

kept coming, and people in the streets of the city I was in were tearing at the terrible news about what happened to America.

Almost 3,000 people, including more than 700 people from my own State of New Jersey, were brutally massacred in that attack. That is more American lives lost than on D-day when thousands of Americans stormed Normandy.

Many of the victims were hard at work. On a typical weekday, 50,000 people worked in the Twin Towers, with another 200,000 passing through as visitors. It is impossible to believe that these towering facilities, with their huge infrastructure, could be burned, melted, and brought to the ground. Many of the people who lost their lives lost them saving others, including 343 firefighters, 60 police officers, and other first responders, as they answered the call of others who desperately needed their help. Some became heroes that day, such as those on United Flight 93, who took on the hijackers who were in the aisles to try and bring that airplane to its target. But the people stood up and fought against them—heroes, brave and courageous—to prevent that airplane from reaching its intended target.

Tragically, a decade after the Twin Towers fell, the toll of 9/11 is still climbing. More than 85,000 first responders, cleanup workers, and community residents are dealing with the aftermath of this tragedy. There are victims who are being monitored or receiving medical treatment after breathing the toxic fumes and the dust at Ground Zero.

As we all know, the wounds that came from 9/11 are not just physical. Witnesses of the tragedy saw people jumping from high stories of the buildings because they could no longer stand the heat, the smoke. The witnesses of the tragedy, the thousands of survivors who narrowly escaped the attacks, and the families of the victims who will never see their loved ones again still bear the scars of that awful day.

Life changed in countless ways for all Americans on September 11, affecting every move we make. All of us are reminded of 9/11's legacy almost every day as we wait in line to present our ID when we travel, go to work, or when we hear news of further attempts on the lives of Americans.

There are approximately 50,000 baggage checkers and screeners working every day to keep us safe at airports across the country. In fact, the Federal Department of Homeland Security—created in the wake of 9/11—has more than 230,000 employees and spends more than \$40 billion each year protecting us from similar onslaughts.

As is Pearl Harbor, 9/11 can be described as a day that will live in infamy. With Pearl Harbor, with all of its pain and sacrifice, an end to that conflict finally came and normalcy was restored to our country after some years.

But our enemy today continues its search for ways to bring pain and suffering to Americans. They keep searching for technology and weapons, and 10 years later we are still fighting them.

As we near the 10th anniversary of 9/11, it is important for us to remember what brought us to this point. That is why I am so proud and grateful to see the Senate unanimously approve this legislation, which—as we approach the 10th anniversary of 9/11—calls on our country to pause on September 11 for a moment of remembrance. What is planned is that at 1 p.m. eastern time that day, all Americans will be called upon to cease all work and activity and spend a moment in silence reflecting on what happened on 9/11, 2001. Our local, State, and national institutions—from sports teams and railroads to broadcasters and places of worship—will be called upon to mark this minute with church bells or sirens to recall the honor of those victims. This will be a striking symbol of American solidarity, signaling to the world that we remain united against those who threaten our freedom. It will also be a powerful nationwide expression of America's patriotic spirit and our refusal to forget the thousands of innocent lives we lost in the destruction of 9/11.

Many of us recall the love of country we experienced in the days and weeks and months after the attacks in 2001. During that period, it seemed as though everywhere we turned, we saw an American flag. As a nation, we were willing to set aside our differences to mourn our losses and mourn the losses of friends and acquaintances and neighbors, and we decided to work together to defeat those who threaten our way of life. I believe the national moment of remembrance can help us recapture that spirit of unity and remind everyone how strong we are when we stand together.

I thank my colleagues for the outpouring of support for this legislation and hope they will be able to encourage their constituents to participate in this moment of remembrance. Every Member of the Senate joined together as cosponsors to create this moment of remembrance, representing all political views in every corner of this great Nation. We want everybody to participate, including State and local governments, the military, veterans organizations, the news media, houses of worship, and sports teams.

The 9/11 Moment of Remembrance will be a way to pay tribute to the lives lost and forever changed by the events in Pennsylvania, the Pentagon, and at Ground Zero. Let there be no doubt: 9/11 changed our country forever, and a tragedy of this magnitude demands memory and vigilance. As a nation, we must keep alive the memories of the many courageous Americans we lost that day. We must be vigilant on behalf of the thousands of families who suffered incalculable losses—losses that must never be forgotten. During the

past decade, through our pain and sorrow has come the realization that this vigilance must be maintained so nothing like that can happen again.

