

nomination, and hopefully we can do that during the break we are going to have now.

I have nothing further.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:46 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of Executive Calendar No. 532, the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 687, without intervening action or debate on the nomination, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF KEVIN WHITAKER TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

#### NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER P. LU TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF LABOR

#### NOMINATION OF JOHN P. CARLIN TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Kevin Whitaker, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia; Christopher P. Lu, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor; John P. Carlin, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 15 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to a vote on the Whitaker nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in legislative session.

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

#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. REED. Madam President, yesterday my colleagues agreed by a voice

vote to proceed to a debate on the bipartisan agreement to restore emergency unemployment insurance to 2.7 million Americans. This is great progress from where we have been the last few months, as I have made the case to renew these benefits.

I wish to thank my colleagues for their support and urge them to continue to move this compromise to passage, as it represents our best path forward to quickly provide aid to our constituents and supporting our economic recovery. I hope the voice vote yesterday is indicative of broad support going forward, and that this agreement will not be bogged down by unnecessary roadblocks.

Millions of Americans who have worked hard, who were laid off through no fault of their own, and are searching for work are looking to us to get this commonsense extension done and done promptly. I would again like to thank my colleagues who have joined in this effort. They recognize this is the right thing to do for our workers and it is the right thing to do for our economy.

I would also like to particularly thank my Republican cosponsors who have brought constructive thoughts and ideas to the table, helping bring us here to this point. Senator HELLER has been a stalwart in extending these emergency benefits. Senator COLLINS, Senator PORTMAN, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator KIRK have all contributed valuable thoughts, along with Senator COATS and Senator AYOTTE. This has been an effort that has truly been bipartisan. I think it represents a coming together of proposals from both sides, but ultimately to serve the best interests of our constituents who again are looking for work in a very difficult market.

We have been working together since literally last year before these benefits expired on December 28. We know how important it is to provide this assistance to families throughout this Nation. We also understand that we have to go ahead and not only provide support for the families but also to support the local economy. This will do it. It will provide resources that will immediately go back into the economy and stimulate demand and stimulate growth.

I want to also thank my colleagues for the way they have thoughtfully approached some of the issues. Senator COLLINS has helped build upon this important reform to provide a mechanism which we hope will get people back to work sooner. We have incorporated another assessment in the process. It is fully paid for. People will get, in the course of their extended benefits, the opportunity and also the obligation to come back in, be assessed, be given advice, be given some coaching. We think, and some data suggest, this is one of the most effective ways to get people back into a job in a difficult market.

Senator PORTMAN is a former Director of the Office of Management and

Budget, and one of the real experts, who has been key to identifying appropriate pay-fors which are critical.

Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator KIRK worked to include an examination of the work suitability and work search standards across the States so we can be better informed and better prepared when we have to deal with further reforms to our unemployment compensation system.

This agreement incorporates many good ideas of my colleagues. It is important we build upon the historic reforms Congress undertook in 2012. I will try to discuss those reforms in more detail later in the week. But as I said again, most importantly, it will help people who have worked, who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, who are desperately searching for work and must search for work in a difficult economy. It will help our economy overall.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Kevin Whitaker, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 94 Ex.]

YEAS—99

Alexander	Cardin	Durbin
Ayotte	Carper	Feinstein
Baldwin	Casey	Fischer
Barrasso	Chambliss	Flake
Begich	Coats	Franken
Bennet	Coburn	Gillibrand
Blumenthal	Cochran	Graham
Blunt	Collins	Grassley
Booker	Coons	Hagan
Boozman	Corker	Harkin
Boxer	Cornyn	Hatch
Brown	Crapo	Heinrich
Burr	Cruz	Heitkamp
Cantwell	Donnelly	Heller

Hirono	McConnell	Schatz
Hoeven	Menendez	Schumer
Inhofe	Merkley	Scott
Isakson	Mikulski	Sessions
Johanns	Moran	Shaheen
Johnson (SD)	Murkowski	Shelby
Johnson (WI)	Murphy	Stabenow
Kaine	Murray	Tester
King	Nelson	Thune
Kirk	Paul	Toomey
Klobuchar	Portman	Udall (CO)
Landrieu	Pryor	Udall (NM)
Leahy	Reed	Vitter
Lee	Reid	Walsh
Levin	Risch	Warner
Manchin	Roberts	Warren
Markey	Rockefeller	Whitehouse
McCain	Rubio	Wicker
McCaskill	Sanders	Wyden

Schumer	Tester	Walsh
Scott	Thune	Warner
Sessions	Toomey	Warren
Shaheen	Udall (CO)	Whitehouse
Shelby	Udall (NM)	Wicker
Stabenow	Vitter	Wyden

NAYS—1

Heller

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON LU NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on the Lu nomination.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask that all time be yielded back.

