

given Chicago. A recent Chicago Tribune summed it up well. It said:

What distinguished Richard M. Daley from many big-city mayors is his remarkable if impossible-to-complete work to barrow racial chasms that, during the 1980s, threatened to swallow Chicago. He has done that not with anguished speeches or paeans to social justice, but by projecting a strong sense of fairness in the way he does his job. As a result, he has persuaded many Chicagoans, of many hues, to pull together in the same direction: Up.

Edward Bedore, who served as budget director under both Mayor Daleys, told the Sun Times: "One was a builder, the other completed the house."

In 2005, Time magazine named Richard Daley one of "the five best big-city mayors." NPR's Scott Simon said it well: "He was his father's son, but he became his own man."

Among Mayor Daley's most cherished childhood memories is going to the White Sox games with his dad and brothers at Comiskey Park. One of my favorite memories of Richard Daley also involves the White Sox. It was October 26, 2005—Game 3 of the 2005 World Series, White Sox against the Houston Astros.

Mayor Daley was in Washington for business and I had invited him and the members of the Illinois congressional delegation to my office in the Capitol to watch the game. Everyone came, including our new Senator, now the President of the United States.

What a game. The White Sox finally won it 7-5 with a home run in the 14th inning. They would go on to win the series. That game was the longest World Series game in history: 5 hours 41 minutes. As the night wore on, almost everybody trailed away—but not Rich Daley. I have a photo of the handful of us who stuck it out until the very end. Standing in the middle, the happiest man in the photo, is Mayor Daley.

That's the Richard M. Daley way: No matter how long it takes, you give it your all until the game is won.

On Monday, Chicago will enter a new era: The post-Daley era. We will welcome a passionate, talented, new mayor, Rahm Emanuel. Like so many other cities, Chicago is struggling involving the recession and a large deficit. Fortunately, Mayor Emanuel will also inherit a legacy of unity and progress that that will continue to benefit Chicagoans for generations to come.

As one reported noted, "The Daley name is so synonymous with Chicago politics, it might as well be stitched into the city flag."

The legacy Rich Daley has created in Chicago is going to live on, in the improved lives of the people who live in that great city. His legacy will live on in the wonderment of so many people who visit and whose first words about the city are always, "I couldn't get over how clean it is." I tell you it doesn't happen by accident. It takes the leadership of a mayor and a great first lady, Maggie Daley, who made it happen.

To quote from the Tribune editorial which I mentioned earlier, "When this community, this Nation, needed to know that a city could come back from economic decline and tribal conflict, he delivered. For that, Mayor Daley, we thank you."

I also want to offer my personal thanks for his friendship and the great opportunity to work together over the years. Loretta, my wife, and I had an opportunity a couple of weeks ago to go out to dinner with the mayor and Maggie. It is something we have been planning for a long time and we had a great night. We were over on Clark Street at the Naha Restaurant. The windows were open and I watched as everybody walked on by and stopped to look inside at the mayor and the first lady. They know him because he is Chicago.

I also want to say kind words about the Daley children, Nora, Patrick, Elizabeth, and Kevin, for sharing their husband and father with us.

I will close by saying that we attend the same church in Chicago. It is called Old Saint Pat's. Last St. Patrick's Day was the mayor's big day. Maggie, who has been struggling with some health issues, made it that day and the church was packed. Everybody was wearing shamrocks and green ties. The Irish dancers were there for a great celebration of Saint Patrick's Day. Luckily for the Daleys, their grandkids were also there, little kids scrambling all over the church pews, waiting in anxious anticipation for the end of the mass because at the end of the mass the mayor's favorite, the Shannon Rovers bagpipe band, marched right up the front aisle of the church and the kids were brimming with excitement as they came up the aisle.

I captured a picture on my cell phone, which I sent to the mayor and his wife, of their grandkids in anticipation of the bagpipe band arriving. I value it and I am sure that family values it too. We value Mayor Daley and his great family. They have made Chicago a better place and the United States a better nation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN of Ohio). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. ALEXANDER pertaining to the introduction of S. 964 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). The Senator from Washington.

