

Look: there is a time to experiment with high-flown plans and to test theories. But we have to balance the check-book first. We have to be able to afford it. The American people get that. This administration doesn't seem to.

After 2 years of failed stimulus programs and Democrats in Washington competing to outspend each other, we just can't afford to do all the things the administration wants.

The President has said he wants us to win the future. But this budget abdicates the future. It spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. It says that the President does not have the will or the ability to do what we need to do with the money that we have. But that is precisely what the Americans are demanding that we do.

Americans reject the idea that they have to live with another \$13 trillion in debt to fund the President's or anyone else's vision of the future.

This budget was an opportunity for the President to lead. He punted. It only pretends to do the things people want. And the reaction we have seen from across the political spectrum so far today suggests that nobody is buying it.

The President may be determined to keep spending levels at the current high levels—high levels he put in place—in the hope that people will get used to them. But he has clearly misread a public that has had enough.

We must live within our means. We must begin to do the difficult but necessary work of reining in a government that has grown beyond our ability to pay for it. We must acknowledge the mistakes of the past 2 years and work to correct them.

The stimulus failed. This budget says "Do it again."

The President has already added more than \$3 trillion to the debt as we lost another 3 million jobs. This budget says let's add more debt and see if we get a different result.

The President had an opportunity to cut domestic spending from the 25 percent he has increased it since he came into office. Instead, he locked it in place.

He had an opportunity to start to pay down the tremendous burden of debt that he has added over the past 2 years. He wants to increase it instead.

He had an opportunity to work with Republicans on reforming long-term entitlements such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. He took a pass.

This is a status quo budget at a time when serious action is needed.

This is business as usual at a time when bold, creative solutions are needed.

This is not an I-got-the-message budget. It is unserious, and it is irresponsible.

We need to look for ways to preserve what is good that does not put us on path to bankruptcy. That was the challenge of this budget. The administration failed the test.

After years of overspending by both parties, it is time to make tough choices, just as any family does when times are tough, even among very good things. We have to cut even from programs that are good, as difficult as it is, recognizing that the values we are fighting for in this debate are more fundamental than the survival of any one program. We need to face that fact that we do not have the money. It is not an American value to borrow from others to pay for programs we do not need and cannot afford. And it is not an American value to put off tough decisions because we refuse to say no to things we want.

If there is any good news in this debate, it is that we are finally beginning to talk about how much to cut in this town instead of how much to spend. But we are going to need more people to join the fight. We will need Democrats to join us. Above all, we need a President who gets it. And this President clearly does not get it yet.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SHOOTING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 3 years ago today, a mentally disturbed gunman walked into a campus lecture hall at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb and shot 22 students, killing 5 of them.

John Peters, the president of Northern Illinois University, the students, families, faculty, and employees pulled together after that tragedy, and I joined them at an observance with then Senator and now President Obama to acknowledge the grief they all felt and we shared. I am proud to report that the Northern Illinois University community is stronger and more resilient today than ever.

In the aftermath of the shooting, we asked a lot of questions about what led to it. Naturally, there were so many innocent victims. We asked what we could have done to prevent it. Three years later, we are still trying to make sense of it.

Some believe that nothing can be done if a disturbed person is determined to commit an act of violence. But I believe something can be done.

For a long time, we have overlooked a very obvious and very compelling

fact. Many young people do not demonstrate serious mental illness until they have left their home and high school and go off to college. We have overlooked the mental health of students on campuses.

Many mental illnesses manifest in this period when young people leave the security of home, regular medical care, and the support of a network of family and friends.

A friend of our family, a young man, went to the same university over 30 years ago. Gary was a peculiar kind of his own type of person in high school. But within 30 days at the university, living in a college dorm, certain mental illnesses we were not even aware of manifested themselves and he suffered from schizophrenia the rest of his short life. It manifested itself at that campus.

It is easier for a young person's problems to go unnoticed when they are away from parents, old friends, and the high school community. Sometimes they get worse. People do not even notice.

The consequences of not detecting or addressing mental health needs among students are very real. Forty-five percent of college students report having felt so depressed it was difficult to function. Ten percent even contemplated suicide.

But while the needs for mental health services on campuses are rising, colleges are facing financial pressures of their own and are having trouble meeting the demand. A recent survey of college counseling centers indicates the average ratio of professional staff to students is 1 to 1,952, and at 4-year public universities it is 1 to every 2,600 students. It is little wonder that many young people with these problems go unnoticed.

Shortly after the tragedy at Northern Illinois University, I wrote a bill called the Mental Health on Campus Improvement Act to help schools meet the needs of their students. The bill would provide resources for colleges and universities to improve their mental health services and would call for the development of a public nationwide campaign to educate campus communities about mental health. We know troubled students who receive appropriate counseling and support can succeed in college and life. These services make an impact. Students who seek help are six times less likely to kill themselves.

By providing critical resources to colleges, the Mental Health on Campus Improvement Act would ensure that more young people receive the help they need before facing a crisis.

The main elements of this bill were included in a proposal to reauthorize the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act last year. I will continue to work on this legislation to get it enacted so we can give colleges the help they need to identify and treat students with mental health issues.

We also know from Northern Illinois University, as well as from the tragedies at Virginia Tech and Tucson, that we need to fill the gaps in the Federal gun background check system.

