

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005, AS OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2005—

Continued

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58)	0	0	40
Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (P.L. 109-59)	1,562	8	0
TANF Emergency Response and Recovery Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-68)	5,067	0	0
Appropriation Acts:			
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (P.L. 109-13) ²	-1,058	4	41
Interior Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 106-54)	1,500	120	0
Total, enacted this session:	7,193	177	81
Total Current Level ^{2,3}	1,999,720	2,023,986	1,484,105
Total Budget Resolution	2,078,456	2,056,006	1,483,658
Adjustment to budget resolution for emergency requirements ⁴	-81,881	-32,121	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	1,996,575	2,023,885	1,483,658
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution	3,145	101	447
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

¹ The effects of an act to provide for the proper tax treatment of certain disaster mitigation payments (P.L. 109-7) and the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-8) are included in this section of the table, consistent with the budget resolution assumptions.

² Pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the current level excludes \$83,140 million in budget authority and \$33,034 million in outlays from the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (P.L. 109-13), \$10,500 million in budget authority and \$350 million in outlays from the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (P.L. 109-61), and \$51,800 in budget authority and \$25 million in outlays from the Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (P.L. 109-62).

³ Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

⁴ H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, assumed the enactment of emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2005, in the amount of \$81,811 million in budget authority and \$32,121 million in outlays, which would be exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current level excludes the emergency appropriations in P.L. 109-13 (see footnote 2), the amounts specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced for purposes of comparison.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

FARM AID'S 20TH ANNUAL CONCERT

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, on Sunday, September 18, just outside of Chicago, Farm Aid staged its 20th annual concert, playing to a sell-out crowd of more than 28,000. Over the years, Farm Aid has raised more than \$27 million to fund national, State and local efforts of various kinds to support and strengthen family farm agriculture and rural communities.

The first Farm Aid concert, on September 22, 1985, was organized by a great American who is richly acquainted with the heart and soul of rural America, Willie Nelson. Originally conceived as a way to raise money to help struggling farm families, the first Farm Aid concert also served to highlight the crucial challenges facing family farms and rural communities.

I have vivid memories of that first Farm Aid concert 20 years ago. I remember getting on the train in Carroll, IA, west of Ames, and riding it all the way to Champaign, IL. That was a trainload of people with high hopes and good spirits. But more important, that train was packed with people who understood firsthand the severity of the farm crisis, and who had a deep, passionate commitment to doing something about it. We spent the train trip discussing ideas for turning the situation around, and by the time we arrived in Champaign, we were fired up to push for big changes.

The mid-1980s were a tumultuous time for rural America. In my own State of Iowa, the economic devastation experienced by family farms and small towns was the worst since the Great Depression. As in the 1930s, the human toll of the crisis was poignant and profound. There were many tens of thousands of people who had spent their lives working hard and playing by the rules, but who were losing their farms, their homes and their livelihoods. That affected me personally, as it did most Iowans and people all

across America. And like so many others, I was convinced that we needed new ideas and better policies to save America's family farm agriculture and to revitalize our rural economy.

The first Farm Aid concert drew a tremendous amount of national and even international attention to the crisis in rural America. Farm Aid opened people's eyes to the plight of family farms and small towns. It helped farm families directly and it led to policy changes that have made a positive difference.

Family farms and rural communities are still struggling, and so Farm Aid is as important as ever. And in that same spirit, this year's concert highlighted and helped support a special Farm Aid Family Farm Disaster Fund to provide aid to farm families and rural communities that have been devastated by hurricanes across the gulf region, drought in the Midwest or other natural disasters elsewhere. In the tremendous response to the hurricanes, we have seen the same outpouring of concern and compassion by the American people that has supported Farm Aid over the years.

