

as much as \$7 trillion over 10 years, and to have squandered it in 5 years to where now we have an \$8 trillion deficit. That is a pretty big turnaround. RECORD surpluses we had have been turned into historic deficits. This immoral budget that is attempted to be reconciled will increase the deficits by \$30 billion more.

Following the budget choices made by the Republicans in this budget, in 5 years the deficit will increase to over \$11 trillion from its now \$8 trillion. Simply the wrong choices have been made with this budget.

This Senate reconciliation spending bill makes the wrong choices. It increases the burdens on seniors in a number of ways, not the least of which is increasing Medicare Part B premiums, cuts health care generally by \$27 billion in Medicare and Medicaid cuts, cuts agriculture, cuts support—that is directed at farmers—by \$3 billion.

In my little town of Searchlight, NV, something called the Farmers Home Administration came in and helped build 28 units of senior housing for the poor. They are, frankly, the nicest homes in town. We don't have these programs anymore, but those 28 units in Searchlight only become vacant when someone dies. Once someone gets in there, qualifies to get in there, they are there until they die. There is a waiting list even in the little community of Searchlight. It is so long people no longer even get on the list. But this budget the Republicans are pushing down the throats of the American people reduces availability of affordable housing. There will be no more places such as that in Searchlight. They are cutting that.

But they are going to drill in Alaska. Remember, we cannot produce our way out of the problems we have with energy. America has, counting ANWR, less than 3 percent of the oil reserves in the world—less than 3 percent. But they finally have been able to accomplish under this reconciliation drilling in Alaska, in this pristine wilderness.

I would think the President would be better off looking at alternative energy, giving incentives for people to develop energy from the sun and wind, geothermal, biomass. No, it is not in this budget. More efficient automobiles maybe. Production of natural gas during the last 5 years has been stable. Right now our reserves are the same as they have been for 5 years. But the people controlling oil, these oil and gas companies, are doing well. For someone heating their home with natural gas—and that is almost 50 percent of the American people—the cost will go up 48 percent this year. Maybe the President should spend a little time on that.

This budget provides tax breaks for multimillionaires and special interests. Reconciliation paves the way for budget-busting tax breaks, including capital gains and dividend tax breaks, that will benefit special interests and the

wealthy. Tax breaks exceed spending cuts by more than \$30 billion in this immoral budget. Well over a majority, some 55 percent of the benefits of capital gains and dividends, go to those with incomes of more than \$1 million. The average benefit of these tax breaks for those with incomes of more than \$1 million will be approximately \$36,000. Those people making between \$50,000 and \$200,000 get \$112. Those with incomes under \$50,000 will get \$6—\$6, compared to millionaires getting \$36,000. It doesn't seem quite fair to me.

Is this the reason the leadership of the Protestant churches in this country has called this an immoral budget? It could be one strong reason.

But the House—they haven't been working much lately because they have been trying to figure out how to cut even \$15 billion more. They can't quite get the votes together, but they are going to try again next week. The House plan cutting \$15 billion, we are told, would include more in student loan cuts, food stamp cuts, cuts in child support enforcement and foster care cuts, deeper and more problematic cuts in health care. Other priority reasons in this country should come first. Rather than harming the vulnerable while providing special tax breaks to the rich increasing the deficit, we should address the Nation's most urgent problems.

I have talked about natural gas. That is only one way to heat your home. But gasoline for your car, that is what we should be focusing on. Oil companies this year will make \$100 billion in profits—\$100 billion in profits. I say that is too much. I say it is time this Congress, rather than pushing forward on this immoral budget, should take a look at the immoral and obscene profits these companies are making, maybe take a look at a windfall profits tax or maybe allow the FTC to do something about this price gouging. These rising energy costs are burdening families, businesses, and farmers.

We have said there are programs we need to take a look at. Katrina victims are still victims. We as a Congress have not provided them the help they need.

I haven't even mentioned the war on Iraq we should be spending some time here on the Senate floor talking about.

Can we do better? Yes, America can do better. Have we done better? Yes, America has done better. During the Clinton years—during the last 3 years he was President—we were paying down the debt. We paid down the debt by half a trillion. We were spending less money than we were taking in. Yes, it can be done. And, yes, we are going to spend this next week on this budget that is fiscally irresponsible, giving the Congress direction in values that are wrong. All across this reconciliation are misplaced priorities. We can do much better. We have done better. And again the spotlight shines on the difference between the two parties here as not often seen. But here we will

see it next week, the difference between the two parties.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. ISAKSON. I yield back to the leader.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, very briefly, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 408, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk. I further ask unanimous consent the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President immediately be notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

David B. Dunn, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Togolese Republic.

Carmen Maria Martinez, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zambia.

Michael R. Arietti, of Connecticut, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Rwanda.

Benson K. Whitney, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Norway.

