

These are the economic fears which are keeping American workers up at night—losing their job, losing their homes, losing their retirement savings, losing their health care, and paying for college.

Millions more of them are kept awake by these fears today than were 18 months ago. The Bush economy has turned the American dream into a nightmare for them.

It's time to restore economic security for workers and the Nation. Democrats support extending unemployment benefits, guaranteeing retirement security through pension reform, raising the minimum wage, insuring health care for the uninsured, and making prescription drugs and college more affordable for millions of Americans. America's working families deserve nothing less.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I compliment the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts for his powerful statement and my colleagues, the Senators from New York, Missouri, and Washington State, and others, in support of the Wellstone unanimous consent request. I know he will propound it momentarily. We are waiting for the assistant Republican leader to come to the Chamber.

In the meantime, I add my voice to those who have spoken this morning. The economic conditions in this country continue to worsen. We now have 2 million jobs that have been lost over the last 20 months. The number of the private sector unemployed has gone up by over 2 million people. We have seen the number of long-term unemployed go from about 650,000 now to 1.5 million people—those who are unemployed for more than 6 months. We have seen a \$4.5 trillion loss in market capitalization. We have seen the number of foreclosures go up at a rate higher than anything in recent years.

Over and over, every single indicator points to the fact that this economy continues to worsen. Yet we have an administration that, for whatever reason, chooses to ignore it entirely.

The point we make this morning and have made now for some time is that at the very least we ought to be sensitive to those who are the victims of this tragic set of economic circumstances.

Felix Batista is one of those people. I heard about Mr. Batista when I was in New York in the last couple of days. Felix Batista worked for the World Trade Center for 23 years. After the tragedy of 9/11, Mr. Batista was left unemployed. He has yet to find a job more than a year later, in spite of the fact that he was an outstanding employee, that he has family, that he has run out of his unemployment benefits. He has no recourse but to continue to plead for help, ask for our understanding. I don't know whether Mr. Batista is watching this morning, but I am sure if there are those who are unemployed with access to C-SPAN, they

have to be wondering, hoping, wishing the Senate would act expeditiously.

They didn't have to hope or wait 10 years ago. We went through a recession at that time and we extended unemployment benefits—not once, not twice, but on three occasions. We provided the safety net to those who were unemployed in the long term. We provided some hope, some opportunity to have a sense of worth. That is all we are asking, Mr. President. Give these people a chance. Give them the hope and the real opportunity they need to be able to pay their bills, buy groceries, to ensure that their rent payments are made so they are not evicted in addition to being unemployed. So I hope that, at the very least, we can extend unemployment benefits again. We have done it before. The need could not be more urgent.

While we can talk about all the other things we need to do about the economy, there should not be any difference in opinion whatsoever, Republican or Democrat, when it comes to economic security for these unemployed workers, these families left with nothing—the Felix Batistas of the world, who are good employees, who work hard, who expect at least some understanding for their circumstances now.

I yield to the Senator from Minnesota to make his unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I know the Senator wants to speak on this matter as well. I can do this in a very brief timespan, though I think this is a critically important issue. I thank, as always, my colleague Senator KENNEDY for his leadership, along with Senator CLINTON.

My State of Minnesota has lost 40,000 jobs in the last 18 months. I have not seen anything like this for a long time. We have 123,000 Minnesotans who are officially unemployed, and that doesn't include people who are self-employed, people who work part time, and those people who have become discouraged workers. Right now, unemployed workers in Minnesota are looking for jobs, and they outnumber unfilled jobs by 2 to 1. This is a serious situation.

Look at the reports today about the stock market and the economy. The good thing we did in the 1990s, in a bipartisan way, is that when we were in the earlier years, before President Clinton, in recession, we extended the unemployment benefits another 13 weeks. That is exactly what we are talking about here—the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act. It is a bipartisan measure. It is critically important. Basically what we are saying is that we ought to at least, with this Economic Security Act, provide an additional 13 weeks of extended benefits for workers who are either running out of benefits and won't even get the 13 weeks they are due in December or those who have already run out of all of their benefits. For those States with

high levels of unemployment, we are talking about another 20 weeks of unemployment benefits.

