

the good fortune of having a number of bright, loyal, and hard working individuals on my staff. One such individual is James O. King, now serving as Democratic Staff Director of the Senate Rules Committee, who is retiring on June 7.

Jim has been a very good friend to me for many years. He worked with me back when I served as Governor of Kentucky, came with me to Washington as one of my Administrative Assistants, and was Staff Director of the Rules Committee for 8 years.

He has served the Commonwealth in a number of roles in public administration, including working under no less than five Kentucky governors. In addition, he served in a number of capacities in higher education in the Commonwealth, including Vice President for Administration and also Administrative Assistant to the President of the University of Kentucky.

It seemed that no matter what job title he held, Jim was always working in public service, always trying to give something back.

We here in the Senate have been recipients of some of the fruits of his labor. Jim was a key person in 1988 to help the Committee review Senate rules and procedures. Under his direction, the Rules Committee has addressed a number of major pieces of legislation including the motor-voter bill and campaign finance reform. And all the while, he was still keeping a eye on the "nuts and bolts" of the Senate operation.

Anyone who's ever come in contact with Jim knows that he loves Kentucky, its people and its way of life. And, from what I understand from reliable sources, he's already getting in the swing of retirement by posting some of the best golf scores he's had in recent years!

We're going to miss Jim on the Rules Committee. And I know I'm speaking for my staff, the Rules Committee staff, and the Senate as a whole, in thanking him for his good work and wishing him all the best for his retirement.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, on that November evening in 1972 when I learned I had been elected to the Senate, I made a commitment to myself that I would never fail to see a young person, or a group of young people, who wanted to see me. In the nearly 23 years since that election night, I have been inspired by an estimated 60,000 young people with whom I have visited.

Most of them have expressed concern about the enormous Federal debt that Congress has run up for coming generations to pay. Almost without exception the young people and I discuss the U.S. Constitution which forbids that any President spend even a dime of Federal money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by both the House and Senate of the United States.

Mr. President, I have been making these daily reports to the Senate since February 22, 1992. I began because I wanted to make it a matter of daily record the precise size of the Federal debt. As of yesterday, Wednesday, May 24, the Federal debt stood at \$4,887,785,166,023.46—\$18,554.12 for every man, woman, and child on a per capita basis.

MR. JEFFERSON WAS RIGHT: GOP BUDGET PROVES IT

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, there has been a great deal of phony and highly partisan criticism of the Republican budget proposal—criticism which the liberal news media have hastened to circulate. However, polls show that the majority of American people are not misled, except those who insist that they are entitled to something for nothing.

To their credit, Republicans in Congress have delivered on their commitment to come forth with a budget to—First, balance the Federal budget in 7 years; second, cut Federal spending by \$961 billion; third, eliminate 140 Federal departments agencies and programs; fourth, freeze salaries of Member's of Congress; and fifth, cut the Senate staff budget by 15 percent.

Mr. President, the American people obviously realize the dire financial straits into which our Nation has plunged as a result of decades of irresponsibility by those in charge of their Federal Government. But children understand the penalty for spending more money than they have in their piggy banks.

I have an example to share, a poignant letter from the sixth grade class of Swain County West Elementary School in Bryson City, NC:

DEAR SENATOR HELMS: Our teacher shared with us your letter which mentioned the Federal debt as of March 14, 1995, which was \$4,846,819,443,348.28.

We are amazed to see how large the Federal debt is and understand that anything that is "free", the working people pay for. We don't have much, but our class sends this collection to you and ask that you put it in the fund to reduce the Federal debt. Our generation is going to have to reduce this debt and we would like to begin our part now. We really want to help our country and as sixth graders we understand that you can't leave it up to somebody else to take care of what we must begin now."

Mr. President, enclosed with this letter came a check for \$44.75, emphasizing the obvious if these sixth graders in North Carolina can recognize the importance of balancing the federal budget, why can't Congress?

Needless to say, I greatly admire these young people and their teachers. Implicit in their letter is an obvious question: If politicians cannot live up to promises to balance the budget, the politicians perhaps should be called home to smell the coffee, if I may be

permitted to mix a couple of metaphors.

Mr. President, it is difficult to remain silent amidst false charges by the President and various Senators of his party that the Republican budget will cripple Medicare, the health care system upon which so many of our elderly have been encouraged to depend. Contrary to the false prophets, the Republican budget allows Medicare spending to increase each year by 7.1 percent.

Mr. President, the American people should always have realized that there is no such thing as a free lunch. Thomas Jefferson said it best:

To preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude.

Mr. Jefferson also warned:

The question whether one generation has the right to bind another by the deficit it imposes is a question of such consequences as to place it among the fundamental principles of government. We should consider ourselves unauthorized to saddle posterity with our debts, and morally bound to pay them ourselves.

Mr. President, that just about says it all, especially when one considers the moral injustice we are heaping upon our children and their children. This year Republicans made a promise to balance the budget. We should keep that promise. Balancing the Federal budget is simply a matter of doing what we were sent to Washington to do.

ERNEST K. KOPECKY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Ernest K. Kopecky has served as construction manager for the Architect of the Capitol and the Congress of the United States for 17 years. He began his service in 1978 and will retire this year. His tireless and unselfish efforts have contributed to the completion of many construction projects in the Capitol and in other buildings in the congressional complex and in maintaining and preserving the structures that house the legislative and judicial branches of the U.S. Government.

Under Mr. Kopecky's direction, such notable and historically significant projects as the restoration of the pedestal for the Statue of Freedom that crowns the Dome of the Capitol building and restoration of the Bartholdi and Neptune fountains have been successfully completed.

As a dedicated public servant, Ernest Kopecky has set an example for others. His genuine concern for quality of work and efficiency of those he supervises, his willingness to assist others, and his reputation for responsive service have brought great credit to the Office of the Architect of the Capitol and reflect positively on his colleagues in that office.