this Chamber work hard to protect and strengthen every day.

Again, I thank the Chair and the leader. I particularly thank Chief Rabbi Sacks for honoring us with his presence and his words today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1769, the Rebuild America Jobs Act.

I filed a cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1769 last night. If no agreement is reached, we will vote on this tomorrow morning. I am working with the Republican leader to come up with an expeditious way of expressing the will of the Senate in the next 24 hours.

Again, tomorrow the Senate will vote on the Rebuild American Jobs Act. It is a plan to put hundreds of thousands of Americans back to work, constructing thousands of miles of roads, bridges, runways, and train tracks.

The plan is paid for with a small tax—less than a penny—on every dollar a person earns in excess of $1 million every year. The legislation asks millionaires and billionaires to contribute a little more than they do today, knowing there is a pricetag associated with getting our economy back on track.

My Republican colleagues say they oppose this plan to hire hundreds of thousands of construction workers and rebuild our Nation's collapsing infrastructure because they believe the wealthiest Americans cannot afford to pay a few pennies more.

Even the majority of people who would pay this tax say that isn't true. They support our plan. This tiny fraction of American taxpayers who would pay a tiny fraction more each year are among the 1 percent of Americans who have done better and better with each passing decade.

Between 1979 and 2007, the annual aftertax income at the top 1 percent of American wage earners has increased by 275 percent. That same 1 percent now makes more than the other 99 percent of Americans combined. These are the latest figures. It is difficult to compile these numbers. Think about what has happened in the last 4 years. They have even gotten richer and richer. I repeat, that 1 percent now makes more than the other 99 percent of Americans combined. And not all of that 1 percent of wealthy Americans would even qualify to pay this tax to fund billions of dollars in road construction and create hundreds of thousands of jobs. Only those whose income is more than $1 million. Some billionaires and millionaires would not qualify because their income in a given year is less than $1 million. They may have a lot of property wealth and things of that nature.

Tomorrow, my Republican colleagues face a choice, which is not whether to invest in roads or bridges or whether the richest of the rich can spare a few pennies for the sake of our economy; the choice is about priorities. Who will Republicans put first, the millions of ordinary Americans who are struggling to find work and put food on the table or the millionaires and billionaires, whose biggest problem is that they may have to pay an additional $7,000 on the second million they make each year?

We ought to be able to agree that making enough money to pay even a dollar more under our plan is a wonderful problem to have. But so far, Republicans have been pretty clear what their priorities are. They unanimously voted against the American Jobs Act. That legislation would have put more than 2 million people back to work and cut taxes for middle-class families and small businesses.

Then they unanimously voted against the Democrats' plan to put 400,000 teachers and tens of thousands of police officers and firefighters back to work. Republicans have cost this country millions of jobs in the last few weeks alone. They will have another opportunity tomorrow to show America whose side they are on—billionaires and millionaires or the middle class.

Seventy-two percent of Americans, including 54 percent of Republicans, want us to pass this plan. Seventy-six percent of them, including 56 percent of Republicans, want us to pay for it by asking the Nation's wealthiest citizens to contribute their fair share.

Americans—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—know the only way out of the worst recession since the Great Depression is to invest in what this country needs—its workers to be employed. They believe it is fair to ask those who have profited most from this country's success to help shoulder that burden.

Republicans have obstructed and opposed every Democratic effort to create jobs this year. Why would they do that? Fear. Because those job creation efforts would cost millionaires and billionaires even a dollar more. Who do they fear? The truth is they are terrified to violate the infamous Grover Norquist tax pledge, even though they know Norquist is wrong—or if they don't know, they should know. They are in thrall, my Republican colleagues, and in submission to a man whose singular focus is keeping taxes low for the very wealthy, no matter what the effect is on this Nation. They fear his political retribution.

I hope my Republican colleagues will heed this message sent yesterday by former Republican Senator Alan Simpson, a conservative bona fide, regarding Grover Norquist's pledge. He said the only power Norquist wields is the power you give him. Senator Simpson said:

> He can't murder you; he can't burn your house. The only thing he can do is defeat you for reelection, and if that means more to you than your country, you really shouldn't be in Congress.

