



BUDGET COMMITTEE



Judd Gregg, Ranking Member
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**Senator Judd Gregg's Comments at Press Conference on
Defeated Cloture Motion on "Second Look at Wasteful Spending" Amendment
(Unofficial Transcript)
Senate Radio-TV Gallery
January 24, 2007**

"We heard a lot in the last election about the need to have a more fiscally responsible government, about the need to eliminate waste, about the need to avoid inappropriate earmarking of funds. All of those issues would have been addressed by the *Second Look at Waste* amendment, which I offered on behalf of myself and my colleagues in the Republican conference.

"Unfortunately it has now been rejected by the other side of the aisle. And that's a bit ironic in light of the last election and the topic and the discussion which was put forward by the other party as they campaigned for reelection. And it's especially ironic, and maybe even a touch hypocritical, in light of the fact that at least 20 members of the other side of the aisle voted for essentially the same amendment when it was offered by Senator Daschle.

"I call this the 'Daughter of Daschle' amendment, which it truly is. It essentially tracks the rescission proposal of Senator Daschle. And it is not the Line-Item Veto. It is simply an opportunity, or it would be an opportunity, for Congress to take a second look at earmarks which have been buried in very large pieces of legislation, and which did not receive the proper light of day. It doesn't transfer any significant authority to the Executive Branch other than to say to Congress, 'Hey, take another look at this and then cast a majority vote to whether this makes sense.'

"I'm disappointed this was pursued on the other side of the aisle in a rather partisan way. Clearly folks on the other side of the aisle who are sympathetic to this approach did not vote for it and I would presume that it is because it was suggested to them by their leadership that they shouldn't based on party-line identification, which isn't constructive to the process and certainly doesn't help the American taxpayer who ends up paying the bills when we spend money around here that we shouldn't."

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