No one is proposing to take guns away from responsible American hunters and law-abiding citizens. The Supreme Court has made it clear that individuals have a right to own guns. I respect that decision. But the Court has also said that the second amendment is “not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose.”

For years, laws on the books have prohibited those with histories of serious mental illness and substance abuse from buying guns. State agencies and Federal agencies need to work more closely together to make sure the background check system is fully updated with this critical information.

Today is a time for our country to remember the lives and mourn the loss at Northern Illinois University of five promising young Americans whose life stories were cruelly cut short 3 years ago. But as we look back, we must also—as they say at Northern; their slogan—move “Forward, Together Forward” in the true Northern Illinois University spirit.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, might I ask, what is the pending business?

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### FAA AIR TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 223, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 223) to modernize the air traffic control system, improve the safety, reliability, and availability of transportation by air in the United States, provide for modernization of the air traffic control system, reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Wicker modified amendment No. 14, to exclude employees of the Transportation Security Administration from the collective bargaining rights of Federal employees and provide employment rights and an employee engagement mechanism for passenger and property screeners.

Blunt amendment No. 5, to require the Under Secretary of Transportation for Security to approve applications from airports to authorize passenger and property screening to be carried out by a qualified private screening company.

Paul amendment No. 21, to reduce the total amount authorized to be appropriated for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal year 2011 to the total amount authorized to be appropriated for the administration for fiscal year 2008.

Rockefeller (for Wyden) amendment No. 27, to increase the number of test sites in the National Airspace System used for unmanned aerial vehicles and to require one of those test sites to include a significant portion of public lands.

Inhofe amendment No. 6, to provide liability protection to volunteer pilot nonprofit organizations that fly for public benefit and to the pilots and staff of such nonprofit organizations.

Inhofe amendment No. 7, to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to initiate a new rulemaking proceeding with respect to the flight time limitations and rest requirements for supplemental operations before any of such limitations or requirements be altered.

Rockefeller (for Ensign) amendment No. 32, to improve provisions relating to certification and flight standards for military remotely piloted aerial systems in the National Airspace System.

McCain amendment No. 4, to repeal the Essential Air Service Program.

Rockefeller (for Leahy) amendment No. 50, to amend title 1 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include nonprofit and volunteer ground and air ambulance crew members and first responders for certain benefits and to clarify the liability protection for volunteer pilots that fly for public benefit.

Reid amendment No. 54, to allow airports that receive airport improvement grants for the purchase of land to lease the land and develop the land in a manner compatible with noise buffering purposes.

Reid amendment No. 55, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to the city of Mesquite, NV.

Udall (NM)/Bingaman amendment No. 49, to authorize Dona Ana County, NM, to exchange certain land conveyed to the county for airport purposes.

Udall (NM) amendment No. 51, to require that all advanced imaging technology used as a primary screening method for passengers be equipped with automatic target recognition software.

Nelson (NE) amendment No. 58, to impose a criminal penalty for unauthorized recording or distribution of images produced using advanced imaging technology during screenings of individuals at airports and upon entry to Federal buildings.

Paul amendment No. 18, to strike the provisions relating to clarifying a memorandum of understanding between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, my cochair, Senator HUTCHISON, is on the floor, and I know she wishes to speak.

It occurs to me we are back on the Federal aviation bill. We have been on this bill for several years. There is an interesting sort of dilemma which has developed. If one listens to the conversation on the floor and around in the hallways, everything has to do with slots—how many flights in and out of National Airport, what are we

going to do about the west coast, Seattle, and all the rest of them. Actually, that is a very small part of the overall bill, reflecting on the overall health and progress of the Federal Aviation Administration, compared to things such as NextGen, the new air traffic control system entirely, and a variety of other things which are already in the bill which the Senate passed last year 93 to nothing. So I am losing my patience a little bit with slots.

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON and I agree on most things in our work, and we have an amendment. Other people seem to be going back and forth—they are amenable, then they are not amenable—and we are running out of time. I think the leader, with that in mind, is going to ask for cloture on this to sort of force everybody's hand.

What I am really suggesting is that those who are working on slots try to come to an agreement during the course of the rest of this day because I think we are talking only about that, and perhaps a little bit of tomorrow morning. Then I think the Senate just kind of—and I know the leader on our side—has to do the bill. We have been debating these slots for 6½ months this year. We did it for a whole bunch of months last year. Progress is made, progress is unmade; people agree, people don't agree. Senator HUTCHISON and I are getting a little bit frustrated by that. We think we have a good amendment, but let's see.

So we have some pending amendments. I am hopeful we will be able to work through them this evening and the remainder of the week. I think we have made reasonable progress on some matters, but on the question of the bill itself and the substance of the bill and those amendments which are germane to the substance of the bill, I think we have made a lot of progress. A lot of that progress actually comes from last year on our unanimous vote to approve this issue. So I believe we can and must finish this bill this week. I think my cochair agrees with me on that. If not, we risk further extensions of the FAA and a less stable agency.

Again, I would point out that I think we are on our 18th extension of this massive bill keep all of our planes in the air and everybody at work and includes safety and all kinds of things. We need a very swift resolution. So I urge the Senate to promptly move forward on the passage of the FAA reauthorization act.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I am fully in support of what the chairman has said. We have been on this bill now for over a week of actual Senate time. It is an important bill for our country because we are trying to set in place the next generation of air traffic control. America has over 50 percent of the air traffic in the world. We need to be the leader of the next generation of