That is what Simpson said. I believe most Senators—and certainly most Americans—know that legislating isn't simple. It is not as simple as a mindless pledge. Those Senators must have the courage to act on their convictions.

As British historian Thomas Fuller once said, ''Better break your word than do worse in keeping it.''

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, there is no denying the fact that the policies of the past 2½ years have made a bad situation worse. For 2½ years, Democrats completely dominated this town. They got everything they wanted. And what happened? Unemployment has hovered at around 9 percent for 32 months. The so-called misery index is worse than it has been in more than 25 years. Consumer confidence is at levels last seen during the height of the financial crisis. But if one number really stands out, it is this: 1.5 million. That is the number of fewer jobs we now have in this country since the day President Obama signed his signature ''jobs bill'' into law.

These are just some of the numbers that all of us, Republicans and Democrats, read about every single day. But it is not the numbers that compel us to action; it is the stories that lie behind them. It is the millions of men and women who have seen their dreams shattered, their lives upended, and their potential unfulfilled.

What Republicans have been saying is that if we truly want to help improve the situation we are in, if we want to turn this ship around, then we need to learn from our mistakes and take a totally different approach. We know what policies haven't worked. We have tried that. What sense does it make to try those same policies again and again? That is why Republicans in the House and the Senate have been taking a different approach.

Democrats may control the White House, and they may control the Senate, but for the past 10 months Republicans in the other half of Congress have done their best to correct the mistakes and excesses of the previous 2½ years and set us on a different course.

They have done something else that Democrats have not done over the past few years: Week after week, the Republican majority in the House of Representatives has been passing bills that actually have a chance—actually have a chance—of gaining bipartisan support and becoming law. They are actually trying to do something.

Unlike the President and the Democrats who run the Senate, House Republicans are designing legislation to pass rather than fail. They want to make a difference rather than make a point, and the only thing keeping these bills from becoming law is that the Democrats in the Senate will not take them up.

We know the President's strategy. His so-called jobs bill has one purpose and only one: to divide us. Just this morning I read a story that quoted some Democratic operative almost bragging about the fact they do not expect any of the legislation the President has been out there talking about on the bus tour to pass. They openly admit these bills are designed to fail.

It is not exactly a state secret that Republicans—and, yes, some Democrats—don't think we should be raising taxes right now on the very people we are counting on to create the jobs we need to get us out of the jobs crisis. Yet the one thing every single proposal Democrats bring to the floor has in common is it does just that.

So the Democrats' plan is to keep putting bills on the floor they know ahead of time we will vote against instead of trying to solve the problem. They do not even hide it. The President's top strategist actually issued a memo a few weeks ago stating the President would use this legislation not as a way to help people but as a way to pummel Republicans.

Meanwhile, House Republicans have passed bill after bill after bill actually designed to do something. On March 31 they passed H.R. 872, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act. It got 57 Democratic votes—57 Democratic votes—in the House, a bipartisan bill that could pass and become law. On April 7 they passed H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act. It got 19 Democratic votes. The list goes on and on. There are 15 of these, Madam President—15 of them—that have passed, and each with significant Democratic support—one with 33, one with 28, one with 21, one with 23, one with 16, one with 10, and one with 47 votes.

So there are 15 of these bills that have passed the House with bipartisan support, and in the Senate we don't take up any of them because we are busy taking up bills that everybody knows are not going to pass.

This week, over in the House, they are going to pass four more bills making it easier to hire out-of-work Americans. Just last week, House Republicans passed a bill that would repeal a law requiring the IRS to withhold 3 percent of future tax payments from any company that does business with the government—a bill the President himself said he would be willing to sign into law, and 170 Democrats voted for it. So why don't we pass it in the Senate? The President is waiting to sign it.

This is just the latest example of a simple bipartisan bill that struggling businesses are begging us to pass but that Senate Democrats are holding up right now because it doesn't fit the story line.

