

At the beginning of this year, the first piece of legislation that this Congress considered and, indeed, enacted and signed into law by the President was the Congressional Compliance Act that required Congress to abide by the same laws that apply to the rest of this country. I think that this legislation certainly reaffirms that policy and moves us in that direction. It is a matter of fairness. It is a matter of equity. It is right.

So with that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. HARKIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I want to join with my colleagues, the Senator from Maine and the Senator from California, in supporting this legislation to have Senators and Congressmen treated the same as all other Federal employees.

I agree with the Senator from Maine on everything she said but for one thing. If the majority leader of the Senate wanted this bill up, he could have brought it up tonight. That is the power of the majority leader. If the majority leader wanted this up tomorrow, he could have included it in the unanimous-consent request to bring it up tomorrow, and we would vote on it tomorrow.

So let us have no doubt about it, it is up to the majority leader whether or not we vote on this or not and no one else on this floor. With that one exception, I agree with everything else the Senator from Maine said.

She was right, as was Senator BOXER, that earlier this year one of the first bills we passed was a bill to make sure that all the laws that apply to other people apply to Members of Congress. We all applauded that, voted for that, that we all live under the same laws. People cannot understand why we had gone so long without doing that, but we did it. But there was one glaring loophole. When it comes to our pocketbook, we want to be treated differently than all other people and all other Federal workers.

As the Senator from California said, there are hundreds of thousands of Federal workers who went home today not knowing that they are not getting paid for the work they do. There are others who are not even going to work and not getting paid. But our pay is automatic. It is like an entitlement. We have an entitlement for our pay. No matter what happens, we continue to get paid.

We just finished a day of activity here, the last vote of the day. There are five Senators left on the floor. Everybody has taken off. They have gone home secure in the knowledge that no matter what happens, the paychecks we get next Monday will be full. We will get paid for every day that we are here.

That is kind of a nice thought, is it not, Mr. President? It is kind of a nice thought to go home in the evening after a long day's work and know that

when your next paycheck comes, you are going to get paid. Think about it, think about all those workers, think about our staff people here, think about all the Federal workers, think about the air traffic controllers if you will, Mr. President, who are out there working a very high-stress job, safely guiding aircraft through crowded corridors. It is a high-tense job. It is a job that requires a lot of skill, intense concentration, good judgment and decisiveness. Air traffic controllers put in a hard day's work. Just think, Mr. President, they are going home tonight knowing that next Monday when they get their pay, they will not be paid for the work they did today or the work they did yesterday or the work they did the day before.

How do you think that works on someone's mind? These are people like you and me. They have homes, mortgages, kids in school and illnesses. We are very smug around here, are we not? We are so smug around here because nobody can touch us. We get our pay; we do not care what happens.

I tell you, I think it is one of the grossest things that is going on today in Congress and in the Federal Government that we can shut it down, throw all these people out or force people to come to work, so-called essential people have to go to work but they are not getting paid. I thought we did away with slavery in this country. They have to come to work, but they are not going to get paid. It is just not justifiable.

So I think at least we ought to take up the bill and pass it. It just says if we are not doing our jobs, we do not get paid like other Federal workers until this bill passes. Apply the same rule that applies to air traffic controllers, drug enforcement agents, Medicare fraud investigators, FBI agents, Defense Department personnel—everyone else. Make the same laws apply to us.

You wonder sometimes why people in this country are so cynical about Congress. Well, you do not have to wonder too long when you see what is happening now. So smug around here, we can do all this. We do not care what happens. Send all these workers home. Make them come to work. Tell them they do not get paid.

I see our distinguished majority leader is back on the floor. I think we ought to take up the bill tomorrow and just pass it. I cannot imagine any votes against it. Who would be against applying the same laws to us as apply to other Federal workers so we do not get our pay the same way as anybody else in the Federal Government until this situation is resolved?

When this goes on, I can understand why people are so cynical about the Federal Government, cynical about Congress. All the good that we did earlier this year in passing that Congressional Accountability Act and applying laws to Congress that other people have to live by probably all got flushed down the toilet right now with this

kind of action, because people know that we are getting paid. Other people working for the Federal Government are not getting paid. It is not fair, and I think we ought to take up the Snowe bill tomorrow and pass it.

I ask unanimous consent, if I am not a cosponsor, to be added as a cosponsor of that bill. I think we ought to bring it up and pass it as soon as possible. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I will just take a minute or two. The Senator from Delaware wishes to speak and then the Senator from Rhode Island, Senator PELL. Are there any other Members on that side who wish to speak? If not, I will put it on automatic pilot.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess following the remarks of Senator BIDEN, Senator PELL and myself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE NO BUDGET-NO PAY BILL

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, let me say, I am a cosponsor of the bill, and I agree we ought to figure out some way to get it passed. I hope that we can resolve that tomorrow. I must say there is opposition, some on each side. I think the American people would feel better about it—

Mrs. BOXER. Will the majority leader yield? I was not aware we had any opposition on our side of the aisle.

Mr. DOLE. Maybe there is none on that side. I will reserve that.

Mrs. BOXER. Because I have been working hard, and I have not come up with anybody who is opposed.

Mr. DOLE. I understand there may be some opposition on this side. We will try to see what happens tomorrow.

A BIPARTISAN MAJORITY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I want to take just a moment to comment on the vote that we just had. It seems to me when the vote is 60 to 37, we pretty much replicated what happened in the House about midnight last night, where 48 Democrats joined Republicans in a bipartisan effort to open up the Government, take the lid off, put people back to work and balance the budget in the next 7 years.

It seems to me that is the best of both worlds. I am very proud of that strong bipartisan majority of 60 Senators who stood up tonight for our Federal workers and for a balanced budget which will mean a brighter future for our children and our grandchildren.

I think we keep losing sight of why we want to balance the budget and why should we be concerned. I must say, we