

us leave a legacy of which we can be proud, a legacy that will ensure for future generations the rights and privileges that we have been so fortunate to enjoy.

The balanced budget amendment is also a chance to restore some needed trust, to prove that the Congress can stand for something other than defense of its own power and its own privilege.

Mr. President, I will have, obviously, many opportunities to speak further on this issue. It is a critical one. We will spend a considerable amount of time dealing with it. There are obviously divisions of opinion as to how we should get from here to there. I look forward to speaking and participating on this issue in the days ahead.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BYRD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I have listened to the closing words of my distinguished friend from Indiana, Mr. COATS. Speaking for myself, I do not want to leave my children and my grandchildren the legacy of a crippled Constitution. I believe that the balanced budget amendment, if adopted, would be an irresponsible act that would cripple this Nation's capacity to cope with the economic problems of the 21st century and beyond.

Does the Senator wish me to yield?

Mr. BAUCUS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I wonder if the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee will yield to me for the purpose of making a statement on another issue for approximately 7 or 8 minutes.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, as for myself, I have no problem with yielding to the Senator. I do know that Senator BUMPERS has been waiting patiently to speak, and there are others who wish to speak.

I ask unanimous consent that I may be permitted to yield to the distinguished Senator from Montana for not to exceed 8 minutes without losing my right to the floor.

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

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I very deeply thank the Senator from West Virginia and the Senator from Arkansas, Senator BUMPERS, who I know wishes to speak.

I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

#### BUTTE, MT

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today I begin a series of statements about a place that is very special to me, the city of Butte, MT. These statements will focus on Butte's economy, its people, its quality of life, and other special attributes of Butte.

I will begin today by discussing the recent history of Butte's economy.

Butte, MT, is 1 of 13 communities across the Nation under consideration for a new microchip manufacturing plant to be constructed by Micron Technologies.

Now, Butte and Micron may seem to have little in common; after all, why would one of the Nation's leading high-technology companies want to set up a shop in an old western mining town like Butte?

Yet, if you scratch just below the surface, Butte and Micron have a lot in common. Thanks to the basic American values of hard work, patriotism, ingenuity, competitiveness, both Butte and Micron have grown and prospered over the past 10 years. And Micron has done this without shipping jobs overseas.

Many of their managers have told me, with great and justifiable pride, that their corporate philosophy is to grow jobs not overseas but in America. It is exactly that kind of loyalty that has helped the people of Butte rebuild their economy after the loss of the largest employer more than a decade ago.

For over a century, the business of Butte was mining. Butte's first settlers called it "the glittering hill." Later, Butte would be known as the "mining city." At first, it was silver and gold but primarily copper.

While the mining industry flourished, Butte grew and prospered, and some in Butte got very wealthy. Many others made a hard but a decent living in the mines. During the early part of this century, Butte's population rose to nearly 100,000 people, about the same size as today's Billings, MT, our largest city.

With copper prices falling in the 1970's, Butte's once mighty mining industry began to slowly taper off.

Then it happened. The mines closed. This January 7, 1983, headline, a replica, a mockup of the Montana Standard, reads like a death sentence for Butte: "Butte Mining to Stop." There is a big stop sign; a death sentence for Butte, MT.

Hundreds of jobs were lost, direct jobs; over \$32 million in annual payroll disappeared; over \$1 million in yearly tax payments to the local government were lost, and Butte lost a big chunk of its identity—mining. The "mining city" became the "former mining city."

Butte's chief executive at the time was a good friend of mine named Don Peoples. Don told the local paper:

It's like being told that a patient has a terminal illness. You first feel frustration, anger and then sit back and determine how you fight on.

Don's reaction of the news was typical of the spirit, optimism, and loyalty that helped make Butte such a special place.

Yet, there were a lot of other people, most of whom, by the way, do not live in Butte, who counted Butte out. They thought Butte was destined to become

nothing more than a very large ghost town on the western landscape.

But were they ever wrong. Perhaps they underestimated the teamwork and the ingenuity of Butte's leaders, people like Don Peoples, Harp Cote, Joe Quilici, Bob Pavlovich, J.D. Lynch, Judy Jacobson, Fritz Daily, Evan Barrett, Bob Gannon, and Jack Lynch. And I know they underestimated the thousands of other hardworking Montanans who were still proud—fiercely proud—to call Butte their home.

These people were not about to pack up and leave. They were determined to stay in Butte and build a better life for themselves and their families, and they did it. By working together and creating a probusiness environment, they made Butte of 1995 a great economic success story.

There is much, much more to the Butte of 1995 than mining.

The Montana technology companies have earned Butte international recognition as a center for the development, testing, and marketing of new environmental technologies. They have done it themselves in Butte.

Montana Power Co., based in Butte, operates one of the most dynamic utility and energy businesses in the Nation.

Butte's Montana Tech turns up on any list of the best engineering and science schools in the country. For instance, in a survey of college presidents recently published in U.S. News and World Report, Tech, Montana Tech was voted the top ranked small college science program in the Nation—top, No. 1.

Hundreds of new small businesses have grown up and prospered in Butte.

Well, 12 years have now passed since the mines closed. Mining has come back to Butte. With the development of Montana Resources several years ago, Butte can again rightfully call itself the mining city.

In short, if Micron is looking for a good place to do business, Butte is the best place. Its industrious people are the perfect match for Micron's record of growth and productivity.

Over 30,000 Montanans from Butte and southwest Montana have signed petitions urging Micron to locate in Butte. I can only add my voice to theirs by expressing my fervent hope that Micron will become Butte's next economic miracle.

I thank the Chair, and I thank the Senator from West Virginia.

I yield the floor.

#### BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Senate continued with the consideration of the joint resolution.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, today we continue one of the most important debates in the history of the Senate. The debate involves whether to change the basic, fundamental, organic law of this Nation forever, and for the first time