

from West Virginia, I call up amendment No. 350, which the clerk has at the desk, and ask for its report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nebraska [Mr. EXON], for Mr. BYRD, proposes an amendment numbered 350 to amendment No. 347.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following:

SEC. . USE OF THE REDUCTIONS IN DISCRETIONARY SPENDING CAPS.

(A) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT.—

(1) BUDGET RESOLUTIONS AND LEGISLATION.—Section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) USE OF REDUCTIONS IN DISCRETIONARY SPENDING CAPS.—It shall not be in order in the Senate or House of Representatives to consider any concurrent resolution on the budget, bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that decreases the discretionary spending limits unless the concurrent resolution on the budget, bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report provides that such decrease may only be used for deficit reduction and may not be used to offset all or part of an increase in direct spending or decrease in receipts under section 252 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1974.”.

(2) SIXTY VOTE POINT OF ORDER.—Subsections (c) and (d) of section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are amended by inserting “301(j),” after “301(i).”.

(b) GRAMM-RUDMAN.—Section 252 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) USE OF REDUCTIONS IN DISCRETIONARY SPENDING CAPS.—A decrease in the discretionary spending limits may only be used for deficit reduction and may not be used to offset all or part of an increase in direct spending or decrease in receipts under this section.”.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, this amendment would prohibit the use of cuts in the appropriation caps to pay for tax cuts. The Senator from West Virginia has asked me to call up this amendment to ensure that it will qualify for consideration under the unanimous consent agreement governing consideration of the main proposition before us.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that now that this has been called up, the pending amendment be temporarily set aside.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 10 a.m. the Senate resume consideration of the Daschle substitute on which there be the following time limitation prior to a motion to table: 2 hours to be equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. EXON. There is no objection here.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each.

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

THE SOARING TRADE DEFICIT

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, the numbers are now in for the trade deficit for January, and they are not good. In fact, we set a new deficit record for a single month. The trade deficit surged over 68 percent, to a highest ever mark of \$12.2 billion.

Mr. President, I never have met two economists who agree on everything. Some say you should not pay too much attention to trade deficit numbers. But most economists will tell you that continuously rising deficits in merchandise and services trade, year upon year, are unsustainable. Last year's overall merchandise trade deficit reached a record high \$166 billion. The figures just released for January of this year indicate that the growth is not slowing. The growth in our trade deficit is in fact accelerating. This is deeply troubling.

Mr. President, the soaring trade deficit is not just a matter of the volume of imports from abroad. A ballooning trade deficit affects the strength of the dollar, interest rates, the stock and bond markets, and the long-term attractiveness of the U.S. as a destination for investment. In other words, it threatens the standard of living of every American.

Despite the potential enormity of this problem, the administration has yet to focus on it as a real threat to working Americans. I am reminded that in the months and weeks leading up to the Mexico crisis, it seemed that no one in the administration was minding the store. We do not yet know the full extent of the fallout from that catastrophe. Mr. President, I hope we are not today headed down the same road with regard to our growing trade deficit. I hope those in the administration charged with watchfulness are not asleep a the witch.

Mr. President, we must not place our economic stability at risk. We must not allow warning signs to go unheeded. No single month's figures are conclusive, but when the bad numbers pile up month after month, they must not be ignored.

RETIREMENT OF JOHN LAHR

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, yesterday's edition of the Montana Standard

contained an article that I especially enjoyed reading. Let me share part of this article with my colleagues:

A special passenger train ran from Helena to Garrison and back Sunday to honor retiring Montana Power Company lobbyist John Lahr, a train buff * * *. Montana Rail Link furnished the engines; Burlington Northern provided several refurbished passenger cars * * * and the engineers union furnished the engineers for what was billed with banners on the engines as the “John Lahr Special.”

When I read this I could not help but think how appropriate this tribute is; a special train to honor a very special man.

We hear a lot of bad talk about lobbyists these days. And, both in Helena and in Washington, there are some bad lobbyists; some who use strong-arm tactics; some who urge elected representatives to vote against the public interest.

But anybody who knows John Lahr has seen living proof that lobbying can be a noble profession. He is a class act. He's a Montanan through-and-through. And he wants what is best for our State.

