

the coming of World War II, it was attempted only twice. During the Eisenhower administration, twice. During John Kennedy's presidency, four times—and then eight during Lyndon Johnson's push for civil rights and voting rights bills. By the time Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan occupied the White House, there were about 20 filibusters a year.

But in the 110th Congress of 2007–2008, there were a record 112 cloture votes. And in the 111th Congress, there were 136, one of which even delayed a vote to authorize funding for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps during a time of war. That is not how the Founders intended the Senate to work—and that's not how our country can afford the Senate not to work.

Chris Dodd said it best in his farewell address just a few weeks ago—a speech the Republican leader called one of the most important in the history of the Chamber. Chris sounded a warning: "What will determine whether this institution works or not, what has always determined whether we will fulfill the Framers' highest hopes or justify the cynics' worst fears, is not the Senate rules, the calendar, or the media. It is whether each of the one hundred Senators can work together."

That was a speech that needed to be heard. But the question now isn't whether it was heard; it is whether we really listened to it. Because when it comes to the economy, our country really does need 100 Senators who face the facts and find a way to work not just on their side, but side by side.

It was with Chris's words in mind that I supported Senator HARKIN's effort to reform the filibuster rules even though I have concerns about how the provision would affect debate in the Senate by moving to a majority vote. I did so because I believe it is important to protest the actions by the minority over the past four years and make a statement that we must have an end to the unprecedented disruption that has occurred.

Ultimately, Leader REID is right—the question is not the rules, but our decisions about how to abuse those rules. I hope the minority will end this needless obstructionism as we move forward in the 112th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Delaware.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF AMERICAN MANUFACTURING

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise to speak for the first time in this Cham-

ber as a Senator. It is an honor to do so. Already, after my service at the end of the 111st Congress, I am keenly aware of the impressive array of skills brought to this place by my colleagues and of the great traditions of this Chamber, as well as the tremendous challenges facing both our Nation and this institution as we work together to make progress.

On November 2, the citizens of Delaware elected me to come here on their behalf and work with 99 other Senators for a very specific goal: getting America moving again and getting our economy back on track. With our country just now recovering from the loss of so many jobs, with a substantial deficit and the painful and lingering wreckage of a great recession, we must set aside politics and focus on progress.

I am honored to have this opportunity to serve. I am especially honored to serve alongside our State's distinguished senior Senator, TOM CARPER, and to serve at a time when the President of the Senate is another distinguished Delawarean, Vice President JOE BIDEN, whose service in this body for 36 years was marked by a tireless advocacy for America's middle class and the people of our State. Membership in the Senate is a privilege not to be taken lightly, and I am determined to make the greatest contribution I can to solving the challenges facing us all.

Similar to my colleagues, my path to the Senate involved many experiences that have shaped my views and priorities. Growing up in Delaware, my family taught me the values of faith, hard work, and service to others. As a student, traveling and volunteering in Africa and later working with the homeless in this country, I learned difficult truths about poverty and human suffering but also witnessed the awesome power of hope and faith. Later, working for the National "I Have a Dream" Foundation and running an AmeriCorps program, I saw the transformative power of education and of national service to change lives.

Following these early years of learning and service, I spent 8 years as in-house counsel to one of Delaware's most innovative, high-tech manufacturing companies, where I saw the strength of American ingenuity and entrepreneurship. Later, as county executive, running a local government that served half a million Delawareans, I learned how to make the tough choices that led to reining in spending, to growing our local economy, balancing a budget, and achieving a surplus. Most important, today, as a husband and father of three young children, I spend more time than ever concerned about their future, wondering whether we will leave them and all our children a nation burdened by debt and struggling to maintain its place in the world or a nation with a renewed strength and focus on the fundamentals that made this the greatest Nation in human history. As a Member of the Senate, I look

forward to applying these lessons while working with my new colleagues.

I said a few moments ago our constituents sent us here with the goal of getting our economy back on track, a goal of focusing relentlessly on economic recovery. However, mere recovery—recovery alone—cannot be our goal. The American people deserve and expect from us policies that will lead to an economy and a job market stronger, more vibrant, and more prosperous than before. To achieve this, I believe we need to pursue a new manufacturing agenda, one that will lead to the creation of inventive businesses and that will open new plants and hire skilled workers for modern and sustainable jobs, one that will produce the next generation of American manufacturers. It should focus on sustaining and growing American manufacturing by rewarding innovation and fostering entrepreneurship and by pairing those great American strengths to an equally great American workforce.

As someone long committed to progressive values, I believe the best way to help stabilize neighborhoods and support families, to advance social justice and fight poverty, is through ensuring more and more Americans have access to good, high-quality jobs. I am encouraged President Obama chose to highlight competitiveness and innovation in his State of the Union Address and its potential to create those sustainable middle-class jobs. He is right to call this our generation's "Sputnik moment."

We have a choice. We can keep doing the things we have for years, but then we will simply keep getting the same results or we can recommit ourselves, as we did as a nation during the space race, to outinnovate, outcompete, and outproduce every other Nation. That is how we, once again, can spark an era of growth and prosperity. Unlike so many other sectors of our economy, with manufacturing, it is not just about creating jobs, it is about creating and sustaining good jobs, jobs that pay a livable wage, provide quality health insurance, jobs with longevity and security.

According to the National Association of Manufacturers, the average manufacturing worker in our country earned 25 percent more than workers in all other sectors. That is over \$72,000 last year, including pay and benefits, while the average nonmanufacturing worker earned less than \$59,000. Manufacturing jobs means higher wages and better benefits, and they have for decades been a reliable path for the middle class for millions of hard-working American families. That path is not nearly as wide or as clear as it was just 10 years ago. Since then, our Nation has lost more than 3 million manufacturing jobs not only to the developing world but to our competitors in the industrialized world as well.

For those who have lost jobs, the stakes couldn't be higher, and for we as leaders our mandate couldn't be clearer.