

Governors and brings a critical perspective to the new authority given the President.

Mr. President, though we have no prior experience at the Federal level, many in this body who have served in State government may have seen the use of line-item veto authority at the State level. Indeed, much of the support for a Federal line-item veto stems from the State experience. But few other States, if any at all, have witnessed the abuses of line-item veto authority that we have seen in Wisconsin. That abuse has been bipartisan—Governors of both parties have used Wisconsin's partial veto authority in ways it is safe to say no one anticipated when that authority was first contemplated. For example, Wisconsin's current Governor, Governor Thompson, has used the veto authority not only to rewrite entire laws, but actually to increase spending and increase taxes.

Mr. President, given that history, the participation of Senator Adelman, Representative Travis, and attorney Wade will be invaluable in helping us monitor potential abuses of the new Presidential authority.

Mr. President, the watchdog project will be monitoring and chronicling a number of aspects of the Presidential power—first, the actual amount of Federal spending eliminated by the President's use of the line-item veto. Reducing unnecessary spending was the central argument for this new authority, and keeping track of how much spending is eliminated will be useful in seeing how effective this new tool actually is. It may also help encourage Presidents to make sure that they are making full use of this new authority as we will attempt to track missed opportunities as well as successes.

The watchdog project will also monitor instances where the new authority is abused by the executive branch. Some have suggested that the line-item veto could be used to coerce Members of Congress to toe the line on an administration's policies through the threat to cancel spending in home States. If a President starts misusing the line-item veto authority as a club to get votes on nominations or other policy matters, the public ought to hear about it, and our project will seek to document this kind of abuse if it takes place.

Mr. President, the watchdog project will also look for examples of excess spending that escape scrutiny because of loopholes in the new law. Some already are speculating on the different techniques that may be attempted to avoid the reach of this new Presidential power.

Mr. President, in this regard, I am especially concerned that the sections of the line-item veto authority that deal with tax expenditures were too narrowly drawn, and that many new special interest tax breaks could escape the line-item veto pen. Along with my good friend in the other body, Representative TOM BARRETT of Mil-

waukee, I have introduced legislation to address this weakness in the new law, and will do so again this session. It makes no sense to provide the President with this new authority while protecting one of the fastest growing areas of spending in the Federal budget, an area that includes unjustified subsidies to some of the wealthiest individuals and corporations in the world.

Mr. President, the watchdog group will also monitor efforts to twist the line item authority beyond its stated purpose. As I noted above, in Wisconsin, the partial veto authority has been abused by our Governors by striking out single letters in appropriation bills to create new words and new meanings to legislation. In some cases, the Wisconsin statute has been used to actually increase State spending. The new Federal law does not, on its surface, appear to allow for that kind of abuse, but our project will be monitoring that aspect of implementation of the new law as well.

Other aspects of the new law that warrant review are also sure to present themselves as we begin its actual use later this session, and I welcome suggestions from my colleagues who are interested in this historic new law.

It is critical that we track closely how the new authority is being used so that when it expires in 8 years, Congress and the public will have some measurable criteria by which to assess its effectiveness.

#### BURTON P. RESNICK

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Burton P. Resnick on the occasion of his birthday. Mr. Resnick turned 60 on November 28, 1996.

Mr. Resnick is the President of Jack Resnick & Sons, Inc. The company, founded by his father in 1928, has been a leader in real estate development, construction, ownership, and management of business in New York for many years. Today Jack Resnick & Sons, Inc., controls and operates over 5 million square feet of first-class real estate in prime locations in New York City. In recognition of his outstanding work in the field of real estate, Mr. Resnick was named chairman emeritus of the Board of Governors of the Real Estate Board of New York.

Burton P. Resnick is also extremely involved with numerous philanthropic and charitable organizations. One of his highest honors was being appointed by President Clinton to the Holocaust Memorial Council. He is chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University and Chairman of the board of Overseers of Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale, NY, as well as Chairman of the Building Committee.

Mr. Resnick assists the National United Jewish Appeal through his role as vice chairman of the organization. He also serves as national campaign

vice chairman of the Anti-Defamation League.

Burton P. Resnick's dedication to helping the community through his outstanding achievements and accomplishments is highly commendable and I take this time to wish him a very happy birthday.●

#### THE 220TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE U.S. CAVALRY

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 220th anniversary of the U.S. Cavalry. The anniversary occurred on December 16, 1996.

It was in the town of Wethersfield, CT, under orders by the First Continental Congress, that Revolutionary troops organized the 1st Cavalry Regiment in the Continental Army. Today, the town of Wethersfield, located in my home State of Connecticut, is proud to be recognized as the birthplace of the U.S. Cavalry.

Recognized by the U.S. Department of the Army's Center of Military History, the 2d Continental Light Dragoons—Sheldon's Horse—were organized in Wethersfield. This was the first dragoon regiment to become a part of the Continental Army. Training ground for this regiment had been created by a Wethersfield native, Capt. Benjamin Tallmadge. This regiment made numerous contributions in the Revolutionary War by participating in combat in northern New Jersey and the defense of Philadelphia.

The town of Wethersfield played a vital role in America's independence. From the historic Webb House, where Gen. George Washington met with Comte de Rochambeau to discuss strategies for the Battle of Yorktown, to the modern development of the Silas Deane Highway, the quaintness of Wethersfield is intermingled with the heroic greatness of the U.S. Cavalry. With origins in Wethersfield, the U.S. Cavalry fought epic battles at Brandy Station during the Civil War and the Punitive Expedition before World War I.

The U.S. Cavalry now based in Fort Riley, KS, will be forever linked with Wethersfield and the State of Connecticut. I applaud the efforts of Deputy Mayor Richard Sparveri, Town Councilman Brendan T. Flynn, the Wethersfield Historical Society, Wethersfield Tourism Task Force, Mr. John Conway, Mr. Arthur Hutchinson, and so many others who have brought this significant part of American history into the spotlight it greatly deserves.●

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.