

in four years—yet they have not found time in the past three years to give any pay increase at all to the lowest paid workers.

The long period of inaction comes at a time when the country as a whole is enjoying unprecedented prosperity—the longest period of economic growth in the nation's history and the lowest unemployment rate in three decades. In these strong economic times, Congress should not be acting like Scrooge.

Millions of low income workers have dedicated their lives to building this strong economy. Yet, in many cases they have been forced to labor for increasingly longer and longer hours, with less and less time to spend with their families, and without sharing fairly in the nation's prosperity. Poverty has almost doubled among full-time, year-round workers since the late 1970s—from about 1.5 million then to almost 3 million in 1998—and an unacceptably low minimum wage is part of the problem.

Minimum wage employees working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, earn only \$10,700 a year—\$3,400 below the poverty line for a family of three. At that rate, minimum wage workers now fail to earn enough to afford adequate housing in any area of this country. Waitresses, teacher's aides, child care workers, elder care workers and all other employees deserve to be paid fairly for the work they do. No one who works for a living should have to live in poverty.

By failing to increase the minimum wage, Congress has broken its promise to American workers. We are denying them just compensation for their many contributions to building a strong nation and a strong economy.

We have broken our promise to women, since 60 percent of minimum wage earners are women.

We have broken our promise to people of color, because 16 percent of those who would benefit from a minimum wage increase are African American and 20 percent of those who would be helped are Hispanic.

We have broken our promise to children, because 33 percent of minimum wage earners are parents with children. In America today, 4.3 million children live in poverty, despite living in a family where someone works full-time, year-round.

And we have broken our promise to the American family, because too many parents are required to spend more and more time away from their families to make ends meet. On average, Americans are working 416 more hours in 1999 than they were in 1979.

Each year we fail to act on the minimum wage, families across the country fall farther behind. As the result of not implementing the dollar increase we first proposed three years ago, when the clock strikes midnight on the December 31st, minimum wage workers will have lost over \$3000 because of the inaction by Congress. Today, the real

value of the minimum wage is now \$2.90 below what it was in 1968. To have the purchasing power it had in 1968, the minimum wage would have to be at least \$8.05 an hour today, not \$5.15.

We will never give up or give in on this issue, because it is an issue of fundamental fairness. We will be back next year with a new bill to raise the minimum wage. I hope that the new Congress will act as quickly as possible to pass a fair increase that reflects the losses suffered as the result of our shameful inaction this year.

President-Elect Bush has emphasized many of these priorities, and I look forward to working with him. The lesson of the legislation before us today is that when we fail to consider each other's ideas, only gridlock results—but when we work together for the nation's good, the result is the kind of progress that makes us all proud to serve the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ABRAHAM). The Senator from Nevada.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, due to the delay in consideration of the final appropriations bill, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until the hour of 4 p.m., following the remarks of Senator TORRICELLI from New Jersey.

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

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

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

ASSISTANCE FOR ALS PATIENTS

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, 3 years ago, during a visit by a constituent, I met a young man from southern New Jersey named Kevin O'Donnell. I have shared his story with the Senate before. But on this day, having met with some success, I share it with you again.

Five years ago, Kevin was 31 years old. He was a young father, a husband of a lovely woman, and in perfect health. He took his daughter skiing one day and upon returning home felt a pain in his leg. It continued over a period of time, bothering him, so he went to visit the doctor. You can only imagine the shock when this perfectly healthy young man—father of this little girl—discovered he had been stricken with ALS, known to most of us as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Since that day, Kevin O'Donnell's wife and daughter have watched the life flow out of his body. Going from a healthy young man, they watched him lose control of his legs and arms, the

ability to speak, and even the ability to breathe. Life simply evaporated from Kevin O'Donnell's body.

When he came in to see me those years ago, he had a very simple request—so logical I could not conceive of an argument against it. While he was waiting to die, not only was his life leaving him but the financial security of his family. Nursing care, medical assistance, things to ease the pain, to maintain some dignity in life, to provide relief for his wife and his family, were costing thousands of dollars.

But under the rules of Medicare, he could not begin to receive any assistance for 2 years. The life expectancy for 90 percent of ALS sufferers is only 3 years, 4 years. Most of the people who have ALS do not live beyond the waiting period in Medicare to get help. This never could have been anticipated. It never could have been even imagined by people in Medicare when these regulations were written. And because there is no other disease quite like it, the regulations have never been changed.

A person can have heart disease or cancer, and they may be at great risk, but they can live 2 years. With the right treatment, they can live 5, 10, 20 years; at least the chances are always good. With ALS, the outcome of the disease is nearly certain that the life expectancy is not long and most will not live to ever see their first dollar of Government help.

I brought this cause to many of my colleagues in the Congress. There are 28 Members in the Senate—16 Democrats and 12 Republicans—and over 280 Democrats and Republicans in the House of Representatives who have joined in this effort to help those people around the country who are stricken with Lou Gehrig's disease.

Today, I rise to thank Senator LOTT and Speaker HASTERT for their generous help, and Congressman GEPHARDT, Senator DASCHLE, Senator BYRD, Senator REID—the bipartisan leadership—for offering some help to those who suffer from this disease in this country.

