

opportunity is to pay these employees early, on Friday, Sept. 29. That would doubtless make the employees happier and move the expenditure into fiscal 1989, all in the same deft stroke. Since no one is paying that much attention to the 1989 deficit any more, as a political proposition the cost would simply disappear.

Of course grown-ups would not resort to games like these, you say. Wrong. The Department of Defense is already doing it. Secretary Dick Cheney ordered the forward creep himself, under authority Congress gave the department a couple of years ago when the virtues of the step first dawned on the armed services committees.

....

It's an understandable point of view. Our own suggestion is that they simply give all federal employees their full year's pay for fiscal 1990 on Sept. 30 (with a suitable discount for the advance, of course). The fiscal 1990 deficit would positively melt away, and we would all live happily ever after.⁹³²

What became section 202 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Reaffirmation Act of 1987 first appeared in the Senate leadership compromise version of the revision of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings. The Senate adopted the amendment (to H.J. Res. 324) containing the provision on July 31, 1987, by a vote of 71 to 21. The original Senate-passed version read as follows:

**PROHIBITION OF COUNTING AS SAVINGS
THE TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT ACTIONS
FROM ONE YEAR TO ANOTHER**

⁹³² *Floating Paydays*, Wash. Post, June 26, 1989, at A10, col. 1. (c) The Washington Post. Reprinted with permission.