Colleagues, this is compassion. This is bipartisan. The economy is not doing well, and the families we represent in our States are not doing well.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 3009

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 619, S. 3009, a bill to provide economic security for America's workers; that the bill be read the third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without intervening action or debate.

I say to my colleague from Oklahoma, I don't know whether he wants to do this. I know Senator SMITH wanted to speak. If you are going to support this, I hope he can speak after—maybe you want to let him speak a few words before. Would that be possible?

Mr. NICKLES. Is the Senator going to make a unanimous consent request?

Mr. WELLSTONE. The Senator can follow then. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 619, S. 3009, a bill to provide economic security for American workers—this is to extend it another 13 weeks, and we should do that—that the bill be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I need to ask my colleague a couple of questions.

I am sympathetic to granting an extension of unemployment compensation. As the Senator mentioned, we have done it in the past. I am not familiar with the Senator's bill. Has the bill been printed yet? Not to get in too big a hurry, but is the bill available? My staff said maybe we can find it on the Internet, but I don't believe it has been printed yet.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I have a copy of the bill that I would be pleased to give to the Senator.

Mr. NICKLES. I would appreciate a copy. I would like to look at it.

Mr. WELLSTONE. There is nothing really complicated about this. We have a lot of people out of work. The economy is not doing well. They have run out of benefits, and they need another 13 weeks.

Mr. NICKLES. I don't think asking a couple of questions is too much to ask. Is this a clean 13-week extension in unemployment compensation?

Mr. WELLSTONE. The Senator is absolutely correct.

Mr. NICKLES. Is that all it is?

Mr. WELLSTONE. The Senator is correct. Although it is 13 weeks, it is 20 weeks for States with higher levels of unemployment.

Mr. NICKLES. Back to my question, it is not just a 13-week extension of unemployment compensation—

Mr. WELLSTONE. The same way, I say to my colleague, we did it in a bipartisan way in the early 1990s, where it was 13 weeks, and for States with higher levels of unemployment, it went to 20 weeks. We have done it before, and we can do it again right now.

Mr. NICKLES. I will just inform my colleague that I just need to see his bill.

One additional question: Has there been a cost estimate? I think I am familiar with old cost estimates on a clean 13-week extension, but I am not familiar with how much additional the Senator is asking. Does he have a cost estimate on his bill?

Mr. WELLSTONE. CBO has not given us an estimate. I think it will be \$10 billion to \$13 billion. If I may say to my colleague for a moment, I appreciate his question and what he is talking about, and we will let you read it. But people are flat on their backs. In the case of States with high unemployment, it would be 20 weeks. We have done it before. The CBO estimate—I have given you what I believe it is going to be. I am not neutral. We need to do this. We need to take this action.

Mr. NICKLES. Just for my colleagues' information, I have not seen his bill. I understand from staff it was introduced on Thursday, but it has not been printed yet. I would appreciate a copy of the bill. We would like to review it and see what it is. I will work with my colleague and my friend from Oregon, who I know is interested in the bill as well. We have other colleagues who are also interested in passing some extension of unemployment. Whether it goes beyond the 13 weeks or not needs to be discussed. There are Democrats and Republicans—other Senators—besides just a couple who want to address this issue.

At this point, I will object. But I will tell my colleague that I will work with all interested Senators to see if we can pass some form of unemployment compensation extension before we adjourn in the next week or so. We at least need to see the bill. This idea of having a bill introduced on Thursday and not printed in the RECORD yet, and then wanting to pass it on Tuesday, without other people looking at it, I think is premature. So at this point I shall object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, if I may say to my colleague from Oklahoma, I appreciate what I heard and his willingness to move forward. I can guarantee him that he will have the bill in a matter of seconds, lest we harp on the complexity of all of this to the point where it becomes a reason for not taking action; it is very simple and straightforward, as I have defined. We have done this before in a bipartisan way. God knows, there is not one Senator in here who doesn't understand the economy in their State. We can take prompt action right away, and for people out of work in Minnesota and

around the country, they need this. We are pleased to do this. We will come back to the floor ASAP and pass it in a bipartisan fashion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At this time, all time remaining under morning business belongs to the minority.