I salute Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp, Neil Young, Dave Matthews and all the others who have devoted themselves to making Farm Aid a success in helping family farms and rural communities throughout the years—including David Senter, Carolyn Mugar and Corky Jones. I wish them and Farm Aid many more successful years supporting family farms and rural communities and raising awareness of their vital importance to us all.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today the Commerce Committee was scheduled to conduct an afternoon hearing regarding emergency communications. I regret that the hearing was postponed, and I hope and expect that the session will be quickly rescheduled. The events of September 11, 2001, uncovered a fun-

damental weakness in our communications system. We learned the hard way that in a time of crisis—when communication is most important—our first responders could not communicate at a basic level. Now, some 4 years later, Katrina has showed we have not fixed the problem. One of the biggest problem facing police, fire and first responders in the gulf coast was that the communications system was knocked off line. It was remarkable to watch as the television news crews had better luck communicating than our first responders. As the disaster unfolded, emergency officials repeatedly cited communications failures as a major obstacle to the disaster response effort.

So despite the good work of the 9/11 Commission and the hard work of national and local officials, we find that the system is not hardened against terror or nature, and we remain dangerously vulnerable. Like all of my colleagues, I want a system that will work when we need it most. Frankly, there is not much good in an emergency communications system that doesn't work in emergencies. We must push ahead with the DTV transition so that new spectrum is made available and new technologies can come online. The Federal Government must commit the time, resources, training, technology, and leadership to create a national and truly interoperable communications system. It is a national job to ensure capability across regions, among rescue units, and up and down chain of command.

I also believe we should deploy a redundant emergency communications system that, with a flick of switch, will operate during times of crisis when the main system is disabled. I have introduced a bill to address this immediate need. S. 1703 requires experts at the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Communications Commission evaluate the feasibility and cost of deploying an emergency communications system. The agencies will evaluate all reasonable options, including

satellites, wireless and terrestrial-based systems. They will evaluate all available public and private resources that could provide such a system and submit a report to Congress detailing the findings.

The DHS is then authorized to request appropriations to implement the system. Congress would then be in position to put in place whatever programs and funding are needed to get the job done. We have myriad day-to-day communications issues to address. I am mindful of these needs. As was pointed out by a witness in the Commerce Committee's morning hearing, we have major problems with "operability" within a particular agency that must be addressed before we can seriously tackle "interoperability"—communicating across jurisdictions and among different agencies.

However, we must also take steps to address an immediate crisis. We must ensure that we can respond in emergency situations with an eye toward building a reliable, redundant system for the long term. It is my hope that the Congress will consider this proposal, and other relevant proposals, before we recess for the year. I look forward to working with my colleagues in that regard.

PRESIDENT URIBE'S APPOINTMENT OF A CABINET-LEVEL ADVISOR ON AFRO-COLOMBIAN ISSUES

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to an important step towards progress for Afro-descendants in Colombia, and an important opportunity for Afro-descendants throughout Latin America.

I wish to commend the work of my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus on this issue, as well as the tireless efforts of nongovernmental organizations and religious groups both here and in Colombia.

This August, President Uribe of Colombia created a cabinet-level position on Afro-Colombian issues, and appointed an Afro-Colombian to fill the post. The creation of this position is especially significant because it signals both a recognition of the severity of the situation of Afro-descendants in Colombia and a willingness to address these inequalities.

At the same time, many of us recognize that this is only a first step and much more needs to be done.

I will be monitoring the progress of this office very closely in the coming months, and I especially look forward to the development of President Uribe's Committee on Civil Rights and Sustainable Development for Afro-Colombians.

It is my hope that this institution will have the resources and mandate to do an effective job of bringing some measure of equality and justice to a marginalized segment of Colombian society. It is my hope that this will encourage other governments in Latin

America to consider taking additional measures to address racial discrimination, as well as economic and social marginalization, faced by Afro-descendants in their countries.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, our own country is being awakened to a great divide in our midst. As we struggle with troubling intersections of race and class, and how we have failed the most vulnerable members of our population, I hope we will be able to take a moment to reflect on similar struggles in places such as Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil and Venezuela.

