

So, we have the administration saying they really don't know how many jobs will be created this year. Then we have had Mr. Greenspan, who most people respect, come before a variety of committees. He just came before the Joint Economic Committee this week. When he was asked if we should extend unemployment benefits, he said:

I do think it's a good idea, largely because of the size of exhaustions.

What he is saying is that those 1.1 million people who have exhausted their jobs are out there to demonstrate that the economy isn't getting better at a fast enough pace. Therefore, we should continue the Federal program until we see more job creation.

That is what I think should happen. I see lots of people across the country who are very frustrated by this.

In fact, the Dayton News just in the last few weeks said:

GOP leaders still dodging jobless.

That is not this Democratic Senator saying this. This is a newspaper in a State that has been as hard hit by the loss of manufacturing jobs as my State has. Ohio and Washington are among the highest unemployment States. They are saying GOP leaders are dodging the jobless. Why are they saying that? Here's the answer of the Dayton paper:

What's troubling . . . is how some Republican leaders are hoisting another "Mission Accomplished" banner, this one to hide the struggle of more than a million unemployed workers who have exhausted State benefits without finding another job.

That is the Dayton paper saying that. That is not this Senator.

I happen to agree with the paper's point, that we should take care of these 1.1 million people Greenspan says are not getting help. The economists are saying we are not recovering fast enough; give these people the benefit. I believe the Senate must act.

That is what Business Week said:

Government actions will act as a bridge that will help the economy cross over this extended valley of almost nonexistent hiring.

That is Business Week.

Why do they say that? Because they know the best thing for us to do is pass the unemployment benefits and create a bridge until we see substantial job creation.

I can't think of a better source to listen to than Business Week, which analyzes business trends, or Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, when they say we ought to pass these benefits.

This is about the 16th or 17th time we have been to the floor. I know people say we are working on something. People say, Let's compromise. Let us cut the program in half. But, Alan Greenspan didn't say cut the program in half. The Dayton newspaper didn't say cut it in half.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to Calendar No. 470, which is S. 2250, a bill to extend unem-

ployment insurance benefits for displaced workers, that the bill be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from Texas, I object.

Ms. CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. President.

How much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for another 30 seconds.

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

Ms. CANTWELL. The Presiding Officer has been so kind to listen with interest to these two issues. I hope he and my other colleagues will take these two issues to heart. I am being pointed in my remarks today because I believe these are two issues this body has the responsibility to deal with. These are two issues we can't get done and we are holding the American people hostage by not addressing our basic domestic economic security needs by giving people jobs and the reliable security of electricity grids.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAMBLISS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ASBESTOS LITIGATION REFORM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we had a vote on the motion to proceed to the asbestos bill. As a followup to that vote, the Democratic leader and I have been in discussions over the course of the day. Unfortunately, we have yet to work through the legislative impasse on asbestos. However, there are Senators on both sides of the aisle who are committed to getting something done.

This morning Senator DASCHLE and I confirmed our understanding that we must provide an opportunity for negotiations which will determine whether a bipartisan solution can be reached. We will oversee a mediation process to determine whether we can resolve the remaining differences. My hope is we can work through this quickly.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, while I am disappointed that we find ourselves in this situation, I am pleased we are now going to begin the negotiations and move forward. As we have discussed, starting on Monday, we will convene meetings of interested stakeholders utilizing Judge Edward Becker as a mediator. I am strongly committed to getting the bill done and working through the serious issues that still divide us. The issue of asbes-

tos is too vitally important to let this opportunity slip away. I know Senator FRIST is committed as well.

Mr. FRIST. I believe the process needs to initially focus on the major issues—overall funding, claims values, and projections. If we can make progress on this front, I strongly believe we can resolve the others.

Mr. DASCHLE. I agree. I think the funding and the so-called economic issues are critical to finding a solution. If we can't get a fair funding level that provides just compensation to victims and certainty to businesses, then we won't be able to resolve the other interlocking issues.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. 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 MARY McGRORY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, this evening I want to take a few minutes of the time of the Senate to pay tribute to and to say a public goodbye to Mary McGrory, a friend of long standing to me and my wife Ruth and to our daughters Amy and Jenny. Mary passed away last evening here in Washington after having had a long illness.

Mary McGrory was a wonderful, warm, witty, and wise woman. Her death is, indeed, a passing of an era when the written word could carry meaning, when the written word could actually move people, when people looked to a Mary McGrory to give them the kind of inspiration they needed or to give them the in-depth analysis they needed to understand what was going on in Washington.

Her writing had such a clarity about it that once I read what Mary McGrory had written, I found myself many times saying: Yes, that's how I feel. Why didn't I think of that? Why couldn't I have said it that way?

I think of her passing as the passing of an era, like there is a time and a place and a circumstance that happens in the passing of time when certain individuals do something, make something, or leave an imprint in some way that you know will never happen again, such as the passing of a Michelangelo, a Leonardo da Vinci, a Shakespeare, a time and a place for Shakespeare and his magnificent writings never to be seen again. I think of that when I think of Mary McGrory because we may never see her kind of writing ever again.

Oh, with the advent of computers, sound bites, trying to get everything into 30 seconds or trying to make everything so simple that it is reduced to meaningless jabber, it may be that we will never see her kind of writing again.