So once again I say thank you to my colleagues for supporting this measure. It will send a powerful signal to the rest of the world and remind us how strong America is when we all stand together.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor, and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the American people deserve an accounting of what happened on the floor this morning. The citizens of Utah, whom I am honored to represent, and citizens all over this country thought the Senate would be voting on the cut, cap, and balance bill later this week. I am an original cosponsor of this bill in the Senate. I have signed the cut, cap, and balance pledge. I have always supported a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

This year, it is one of my proudest achievements to have introduced S. J. Res. 10, a balanced budget amendment that is supported by every Republican in this body for the first time in all the balanced budget amendments brought to this floor. It is the strongest balanced budget amendment ever written—one that fundamentally deals with our spending crisis. I am honored to have worked with my colleague and friend from Utah, Senator LEE, in crafting this amendment. We worked with Senator CORNYN and 44 other Republicans as well. I am honored to be working with old and new friends, such as Senators CORNYN, KYL, PAUL, TOOMEY, RUBIO, and many other Republicans in pursuing this constitutional amendment for the American people.

The cut, cap, balance legislation the Senate tabled today culminates in a balanced budget amendment, but also includes the short-term deficit reduction that families and markets are demanding.

Cut, cap, balance provides meaningful deficit reduction for the next year and spending caps for the years that follow. It sets us on a path toward a balanced budget. It addresses the gross overspending of the Federal Government in the short term, taking on the deficits and debt that are holding back economic growth and permanently burdening American families and businesses.

Most importantly, cut, cap, balance would fix the problem of government overspending permanently. It would

eliminate the bias in Washington for ever more spending by requiring Congress to send a balanced budget constitutional amendment to the States for ratification prior to any increase in the debt ceiling.

The more the American people hear about this plan, the more they like it. They know the President has no plan. They know the markets are done with promises to cut spending down the road. They know raising taxes is not the solution to a government spending problem. The President and congressional Democrats know the people know this. That is why they have pulled out all the stops to kill this bill's momentum.

The President threatened to veto cut, cap, balance. But that did not do the trick. So after the House passed cut, cap, balance, the President all of a sudden supported the so-called Gang of 6 proposal. His advisers knew they had a problem. All of his clever talk about raising taxes on oil companies and corporate jets and yachts was not distracting the American people from a simple fact: My friends on the other side of the aisle have no credible plan for balancing the budget. The President has no credible plan for balancing the budget. He has not offered anything that would help us get to a balanced budget, nor do I believe he ever will offer anything. They have speeches and executive summaries of bills that will be written down the road; they have plans and proposals for future spending cuts that remain a mystery to everyone; they have budget frameworks; but they have no plan.

The chairman of the Senate Budget Committee has a budget outline. But here is the Senate Democratic caucus budget proposal. Let me refer to this goose egg up here on the chart. That is the Democratic caucus budget proposal—a big goose egg.

As meager as this is, I have to hand it to them, it beats the President's budget proposal. The President has offered us nothing, and we have a big goose egg here in the Senate.

The American people are done with this. The people of Utah know the same people who brought you the stimulus—the policy equivalent of taking \$1 trillion in taxpayer dollars and throwing it into the Potomac River—the same people who brought you \$2.6 trillion in new spending and \$½ trillion in new taxes with Obamacare, are not credible when they now boast of their commitment to deficit reduction and balanced budgets.

The most recent proposal is from the Gang of 6. We are still looking at this proposal. I will not condemn anyone who makes a good-faith effort to get to the bottom of our serious problems. Their efforts might be on the side of the angels, but the devil is in the details, and many of us have real questions about this proposal. Specifically, we want to know what the revenue impact will be, because by some accounts it will raise taxes by between \$2 trillion and \$3 trillion.

At the very least, the American people understand that the President's desperate embrace of this plan is to avoid, once again, dealing with the deficit. Whatever its substantive merits or demerits, this proposal is a commitment to dealing with deficit reduction later. But later is too late. We need to deal with deficit reduction now. The people of this Nation are telling us this over and over. They are lighting up the Capitol switchboard. I am confident that my colleagues on the other side are hearing the message loudly and clearly: Balance the budget now. Get spending under control now. A last minute op-ed from the President telling us to "go big" on a debt deal is a little too late. We are facing our third straight year of trillion dollar deficits. Our debt is now over \$14.3 trillion.

The President has shown no serious signs of getting this fiscal crisis under control. He offered up a dead-on-arrival budget in February. When even his friends in the mainstream media panned his budget for its total lack of attention to our looming debt crisis, he offered his budget mulligan with a much ballyhooed speech on deficit reduction. But a speech is not a plan. Meanwhile, it has been over 800 days since Senate Democrats have produced a budget, thus abdicating their most basic of duties.