But most importantly, I am also very indebted to President Clinton, who made this a critical priority in budget negotiations. Specifically, I thank members of the White House staff, Chris Jennings and Rich Tarplin, who, under the President's direction, fought to give some help to these Lou Gehrig's disease patients.

I have spoken on this floor many times about this cause. For me, this was a victory that was going to be won before this session of Congress ended—no matter what.

When I began this effort some years ago, I stood outside the Senate Chamber with people in wheelchairs, stricken with ALS, in a variety of conditions. As I stand here today to declare victory, I am mindful of the fact that most of those who stood with me when this effort began are now deceased. With their own lives, they proved the

importance of the legislation. They said they could not live the 2 years to ever receive the Medicare assistance to help ease the financial burden on their families. Most of them proved it with their lives.

Today, the CBO estimates that there are 17,000 ALS patients waiting to become eligible for Medicare. With the passage of this bill, their wait will end, and with it the anguish of calculating how to afford the \$250,000 in annual medical bills while they are also dealing with the anguish of their disease.

For me, it is the end of a long fight, where I can tell Kevin O'Donnell: You began it, you fought it, and we won. And in your victory comes relief for 17,000 people just like you.

To all my colleagues who have helped, I give you my most sincere thanks and leave you with the words of former President Thomas Jefferson, in 1809, who said about service in Government:

The care of human life and happiness . . . is the first and only legitimate object of good government.

Mr. President, there is relief for ALS patients in this bill. That is good government.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess until 4 p.m.

Thereupon, at 2:43 p.m., the Senate recessed until 4:02 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. KYL).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

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

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

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is with great sorrow, but also great pride, that this Senate retires one of its most eloquent, learned, and successful Members—the senior Senator from New York, DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN.

I have known my distinguished colleague for over two decades, admiring his compassion, his dedication, and his acumen on key issues, from environmental protection to social, racial, and economic justice for all. It has been an honor and education to have worked with him on the critical issues of eradicating poverty, elevating human rights, and promoting peace around the world. He and I have also worked to-

gether closer to home, protecting and restoring the precious waters of Lake Champlain—a glacially-carved jewel of New England that spans 120 northern miles between our neighboring states, half claimed on my side, half claimed on his.

Twenty-four years of distinguished service in the United States Senate would be a legacy in and of itself for any man. Yet my colleague, Senator MOYNIHAN, has done so much more. He served our country for a full twenty years in the Naval Reserve, with three years of active Navy duty at the end of the second World War. He has been a Fulbright Scholar and a professor of government at Harvard University. He has the unique distinction of serving in four successive Presidential administrations—the only person in American history to have ever done so. He represented our country as a distinguished Ambassador to India, a representative to the United Nations, and President of the U.N. Security Council. He has served on countless public and private sector commissions, committees, and panels, addressing issues from education to science to finance. Most recently, he chaired the Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy—a key commission that examined our nation's secrecy laws and led to his authorship of "Secrecy: The American Experience." This book joins the seventeen other works of literature that my friend and colleague has written or edited.

What I will miss in many ways are those special times we would have when some Members would gather in the Senate dining room and a person would bring up a question of history; then we would receive a tutorial from Professor MOYNIHAN. I see my good friend, the deputy Democratic leader, on the floor, the Senator from Nevada, smiling because he knows what those were like. I recall a couple times when we had so many Democrats and Republicans crowded into the Democratic part of the dining room to hear Senator MOYNIHAN tie together something from the time of Franklin Roosevelt through Ronald Reagan, to the current time, and show what the connection was, somebody would have to call up to the Senate Chamber and explain, keep the rollcall going a bit longer; at least a quorum of the Senate has to hear the end of this story before we can come to vote.

My good friend will be missed in the Senate, but I wish him well and envy him the time he will now have to spend with his lovely wife of 44 years, Liz, his three wonderful children, and his precious grandchildren. I join the entire Senate and this Nation in wishing Senator MOYNIHAN well in his new life and commending him for his tireless dedication and service to the people of this country and our world.

LINCOLN HIGHWAY STUDY ACT OF 1999

DILLONWOOD GIANT SEQUOIA GROVE PARK EXPANSION ACT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed en bloc to the following two bills: H.R. 2570 and H.R. 4020.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2570) to require the Secretary of the Interior to undertake a study regarding methods to commemorate the national significance of the United States roadways that compromise the Lincoln Highway, and for other purposes;

A bill (H.R. 4020) to authorize the addition of land to Sequoia National Park, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask consent that the amendment No. 4365 to H.R. 4020 be agreed to, the bills be read the third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bills be printed in the RECORD with the above occurring en bloc.

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

The amendment No. (4365) was agreed to, as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. ADDITION TO SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall acquire by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, all interest in and to the land described in subsection (b) for addition to Sequoia National Park, California.

(b) LAND ACQUIRED.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the land depicted on the map entitled "Dillonwood", numbered 102/80,044, and dated September 1999.

(c) ADDITION TO PARK.—Upon acquisition of the land under subsection (a)—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior shall—
(A) modify the boundaries of Sequoia National Park to include the land within the park; and

(B) administer the land as part of Sequoia National Park in accordance with all applicable laws; and

(2) The Secretary of Agriculture shall modify the boundaries of the Sequoia National Forest to exclude the land from the forest boundaries.

The bills (H.R. 2570 and H.R. 4020, as amended) were read the third time and passed.

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

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