

seven and a half million workers, and indirectly benefit eight million more. Sixty-one percent of the beneficiaries are women, and one-third of those women are mothers. More than a third are people of color.

Two new reports emphasize the urgency of this increase for millions of low-wage Americans and their families. The Children's Defense Fund reports that a single parent working full time at the current minimum wage earns enough to cover only 40 percent of the cost of raising two children. Nearly 10 million children live in households that would benefit from the increase we are proposing.

A report from the Center for Economic Policy Research shows that minimum wage jobs are not just entry-level jobs for teenagers, contrary to what we often hear from opponents of the minimum wage. A third of minimum wage earners from ages 25 to 54 will still be earning the minimum wage 3 years later. Only 40 percent of them will have moved out of the low-wage workforce 3 years later.

No matter how hard they work, minimum wage workers are forced each day to make impossible choices—between paying the rent and buying groceries, or between paying the heating bill and buying clothes. These hard-working Americans have earned a raise and they deserve a raise. No one who

works for a living should have to live in poverty.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 19,
2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 19. I further ask consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and that the Senate then return to executive session and resume consideration of the nomination of Priscilla Owen to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals; provided further that the time from 10 a.m. to 10:45 be under the control of the majority leader or his designee, and the time from 10:45 to 11:45 be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; provided further that from 11:45 to 1:45 be under majority control, and from 1:45 to 3:45 be under Democrat control. I further ask consent that the times then rotate every 60 minutes in a similar fashion; provided further that 6:45 to 8:15 be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee, and that 8:15 to 8:45 be under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Priscilla Owen to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Fifth Circuit. A number of our colleagues came to the floor today to speak on the nomination, and we had a good, substantive debate from both sides of the aisle. I hope Members will continue to come to the floor during tomorrow's session and engage in this important discussion.

I continue to hope that at some point, after everyone has had an opportunity to speak, we will be able to have an up-or-down vote on the nomination of Priscilla Owen. In the meantime, I thank Senators for coming to the floor, and I do encourage Senators to take advantage of the opportunity to speak over the course of the next several days.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 19, 2005, at 9:30 a.m.