DEFICIT REDUCTION

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor today to support the

Close Big Oil Tax Loopholes Act and to talk about the devastating effect that high prices at the pump are having on families in my home State of Washington.

Middle-class families and small business owners are still struggling. Our economy is just starting to turn around, but so many families are still fighting to stay in their homes, so many small business owners are still struggling to keep their doors open, and so many workers are still desperately trying to get back on the job. All of this is happening while we are here debating in Congress about the best ways to cut spending responsibly and rein in the deficit.

This is a serious issue. We need to get it done. But I feel very strongly that before we make budget cuts that slash support for our middle-class families, we should look at ways to responsibly reduce the deficit that do not hurt the families who are struggling the most. To me, one of the most commonsense actions we can take is to end the wasteful subsidies that we, the taxpayers, are forced to hand over to the big oil companies every year. It is a no-brainer.

Anyone who is serious about reducing the deficit should support this effort. It is as simple as that. The big oil companies are already making billions of dollars in profits from families in America who are paying now sky-high prices at the pump. In fact, the five biggest oil companies have made nearly \$1 trillion in profits—\$1 trillion in profits—in the last decade and \$36 billion in the first 3 months of this year alone.

But the big oil companies are not just making money hand over fist from families paying sky-high prices at the pump. They also have the gall to come back to those same taxpayers and demand billions more in subsidies that add directly to their profits. It does not make any sense, and it has to end.

I think my colleagues in the Senate who oppose this legislation need to explain to the American people why they think big oil companies need even bigger profits and why they think American taxpayers should continue to pad their coffers with unwarranted subsidies at the very time we are fighting to rein in the deficit.

But in addition to ending those wasteful subsidies to the big oil companies, we also have to act to end the speculation that is a big part of what is pushing prices at the pump higher and higher. At a time when our household budgets are already stretched so thin, speculators continue to drive up those prices and volatility in the oil markets. That is one of the reasons I was so angry and disappointed that the House Republican budget proposal slashed the funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. That is the very agency that is charged with protecting consumers from excessive speculation in the markets. How can they do their job and protect consumers if they are not there?

I think that says a lot about our very different priorities in Congress. The House majority has pushed to slash spending by crippling agencies that middle-class families depend on for basic protections, while Democrats are here trying to reduce the deficit responsibly by ending subsidies to the big oil companies that do not need them.

I urge our colleagues to put taxpayers in the middle class ahead of Big Oil, to end those wasteful giveaways to oil companies, and to use that money to pay down the deficit in a responsible way.

I thank Senators MENENDEZ, MCCASKILL, TESTER, and BROWN for their great work on this issue.

Once again, I support the Close Big Oil Tax Loopholes Act. I am going to keep fighting to end the oil and gas speculation that is hurting so many families in my home State of Washington and across the country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I wish to thank the Senator from Washington State for her leadership on this issue and for her eloquent remarks just now, as well as other Senators who have championed this cause, as I have, over years when we have fought rising gasoline prices in the State of Connecticut relentlessly and tirelessly, and now I rise here in support of this legislation, the Close Big Oil Tax Loopholes Act, which would fundamentally restore fairness to our markets and tax system.

Over the last decades, the big five oil companies have taken home about \$1 trillion in profits while enjoying tens of billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies, giveaways, sweetheart deals, and preferences which undermine the credibility of our tax system and our economy in the eyes of ordinary Americans. Ordinary Americans, in fact, are still struggling to make ends meet, to stay in their homes, to keep their families together, and to find jobs.

In Connecticut, the price of gasoline now has risen to more than \$4.25 a gallon from about \$3 just a year ago. There are a number of ways to combat the spiraling cost of gasoline, including going after some of the illegal manipulation and speculation that may be occurring. I have proposed some measures—for example, a Department of Justice investigation that for the first time would effectively and comprehensively pursue the traders and hedge funds that are at an alltime high in their energy positions.

