

dealing with Indians he wants to offer right away. We hope that can be done. He knows there is going to be a second-degree amendment offered to that. That will take several hours.

I think we are moving down the road on this most important energy legislation. Once we get the amendments, we can better advise the majority leader and Senator DASCHLE as to how long we estimate it will take. We have acknowledged, in our assembled meetings of Democrats, that we appreciate your allowing the Senate to work its will, and not, as has been done in the past on more occasions than we would like to acknowledge, just filing cloture. You have indicated you are not going to do that until you believe it is necessary, and I don't think it is necessary, at this stage.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the assistant Democratic leader. We are in discussions. The real objective is to have a list of amendments so we can have the definition to both gather support on both sides of the aisle and to really give a focus so we can establish a roadmap by which we can adequately debate, adequately amend this bill appropriately so. That is the purpose. Again, we are working on both sides of the aisle, with the two managers of the bill to that end.

Mr. President, I want to very briefly comment on the last 2 weeks. As we start each week—at least as I start each week, I can't help but come in early Monday morning and look at where we have been and project where we are going. As I laid out the schedule, where we are going is pretty clear, in terms of how we will spend the next 3 weeks on the floor of the Senate. I hope the clarity and the specific plan that I lay out—recognizing it can be modified at any time and should be modified according to circumstances that arise over the course of the day, but I hope that outlook, that vision of where we are going, that agenda setting, does facilitate the overall action, debate, and amendment process of this body.

It also gives me the opportunity to look back over the last 2 weeks. Indeed, as I look back over the last 2 weeks, we made huge progress, I believe, especially for America's taxpayers. That 2003 jobs and growth bill passed by Republicans in the Senate, signed by President Bush, will provide an average of \$1,786 in tax relief for over 45 million married couples. Forty million families with children will see their taxes lowered by over \$1,549.

Six million single mothers will receive an average tax cut of over \$550. Twelve million elderly taxpayers will receive an average tax cut of \$1,401. Meanwhile, 3 million individuals and families will be taken off the tax rolls completely.

Indeed, that is progress. That is action. That is delivery for the American people. Republicans in the House and Senate worked hard to provide this

substantial tax relief for America's working families. Indeed, we have delivered.

Democrats spent a lot of time talking about tax relief for minimum-wage families. But it was the Republicans who took action and got tax relief done. Thanks to Republicans, the Senate now has provided tax relief for families at all income levels, including middle-class families in which both parents work. Working families will now have extra money in their budgets to pay the bills, to purchase clothes, to put food on the table, and maybe even take a family road trip.

Last week, we passed a second tax bill that provides additional tax relief for families with children. This bill included some important tax reforms as well. This second family tax relief bill in 2 weeks creates a uniform definition of a child. Instead of five confusing and even seemingly conflicting and separate definitions, the Tax Code has been simplified to make it easier for folks to fill out the forms and get the tax relief to which they are entitled.

Tax simplification has been a long-standing goal of Republicans. Expect more efforts on the part of Republicans to make the Tax Code more understandable and less burdensome for America's tax filers.

That family tax relief bill will also accelerate the currently scheduled increase in the refundability of the child tax credit, and it will phase in the elimination of a marriage penalty that is built into that current formulation of the credit. These fixes will allow the child tax credit to benefit more middle-income families.

Together, just in the last 2 weeks, the 2003 jobs and growth package coupled with the family tax relief bill provide the third largest tax relief in the history of the United States. These actions have helped lift consumer confidence.

Interest rates and inflation remain low. Credit conditions have improved as long-term interest rates have fallen to their lowest levels since the 1950s. Families are rebalancing their debt from short-term consumer credit to longer term credit such as mortgages—a wise and prudent move. We are seeing declines in energy prices.

We have a lot of reasons to be optimistic. Economic growth increased 1.6 percent in the first quarter of this year, up slightly from 1.4 percent in the last quarter of this year. Many economists expect continued growth in the current quarter. Consensus forecasts expect growth to approach 3.7 percent by the final quarter of this year.

I say this in a very optimistic vein as we look to the future. Yet there are some clouds. We heard last week the unemployment rate has risen to levels last seen in the economic upturn of 1994. This suggests the growth in the economy over the last few years has been in large part due to rapid productivity gains.

