

jobs in January alone. We are shedding jobs at an alarmingly fast rate in New Hampshire and across this country. That is why it is critical that we pass a robust economic recovery package and that we do it immediately.

The economic recovery bill we are going to vote on is not perfect. I would have preferred more investment for roads and bridges, for water treatment plants, for K-12 and higher education buildings. Over the past year in New Hampshire, we lost almost 10 percent of our construction jobs, and investing in infrastructure creates good-paying construction jobs now, with the money earned by these workers generating a multiplier effect of economic activity so that it strengthens our economy, not just now but in the future. If it were up to me alone, we would be investing more heavily in infrastructure. But, as President Obama said the other day, we cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

This economic recovery bill is good. For example, with this bill, over \$132 million in highway funding will come to New Hampshire for road and bridge construction. Monday, I toured the construction site for a long planned access road to our major airport in New Hampshire, the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. The highway funding in this economic recovery package will expedite the completion of that access road to our major airport in Manchester. It will create 1,000 construction jobs, and it will unleash the full potential of the Manchester Airport.

Almost \$60 million will come to New Hampshire for water and wastewater treatment plants. That will create good construction jobs. It will enable cities and towns to move forward with long overdue projects.

The economic recovery package will also help small businesses obtain the financing they need to retain and create good jobs. This is critically important in New Hampshire, where 94 percent of our businesses have fewer than 100 employees, yet they employ half of the State's workforce.

The credit crunch has hit small businesses particularly hard. By temporarily waiving the Small Business Administration fees and increasing the loan guarantee cap, this economic recovery package is estimated to stimulate up to \$20 billion in small business loans.

We may need to do more in the coming months to help small businesses access the working capital they need to survive during the recession. Too many small businesses today are relying on credit cards and they are paying exorbitant interest rates to obtain working capital. As a member of the Small Business Committee, I will be vigilant at monitoring whether the actions we are taking now in this economic package are sufficient to provide small businesses with access to financing.

This economic package will also put us on the path to energy independence by doubling our renewable energy-gen-

erating capacity over the next 3 years. By passing this legislation, we will make it possible for great projects across the country to get up and running.

I had the opportunity to talk to some people behind one of those projects in our capital city of Concord, NH. A company called Concord Steam has a fully permitted 20-megawatt biomass plant that is ready to go right now. Their challenge is getting the financing they need. If they are able to go forward, this combined heat and power plant will be built on a restored brownfields site. It will employ over 100 construction workers for the next year and a half, and it will create 25 permanent jobs at the plant. Because its fuel will be New Hampshire forest waste, this renewable powerplant will also create about 100 jobs in the timber industry. This project will benefit every single American because the steam heat and power that it produces will displace 12 million gallons of foreign oil each year.

We need to pass this economic recovery package, not only because it will put people back to work and lay a foundation for long-term economic growth but also because we need to restore confidence in our economy. The American people have always risen to meet every challenge. They need to see their Government is ready to meet this economic challenge as well.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this economic recovery package and doing it as soon as possible.

I suggest the absence a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S BIRTH

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today, as we all know, if we read the papers, we celebrated the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Our Nation's 16th President is remembered and celebrated, of course, for his many accomplishments that shaped our Nation.

Most of us recall hearing about the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858, a series of debates between the two Senate candidates over the issues of slavery, and how that led to the 1860 Presidential election.

President Lincoln is celebrated for signing the Emancipation Proclamation, the beginning of the end to slavery. All of us remember learning in grade school, some of us failing to perhaps memorize it, but learning of the Gettysburg Address, the prophetic words to a nation in turmoil that a "government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

One of the great places to go in Washington, DC, on a hot summer night is to sit on the marble floor at the Lincoln Memorial and read the Gettysburg Address on one side, then turn around and walk over and read perhaps Lincoln's greatest speech, in my opinion, the second inaugural address: With charity for all, with malice toward none, and all that he said in the second inaugural.

We often remember elements of his legacy but sometimes forget the world view that drove his actions. Lincoln's fight for social and economic justice changed the face of our Nation forever. His fight for economic justice, his fight to ensure that work is rewarded and that wealth accrues to those who produce it, has also changed the face of our Nation.

He forged a path toward prosperity, shared rather than hoarded, a path toward economic opportunity, rather than economic stratification.

President Lincoln knew then what so many of us are reminded of today. That is one reason we celebrate him the way we do, not just his 200th birthday but what he stood for, and especially in light of today's economy. He knew that a nation with the economic priorities skewed toward the wealthiest citizens is a nation with a fragile foundation.

One of my favorite Lincoln quotes:

It has so happened in all ages of the world, that some have laboured and others have, without labour, enjoyed a huge proportion of the fruits. This is wrong, and should not continue.

President Lincoln could stand before this Chamber and deliver those same words and find equal resonance within the these walls and in the homes of middle-class families in the Presiding Officer's State of Colorado, and my home State of Ohio.

President Lincoln's commitment to economic opportunity for America's workers was a tenet of what he stood for from his early days in the State legislature, in Springfield, IL, all the way to his final days in the White House.

Those efforts were amplified through the fight against slavery, the hallmark of his legacy, which was founded on a fight for economic opportunity, opportunity for all.

President Lincoln saw the fight for our Nation's workers, all workers, as a moral, a political, and an economic issue, one that put the Nation on a new path to prosperity and opportunity. Lincoln, in effect, fought for what we would today call the American dream. Americans who work hard, play by the rules, should get the opportunity and will get ahead.

While he may have not have said it in so many words, he may have not have used the term American dream, he may not have mentioned the framework "work hard and play by the rules," he was laying the groundwork for the creation of our Nation's middle class.