Mr. REID. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President. The minority has how much time remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Two minutes 17 seconds.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have a number of people who wish to speak. We are told we are not going to be able, even though we are going forward for the fifth time, to invoke cloture. I do not think on our side we need all that time. Each side has a half hour. While my friend, the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma, is in the Chamber, I am wondering if we can have 15 minutes on our side for Senator LIEBERMAN to talk about cloture, and the other 15 minutes would be for morning business because Senator KENNEDY has been here all morning wishing to speak, Senator SARBANES is here, and Senator DURBIN has shown up.

I, therefore, ask unanimous consent we have the vote at 12:15 p.m. rather than 12 o'clock, and that the time be apportioned accordingly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. NICKLES. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, the vote was originally scheduled for 12 o'clock, with 1 hour debate equally divided. I know my colleague from Oregon wishes to speak on the unemployment compensation issue. I know he has not had a chance. Does the Senator want to move the vote to 12:15 p.m.?

Mr. REID. Yes, we want to use 15 minutes of Senator LIEBERMAN's time for morning business. Senator LIEBERMAN only needs 15 minutes. He is so good he can handle it in 15 minutes.

Mr. NICKLES. That is perfectly acceptable. The assistant majority leader is basically saying this side gets 30 minutes and his side gets 30 minutes, and he is going to change the time allocation of the 30 minutes?

Mr. REID. That is right.

Mr. NICKLES. I have no objection, except I would like the Senator from Oregon to be able to speak.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. I wonder if I may take the remaining 2 minutes on the minority side even though I am speaking for the majority position.

Mr. NICKLES. The Senator is entitled to speak. They can get their vote at 12:15 p.m. Can the Senator from Oregon have 5 minutes to speak on the unemployment compensation issue, and then we will divide the hour as described?

Mr. REID. The Republican side has 2 minutes left. He can take that 2 minutes.

Mr. NICKLES. We will give him 5 minutes.

Mr. REID. From where does his 5 minutes come? I do not care as long I know.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Oregon have 5 minutes and then the hour be apportioned as described by the assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. I dare the Presiding Officer to tell us what we have just done.

Mr. NICKLES. The Senator from Oregon gets 5 minutes and then we have 1 hour.

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

Mr. REID. I ask the Chair, how much time do we have for the three speakers on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Thirty minutes.

Mr. REID. Ten minutes per speaker. Ten minutes to Senator KENNEDY, 10 minutes to Senator SARBANES—

Mr. SARBANES. Five minutes. We are saving 15 minutes for Senator LIEBERMAN. It will be 5 minutes.

Mr. REID. Five minutes for Senator KENNEDY, 5 minutes for Senator SARBANES, 5 minutes for Senator DURBIN, and then the other 15 minutes for Senator LIEBERMAN. If he feels very generous, he can yield part of his 15 minutes to these other Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT OF 2002

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I probably will not use all the 5 minutes allocated. I thank my colleagues for their courtesy in granting me this time.

I have been on the floor this morning listening to charges and countercharges between the parties as to who is to blame for the current state of the economy. Frankly, I do not believe we planned this economy. I think Congresses and Presidents are given too much credit and blame for the free-market system. I think the people at home could care less about all the fingerpointing. In my view, now is the time to come together, not as partisans but as Americans and as bipartisans, if you will, to support legislation that is critical to those who are bearing the brunt of the economic downturn our country has been experiencing.

I have joined Senator KENNEDY as the lead cosponsor of this legislation to extend emergency benefits for workers who have already exhausted their benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Program. I am here again to offer my support for another attempt to extend the emergency benefits for unemployed workers.

Last week, Senator KENNEDY, Senator WELLSTONE, and I introduced the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002. This is yet another effort to push the issue to provide benefits from this Congress before it adjourns.

I note for the record, I have been pushing emergency benefits for unemployed workers in Oregon for a year