other components. Clearly, they have changed over the years. It just seems to me that to say we can move home health care out of part A because at one time it was structured differently does not reach the most important element here, which is, by doing this, we are changing dramatically the expectations of part A Medicare recipients.

Those people believe that home health care is, in fact, part of that trust program. It is, in fact, not subject to the availability of funds or the need to either increase taxes or find other spending cuts to justify payments for it. And that is why we feel the President's budget does not really meet the challenge for us.

I would like to say a couple of other things with respect to the specifics of the amendment before us. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the President's Medicare proposal would not maintain solvency of the part A Medicare trust fund for the full 10 years that we want. In fact, the projection is that it would be insolvent by the year 2005. Now, I would like to bring to the attention of the Senate the fact that, in the President's budget, the reductions in the growth—I will give the President the benefit of the doubt and not call it a cut. By reducing the growth by $116 billion, the President's budget maintains solvency not for 10 years but for 9 years. If, in fact, the $50 billion that is proposed in this amendment were used to increase the rate of growth of the Medicare Program, as proposed in our budget, then the actual total net change under our budget would only be $108 billion over the period of time our budget covers, through 2002. In other words, it would be less savings than in the President's budget. So, in other words, if this amendment were to pass, Mr. President, then we would be, in fact, not ensuring the solvency of part A of the trust fund as long as the President even does, and we believe on this side that the President's proposal to maintain solvency through 2005 is not adequate.

So I think it is important for our colleagues to understand that, in supporting this, they are in fact supporting an amendment that would bring about the insolvency even earlier than that which would be the case under the President's budget, and certainly which would be the case under our budget.

I also wanted to clear up one other point, Mr. President. In the tax cut provisions in the budget we are offering, the total amount of $122 billion, I believe, is targeted—it does not, in fact, even cover fully the $500-per-child tax credit. So there, in fact, would not be enough money to fund the other tax cuts beyond the $500 tax credit in the budget which we have.

To summarize, we have several facts that I think need to be revisited. First, the Medicare trust fund is going broke. At the current rate of growth in spending, at the current rate of projection from the Congressional Budget Office, it will go broke in 2001. We cannot let that happen, Mr. President.

Second, I think we want to make sure that its solvency is not maintained for a short duration of time—3, 4, 5, 6 years—but we want it to be solvent for 10 years. The President's budget would not accomplish that. If this amendment passes, our budget would not accomplish that either.

Finally, we on the majority side do not want to eliminate the home health care protections under the part A trust fund. The President's budget would do that and, obviously, there is a sharp difference there.

So, in short, Mr. President, we are prepared and desire to fix and repair the trust fund and maintain solvency for a decade. We think that is the least we can do to address this problem at this time. In our judgment, at least, anything short of that does not meet the mark, does not provide our seniors with the protections they need, does not provide the trust fund with the protection it needs.

We want to give families a chance to keep more of what they earn. That is why we have the money in this budget for a tax cut. But it is not connected to the Medicare issue at all. Once again, to portray it that way is simply inaccurate. We have the Medicare part A trust fund headed toward bankruptcy. For the first time, in 1995, it was actually spending more than it was taking in. The time has come to repair it for a sufficient period of time, and to allow us to focus on a broader and even longer term fix, which is clearly needed.

I yield the floor.

Mr. EXON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, in keeping with what we have done several times today, I ask unanimous consent at this time that the Senator from Georgia be recognized for appropriate remarks on the tragedy that faced all of us today, especially the U.S. Navy.

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

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. NUNN], is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL BOORDA

Mr. NUNN. I thank my friend from Nebraska. I join my colleagues in being both shocked and deeply saddened by the sudden death of Adm. Mike Boorda, Chief of Naval Operations. Admiral Boorda had a truly remarkable career in the Navy. Many people do not recognize it and do not realize it, but Mike Boorda rose from the lowest enlisted rank to become the most senior officer in the Navy. He never forgot where he came from. The welfare of the men and women of the Navy were always foremost in his thoughts and in his actions. He never let us forget that when he testified before the committee. The men and women of the Navy were first for him. He was always looking for additional ways to help the Navy families and, particularly, the people who served in the Navy and those who are directly affected by that service.

Admiral Boorda was well-known to Members of the Senate, and to the Armed Services Committee, for his devotion to the Navy and the ideals of military service. He was always available and helpful. Never have I asked a single question when he was not responsive immediately, if the information were available. I had the opportunity to work closely with Mike Boorda over the years on a wide variety of projects and programs, particularly during his service as Chief of Naval Personnel, as commander of Joint Task Force Provide Promise, which was responsible for the mission throughout the Balkans, and as Chief of Naval Operations. Many of us have been briefed by Admiral Boorda when he was head of that task force in a very tough period during the Balkans problems. I visited him overseas when he was planning the Bosnia operations, and I relied on his wise counsel many times.

Mr. President, I could go on and on about Mike Boorda. I will summarize it by saying that he was a superb military commander and a true friend. Admiral Boorda was an inspiring leader and a man of vision. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Bettie, to his children, David, Edward, Anna and Robert, and to his many friends and admirers in the Navy and throughout this great country.

I thank the Chair and my colleagues.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

The Senate continued with the consideration of the concurrent resolution.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, we have had a good debate. I believe that both the Senator from Michigan and the Senator from West Virginia are prepared to yield back the remainder of the time, and that would allow us to continue to go back to the Republican side for the next amendment. I believe that amendment will be offered by the Senator from Michigan.

As I understand it, it is on the same subject that we have discussed quite thoroughly. Maybe we can cut back on the use of some of this time. I would simply like to emphasize that while it may generally not be understood in the Senate, it is not a disgrace to not use the whole hour on each side on all of these amendments. It is perfectly acceptable and it is certainly respectable to yield back time so that we can move ahead on amendments.

Depending on what happens, as you know, we temporarily set aside, in agreement with the chairman of the committee, so that we could move ahead. We are not going to have any votes before 8 o'clock. I would simply suggest that if the two managers of the