

stop China from cheating American workers by manipulating its currency, evening the playing field for American exporters and saving jobs.

We passed a bill to modernize the air travel system. The FAA reauthorization is so important, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs but would also keep passengers safer and save money on travel time.

We passed a measure that would protect lives by keeping our foods safe from contamination. The House Republicans are refusing to take up these, period. The House Republicans blocked many reasonable jobs proposals with a proven track record of success. They are simply too busy rooting for our economy to fail and pursuing an extreme social agenda to work with Democrats to create jobs. That will not stop the Democrats from doing everything in our power to get the economy back on track. That is why Senator CASEY has worked to put money back into the pockets of middle-class workers and small businesses by extending and expanding the payroll tax cut.

This legislation cuts taxes for 160 million American workers, saving the average family \$1,500 each year. Those families will have more money to spend on their local economy, grocery stores, pharmacies, and giving communities across the country a financial shot in the arm.

The proposal would give payroll tax cuts to businesses, including 50,000 businesses in Nevada. More than 1.2 million Nevada workers would benefit from the payroll tax cut this year. Under our proposal, they will get even greater tax relief next year.

Payroll tax cuts have been a boon to the economy in every State in the Nation. In Kentucky, for example, the home of my friend the minority leader, 2.1 million workers took home \$1.2 billion in payroll tax cuts this year alone. That is why the minority leader said in 2009 that a payroll tax cut "would put a lot of money back in the hands of businesses and in the hands of individuals." The average Kentucky family will keep \$1,330 of their hard-earned money next year under our expanded payroll tax credit, and 70,000 firms in Kentucky will benefit from these tax cuts.

Senator McCONNELL said in 2009: "Republicans, generally speaking, from Maine to Mississippi, like tax relief." Yet the Republicans already appear poised to block this legislation.

Let's be clear on what a "no" vote on this proposal means. It is a vote to deny tax relief to millions of businesses. It is a vote to raise taxes for 120 million families by nearly \$1,000. The Republicans who vote no will literally be taking money out of the pockets of middle-class families.

Once upon a time, Republicans rushed to cut taxes, regardless of which tax cut it was and whether it added trillions to the deficit. For example, the Bush tax cuts that we hear so much about added trillions of dollars to our

deficit—and it is obvious what was going on during the Bush cuts—and now these tax cuts have not created jobs that amount to anything. Today, they are lining up against a new tax cut, my Republican friends, to put money back in the pockets of the middle class, ensure that businesses have more cash to hire new workers and get our economy moving immediately.

I hope Republicans will now start working with us to pass a tax cut for 160 million American workers and nearly every business in America. As my friend the Republican leader said: "Republicans, generally speaking, from Maine to Mississippi, like tax relief." I hope they remember what the Republican leader said time and time again.

Will the Chair announce the business for the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

The Senator from Illinois.

TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE DALEY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments in the Senate to pay tribute to a remarkable woman. Maggie Daley served with dignity and grace for 22 years as Chicago's first lady. She died on Thanksgiving evening after a nearly decade-long struggle with breast cancer. She was at home, surrounded by her loving family. There is a sad but fitting poignancy to the date. People in Chicago and far beyond have so many reasons to be thankful for the life of this exceptional woman. Maggie Daley was an adopted daughter of Chicago, but no native-born Chicagoan could have loved the city more or served it better.

Last May, as her husband Rich prepared to step down as Chicago's mayor, the Chicago Tribune wrote an article about what Maggie Daley meant to Chicago. The first paragraph put it well: "There has never been and may never be a Chicago first lady of greater impact, influence and inspiration than Maggie Daley."

Maggie was smart, funny, tireless, amazingly modest, and deeply compassionate. She was also a very private person. Yet she still managed to touch the lives of so many people. The love Chicagoans feel for Maggie Daley was reflected in the faces of the people who

waited in a line over a block long, in the rain, this last Sunday, to attend her wake at the Chicago Cultural Center—incidentally, a building which she worked hard to restore.

I stood in that line and talked to many people. Some of them I knew from my public life and their public lives but many just private citizens, some of whom had met her briefly, some who had worked with her for years, but they all came to pay tribute to her. Among them was Hazel Holt, 74 years old. The Chicago Tribune described Mrs. Holt as a person who decided to drive:

... downtown in her church finery from the Gresham neighborhood on the South Side, absorbed the cost of parking, rode the bus and then walked on a damp, chilly November day to the wake.

Mrs. Holt said Maggie Daley "built connections to the city's people with her commitment to charities assisting children, as well as her public poise in the face of cancer that would claim her life." She went on to say to the reporter:

I just loved this lady. I wish I had one-quarter of her grace. She was a role model for a lot of us.

That is a feeling shared by many of us in Chicago and beyond. Upon hearing of Maggie's death, Nancy Brinker, the founder and CEO of the Susan G. Komen Foundation for the Cure, said: "We've lost a real general."

Loretta and I were blessed to have known Maggie personally, and Rich has been my friend, colleague, and even boss for decades. Yesterday morning, I attended Maggie's funeral at the old St. Patrick's Church in the neighborhood parish in Chicago. I remember the last mass I attended there with Maggie and Rich Daley. It was St. Patrick's Day. It is a big day in Chicago on St. Patrick's Day and ground zero for the celebration of old St. Pat.

It was clear Maggie's health was flagging. She had to sit through most of the service. She came to the front pew in a wheelchair. But all those struggles were quickly forgotten as her children and grandkids were seated next to her, and we heard from the back of the church, after the mass, that sound we all waited for, the famous Shannon Rovers bagpipe band from the Bridgeport section of Chicago. They come marching up the center aisle with those bagpipes blasting. It is a moment I will never forget. Maggie's grandkids were nervously waiting, expectantly waiting for the sound of the bagpipes, scrambling all over the pew and all over Maggie and Rich to get to the point where they could peer out down the center aisle to watch the bagpipers come away.

I looked at Maggie and Rich at that moment and I saw them beaming with the kind of joy that loving parents and grandparents just live for. Maggie was a patron saint of social causes, but her deepest convictions were to God and family. Maggie and Rich Daley had been blessed with four children: Patrick, Nora, Kevin, and Lally. Years