In addition, since 1999, the rising cost of health benefits has exceeded the growth in wages and salaries. As a result, health care costs are driving up the cost of hiring and employing workers. In other words, good jobs are becoming more expensive—another important reason we need to strengthen Medicare, to save and preserve and strengthen and indeed modernize Medicare and add prescription drug coverage the right way, not just giving new benefits without consideration that we have an obligation to make sure whatever we promise can be sustained, not just in the short term and in the midterm but in the long term.

We need to look at all the ways we can expand the economy, and in turn increase the supply of good jobs for America's workers.

If we look to the last 2 weeks and project over the next 3 weeks as we have addressed tax relief and tax reform, a sound sustainable energy policy as well as strengthening and improving Medicare and adding a prescription drug benefit, I think the American people and our colleagues will agree we are moving America forward by doing business in a sound and productive way.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 1 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Maine.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1208 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator is recognized.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I understand we are in morning business.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. That is correct.

THE ENERGY BILL

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I will talk a little bit about the pending business that will be before us at 1 o'clock. That, of course, is the Energy Bill.

I am pleased we are now in our second week of consideration of the Energy Bill. I must say we are also in our second year of consideration of an energy bill. We did this last year. We talked about it for a couple of weeks on the floor and finally came up with a bill. We went to conference committee and were actually unable to put something together.

I continue to believe one of the most important things for this country at this time is to have a policy on energy, a policy that begins to describe a little more completely where we think we need to be in terms of the future, what we have to do to achieve that vision of where we need to be, and I think to remind ourselves that we are so involved with energy. Whether it is in your business, whether it is in your family, whether it is in defense, whether it is in the economy, energy has something to do with everything we do.

We have let ourselves get into a position where we are 60 percent dependent on foreign oil, much of which comes from that part of the world that is certainly in turmoil much of the time. So that is a real security problem for us, and an economic problem as well.

Right now, we find people talking about a shortage of natural gas, to be used largely for air-conditioning when it warms up in the summer. That is among the kinds of things that really do have an impact on our lives which we could do something about.

Again, one of the aspects of energy, which I think is true of most any part of our lives, is that things change, and they change substantially. This is particularly true in energy, and we have to make changes to accommodate the differences that occur.

With regard to natural gas, for example, we are using much more natural gas domestically than we did in the past. For one thing, where we had traditionally used coal in the generation of electricity, 97 percent of the generators, in the last several years, have been gas fired. Well, maybe that is all right, but we are not properly prepared to do that.

Right now our biggest source of natural gas is in the West, the area I come from, in the mountain region, and Wyoming particularly. That is our largest source of natural gas for the future. But our problem is we did not expect that, and we have not had the proper delivery system to move that gas from where it is available to the marketplace. Now we do not have the capacity to move the amount of gas we have available, so if there is a shortage, it is not going to be a shortage of the resource; it is going to be a shortage of our ability to have an infrastructure to move the gas where it needs to go.

There are other types of energy in the very same position. I mentioned electricity. There was a time when electric utilities generated and distributed their resource in the same area. If you were served by a particular company, that company generated the elec-

tricity and distributed it to your business or to your home, and those two things went right together. Now we have come to a situation where much of the generation is done by what is called a market generator who does not do distributing but sells it wholesale to the distributor.

So what does that require? Obviously, it requires the transmission capacity to move that energy to where the markets are. And we have not been prepared to do that. So we find ourselves in an unusual situation.

In the area of electricity, we also find ourselves at a time when we need to have a little different structure to be able to regulate this energy.

Again, as I said before, when the distribution and generation was in one place, the State public utility commissions could handle all of those things. Now it moves quite often across State lines, so that the States have less involvement in the movement of the electricity. So we need to develop what are called RTOs, regional transportation organizations, which include a number of States. There would be one in the West, for example, that probably would include 10 or 11 States, so there are joint efforts to be able to control the movement of the energy as it goes among the States and not each State competing with one another to cross State lines. There is a change in the way we do things. But we have not kept up with that change in terms of the way we regulate or prepare for that movement.

There is a great controversy within the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, where FERC has moved in to do more of that regulation. States do not like that particularly. They would like to do it closer to home. I agree with that, but we have to have the structure to do that.