The American people are finished with this dithering. They know what the solution is. The President and the majority leader no doubt saw the polling yesterday on the cut, cap, balance plan.

Here is the bottom line: Nearly two-thirds of the American people support it. But that is only half the story. Here is the rest: Everyone likes cut, cap, balance—not just Republicans, not just Democrats. It makes sense.

American families want deficit reduction, and with this plan they get it. No vague platitudes or speeches or rallies about reducing the deficit. This plan reduces the deficit and it fixes the underlying problem, which is Washington's predisposition toward more spending.

The President frequently demands that Congress put partisanship aside and come to a deficit reduction agreement. But the American people are one step ahead of them. The cut, cap, balance plan, along with the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, wins support across the board. Sixty-three percent of Democrats back cut, cap, balance. Fifty-three percent of those who oppose the tea party support it.

Democrats threw everything they had at this bill. They absurdly called it the "cut, cap, and destroy Medicare plan." What bull. The left is becoming a caricature of itself when it comes to demagoguery on the issue of Medicare. I think the American people have caught on that liberals claim that when the Republicans turn on the lights in the morning, they are working to destroy Medicare. Bull. These

claims no longer have credibility. The left is out of talking points. Their constituents are telling them to pass cut, cap, balance. They know it won't destroy anything. It will save this country.

So instead of having a vote on it, Democrats decided to pull the plug on the vote. Ordinarily, it is not a good idea to actively undermine the will of the people.

But in this case, there is a method to their madness. The President and his hard-left supporters are in a real pickle. They refuse any structural reforms to our biggest spending programs—the programs that are driving our country toward a fiscal collapse—but they know they cannot come clean with the American people about the tax increases that will hit squarely on the middle class if these structural reforms fail to occur. So they do nothing. Unable to talk straight with citizens who are demanding a balanced budget, they do nothing. They focus on \$21 billion in tax benefits that go to energy companies over 10 years when we have a \$1.5 trillion deficit this year—this year.

This is how Peter Roff at U.S. News and World Report put it:

The president and congressional Democratic leaders are still dug in, trying to pull a rabbit out of their hat that will get them what the political coalition behind them demands: new taxes, new spending, and no real cuts.

This is not going to happen. So unable to thread the needle between the President's hard-left base that refuses spending reductions and the majority of taxpayers demanding deficit reduction, what do they do? They punt.

Today, they managed to avoid a vote on the bipartisan cut, cap, and balance plan. There was a great deal of bluster surrounding this dodge. To distract the American people from the fact that they were running from a fight, the rhetoric was laid on pretty thick. This is what we heard about this bill. According to my friends on the other side, cut, cap, and balance is "as weak and senseless as anything that has ever come on this Senate floor." It is "anathema to what our country is all about." This is "some of the worst legislation in the history of this country." Now, let's be clear what they are talking about. They are smearing a bill that would balance the budget. They are trashing a bill that requires a balanced budget constitutional amendment.

I personally am glad to know where the other side stands, but they do not stand with the American people. They certainly don't stand with my home State of Utah. The American people think balancing the budget is precisely what America is all about. Reining in spending, restoring the Constitution, and securing the liberty and prosperity of America's families is exactly what Congress should be doing.

I am disappointed in what happened here today, but I am also confident this fight is not over. The left might be able

to hide from a vote on balancing the budget by a simple motion to table—which they are hoping obscures their desire to not balance the budget—but they cannot hide from the markets and the legacy of debt President Obama has given this country because that is a real threat to our credit rating.

Yesterday, Standard & Poor's made clear that avoiding the default was only one variable in their rating of U.S. credit. This is what Standard & Poor's said:

We have previously stated our belief that there is a material risk that efforts to reduce future budget deficits will fall short of the target set by Congressional leaders and the administration. In this light, we see at least a one-in-two likelihood that we could lower the long-term rating by one or more notches on the U.S. within the next three months and potentially as soon as early August . . . if we conclude that Washington hasn't reached what we consider to be a credible agreement to address future budget deficits.

Now, after years of reckless spending by President Obama and his Democratic allies, the chickens are coming home to roost. We face an imminent debt crisis, and a failure to take it on will impose a crushing burden on America's families and businesses. Our economy is stagnant, and the failure of the President to lead on deficit reduction now threatens higher interest rates and will slow it even further.