He applied his philosophy that "labor is the true standard of value" and that

workers should be justly rewarded for their labor. President Lincoln saw Government as a catalyst that could propel the son of a farmer or a tradesman to a better life, to greater economic stability. He believed that Government investment in public works projects created jobs for millions of Americans, and history has shown him right—projects such as the transcontinental railroad, the Morrill Act to create land grants for colleges, and the building of canals through much of what was then the United States.

It was the same philosophy championed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt some 70 years later on behalf of a nation in turmoil. Once again, the economic might of our Government was harnessed to promote public works projects, to create jobs, and to create economic prosperity.

President Roosevelt's New Deal projects led to the construction of electricity-generating dams—I know what it did in the Presiding Officer's part of the country—in schools, in hospitals, in highways and bridges.

The WPA, the Works Progress Administration, was responsible for putting millions of Americans back to work to support their families, back on the path to the American dream. Our Nation once again faces chronically uncertain economic times. During the last 8 years, the wealthiest 1 percent of our Nation got wealthier and wealthier. Most of the rest of America saw their wages stagnate. Yet the 1 percent got the hugest tax breaks. Middle-class families, the backbone of our Nation, saw their income stagnate, their jobs disappear, their health care costs rise, and sometimes their health care itself evaporate, their energy costs rise, their homes go into foreclosure, their retirement security vanish.

Productivity rose and real wages declined. You would think in the history of this country, in the postwar years especially, when productivity went up, when workers were more productive, their wages kept up. During the Bush administration, that was truncated, where prosperity continued to go up, but wages flattened and the workers simply did not share in the wealth they created.

That would so violate the spirit of Abraham Lincoln and so run counter to what he said about labor and about workers. Let me read that line again: It has so happened in all ages of the world, that some have laboured and others have, without labour, enjoyed a huge proportion of the fruits. This is wrong, and should not continue.

Our Government's priorities in the last few years were focused on enabling the wealthiest Americans to accrue more wealth, not focused on ensuring that hard work would enable middle-class families to thrive. Lincoln knew better. Roosevelt knew better. And we know better. That is why what we are doing this week is so important. We are walking away from priorities that undervalue Main Street, Lima, OH,

Main Street, Akron, OH, Main Street, Mansfield, OH, and overvalue Wall Street. We are walking away from priorities that undervalue Main Street and overvalue Wall Street.

We are focusing on making sure that there are jobs to be had, and that Americans who work hard and play by the rules are rewarded for doing those jobs and renewing American prosperity by rebuilding its infrastructure, an infrastructure that has been starved by a war in Iraq, and starved by tax cuts going overwhelmingly to the wealthy. We are investing in public works projects because we know that the path carved out by President Lincoln, expanded by President Roosevelt, and now the one we follow along with President Obama, is the right path for job creation. It is the right path for our Nation's economy and our Nation's workers. It is the right path to the American dream.

Abraham Lincoln, first and foremost, believed in American workers. He believed in American businesses. He believed in America itself. This economic recovery package is an investment in our great country, it is a fitting way to mark President Lincoln's birthday. I think he would have been proud.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to lead a colloquy among my colleagues for up to 30 minutes.

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

STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, the stimulus bill is the subject of discussion. There are some things we know about it and some we don't. We know, for example, it is a massive amount of money, almost \$800 billion. These are numbers we throw around. But according to the Politico newspaper last month, this is more than we spent on Iraq, more than we spent on Afghanistan, more than we spent going to the Moon in today's dollars, and more than the Federal Government spent in the entire New Deal in today's dollars. It's a massive amount of money. It is not like some of the money we were authorizing to be spent in October and November, when we were giving the Department of the Treasury, in effect, a line of credit to help financial institutions begin to lend again so people could get auto loans. This is money we are spending. It goes out the door. We have to pay it back. It adds to the national debt. It took from the founding

of our country all the way to the late 1970s to accumulate a national debt as large as the amount of money we are spending in this bill. We have been moving rapidly on this legislation. It is not only spending. The amount of money spent for education is such that it may be the largest Federal education bill we have ever passed in terms of dollars. The amount of money spent for energy is enough that it will be one of the largest Energy bills. The amount of money spent for Medicaid in the House and Senate bills, nearly \$90 billion over 2 years to the States, may completely distort the discussion we are about to have on national health care policy. These are all topics that normally we would take weeks to consider.

For example, if we are going to add \$40 billion to a Department of Education that only spends \$68 billion today, we would ask the question: \$40 billion for more of the same, or do we have some better ideas about how we might reward outstanding teachers or give teachers more discretion or parents more choices of schools?

I ask the assistant Republican leader from Arizona, this is one of the most important, massive bills. Republicans want a stimulus package. We have made clear we think we ought to start by fixing housing first, letting people keep more of their own money, and confining the spending to only those projects that create jobs.

I ask the Senator from Arizona, where are we? Has he had an opportunity to read the legislation to know how much is being spent, how much is actually targeted for jobs, and how temporary that targeting might be?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, we do not know yet. I received an e-mail that said the Speaker of the House would be holding a press conference sometime in about an hour. I assume that, therefore, by then they will actually have produced the bill, that there will actually be a bill she can then share with her colleagues in the House and then would come over here and we could begin to read as well.

The answer to the first question is, despite all the discussion, we don't know yet exactly what is in it, how much it is, and what the long-term consequences will be. We do know from news media that certain things in the bill that passed the Senate have been changed. We are also told the basic amount is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$20 or \$30 billion less than the House-passed bill. If that is true, we can make some rough guesses. I will be happy to share what the Congressional Budget Office says about those guesses about future amounts of money.

If I may indulge by setting one bit of background first, when the Congressional Budget Office, the nonpartisan staff for the Congress, develops their cost estimates, they base it on what the language of the bill is and how the bill needs to work in the future. They always provide us with a 10-year cost. That is particularly important because