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

All time is yielded back.  
The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Christopher P. Lu, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3979, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Pending:

Reid (for Reed) amendment No. 2874, of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 2875 (to amendment No. 2874), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 2876 (to amendment No. 2875), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 2877 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2874), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 2878 (to amendment No. 2877), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance, with instructions, Reid amendment No. 2879, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 2880 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 2879), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 2881 (to amendment No. 2880), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to talk about a whole series of issues—including unemployment insurance and the minimum wage—that are designed to help Americans attain economic mobility and get a fair shot to move up in the way our economy is designed to work.

This morning the Budget Committee had a hearing entitled “Opportunity, Mobility, and Inequality in Today’s Economy.” We heard from three very strong witnesses, including Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz. We talked about important topics central to understanding the long-held American dream: If you work hard and play by the rules, you should be able to support your family, provide an opportunity for your kids, and have a fair retirement. But for too many—as the Presiding Officer knows—opportunity and mobility are especially hard to find and income inequality is growing.

I am an optimist. I know the solutions are here if we work to find them, and I want to take a couple of minutes to talk about some of the solutions. First, let’s try to put a human face on the problem of inequality in our economy.

Income inequality in the United States is at a record level. It is higher in the United States than virtually any other developed country. President Obama has called income equality the central challenge of our times. The Presiding Officer and I share a Roman Catholic background. Last week the President was talking to Pope Francis in the Vatican, and they talked about how this is not just an American challenge but a global challenge.

According to the CBO, the average income of a household in the richest 1 percent in this country was nearly 180 percent higher in 2010 than it was in 1979 in real dollars. By comparison, the average income for a household in the middle 20 percent of the income distribution had only grown by about 25 percent—about one in seven—of what the households in the highest income levels had grown.

Since 1979, the top 1 percent of our population’s share of national income grew from 8.9 percent to 14.9 percent. So 1 percent has 15 percent of the national income by 2010, but at the same time the bottom 80 percent of our American population saw their share of national income significantly shrink.

For me the issue is not just inequality because there will always be some inequality. Fate, luck, and health will produce some unequal outcomes. But what I think is great about this country is that while we can see inequality and tolerate some degree of it, what we will not tolerate is people being locked into unequal situations.

We want to have a society where people may be born poor or may have an accident or a fate that will have them in a lower economic status but they can still raise their ceiling and achieve all they can. But in the case of social mobility, the United States is now one

NOT VOTING—1

Enzi

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON CARLIN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on the Carlin nomination.

Who yields time?

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, we hope this is the last vote of the day—at least the next vote we hope will be by voice. There could be other votes procedural in nature this afternoon. We hope not, but you never know. I am not going to agree to anything.

I yield back our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all time for debate has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John P. Carlin, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General?

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second. There is a sufficient second. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 95 Ex.]

YEAS—99

Alexander	Donnelly	Leahy
Ayotte	Durbin	Lee
Baldwin	Enzi	Levin
Barrasso	Feinstein	Manchin
Begich	Fischer	Markey
Bennet	Flake	McCain
Blumenthal	Franken	McCaskill
Blunt	Gillibrand	McConnell
Booker	Graham	Menendez
Boozman	Grassley	Merkley
Boxer	Hagan	Mikulski
Brown	Harkin	Moran
Burr	Hatch	Murkowski
Cantwell	Heinrich	Murphy
Cardin	Heitkamp	Murray
Carper	Hirono	Nelson
Casey	Hoeven	Paul
Chambliss	Inhofe	Portman
Coats	Isakson	Pryor
Coburn	Johanns	Reed
Cochran	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Risch
Coons	Kaine	Roberts
Corker	King	Rockefeller
Cornyn	Kirk	Rubio
Crapo	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cruz	Landrieu	Schatz