

My point is this: Do not do anything to it unless you guarantee American taxpayers and drivers that they will get the benefit. There is not any way that we guarantee drivers in this country they will get the benefit of lower gasoline taxes at the pump if we are not allowed to offer and if the Senate does not pass the amendment I have described. The amendment is very simple: It would require certification by the oil companies that they have passed along this reduction in the gas tax and a lower pump price, subject to criminal penalties and subject to enforcement by the appropriate people in the Federal Government. We can talk about gas taxes until we are blue in the face and you can repeal gas taxes from now until next month. But if you do not guarantee that drivers in this country get the benefit, guess who will walk off into the sunset with bulging pockets? The oil company.

When I heard this morning the majority leader say we will have a vote on that today, first of all, I do not think we will because it would require unanimous consent to have a vote on the reduction in the gas tax. But, second, I say to Members on the other side who are in charge of planning the activities of the Senate on the floor, when you decide to have a vote, we will insist that you give us the opportunity to offer an amendment that guarantees the drivers and the taxpayers in this country, not the oil industry, get the benefit of the reduction in the gas tax.

One additional point, and it is probably the most important point. We have also talked on the floor of the Senate about the minimum wage. The gas tax is about \$25 or \$27 a year in benefits if the consumers get the benefit, and they will not unless my amendment is passed. The minimum wage means about \$1,800 a year to those folks who are out there, 40 percent of whom are working as a sole breadwinner on minimum wage, trying to make ends meet, having had their wage frozen for 5 years. We are simply saying we want an opportunity, as well, to address the minimum wage issue. We think the minimum wage should be adjusted for those folks.

We have been told that, well, there will be some point at which we will vote on that. We also ask that when the gas tax reduction is brought to the floor of the Senate, we have an opportunity to consider, as well, in those circumstances, a reasonable adjustment of the minimum wage.

So those are the issues that we are going to ask be addressed by the majority leader and other Members of the Senate in the coming couple of days as we discuss these issues.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WALTER S. MONTGOMERY, SR.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, if the Palmetto State is famous for textiles, then Mr. Walter S. Montgomery, Sr., is one of a handful of South Carolinians whose name is synonymous with that industry. Without question, he is a man who has left his mark on our State and Nation, and it is with great sadness that I rise today to note his recent passing.

"Mr. Walter," as he was affectionately known by his friends and employees, died late last month, ending what was a lifelong commitment to service and industry. From the time he took over his family's textile mill to the day he died, Walter Montgomery worked hard to advance textile manufacturing, to strengthen the South Carolina economy, and to improve the quality of life for the South Carolina Upstate, especially his beloved hometown of Spartanburg.

Known as a benevolent boss, Mr. Walter would stroll the floors of his factories in his shirtsleeves, supervising operations and talking with his employees. His interest in those who worked for him extended beyond the plant walls, and he was known to spend afternoons on the front porches of the homes of Spartan Mills workers, passing the time and getting to know those in his employ. Additionally, Walter Montgomery worked hard to create a job place that was modern, clean, and safe, a far cry from the old style mills of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Walter Montgomery joined the family run Spartan Mills shortly after his graduation from the Virginia Military Institute and eventually became its president and chairman of the board. Through his hard work, determination, and business acumen, Spartan Mills grew from 1 plant to 10, and became the largest employer in Spartanburg County. A young and dynamic executive, Mr. Montgomery became a force in the national textile industry and held leadership positions with the South Carolina Textile Manufacturers Association, the J.E. Serrine Foundation, the Institute of Textile Technology, and the American Textile Manufacturers Association. His professional accomplishments earned him recognitions from the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, which named him Businessman of the Year; and from the ATMI, their organization's prestigious and coveted Samuel Slater Award.

Equally important to the contributions Mr. Montgomery made to business was the role he filled as a civic leader. Spartanburg and the Upstate Region benefited handsomely from the efforts of Mr. Montgomery who helped to establish the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg; served as a trustee of the Spartanburg Music Foundation and the Spartanburg His-

torical Society; and, organized the Spartanburg County Foundation. He also served for 55 years on the board of trustees at Converse College, was a booster for educational causes, and was an active leader in the United Way. For these undertakings, and many others, Mr. Montgomery was awarded the Order of the Palmetto; inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame; was awarded three honorary degrees; and, was recognized with almost countless citations from various business and community groups.

Mr. President, Walter Montgomery was the type of person that any community or State would be fortunate to have as one of its citizens. I can think of no more fitting tribute to Walter than the fact that he was so well thought of, that hundreds of people came to pay their last respects to this man. As a matter of fact, on the day of his funeral, the Episcopal Church of the Advent was packed to capacity and loudspeakers had to be placed outside the church in order for mourners to be able to hear the service. While we will all miss Walter, I hope that others will honor his legacy by trying to match the example he set for service to business and community. I join a long list of people who express their sympathy and condolences to the family of Mr. Walter Montgomery, including his sisters, Kate Montgomery Ward and Lucile Montgomery Cart; his son, Mr. Walter Montgomery, Jr.; his daughter, Rose M. Johnston; and his many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. These people are kin to a man who was one of a kind.

OMNIBUS PARKS BILL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, last Wednesday, the Senate passed H.R. 1296, the omnibus parks bill, by unanimous consent. I recognize that this legislation had indeed gone through the mill. However, I am pleased that we reached this agreement and passed this important bill with strong bipartisan support.

In particular, I want to express my strong support for one title of this bill, the Snowbasin Land Exchange Act, which was included within the bill.

This measure contains provisions that will enable the U.S. Forest Service and the Sun Valley Co. to prepare the Snowbasin Ski Resort, which is located 40 miles north of Salt Lake City, for the major alpine skiing events of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games to be held in Utah. It also concludes a land exchange process that began more than 11 years ago.

I want to acknowledge the efforts of Senators DOLE and MURKOWSKI, who have worked diligently to forge this package so that this particular measure could pass the Senate and move forward in the legislative process.

As my colleagues know, the International Olympic Committee selected Salt Lake City to host the 2002 Winter