This is Standard & Poor's analysis of the impact of a debt downgrade due to a failure of deficit reduction:

We assume that under this scenario we would see a moderate rise in long-term interest rates (25–50 basis points), despite an accommodative Fed, due to an ebbing of market confidence, as well as some slowing of economic growth (25–50 basis points on GDP growth) amid an increase in consumer and business caution.

For an economy that is slogging along with anemic growth and job creation, this warning should wake people up. It should make the President and the left get serious about deficit reduction. But, instead, the President is still casting about for a plan.

It is important to remind people that we have a plan. It is called cut, cap, and balance. It culminates in a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, and it is supported broadly by the American people. Some folks on the other side claim to be for a balanced budget. They claim to stand with the people. But on a party-line vote they voted to table this proposal today.

When America's Founders came together in the summer of 1787 to draft our Constitution, they faced many challenges. But at heart they had a respect for republican government, they had a respect for the sovereign power of the American people, and they understood that the fundamental principle of popular sovereignty gave the Constitution its legitimacy. For that reason, the Constitution they wrote was clear that the voice of the people should be loudest on the most pressing issues.

The provisions for amending the Constitution provided that on the most im-

portant issues, the people rule directly. The Constitution belongs to the people. It only became law because it was ratified by the people, and it can only be changed by the people.

Our Nation is deeply in debt, and this debt now threatens the very liberty of our families and the vitality of our economy. It is a threat to current and future prosperity. Most importantly, it is a threat to limited constitutional government. The people know this. They know it in their guts. They know the problem here is spending. Our problem is too much spending, not too little taxation, and they know what the solution is: cut, cap, balance, and a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

There will be talk now about moving on, but I am not moving on. Democrats want to write the obituary on this bill and turn to some new plan or framework this President produces one way or the other, I guess. But no plan this President produces will get us to balance. Cut, cap, and balance does.

I am not so sure what my friends on the other side are afraid of. The founder of their party, Thomas Jefferson, had a deep respect for the democratic process and the sovereignty of the people. What are they so afraid of? Why not pass cut, cap, and balance? Why not send a balanced budget amendment to the States for ratification? If liberals have a better argument, they can lead a fight against the amendment in the States. All they need is 13 States to defeat the balanced budget amendment. Why not let the people decide?

During the last Presidential campaign, the President frequently told his admirers: Yes, we can. Well, now the American people are saying it back to him. They are telling him they want to balance the budget and that we can balance the budget. We can and we should pass cut, cap, and balance and send a balanced budget constitutional amendment to the States for ratification.

I will just repeat it: If the Democrats so hate the idea of a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, all they have to do is get 13 States to vote against ratification. We have to get 38 States to vote for ratification. That may seem like an overwhelming job, but I don't think so. I think the amendment would be ratified so quickly, Democratic heads would be spinning and, I might add, maybe even some Republican heads as well.

All I can say is this country is in trouble. This country is on the way down to self-destruction unless we get it under control, and I don't see one program from the other side that even comes close to showing how we get this under control—except more taxes and more spending. I guarantee, if we raise taxes, they would spend every stinking dime of it. That has been the history of my 35 years in the Senate, as the most senior Republican. All I can say is we are not going to let them get away with it anymore. We are a minority

now, but I believe we can get back in the majority.

I think the Democrats would do themselves a great favor if they would vote for cut, cap, and balance and a constitutional amendment and let the people—let the people—decide. Let them make this decision. Come on, Democrats, all you need to do is get 13 States. What are you so afraid of? I think what is so fearful is that this waltz that has been going on of big spending all these years is going to come to an end.

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

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

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:16 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2:21 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. MANCHIN).

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

THE SPACE PROGRAM

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, yesterday the space shuttle *Atlantis* came back in the early morning darkness with those xenon lights illuminating that 3-mile-long runway at the Kennedy Space Center. That is a location that a century ago a set of grandparents of mine had homesteaded under the old Homestead Act, worked the land for the required 4 years. I have a copy of the deed signed by Woodrow Wilson in 1917 to my grandparents. Over three-quarters of a century later, the thought was not lost on me, when we went in that early morning darkness to the launchpad, that my grandparents would have never, ever believed that, so many years later, a grandson was going to literally leave the face of the Earth from almost the old homestead where they had to swat mosquitoes and fight off rattlesnakes and alligators as they eked a living out of that Florida soil.

That was the location *Atlantis* came back to yesterday morning after a 13-day flawless mission after having been launched by the finest launch team in the world. That launch team is now having to disperse in part because we are shutting down the space shuttle program after 30 glorious years. It is an incredible flying machine, with 135