Obviously, there are other things that are equally as important, such as the idea that we find alternative sources of energy and are able to put them into a situation where they are competitive economically with the old sources we have always had. It takes a lot of investment, incentive, and research to be able to put those things together. Therefore, we need to have a policy that moves us in the direction of wind energy, or whatever it may be.

One of the real opportunities the President has talked about and we ought to be doing something about is converting coal, for example, to hydrogen so that it can be much cleaner for its use, so that it can be more easily moved about for its use, and it could even be used in automobiles, if we could find a way to do that. It takes research and incentive and money to do that. So alternatives are also important.

Along with that, of course, there is a provision for research, so that we can find new ways to do things, so we can find a way to have more conservation and be able to use energy with more of a thought toward conservation. We can

do that, but we have not really set those goals for ourselves.

Then, of course, finally, one of the things that is most important is the idea of having increased domestic production. We have a great deal of fossil fuel resources in this country. Coal is the largest one. Coal is available to us, but the production of coal is in two or three areas of the country generally, so we have to find a way to produce that coal, move it to the market, and then have it in a way that is protective of the environment. We can do that as well. It takes more research. We have to do something with cleaner air. We know we can do those things, but we have not done them as well as we might.

So there is a great deal we can do in terms of increasing production. Fifty percent of my State, for example, is owned by the Federal Government. Under much of that land are energy resources—coal, gas, and oil—and we need to continue to find better ways to produce those resources and, at the same time, protect the environment. We can do that. I am not suggesting we produce on every bit of land. Some should be set aside for single uses, such as wilderness. But these are all problems with which we need to deal.

I guess I will continue to emphasize that this bill is not just something that is dealing with today's issues but, rather, an effort to have a vision in the future of where we need to be, to be able to fill our needs and help our economy, create jobs, and have the living conditions we all desire. That means, of course, the availability of substantial amounts of energy.

So I hope we can move forward. I know there are different ideas about how you do it and different notions, depending upon where you live in different parts of the country—whether you are in a city or in a rural area and those kinds of things. But we need to come up with the kind of policy that is good for the country. We really pretty much have done this.

We worked hard in committee, and we came up with a committee plan. The House has a plan. There are some differences, of course, between the two, but that is what our committees are for, to bring together the House and the Senate versions on various issues and come together with the one that will be acceptable to the Congress and, in this case, also acceptable to the administration.

The President and the Vice President, of course, have been very supportive of an energy policy, and they continue to be. They have had some ideas that have all been put into the plan or talked about in the plan.

So we are off on it again this afternoon. We will be doing some things on nuclear power. It is interesting, again, to talk about what nuclear could be in the future. Right now, most people don't realize how much nuclear power is being generated. In some States, 30 percent of the power is nuclear. It is

probably the cleanest way to produce electricity, although there are some problems. One is the waste that comes from nuclear use. We can resolve some of those issues.

Mr. President, I hope we can move in that direction. I want to continue to work at it.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. I thank the Chair.

TRIBUTE TO ALFRED LERNER

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to and recognize the accomplishments of a great man and a great leader—Alfred “Al” Lerner. Mr. Lerner passed away on October 23, 2002, at the age of 69, following a courageous battle against cancer. He left behind a lasting legacy of hard work and remarkable generosity. Al gave so much of himself. He never hesitated to share his good fortune with his fellow citizens, particularly those who were most in need.

Al Lerner was a man who not only believed strongly in the American dream, he also lived it. He was born the son of Russian immigrants in Brooklyn, NY, in 1933. He graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in 1951 and received a B.A. from Columbia College in 1955. After college, in the early 1960s, he took a job with the Broyhill Furniture Company as a salesman. His work for Broyhill took him from New York to Baltimore and ultimately to his home in Cleveland.

With him on this journey—with him, always by his side—was his best friend, his partner, his wife, Norma. Al and Norma were high school sweethearts, and they were inseparable. Together they shared 43 years of marriage, and together they raised their two children, Randy and Nancy. Al and Norma's commitment to each other and their children was a strong one. They were both well known for attending every school function and every after-school game their children were involved in, setting their professional lives aside to spend time with their family.

When Al was not spending time with his family, he was working tirelessly in his beloved community. Al's numerous professional accomplishments included his service as chairman and chief executive officer of MBNA Corporation, chairman and owner of the Cleveland Browns, and trustee of Columbia University, Case Western Reserve University, and New York Presbyterian Hospital.