But the ending of giveaways and subsidies is about the fairness of our economic system and our Tax Code. Our families and businesses in Connecticut are paying these higher costs for gasoline but at the same time are providing subsidies that are in no way needed for exploration or refining or any part of the business of these big five oil companies. They have made over \$30 billion in profits in the first quarter of this

year alone, representing a 50-percent increase in profit from last year. Big Oil doesn't need help from American taxpayers to make unprecedented profits. For better or worse, they know how to do it without corporate welfare, and we ought to end the corporate welfare that makes our job of cutting the deficit and reining in the debt and reducing the size of government all the more difficult.

This call ought to be an easy one. We have difficult choices ahead in cutting spending and perhaps increasing revenue, but this one should be easy for us. I hope it will attract bipartisan support because there is truly nothing partisan about this kind of corporate welfare.

Despite claims to the contrary, ending these subsidies will not increase prices at the pump. It will impose basic fairness because Americans will no longer pay out of pocket for these tax breaks and giveaways to some of the most profitable companies in the world. It will not add to prices at the pump.

In my home State of Connecticut and across the country, people are rightly concerned about reducing our debt and deficit, and we will make those difficult choices just as Americans are making difficult choices in tightening their belts and their budgets as they struggle to find jobs and make ends meet. But as resources remain scarce for some of our most vital programs, we can ill-afford this kind of corporate welfare.

I urge my colleagues to seize this moment, to cut these subsidies, and to protect the hard-earned dollars of American taxpayers. Taxpayers in Connecticut and throughout the country basically want fairness—shared sacrifice, truly shared sacrifice—and I urge my colleagues to demonstrate to the American people that we are serious about tackling unfair giveaways and to take this step toward restoring fairness.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITALS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I just met in a room near the Senate floor with doctors and others from three of America's great children's hospitals: Rainbow Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital. I think Ohio leads the Nation in the number of children's hospitals and, frankly, I think the quality of children's hospitals.

There are so much we need to do—I know the Presiding Officer from North Carolina sits on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and has had an interest in this—where we don't quite focus enough attention on children's health. In the past, when we did research in this country—and we are only now beginning to change this—we used to think about children as just small adults, and if you needed X milligrams in a prescription for a 150-pound adult, for a 30-pound child you gave them one-fifth as much. We now realize that is not the way we should do research or practice medicine. So we have seen a lot of progress, and much of that comes from the activism, if you will, of doctors and nurses and administrators at Nationwide Children's in Columbus, Cincinnati Children's, and Rainbow Children's in Cleveland, affiliated with the University Hospital.

We have been able, through a long-time program—about a dozen years old now—to do something called children's gradual medical education in training pediatricians. We have also seen it find its way into making pharmaceuticals—something called 340B—and getting pharmaceuticals, particularly for orphan drugs and rare diseases, to children's hospitals, which helps many small children in this country.

We are also working on legislation—and Kit Bond, the Republican Senator from Missouri who retired in January, and I worked on this—to really focus on pediatric research and designate a handful of children's hospitals—maybe 15 or 20—around the country, some of the best research hospitals, to get them more focused on children's research because even though we have done better, we are not doing well enough, and this is an opportunity to do that.

So I wanted to share on the floor with my colleagues the importance of this legislation, the importance of that focus on children's hospitals, the importance of training pediatricians, and the importance of children's hospitals overall to our Nation's health, especially as regards the future of our Nation and our children.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

FIXING THE DEFICIT

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, everybody knows this country faces a major deficit crisis and we have a national debt of over \$14 trillion. What has not been widely discussed, however, is how we got into this situation in the first place. A huge deficit and huge national debt did not happen by accident. It did not happen overnight. It happened, in fact, as a result of a number of policy decisions made in recent years and votes that were cast right here on the floor of the Senate and in the House.

Let's never forget, as we talk about the deficit situation, that in the year