

form set forth in paragraph (2)) declaring that the conditions specified in section 254(j) are met and suspending the relevant provisions of this title, titles III and VI of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and section 1103¹⁶⁸⁷ of title 31, United States Code.¹⁶⁸⁸

¹⁶⁸⁶ (...continued)

186, 102d Cong., 1st Sess., 137 CONG. REC. S11,550, S11,580 (daily ed. July 31, 1991). Following the August Senate recess, the Committee on the Budget reported it unfavorably. 137 CONG. REC. S12,921, D1079 (daily ed. Sept. 12, 1991). On September 19, 1991, the Senate rejected the joint resolution by a vote of 88 to 8. *Id.* at S13,308 (daily ed. Sept. 19, 1991). For the debate on that joint resolution, see *id.* at S13,225-29 (daily ed. Sept. 18, 1991); *id.* at S13,294-308 (daily ed. Sept. 19, 1991).

¹⁶⁸⁷ This is so in the original; it should be 1105(f). See *infra* note 1701.

¹⁶⁸⁸ The Chairman of the Budget Committee has likened this trigger procedure to a circuit breaker:

Mr. President, the issue before the body today is, simply stated, whether to suspend the provisions of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law. In essence, what we are doing today is dealing with a circuit-breaker concept.

As the body knows, a circuit breaker is a mechanical device that automatically interrupts the flow of electric current under an infrequent abnormal condition. The circuit breaker turns off the power to a circuit, or path of electrical energy, whenever too much current surges through the system for it to operate safely. Circuit breakers, as we all know, provide important protection for the home and for the office. Without a circuit breaker, a short circuit could cause extremely high temperatures in the wiring and that could set a house on fire.

The drafters of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law prudently built two circuit breakers into that system. One of these circuit breakers is tripped by a Congressional declaration of war. As much as the events of the Middle East weigh heavily on all our minds, here today and indeed on the minds of our countrymen all across this land, we are not here today to address the issue of a declaration of war.

The second circuit breaker in the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings statute is tripped by a forecast of an economic recession or, in the alternative, actual results showing low economic growth for two successive quarters. Specifically, this circuit breaker device is triggered if either the Office of Management and Budget or the Congressional Budget Office projects that real economic growth will be negative for two consecutive quarters during the year-and-a-half starting with the quarter just ended. . . .

(continued...)