

an amendment to another bill in March, and obtained a strong vote in favor of a 90-cent increase in the minimum wage. The Republican leader at the time, Senator Dole, responded by pulling the parks bill from the floor of the Senate. He then tied the Senate in procedural knots for weeks, rather than allow a second vote on our bill.

It was only after Senator Dole left the Senate to campaign for the Presidency that we succeeded in scheduling a vote on our bill, and only after threatening to shut down the Senate. I hope every American remembers that this victory for the working poor became possible only after Senator Dole left Washington to become a private citizen.

Now 13 months have passed since the first of the increases in our original bill would have taken effect. The Republicans' delaying tactics have cost minimum wage workers almost \$4 billion. I hope every American remembers how tenaciously and how long the Republicans have fought to prevent this increase in the minimum wage.

By contrast, in vote after vote, my Democratic colleagues have been united in their support of fair wages for all workers. I want to salute them for that unity and thank them for their support throughout this long fight.

Thanks to the perseverance of my Democratic colleagues, the poorest American workers will see their incomes increase by 22 percent. By the time next year that the second increase takes effect, they will see their incomes increase by \$1,800 a year, enough to pay for 7 months of groceries or a year of community college.

Unlike the punitive welfare reform bill Congress has just passed, this raise in the minimum wage will actually improve the lives of millions of people. It will lift 300,000 people out of poverty, including 100,000 children, and save families across the Nation from having to make cruel economic decisions, such as choosing between keeping the utilities turned on and paying for groceries or medicine.

The real problem for much of the welfare population is their inability to find jobs that pay enough to support them and their families. If work does not pay a living wage, requiring welfare mothers to work will do nothing to end their poverty.

It is unfortunate that this good legislation for low-wage workers was coupled with a package of tax giveaways to large and small businesses. I regret that many objectionable changes to our tax laws are being made under the cover of raising the minimum wage.

On balance though, H.R. 3448 is legislation that should be passed. This long awaited raise in the minimum wage should be delayed no longer.

These are important factors for hard-working men and women in this country. This is an extremely important achievement and accomplishment. I look forward to casting my vote in favor of the increase in the minimum wage.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I say how very grateful I am to so many for all of the efforts that have gone into making the passage of the House insurance reform possible tonight.

It is not possible to name all the names, and I ask unanimous consent they be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Labor Committee: Dean Rosen, Susan Hattan, Anne Rufo, David Nexon, Lauren Ewers.

Finance Committee Majority: Lindy Paull, Frank Polk, Julie James, Mark Prater, Doug Fisher, Gioia Bonmartini, Alex Vachon, Brig Gulya, Sam Olchyk, Donna Ridenour.

Minority: John Talisman, Patti McClanahan, David Podoff, Laird Burnett, Keith Lind.

Majority Leader: Annette Guarisco, Vicki Hart, Susan Connell.

Minority Leader: Rima Cohen.

Joint Committee on Taxation: Ken Kies, Mary Schmitt, Carolyn Smith, Cecily Rock, Brian Graff, Judy Xanthopoulos.

Congressional Research Service: Beth Fuchs, Madeleine Smith, Kathleen Swendiman, Jennifer O'Sullivan, Celinda Franco.

Thanks to the staff of: House Ways and Means Committee—particularly Chip Kahn, Elise Gemeinhardt, and Kathy Means; House Commerce Committee—Howard Cohan, Melody Harned; House Economic Opportunities Committee—Russ Mueller; Congressional Budget Office Staff; House and Senate Legislative Counsels—particularly Bill Baird, Ed Grossman, John Goetcheus, and Julie Miller.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Without the dedicated efforts of our staff, it would not have been possible. I mention Dean Rosen, Susan Hattan of my staff, and David Nexon and Lauren Ewers of Senator KENNEDY's staff, and many others who have spent countless time and effort.

It is an important piece of legislation. I am very proud we have accomplished it in a bipartisan fashion. It could not have been done without them.

Senator KENNEDY mentioned the minimum wage legislation which we will be voting on as well, in back-to-back votes. I will speak after those votes on something I regard very important to the success of both welfare reform and the minimum wage, and that is job training programs.

Without our willingness to be more innovative and skillful in how we handle job training problems, we will not succeed with the type of welfare reform or minimum wage that enables us to have skilled young people and retrained older people entering our job markets. I think that is an important component of the success of those bills.

I yield any remaining time, but say again how proud and grateful I am to all who have had a hand in the passage of this legislation.

CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 3103

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the previous order, the Chair announces the adoption of House Concur-

rent Resolution 208, just received from the House.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 208) was deemed agreed to.

HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report of H.R. 3103. The yeas and nays have not been ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the minimum wage increase, H.R. 3448, the Small Business Tax Relief Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report on H.R. 3103.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] and the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. PRYOR], are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 264 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Abraham	Feinstein	Lott
Akaka	Ford	Lugar
Ashcroft	Frahm	Mack
Baucus	Frist	McCain
Bennett	Glenn	McConnell
Biden	Gorton	Mikulski
Bingaman	Graham	Moseley-Braun
Bond	Gramm	Moynihan
Boxer	Grams	Murkowski
Bradley	Grassley	Nickles
Breaux	Gregg	Nunn
Brown	Harkin	Pell
Bryan	Hatch	Pressler
Bumpers	Hatfield	Reid
Burns	Heflin	Robb
Byrd	Helms	Rockefeller
Campbell	Hollings	Roth
Chafee	Hutchison	Santorum
Coats	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Cochran	Inouye	Shelby
Cohen	Jeffords	Simon
Conrad	Johnston	Simpson
Coverdell	Kassebaum	Smith
Craig	Kempthorne	Snowe
D'Amato	Kennedy	Specter
Daschle	Kerrey	Stevens
DeWine	Kerry	Thomas
Dodd	Kohl	Thompson
Domenici	Kyl	Thurmond
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Warner
Exon	Leahy	Wellstone
Faircloth	Levin	Wyden
Feingold	Lieberman	

NOT VOTING—2

Murray Pryor

The conference report was agreed to.