

I have never seen so many of my Republican colleagues so willing to act like Members of the House as I have in the last couple of weeks. If they want to be in the House of Representatives, perhaps they should run for the House of Representatives. In the House of Representatives of course we have limited opportunities to offer amendments, limited opportunities to debate important issues, rules that constrain individual Members. But that has never been the purpose of the U.S. Senate. Here in the U.S. Senate we have always had the opportunity to bring up amendments, to have good debates on important issues, regardless of whether committees have reported out that specific legislation. Yet, over the last several weeks, the majority has precluded amendments from the minority in an effort to thwart those of us who want to bring to the floor an up-or-down vote on the minimum wage.

We may be denied that vote temporarily. The majority can continue to delay that vote. But ultimately we will have a vote on minimum wage, whether it is this week or next week or the week after or the week after that. Sooner or later the Senate must come to the realization that we cannot for all perpetuity and for the rest of this session of Congress, deny the right of Members to have a vote on something they view to be very important.

The minimum wage must come before our Senate colleagues. The minimum wage must be voted upon. Whether it is on this bill or another bill, hopefully in the not too distant future we can work out an arrangement that will allow us the opportunity to vote on an issue that is of great importance to millions and millions of working families. Let us hope it is sooner rather than later.

CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS

Finally, I think it is important to note that there will be many, many investigations on a lot of different issues. Senator BUMPERS said it so well just a moment ago. Often the reason investigations occur is that is where the lights are, that is where the cameras are. While there is an unlimited array of opportunities for our colleagues to investigate, I must say I am astounded, absolutely astounded that so many of

our colleagues in the House of Representatives, who claim to be fiscal conservatives, who claim to be protecting the taxpayer at each and every turn, will now support a so-called investigation for \$1 million in taxpayers' money to look at whether or not arms shipments were made to Bosnians in a way that may or may not be questionable—\$1 million.

This is from our colleagues in the House who have said over and over again we want to balance the budget, we want to cut down expenses, cut Head Start, cut school lunch, cut all the programs directly affecting children and education; we are going to cut and cut and cut everything affecting real people. But when it comes to an investigation that has virtually no basis, which has already been investigated in the intelligence committees, we are going to find a way to spend \$1 million and we are going to try to spend that \$1 million in the next couple of months. For Heaven's sake, where does it all end? And how, with a straight face, can any of our colleagues conclude that an issue of this limited scope is worth a \$1 million investigation?

I do not even know how they are going to spend it. Maybe they will buy television ads with it, who knows? But I must tell you, I think that is a waste. And I hope our colleagues on the other side will do everything in their power to see the taxpayers are given a better accounting; to see that we put a stop to that kind of flagrant abuse of authority. That ought not happen.

We have seen too much of it in this Congress. Again, it is an illustration of the extreme level, the extreme degree to which some on the other side will go to make a political point. That is wrong. It is deeply unfortunate. It sends all the wrong messages about what we ought to be doing and how sincere we are in bringing about a balanced Federal budget.

We will be debating a balanced budget perhaps as early as next week, once again. And how ironic, as we talk about amending our Constitution, that somehow we can find ways to spend \$1 million on whether or not arms were shipped to our Bosnian friends in a way that was generally supported by many

of our colleagues on the other side. So, we will have much more to say about that in the future.

I hope we can work in a bipartisan way to resolve whatever outstanding questions there are about what happened, whether it was in our long-term best interests to do so. All we can say with certainty is that our Bosnian policy is working. Having been there myself, having talked to the military, having talked to all of those directly involved, I can say without equivocation, this has been a success story the likes of which nobody could have realized a few months ago, a success story for which we can be very, very proud.

I hope we can continue to build upon that success and send the right message about our intentions there and the opportunity to bring real peace. That can happen. But it is not going to happen if we find ourselves mired in politics, spending millions and millions of dollars on investigations that are unwarranted.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
MAY 6, 1996

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate, under the previous order, will stand adjourned until 12 noon on Monday next.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:27 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 6, 1996, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 3, 1996:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MICHAEL KANTOR, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE RONALD H. BROWN, DECEASED, TO WHICH POSITION HE WAS APPOINTED DURING THE LAST RECESS OF THE SENATE.

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

BROOKSLEY ELIZABETH BORN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 1999, VICE MARY L. SCHAPIRO, RESIGNED.

BROOKSLEY ELIZABETH BORN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION, VICE MARY L. SCHAPIRO, RESIGNED.

DAVID D. SPEARS, OF KANSAS, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2000, VICE SHEILA C. BAIR, RESIGNED.