

Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, I would like to ask unanimous consent for an additional 2 minutes.

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

Mr. BRYAN. I thank again the Chair for his courtesy.

Mr. President, the point I would seek to make this afternoon is this is not just a Nevada issue. Look at the map. Forty-three States are affected by these proposed nuclear waste shipment proposals. And each State bears a risk of an accident or an act of sabotage, an act of terrorism with all of the frightening consequences that brings to bear on those States and the constituents of those States being represented here in the U.S. Senate.

The plans being advanced by the nuclear power industry threaten the health and safety of citizens across the Nation, for no good reason.

The crisis mentality generated by nuclear power industry propaganda is nothing new. In the early 1980's, advocates for the nuclear power industry argued on the Senate floor, and elsewhere, that unless some away-from-reactor plan called AFR storage was provided by the Federal Government soon, reactors across the Nation would shut down, creating an electricity crisis for millions of Americans. Of course, no reactors have ever shut down for lack of storage, and there is no crisis. The same is true today.

Mr. President, the reality is that the nuclear power industry is a dying industry. No new reactors have been ordered for over a decade, not because of lack of storage, but because nuclear power is simply not competitive in the marketplace. In an ill-founded and irresponsible attempt to jump-start a dying industry, nuclear utilities have advanced a proposal that places the population of 43 States at risk, all for the benefit of the bottom line of the commercial nuclear power industry.

I urge my colleagues to reject the nuclear power industry's interim storage proposal.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. ASHCROFT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY [LIBERTAD] ACT OF 1995

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 2916, AS MODIFIED

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I send a modification of my second-degree amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is so modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

Strike all after the word "SEC. ." and insert the following:

SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING CONSIDERATION OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO LIMIT CONGRESSIONAL TERMS.

It is the sense of the Senate that the United States Senate should pass a constitutional amendment limiting the number of terms Members of Congress can serve.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I offer this amendment to clarify the sense of the Senate that would be expressed, and the amendment makes very clear the simplicity of this sense-of-the-Senate resolution.

The sense-of-the-Senate resolution would read as follows:

It is the sense of the Senate that the U.S. Senate should pass a constitutional amendment limiting the number of terms Members of Congress can serve.

I think that is a straightforward statement of the intention and sentiment which I believe the American people have as their agenda for reform, and I believe we should advance that agenda of reform in accordance with their clear mandate last fall.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. H.R. 927 is the pending business.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed for not to exceed 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The pending business, H.R. 927, is set aside and the Senator is recognized for 10 minutes to proceed as in morning business.

ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, one habit or custom that the President and I have in common is that we are runners—I know I can say in my case, I believe in his case, not particularly gifted or particularly fast, but nonetheless we are runners as a method of keeping in good physical condition. I believe that the President, as I have, has on some occasions run in these rather large races where there are a large number of people and one tests oneself against the clock.

We always will attempt to beat our previous best time in a given race, but at least in this connection, we never attempt to do so by saying, "Gosh, I just can't break 45 minutes for 10 kilometers, so I'll shorten the race. I'll shorten it to 8 kilometers, but I'll call it 10, and then I will have broken 45 minutes."

The President of the United States would not consider doing that in a road

race, but that is precisely what he has done with respect to our dispute over a balanced budget.

Shortly after Mr. Clinton took the Office of the Presidency of the United States, he sought to lay to rest a dispute, which the Presiding Officer will remember, as I do, over economic assumptions. Through all of the Reagan administration and all of the Bush administration, we on this side of the aisle were criticized for using assumptions about the future state of the economy that were too optimistic, too rosy and, thereby, underestimating the challenge presented to us by continuing huge deficits in the budget of the United States.

Almost without exception, those budget assumptions in the Reagan and Bush administrations presented by the administrations were more optimistic than those presented to us by the Congressional Budget Office.

So President Clinton, on taking office, said, "Let's end this dispute. Let's all agree that in the past, the Congressional Budget Office has been both more cautious and more conservative and more accurate and we will debate substance in the future. We will all work off the same set of projections. We will all work out of the same books."

I think everyone, both Republicans and Democrats, took that as a statement of good faith and a significant step forward, because the motivation to overestimate growth in the economy on the part of an administration and, thus, to make its budgeting job easier is not limited either to Republicans or Democrats. There is always an easy way out.

Unfortunately, Mr. President, when push came to shove, the President abandoned that salutary way of making estimates and has gone back into exactly what he criticized his predecessors for—estimating or projecting his way out of difficulties. And so while this Congress, both in the Senate and in the House, has accepted without reservation the economic projections of the Congressional Budget Office and has proposed to balance the budget within 7 years, under the rules which the Congressional Budget Office has set out, as difficult as they are and although as a consequence we, in order to bring the budget into balance, have been forced to propose relatively drastic changes in policies which would reduce the growth of spending in the United States across the broad spectrum of all of the items which the Government of the United States funds, we find a President saying, well, there is not really much difference between us. The President says: I want to take a little longer, 9 or 10 years to balance the budget, while the Republicans want to do it in 7. We can easily reach an agreement or an accommodation on those two goals, they are so close to one another.