anything else, permit us to win this war.

So with Senator LIEBERMAN, I point out to my colleagues that in the ensuing weeks we will be engaged in this discussion in an effort to lay out all of the facts about the enemy that we face and the kind of war that we are going to have to be prepared to fight and the sacrifice that is going to be required not just of the men and women whom we place in harm's way for their military mission but the people involved in all of the other contexts of this battle, whether it be military, intelligence, law enforcement, and even right at home. There are many things Americans can do to help win this war.

My last point is simply this: The best thing that Americans can do to win