David M. Hale, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Nicholas F. Taubman, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania.

Susan Rasinski McCaw, of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Austria.

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Jennifer L. Dorn, of Nebraska, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Franklin L. Lavin, of Ohio, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Clay Lowery, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury

THE JUDICIARY

James S. Halpern, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Karan K. Bhatia, of Maryland, to be Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

Susan C. Schwab, of Maryland, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

William Anderson, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

John G. Grimes, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

John J. Young, Jr., of Virginia, to be Director of Defense Research and Engineering.

Delores M. Etter, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. William T. Hobbins

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Lance L. Smith

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael W. Peterson

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brigadier General Eugene R. Chojnacki
Brigadier General Kenneth R. Clark
Brigadier General David F. Wherley, Jr.
Brigadier General Harry M. Wyatt, III

To be brigadier general

Colonel William R. Burks
Colonel Iwan B. Clontz
Colonel Donald E. Fick
Colonel David J. Hatley
Colonel Kenneth M. Jefferson
Colonel Robert H. Johnston
Colonel Daniel B. O'Hollaren
Colonel Randolph M. Scott
Colonel Mark F. Sears
Colonel Haywood R. Starling, Jr.
Colonel Ernest G. Talbert
Colonel Lawrence S. Thomas, III
Colonel Guy M. Walsh
Colonel Elliott W. Worcester, Jr.
Colonel Robert J. Yaple

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. Burwell B. Bell, III

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade

indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael D. Maples

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Colonel Daniel B. Allyn
Colonel James C. Boozer, Sr.
Colonel Ronald M. Bouchard
Colonel Mark S. Bowman
Colonel Thomas M. Cole
Colonel Jesse R. Cross
Colonel Kenneth S. Dowd
Colonel Michael T. Flynn
Colonel William H. Forrester, Jr.
Colonel William B. Garrett, III
Colonel James L. Hodge
Colonel Anthony R. Ierardi
Colonel John D. Johnson
Colonel Greg F. Martin
Colonel William C. Mayville, Jr.
Colonel James M. McDonald
Colonel Patricia E. McQuiston
Colonel John W. Peabody
Colonel David G. Perkins
Colonel Dana J.H. Pittard
Colonel Joe E. Ramirez, Jr.
Colonel James E. Rogers
Colonel Michael E. Rounds
Colonel Frederick S. Rudesheim
Colonel Todd T. Semonite
Colonel John E. Seward
Colonel Robin P. Swan
Colonel Anthony J. Tata
Colonel Kevin R. Wendel
Colonel William T. Wolf
Colonel Terry A. Wolff

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Thomas D. Robinson

To be brigadier general

Col. Charles D. Estes
Col. Ellen P. Greene
Col. Luis R. Visot

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Diamond

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Patrick M. Walsh

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN961 Air Force nomination of John S. Baxter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 6, 2005.

IN THE ARMY

PN962 Army nomination of Jose R. Rael, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 6, 2005.

PN963 Army nominations (2) beginning Suzanne R. Avery, and ending James Fikes, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 6, 2005.

PN964 Army nominations (4) beginning Donna J. Dolan, and ending Deborah F.

Simpson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 6, 2005.

PN965 Army nominations (21) beginning Paul F. Abbey, and ending Warren A. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 6, 2005.

PN966 Army nominations (35) beginning Paul S. Astphan, and ending Brinda F. Williams-Morgan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 6, 2005.

PN967 Army nominations (39) beginning Lynn S. Alsup, and ending Carol L. Zieres, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 6, 2005.

PN968 Army nominations (66) beginning James W. Agnew, and ending David A. Yeropoli, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 6, 2005.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN729 Foreign Service nominations (230) beginning Deanna Hanek Abdeen, and ending James M. Lambert, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 14, 2005.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN969 Marine Corps nomination of Darren W. Milton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 6, 2005.

PN970 Marine Corps nominations (77) beginning Christopher J. Aaby, and ending Richard B. Young II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 6, 2005.

IN THE NAVY

PN971 Navy nomination of William D. Fuson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 6, 2005.

PN972 Navy nominations (429) beginning Daniel Albrecht, and ending Johnny Won, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 6, 2005.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will return to legislative session.

The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO EARL SMITH

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise in morning business to pay tribute to a great Georgian, a great American, a personal friend of mine, and a great citizen of Cobb County. In about 11 days our county will come together to pay tribute to this great individual and I wanted today on the Senate floor to memorialize for a moment the contributions of Earl Smith. For me it is a particular point of personal pride and it is because Earl Smith has been a role model to me my entire adult life. Quite frankly, I don't know that I would be privileged to serve in the Senate had it not been for his example, his support over 35 years.

I met Earl Smith when he founded the Cobb County Lions Club in the 1960s and led it to be the best club in Georgia. I knew him as a businessman because I was in real estate and he was