For almost 30 years, John has represented Montana Power Co. Legislative session after legislative session, John has been there in Helena working tirelessly. And, while he has always been an advocate for Montana Power, he sticks to the facts; he's honest; he levels with people; and he's got what may be the best—and certainly the driest—sense of humor in all of Montana.

So perhaps it is not surprising that John—though a lifelong Democrat—enjoys universal respect from both Republicans and Democrats in Helena.

While John may be retiring from the power company, I have no doubt he will continue to play an important role in the life of our State. He has too many friends; he has too much talent and he cares too deeply about Montana to quietly retire.

I wish both John and his wife, Beverly, the best of luck as they begin a new chapter in their lives. And I feel very fortunate to count them as friends and trusted advisers.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF GRIFFITH

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a tribute to Jeff Griffith, one of my former staffers who died recently here in Washington, DC be printed in the RECORD.

Jeff was one of the original members of my Senate staff, and I was deeply saddened by his death. While I know his family, friends and former colleagues will miss him terribly, as I will, I hope we will also remember his many accomplishments, and his passion for justice.

The tribute was offered on my behalf at the funeral service this past weekend.

There being no objection, the tribute was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TRIBUTE TO JEFF GRIFFITH

My name is Colin McGinnis, and I am a staffer for U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone. I was a friend and colleague of Jeff's. Paul was very sad that he wasn't able to be with Jeff's family and friends here because of several longstanding commitments in Minnesota, and has asked me to be here to represent him and my Wellstone staff colleagues. Paul asked me to read a message to you from him. He writes:

"While I cannot be with you today, I send my prayers and my heartfelt sympathies to Jeff's family and friends. Jeff was one of the first members of my Senate staff. I had known him for several years, and had worked with him on the Reverend Jesse Jackson's Presidential campaign and on the Rainbow Coalition's other important work for justice, so I knew that when the chance came to bring him on to my staff, I should jump at the chance. I did.

"He was talented, energetic, and creative in his work, and was admired and respected by his colleagues on staff, who often came to him for advice. He was also a fierce advocate for social justice.

"As one of my press assistants, Jeff did a wonderful job under often difficult circumstances. During the sometimes chaotic days of the Gulf War crisis, Jeff helped to establish our press operation; no easy task. He was also instrumental in the founding of my "First Friday" radio show. Thanks to his hard work in laying its foundation, it has been very successful. It still provides one of the most important ways that I communicate directly with Minnesotans.

"It is not by chance that this was Jeff's idea. The direct and participatory nature of this live radio program was a hallmark of his style, which always sought to bring people, real people, into the political process, and to make sure they were heard, even above the din and background static that often passes for political debate in our country.

"Jeff had a unique gift for hearing and amplifying the voices of regular people, and lifting up those voices for people in the wider community to hear.

"He knew instinctively that communication, if it is authentic, is always two-way, that his job was not just to sell my ideas and programs and policies to those whom I represent, but also to make sure I heard what the people were saying, to heed their voices and be accountable to them—especially those who are at society's margins. He never lost sight of these people, and always struggled to do what he could to bring them in toward the center. That was one of his life's most important missions: to bring those at the margins of our society back toward the center.

"As we celebrate Jeff's life and accomplishments today, and mourn his death, my wife Sheila and I, and the members of my staff, extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to his mother, Mrs. Ella Evans, his other family members, and to all his many friends who cared so much for him. We will miss Jeff very much, and keep you all in our prayers."

I'd like to add a short personal note to Paul's letter, from my own experience working with Jeff. He was a strong, thoughtful, decent man, a person of integrity, and real commitment to people. He had a quiet grace and wisdom that was often striking. And because he had lived through his own struggles, he was always willing to listen to his friends and colleagues, in our struggles. He'd packed a lot of living into his young life, and was not unscarred by it. But that's just the point.

He knew suffering, and yet could look beyond it, redeem it, and get others to do the same. He was a wounded healer. A wounded

healer whose life reminds us of how careful we must be with one another. And this concern for people translated from Jeff's personal life into his political life. In fact, people were at the center of his vision.