I am not saying we have to vote on every one of the bills the House passed just as they are—there is an amendment process for that—but why not take them up? Every one would help create jobs, and none—none—would raise taxes. That is what we call compromise. It is called finding common ground, and it is how the American people expect us to legislate.

What we are witnessing in Washington right now is two very different styles of governance: a Republican majority in the House that believes we should actually do something about the problems we face and which has put together and actually passed bipartisan legislation that would help address those problems, and a Democratic majority in the Senate that has teamed up with the White House on a strategy of doing nothing—nothing—all for the sake of trying to score political points and spreading the blame for an economy their own policies have cemented in place as they look ahead to an election that is still more than a year away.

The President's economic policies have failed to do what he said they would, and now he is designing legislation to fail. Americans are actually tired of failure. So Republicans are inviting Democrats to join us in succeeding at something—anything—around here that would make a difference.

I guess to sum it up, Madam President, what we are saying is, why don't we quit playing the political games? The problems we face are entirely too serious to ignore. Let's take up the bipartisan bills that House Republicans have already passed and actually do something. There is no better time to tackle the problems we face than now. Let's not squander this moment because some political strategist over in the White House is enamored with their own reelection strategy.

Let's take advantage of this moment to act when the two parties share power in Washington. As I often note, it is only when the two parties share power that they can share the credit and the blame. That is why some of the biggest legislative achievements have taken place at moments like this, and that is why I have been calling on Democrats in Washington—privately and publicly—for the past year to follow the example of those Congresses and those Presidents before us who were wise enough to seize an opportunity such as this one for the good of the country.

We face many serious crises as a nation. We know how to solve them. Let's not let this moment pass us by.

TRIBUTE TO C. FRANK RAPIER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to one of Kentucky's hardest working public servants at the end of a long career. Charles Frank Rapier, the executive director of the Appalachian high intensity drug trafficking area—that is kind of a mouthful, and we have a way to shorten that called Appalachia HIDTA—will be retiring this November after 46 years in law enforcement.

This guy is a bit of a legend, Madam President. Director Rapier—called Frank by his friends—has been leading the Appalachia HIDTA Program since 2003. Prior to his appointment, he served as deputy director of that program for Kentucky. The Appalachia HIDTA Program was established in 1998 to combat one of our country's greatest problems: illegal drug trafficking and drug abuse.

The problem of drug abuse that Frank has pledged his career to fighting is particularly bad in my home State of Kentucky. Kentucky ranks in the top three of marijuana-producing States. More Kentuckians died of drug overdoses in 2009 than in fatal car crashes—an astonishing 82 per month. The threat from illegal meth use poses a problem across the State as well. This rampant drug abuse increases crime and destroys families in Kentucky.

Under Frank's leadership, the Appalachia HIDTA Program has attacked drug trafficking organizations in the tristate area of Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee head on. And let me say, Madam President, he has done an amazing job, a truly amazing job.

Specifically, in 2009, Appalachia HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 82 separate drug trafficking organizations. That translates into hundreds of thousands of marijuana plants destroyed and hundreds of arrests. In 2006, they kept an estimated $1 billion worth of profits off of illegal drug activities out of the State of Kentucky.

Frank played an integral role in arranging a visit to Kentucky earlier this year by Gil Kerlikowske, the Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, better known as the Nation's drug czar. The Director's visit, which I was proud to help facilitate, has been an important step in maintaining our focus in Kentucky to stem drug abuse and save our family members, friends, and neighbors from the dangers of drug addiction and drug-related crimes during a time of shrinking Federal resources.

As a strong supporter of efforts to fight drug abuse in Kentucky, I have gotten to know Frank and have seen firsthand his efforts. He is a humble man, but he is highly respected in the law enforcement community throughout the State—and even the Nation, for that matter—for the wonderful job he has done. I know his dedication and leadership in this important fight against illegal drugs will be greatly missed.

Frank knows well the area he has worked so hard to protect. Born and raised in Corbin, KY, he received his