
⁹⁰²(...continued)

REVENUE SHORTFALL

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, section 13111 of this bill adds a new title VI to the Congressional Budget Act. Section 604 of this new title provides a new fast-track reconciliation procedure in the House of Representatives to allow for the consideration of reconciliation bills to meet revenue shortfalls. The conference report does not apply this procedure to the Senate.

I wonder if the distinguished chairman of the Budget Committee could respond to a question on the application of section 310 of the Budget Act to a bill passed by the House under this procedure?

If the House passed a measure under this procedure that was deemed to be a reconciliation bill, would all the provisions of the Budget Act regarding reconciliation legislation, including subsection 310(g) of the Budget Act and the Byrd rule, apply in the Senate?

Mr. SASSER. I would be happy to respond to the distinguished ranking member of the Budget Committee.

Let me start by saying that the conferees on the budget process for the Senate, as the Senator of New Mexico well knows, did not view this special procedure to be of much merit. After all, procedures already exist under section 304 of the Congressional Budget Act whereby Congress may revise budget resolutions and create new reconciliation instructions calling for new deficit reduction. That is one of many reasons why we did not seek to have a similar provision applied to the Senate. But the conferees on the part of the House insisted on having this rule in the House, so that is why the provision is there.

So what would happen if the House of Representatives passed a concurrent resolution under this section? At the outset we have to acknowledge that it is unclear whether the Presiding Officer would treat it like a budget resolution in the Senate. As it deals with matter that would normally be addressed in budget resolutions, I would expect that the Presiding Officer would refer it to the Budget Committee.

If the Budget Committee reported out the concurrent resolution under this section, it is unclear whether the Presiding Officer would view it as being constrained by the 50-hour or 15-hour time limits for budget resolutions.

If both Houses passed the resolution, however, and a bill in the nature of a reconciliation bill resulted, the next question would be whether the Senate would give it all the protections that normally go to a reconciliation bill.

(continued...)