

Mr. ROBERTS. In closing, I am reminded of an old Mills Brothers' tune—that really dates me—and it was, "I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire." I want to make it clear, I don't want to set the tobacco bill on fire; I just want to light a flame in the heart of our national security and our economic well-being. And with that rather dubious reference as to what we are about, Mr. President—we need to act on other matters—I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, may I inquire how much time is remaining in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 7 minutes remaining in morning business.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, then I will use some of that time. I thank the Chair.

THE TOBACCO BILL

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I certainly want to echo the statements of my colleagues from Kansas and Nebraska about the importance of dealing with our agricultural situation in this country. Last week, in my State of Idaho, wheat hit \$1.90 as a result of the impact of the sanctions that are being imposed by this administration in reaction to laws that were passed by Congress a good number of years ago.

I say this this morning to refocus us to understand that much of what we need to do is not getting done. Now, my colleagues on the other side, I have a feeling, would like to spend a lot more time on the tobacco issue. Somehow they think they are gaining points in the political arena that is warming up out there for many of our colleagues in the coming days through to November. I would like to suggest they look at the polling data of recent, that they talk with the American people just a little bit, that they ask teenagers in this country where the real problems are, and maybe they would agree with us that it is time we deal in some degree of finality with S. 1415, the tobacco bill.

I know it is great politics, or at least many thought it was great politics, to be antitobacco, anti-teen smoking, and to raise a heck of a lot of money to do a lot of different things from the government level. It is important that this Congress be anti-teen smoking. It is important that we express our frustration and, if necessary, our anger with the tobacco companies on what they have done, and I think we can do that and should do that. But you do not do it by sucking the life out of lower-income Americans, raising taxes, shoving this commodity that we dislike into the black market and saying you have solved the problem by creating great new bureaucracies that we know will spend the money and get very little done.

For the moment, let's do a reality check. We have been debating this bill

now for upwards of 3 weeks. We have been adding a lot of amendments. Everybody has been pounding their chest on all of the good things we are going to do if we pass the bill. Here are the good things we have not done. Let me analyze for you the revenue flow over this multibillion-dollar bill.

S. 1415, major revenues: 5 years, \$55-billion; floor amendments costing \$35 billion; original 1415 spending, \$65 billion; total spending commitments, \$100 billion.

Whoops, Mr. President, whoops. We have already overspent \$35 billion in the first 5 years. What does that tell you about a Congress that is trying to be fiscally responsible and balance its budget? When it comes to feeding at the trough of American politics, we do not care, do we? Or at least somebody does not care, because S. 1415 is now badly out of line with the revenues it proposes and the moneys it plans to spend.

By this action, is this Senate proposing that we raise another \$35 billion or \$40 billion over the next 5 years in revenues to fund all of these great new government programs that are going to take all of our kids off smoking, or at least 35 or 45 or 55 or 60 percent over the next decade? Have we talked to our kids recently about that? Have we asked teenage America that if we raise the price of a pack of cigarettes another \$2 a pack or \$3, are they going to quit smoking?

Well, I will tell you they don't think so. Neither do their parents. Last week, I was in the Chamber with a poll by the American Viewpoint polling group, a reputable group. You have read the poll. It has been talked about in the national press. Fifty-nine percent of the parents recognize that peer pressure and friends of their teenage sons and daughters are those who are the greatest influence on them when it comes to smoking.

Guess what the biggest problem is out there. It is not smoking. It is drugs. It is the concern by our parents, the parents of America that their kids might somehow get associated with drugs. Why? Because drugs kill immediately. That is why. And that is the greatest concern. And yet we have stumbled down the road for 3 weeks and done one good thing: convinced the American people that we are slipping back into our old, bad habits of big government and great programs and lots of new money to spend. And in the meantime, they have become convinced that the bill before us ought to be defeated by a great number. That is the reality of what we are doing.

Let me close by saying one more time, S. 1415 over the 5-year period has a deficit in money now of \$35 billion. Is the other side proposing to raise that in new taxes in some form from the working men and women of this country to fund the panacea of big, new government? I hope they do not. I will not vote for that.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Morning business is now closed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, with the indulgence of my colleagues, that I be allowed to speak for 5 minutes as in morning business.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I will not have any objection. The Senator from Minnesota was most generous with me last night. He did not have an opportunity to finish his remarks. I am happy to have him do so before we start.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senator from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Washington for his graciousness.

LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE COMPACT

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, last night, I spoke about the Texas/Maine/Vermont Compact bill, H.R. 629, that is now going to conference committee. It has to do with low-level radioactive waste being dumped in the community of Sierra Blanca, TX. It is a compact between Maine and Vermont that affects the people of Sierra Blanca.

Last night, we sent instructions to conferees to insist on two amendments that had been agreed upon by the Senate. One amendment says that if the people of Sierra Blanca, disproportionately poor and Latino, are able to prove disparate impact—that they are disproportionately affected, that they have been targeted because of low income, because they are a poor community, because of the color of their skin—then they have every right to challenge the dump. I don't know why we don't at least give people that chance. That amendment has now been approved by the Senate. It is terribly important, because all too often when it comes to the location of these sites, we dump them—no pun intended—right on the heads of poor people and communities of color.

The second amendment—and I had a chance to speak about this last night—I call a protection clause. It is very similar to the amendment offered by Congressman DOGGETT which passed in the House. Basically, it says that if the compact waste is only supposed to come from Maine and Vermont, then let's affirm this with an amendment which makes it clear that the waste will only come from Maine and Vermont. Otherwise, there is a very good chance that the people of Hudspeth County and Sierra Blanca will become a national depository for nuclear waste from all over the country. That is the last thing I think the people in Texas