While I realize that Colombia continues to face many challenges—from human rights to narco-trafficking—I wanted to bring some good news, that is often overlooked, about the country of Colombia to the attention of the Senate. I applaud these efforts.

TRIBUTE TO SIMON WIESENTHAL

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Simon Wiesenthal, the moral conscience of our generation and of generations to come. I was proud to cosponsor the resolution authored by my friend and colleague, Senator SCHUMER, that passed the Senate by unanimous consent, commemorating Mr. Wiesenthal's life and accomplishments.

Mr. Wiesenthal died on Tuesday, September 20, 2005, at the age of 96. After surviving internment in 12 Nazi concentration camps, Mr. Wiesenthal took on a mission for the world—to ensure that through the crucible of the Holocaust we acknowledge and understand our common humanity.

Simon Wiesenthal's name has become synonymous with the term "Nazi hunter," the man responsible for bringing more than 1,100 Holocaust collaborators to justice. But as the noted author, Robert Lifton, has said, what defined Wiesenthal "wasn't so much his identifying particular Nazi criminals, . . . it was his insisting on an attitude of confronting what happened and constantly keeping what happened in mind and doing so at times when a lot of people would have preferred to forget." Simon Wiesenthal constantly made sure that we understood the Holocaust was not a discrete event relegated to a particular time and place, but that it was, and is, emblematic of the depths to which humanity can descend and the heights to which it can soar.

Simon Wiesenthal survived the Nazi death camps through what some might call luck, some might call random acts of kindness or just indifference, or what some might call miracles. Whatever the reason, fathomable or unfathomable, Wiesenthal became our guide on a painful and essential journey through memory and consciousness, an examination of what we are and what we should be. That is a journey that is never-ending by definition—it was not for him and should not be for us.

He was a detective searching for criminals, and he was a philosopher

seeking after truth and justice. He found and helped find many criminals. His search for truth and justice is passed on to us and to our children. It lives on in the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, home to the Museum of Tolerance. It lives on in our assumption of responsibility.

Mr. Wiesenthal died in his sleep at his home in Vienna, Austria, his body at peace, his spirit among us.

THE PONTIFICAL VISIT OF HIS HOLINESS ARAM I

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the Pontifical Visit of His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, to my home State of California in October, 2005.

The Catholicos represents the Great House of Cilicia, an historic Armenian religious center established in 1441. The Catholicosate was relocated to Antelias, Lebanon following the atrocities of the Armenian Genocide, which included destruction of houses of worship in Cilicia. Today, His Holiness Aram I represents hundreds of thousands of Armenian American Christians, as well as Armenians across the Near East. The Armenian faith is 1,700 years old and it is significant that Armenia was the first nation to officially adopt Christianity as a state religion in 301 AD.

The Catholicos' spiritual, cultural and educational influence extends well beyond the Armenian people. His Holiness Aram I, who holds a Master of Divinity, a Master of Sacred Theology, a Ph.D., and several honorary degrees, has authored numerous articles and texts in Armenian, English and French, some of which have been translated into other languages. The Catholicos has worked to strengthen interfaith relations between Christian and Muslim communities. In 1974, the Catholicos was one of the founding members of the Middle East Council of Churches.

His Holiness Aram I was elected as Moderator of the Central and Executive Committees of the World Council of Churches, WCC, a renowned organization which represents over 400 million Christians worldwide. The WCC brings together over 340 churches and denominations in more than 100 countries throughout the world. The Catholicos is the first Orthodox, first Middle Easterner and youngest person to hold this position and his unanimous re-election as Moderator in 1998 was exceptional in the history of the WCC.

During his trip to California, which is titled "Towards the Light of Knowledge," the Catholicos will visit churches as well as educational and cultural institutions in Los Angeles, Fresno and San Francisco. This momentous visit was initiated by His Eminence, Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian of the