

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 Olchik, 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.

Mr. BREAUX. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. FORD. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

SMALL BUSINESS JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 1996—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the conference report to accompany H.R. 3448.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill H.R. 3448 to provide tax relief for small businesses, to protect jobs, to create opportunities, to increase the take-home pay of workers, to amend the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 relating to the payment of wages to employees who use employer-owned vehicles, and to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the minimum wage rate and to prevent job loss by providing flexibility to employers in complying with minimum wage and overtime requirements under that Act, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of August 1, 1996.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the adoption of the conference report. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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 result was announced—yeas 76, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 265 Leg.]

YEAS—76

| | | |
|-----------|------------|---------------|
| Abraham | Frist | Mikulski |
| Akaka | Glenn | Moseley-Braun |
| Baucus | Gorton | Moynihan |
| Bennett | Graham | Murkowski |
| Biden | Grams | Nunn |
| Bingaman | Grassley | Pell |
| Boxer | Gregg | Pressler |
| Bradley | Harkin | Reid |
| Breaux | Hatch | Robb |
| Bryan | Hatfield | Rockefeller |
| Bumpers | Heflin | Roth |
| Byrd | Hollings | Santorum |
| Campbell | Inouye | Sarbanes |
| Chafee | Jeffords | Shelby |
| Cohen | Johnston | Simon |
| Conrad | Kassebaum | Simpson |
| D'Amato | Kennedy | Snowe |
| Daschle | Kerrey | Specter |
| DeWine | Kerry | Stevens |
| Dodd | Kohl | Thompson |
| Domenici | Lautenberg | Thurmond |
| Dorgan | Leahy | Warner |
| Exon | Levin | Wellstone |
| Feingold | Lieberman | Wyden |
| Feinstein | McCain | |
| Ford | McConnell | |

NAYS—22

| | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Ashcroft | Coats | Faircloth |
| Bond | Cochran | Frahm |
| Brown | Coverdell | Gramm |
| Burns | Craig | Helms |

| | | |
|------------|---------|--------|
| Hutchison | Lott | Smith |
| Inhofe | Lugar | Thomas |
| Kempthorne | Mack | |
| Kyl | Nickles | |

NOT VOTING—2

| | |
|--------|-------|
| Murray | Pryor |
|--------|-------|

The conference report was agreed to. Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the conference report was agreed to.

Mr. NICKLES. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. FORD. Will the Senator yield to me?

Mr. KENNEDY. Can I ask for order, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order. Will Senators remove audible conversations to the Cloakroom?

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield me 10 seconds?

Mr. KENNEDY. I yield.

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I would like for the record to reflect that our good friend and colleague, DAVID PRYOR, has missed votes yesterday and today because of the death in his family of his father-in-law and the funeral today. I want the record to reflect that because it was not official business.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, in the last half hour, we have experienced a double-header victory for the American people: health care and a raise in the minimum wage. In a sense, both these bills had nine lives, and they needed all of them. But they have come to a successful resolution this evening and, hopefully, they will be on the President's desk in the very near future.

I would like to just take a moment—I know others want to address the Senate and we still have time for discussion on these two measures—but I do want to at this time express my very, very strong personal appreciation for the support, the assistance, and the help of our leader, Senator DASCHLE, for his leadership throughout the process on both of these pieces of legislation, as well as so much other legislation.

I pay tribute, as I did earlier, to Senator KASSEBAUM for sponsoring the legislation and for all that she has done to move it forward.

To Senator HARKIN for his work on the genetic information, the fraud and abuse provisions. He has been tireless in both of these areas, as well as many others.

Senator WELLSTONE's work on domestic violence, the mental health issues has been enormously important, and although we did not achieve them in this legislation, I think all of us have an understanding we are going to revisit those issues in September, and I look forward to joining with Senator WELLSTONE, Senator DOMENICI and others for, hopefully, an important down-

payment on that issue to try and reflect what is the reality, and that is a mental illness should be treated just like every other illness in our health care system.

To Senator SIMON for his work on the privacy issues.

To Senator MIKULSKI and Senator DODD who were extremely active and involved in the markup and are always involved, Senator DODD particularly, on children's issues and Senator MIKULSKI on the impact of this legislation and also the minimum wage legislation on women in our society.

To Senator BREAUX for his help in making the compromise possible.

And to all the others who helped.

I also thank all of my staff who worked so tirelessly: David Nexon who has done such an extraordinary job over many years and has devoted the better part of his life to trying to improve quality health for American people. I think all of us at this time are mindful of the extraordinary quality of individuals on our staff who really make such an enormous difference in the legislative achievements and for changes in policy.

Carey Parker; Nick Littlefield, our overall staff director for his tirelessness in both of these endeavors; Lauren Ewers, who has been a key member of our health staff; Jim Manley; Dennis Kelleher, Sue Castleberry, April Savoy, Brian Moran.

I, too, want to thank Dean Rosen and Susan Hattan of Senator KASSEBAUM's staff.

I think we have been fortunate on our committee to have Republican and Democratic staff. There have been extremely important and cooperative, and have high talent on both sides of the aisle. Senator MOYNIHAN's staff, Laird Burnett and Jon Talisman, have been enormously helpful.

Finally, I also thank Minority Leader GEPHARDT in the House of Representatives for his strong support and advocacy in working with all of our friends and Members of our party.

Congressman DINGELL, Congressman WAXMAN and the others in the House who participated in the conference committee. I am grateful to all of them.

With respect to the minimum wage, this uphill effort against the odds could not have succeeded without the leadership and support of Secretary of Labor Bob Reich and the contributions of his Department. Many people there lent us their expertise, but let me single out Assistant Secretary Geri Palast, Chief Economist Lisa Lynch, John Fraser at the Wage and Hour Administration, and Seth Harris at the Office of Policy.

Many organizations made a difference in this effort, but I want especially to thank the U.S. Catholic Conference, the Women's Legal Defense Fund, the Mon Valley Unemployed Council, and the Business and Professional Women USA for all of their help. As always, the AFL-CIO and its unions worked very hard for this legislation,