

early this month, urging Congress and the President to work together to achieve a balanced budget this year, rather than the next year, by rescinding \$5 billion from the 1998 budget.

More importantly, the sooner we balance our budget the less pain we will suffer in the future. As I said earlier, the long-term fiscal time bombs we are facing require that we take action quickly. Escalating Social Security and Medicare costs pose the primary threat to the federal government's long-term solvency. We have only ten-year's time to fix Social Security. If it is mishandled, millions of Americans could suffer. Medicare is already in a horrific situation. It has accumulated over a trillion-dollar deficit and will soon be broke. Immediate action has to be taken to preserve and improve it.

There are trillions of other federal unfunded liabilities that we cannot ignore. These include entitlement programs other than Social Security and Medicare: federal civilian and military pensions, railroad retirement benefits, federal insurance programs, bank deposit insurance, private pension insurance, and a huge portfolio of guaranteed loans, environmental cleanup, and deferred maintenance and life-cycle costs for equipment and infrastructure—all of which have some risk of going sour and costing the government substantial sums down the road.

If we balance the budget this year, it will give us a little more time and a little more flexibility to focus on and fix these long-term financial liabilities.

Mr. President, I began this statement by quoting Will Rogers. As I conclude, let me quote him once again:

There is not a man in the country that cannot make a living for himself and family. But he cannot make a living for them and his government, too, the way his government is living. What the government has got to do is live as cheap as the people.

Our immediate task should be to regain the confidence of the American people by achieving a balanced budget and keeping it balanced by shrinking the size of the government. That is, by asking government to live as cheap as the people. By doing so, we will reduce interest rates, increase national savings, create more jobs, provide more meaningful tax cuts, and generate more revenues. More importantly, we will shrink the financial burden for our children and grandchildren.

As the Senate meets today to open the second session of the 105th Congress, I urge my colleagues to recall the promises they have made to the American taxpayers. Embrace those promises, and put the needs and desires of the people ahead of the impulse to leave a legacy of compassion—a legacy that could bury the taxpayers if left unchecked. Let us work with the President to achieve a balanced budget this year and begin a new era of government accountability.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 8 minutes as in morning business, to be followed immediately by my colleague, Senator ALLARD, for 8 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. CAMPBELL and Mr. ALLARD pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 166 and S. Res. 167 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

DARTON COLLEGE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize an outstanding institution in my home state of Georgia, Darton College.

Recently, I was contacted by one of the school's students who wrote to express his pride and support of his school and the educational opportunity that he is being provided. Mr. President, it is my belief that the finest accolade a school can receive is the praise of its students and, in turn, their success.

There are many battles on the American playing field each day, in the business world, political world, the judicial world, but none can be more important than those being fought in the classrooms of our learning institutions. Because, after all, our nation depends on these educational institutions to provide us with the necessary tools to win the other battles we encounter in our lifetime.

Mr. President, with that in mind, I would like to express my support for continued success and prosperity for past, current and future students, faculty and staff of Darton College.

1997 FALL PAGES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, when the first session of the 105th Congress ended last November, a group of young men and women also ended their term as United States Senate Pages. Today, I rise on behalf of the Senate to say "thank you" to these young people.

Pages are an integral part of our daily life here in the Senate, and I salute them for their tireless service, and would like to express the appreciation of the Senate for their fine work.

Many people, Senators included, may not fully appreciate the rigorous nature of page life. Their daily routine is not an easy one, and is one that begins early each morning. Senate pages rise early in order to attend classes. Upon concluding class work, the pages make their way to the Capitol to prepare for the day's session. Preparing the Senate Chamber for a day's session entails securing and placing on each Senator's desk the appropriate legislative documents that will be under discussion during the session, as well as securing supplemental documents that become available throughout the day.

Pages are on the go constantly, and are called upon to perform a variety of tasks—in addition to their tasks associated with preparing the Senate chamber for daily sessions. These might include obtaining documents requested by individual Senators, running errands between the Capitol and the Senate office buildings, as well as assisting Cloakroom personnel at the regularly scheduled conference luncheons.

Once the Senate has concluded business for the day, the pages return to their dorm and prepare for the next day's classes and, we hope, get some much-needed sleep. While a day in the life of a page is filled from morning to night, each page continually discharges his or her tasks efficiently and cheerfully.

In the first session of the 105th Congress, these young people witnessed the enactment of a balanced budget agreement ironed out between the Administration and the Congress that will soon result in a balanced budget. This historic event was the result of months of negotiations and required both sides, Democrats and Republicans, to be willing to accede on policy issues of importance to each side—the give and take of the legislative process.

Mr. President, our country's future lies with the generation of those young people who sit to the left and right of the Presiding officer.

I hope that some of what the pages have witnessed here will inspire them to pursue a career of public service. As they have returned to their hometowns, perhaps they have taken with them an appreciation and better understanding of our system of government and the importance of the legislative process. Perhaps in the years ahead, one or more of that group will return here to serve as members of the Senate.

Again, I say goodbye to the pages and hope that they all enjoyed their experience in the United States Senate. Speaking on behalf of my Democratic colleagues and all members of the Senate, we wish for them a bright and successful future.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the names of the 1997 Fall Senate pages be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the names were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

1997 FALL PAGES

REPUBLICANS

Adamson, Justin, Idaho.
Austin, Chesley, Vermont.
Bowers, Jackson, South Carolina.
Brown, Sarah, New Hampshire.
Dorn, Lauren, South Carolina.
Grade, Renee, Washington.
Holson, William, Delaware.
Jaussi, Richard, Utah.
Johnson, Junior, South Carolina.
Martira, Nancy, Rhode Island.
Maurer, Michelle, Arkansas.
McFerron, Ben, Maryland.
Moody, Justin, Alaska.
Ordner, David, Indiana.
Parker, Marisa, Mississippi.
Satcher, Bess, South Carolina.