I was particularly struck by something Al once noted about his success. This is what he said:

This is the only country in the world [where] that would be possible. The only country in the world for a guy like me with nothing—no background, no sport, no connections, nothing to help me, and no talent. It wasn't that I was a great violin player or a great something. Where a guy like me could just sort of figure it out every day and at some point wake up and say: “You did pretty good.”

Indeed, Al Lerner did pretty well. His accomplishments, both in terms of his personal success as well as his ability to lend a helping hand to his fellow citizens and community members, are clear indications of his success and his compassion and, yes, his humanity.

Al Lerner led by example. He served his country as a Marine Corps officer and a pilot from 1955 through 1957 and later continued his service by becoming a director of the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation.

His service to our country did not end with his departure from the Armed Forces. Al was known in particular for his extremely generous contributions to local and national charities, including a contribution of \$10 million in 1993 to Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, OH, a donation of \$16 million to support construction of the Lerner Research Institute, and a donation of \$100 million to the Cleveland Clinic, one of the largest donations to academic medicine in the history of our Nation.

His humility and his dedication to fellow citizens is nowhere better evidenced than in the quiet contributions he worked to provide for families of victims of the tragic September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

He helped raise funds, through his affiliation with the MBNA Corporation and the Cleveland Browns, for the Cleveland Browns Hero Fund to aid families from the New York City Fire and Police Departments who suffered the loss of a parent.

Al continued his service to the country following the September 11 attacks by serving as one of 15 members of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, advising President Bush on the quality and adequacy of intelligence collection to improve the security of our homeland.

Al Lerner was an American patriot, a patriot with a purpose and one who succeeded remarkably in achieving what he set out to accomplish. By embracing the American dream and dedicating himself to sharing with his fellow citizens the good fortune that resulted from his pursuit of it, Al truly distinguished himself as an outstanding American, and certainly one worthy of the respect of the Senate.

As I think about Al's life, I am reminded of the strong bond he shared with his wife Norma. They were such good friends and were really partners in life, working side-by-side, together, to raise their family and to help their community. I was quite touched at Al's

funeral when Norma, a very strong and courageous woman, spoke about her life with Al. I remember her saying:

[Al] took us from where we were to beyond where we even would have dreamed we are now. . . . He had an unwavering commitment to helping others and he was the most generous man I've ever known. There was always someone he wanted to help, whether they were sick, financially troubled or just needed a good friend.

That was Al Lerner.

I extend my thoughts and prayers to the entire Lerner family—especially Norma, Randy and Nancy—and to the families, friends, and community members who worked with Al and the organizations he supported. As Sir Winston Churchill once said:

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.

Few men have adhered more closely to this wise adage than Alfred Lerner.

I am very pleased that last week the Senate passed a resolution that my friend and colleague from Ohio, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH, and I introduced that recognizes Al Lerner's life, achievements, and contributions. This commemorative resolution is the least we can do in the Senate, on behalf of the entire Nation, to honor a man who dedicated his life to honoring his fellow Americans. I thank Al for all his contributions to our State and Nation.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. In my capacity as a Senator from Alaska, I ask unanimous consent the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

NEW PAGES

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. I ask unanimous consent the names of the new pages serving the Senate during the summer be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENATE PAGE PROGRAM—2003 SUMMER SESSION 1: JUNE 9—JUNE 27

Chris Amon, Yankton, South Dakota; Sonia Anand, Potomac, Maryland; Alicia Bell, Fullerton, California; J. David Burton, Owensboro, Kentucky; Angela Cacace, Kensington, Maryland; Gavin Chanin, Studio City, California; Sarah Catherine Crutcher, Madison, Mississippi; Laura Cunningham, Washington, DC; John Curran, Las Vegas, Nevada; Nicholas D'Addario, Trumbull, Connecticut; Jacqueline Devereaux, Pembroke, Virginia; Elizabeth Drumheller, Shelburne, Vermont; Nicole Durbin, West Lafayette, Indiana; Mitch Erdel, Columbia, Missouri; and Chase Erkins, Bliss, Idaho.

Bethany Gaikowski, Webster, South Dakota; W. Daniel George, Anchorage, Alaska;