He was once asked, during a particularly stressful period, why he had decided to work in the political arena, and why he was willing to put up with all the long hours and struggles and stress that sometimes accompanies political life.

Without skipping a beat, he said simply, "Because I build bridges. And Lord knows we need bridges now." I will remember him as a bridge-builder, with a warmth, generosity of spirit, sense of humor and passion for justice that is rare. I hope you will, too.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES!

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before contemplating today's bad news about the Federal debt, let's do that little pop quiz again. Today's question, again, is: How many million dollars are in \$1 trillion? When you arrive at an answer, bear in mind that it was Congress that ran up a debt now exceeding \$4.8 trillion.

Now then, to be exact, as of the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, March 21, the total federal debt—down to the penny—stood at \$4,843,694,087,008.02—meaning that every man, woman and child in America now owes \$18,386.75 computed on a per capita basis.

Mr. President, back to that pop quiz question, How many million in a trillion? There are a million million in a trillion; and you can thank the U.S. Congress for the monstrous Federal debt exceeding \$4.8 trillion.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN KAMM HATCH

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I pay tribute today to an extraordinary woman. She was not famous. She was not wealthy. She was not formally educated. She won none of the coveted awards or accolades that we usually associate with achievement.

And yet, by anyone's measure, she was a rare and successful individual. She looked at life, both the good and the bad, and chose to shape her existence around the possible. She married and raised children in relative poverty, but taught her family what the wealth of love and hope means. She educated herself in life's classroom, constantly reading and absorbing. She reached out to those in need and gave kindness where none was expected.

Four of her nine children met early and untimely deaths. Still she looked forward. She expanded not only her mind but her many talents. She overcame challenges and embraced life's opportunities as they came, no matter what her age.

She was a woman of devout faith. Small in stature, she was large of heart and warm in spirit. Her home was a haven for friends and family.

Earlier this month, at the age of 89—and independent till her very last day—she completed her mortality. She is survived by 5 children, 39 grand-

children, 92 great-grandchildren, and 3 great, great-grandchildren.

Her name was Helen Kamm Hatch. And she was the mother of my friend and fellow colleague from Utah, Senator ORRIN G. HATCH. I am proud to be able to honor her memory. She will be sorely missed.

AN AUSPICIOUS ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, last week, friends of Ireland celebrated St. Patrick's Day in an atmosphere of hope. The guns have been silent in Northern Ireland for 6 months and it appears that the people of that conflict-torn land may at long last be on the irreversible road to peace.

Today, the British Government's Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, Michael Ancram, met with Loyalist paramilitary representatives, and Sinn Fein representatives and the British Government appear close to an agreement on an agenda for Ministerial talks to begin soon.

Most important, the people of Northern Ireland themselves are hopeful that this peace will last. The vast majority believe it is time to get on with talks. Irish citizens from Dublin and other parts of Ireland are traveling to Belfast in greater numbers because the fear of violence is disappearing. The people of Northern Ireland are going out in the evenings without fear of terrorist attacks. Peace is pervasive, and each day makes it harder for violence to return.

The United States has played a significant role in achieving this emerging peace, and great credit for it goes to President Clinton. He has taken risks for peace in Northern Ireland. He has embraced all those in Ireland who are willing to do the same. His foresight and judgment have been vindicated. Irish Americans congratulate him—but most of all, we thank him, and so do the people of Ireland, Protestant and Catholic alike.

The President and Mrs. Clinton hosted a reception on St. Patrick's Day at the White House which was an historic occasion itself. John Hume, John Alderdice, Gerry Adams and Gary McMichael—four men representing vastly different political views in Northern Ireland—were all in attendance. The evening was brought to a close when John Hume and Gerry Adams sang the poignant song, "The Town I Loved So Well." The final verses of the song, which is about John Hume's home town of Derry in Northern Ireland speaks to everyone who cares about this issue:

Now the music's gone but they carry on,
For their spirit's been bruised, never broken.
They will not forget, but their hearts are set
On tomorrow and peace once again.

For what's done is done, and what's won is won;

And what's lost is lost and gone forever.
I can only pray for a bright, brand new day
In the town I love so well.