

granted, it would be spent in the manner suggested.

It is subject to a point of order under the Budget Act, and I make the point of order.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I move to waive the Budget Act for consideration of the pending amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion of the Senator from Nebraska. On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI] is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 43, nays 56, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 211 Leg.]

#### YEAS—43

Akaka	Feingold	Lieberman
Baucus	Ford	Moseley-Braun
Biden	Glenn	Moynihan
Bingaman	Harkin	Murray
Boxer	Hollings	Nunn
Bradley	Inouye	Pell
Breaux	Jeffords	Pryor
Bryan	Johnston	Reid
Bumpers	Kennedy	Robb
Byrd	Kerrey	Rockefeller
Conrad	Kerry	Sarbanes
Daschle	Kohl	Simon
Dodd	Lautenberg	Wellstone
Dorgan	Leahy	
Exon	Levin	

#### NAYS—56

Abraham	Frist	McCain
Ashcroft	Gorton	McConnell
Bennett	Graham	Murkowski
Bond	Gramm	Nickles
Brown	Grams	Packwood
Burns	Grassley	Pressler
Campbell	Gregg	Roth
Chafee	Hatch	Santorum
Coats	Hatfield	Shelby
Cochran	Hefflin	Simpson
Cohen	Helms	Smith
Coverdell	Hutchison	Snowe
Craig	Inhofe	Specter
D'Amato	Kassebaum	Stevens
DeWine	Kempthorne	Thomas
Dole	Kyl	Thompson
Domenici	Lott	Thurmond
Faircloth	Lugar	Warner
Feinstein	Mack	

#### NOT VOTING—1

Mikulski

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 43, the nays are 56. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to. The point of order is sustained.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DOMENICI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I wonder if I might just ask the Senate if I could have 1 minute as if in morning business for a completely unrelated matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. DOMENICI pertaining to the introduction of S. 852 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. FORD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. FORD. I ask unanimous consent that I might have 1 minute, as the Senator from New Mexico, as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ABSENCE OF SENATOR MIKULSKI

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, the distinguished Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI] asked me to inform her colleagues that she is necessarily absent today because of a special event in the Mikulski family.

Today, her niece, Val, and her nephew, Jimmy, are receiving their college degrees from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

In addition, I would like my colleagues to know that Senator MIKULSKI is giving the commencement address at Johns Hopkins as well. She is also being honored by the university with an honorary doctorate for her outstanding life in public service, her commitment to strengthening higher education, and her work on behalf of the university.

On behalf of all my colleagues, I extend the Senate's congratulations to the family on this very happy day. And we know that the Senator and her family are very proud of the accomplishments of Val and Jimmy.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

The Senate continued with the consideration of the concurrent resolution.

##### AMENDMENT NO. 1178

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate regarding mandatory major assumptions under Function 270: Energy)

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator BAUCUS, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nebraska [Mr. EXON] for Mr. BAUCUS, for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. ROBB, Mr. WARNER, Mr. FORD, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. EXON, proposes an amendment numbered 1178:

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

#### SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING MANDATORY MAJOR ASSUMPTIONS UNDER FUNCTION 270: ENERGY.

It is the sense of the Senate that within the mandatory major assumptions under budget function 270, none of the power mar-

keting administrations within the 48 contiguous States will be sold, and any savings that were assumed would be realized from the sale of those power marketing administrations will be realized through cost reductions in other programs within the Department of Energy.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the budget resolution assumes \$1.6 billion from the sale of unnamed power marketing administrations, and I have cosponsored this amendment to express the Senate's view that savings should be sought from other Department of Energy spending rather than from sale of the PMA's.

Some in Congress and the executive branch have tried for years to sell off parts or all of the public power generation, transmission and marketing system that we built in the middle of this century to bring affordable power to rural areas and many small cities.

From the standpoint of our responsibilities to the public purse, such proposals are penny-wise but pound foolish. For a one-time gain in sale of assets, some propose selling off a system that has generated about \$50 billion in power revenues, a system that has paid its way on time and with interest.

In addition to net power revenues that come to the Treasury, the \$21.6 billion that was invested to build the PMA's is being repaid by the power customers in the same way most of us repay our home mortgages. The system has paid off more than \$5 billion of the initial investment, and \$9 billion in interest.

But, for me, the worst part about selling the PMA's would be the effect on rural America. The PMA's were built so our farms and small towns would have access to dependable, affordable electricity. That promise has been fulfilled.

However, the sale of the PMA's would cancel the mortgage, so to speak, upon which the PMA's and their customers have been faithfully making payments for years. It would add debt to the system and force substantial power rate increases across rural America. I have received estimates that customers in my State would see rate increases averaging 24 percent.

In a budget resolution that would cut taxes to the most wealthy in this country, the provision for PMA sales would impose a kind of back-door tax increase upon rural America.

The sale of PMA's is foolish from a public policy standpoint, and it is unfair and hurtful to rural America. This body should voice its opposition to such a proposal by voting for this amendment.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, the amendment offered by the Senator from South Dakota would state the sense-of-the-Senate that none of the Power Market Administrations [PMA] should be sold and that the savings assumed from these sales should be taken from elsewhere in the Department of Energy's budget. I intend to vote against this amendment, and I would