

The President met with them, both before it was finalized and after it was finalized. The President said: If the Senate passes it and if the House passes it, I will sign it.

So I think the President of the United States—albeit he is a Republican—was out in front on this issue, both from the standpoint of the original proposals and from the standpoint of trying to get something that could pass the Senate that he could sign.

We heard from the distinguished majority leader a little earlier about how Republicans objected to help for unemployed workers and having health insurance for unemployed workers coming up on the airline bailout bill. But we were following the consensus of people who were suggesting that if we were going to have a stimulus package, that there should not be anything in it that was industry specific—industry specific meaning helping just unemployed people in the airline industry when you have other unemployed people who would not get help. Consequently, we were following the advice of people such as Chairman Greenspan to be very generic in our approach to helping business or to helping individuals.

On the other hand, I do not like the accusation that somehow helping the airline industry did not help the workers. If those airlines had gone under, instead of there being 30,000 people unemployed, there would have been 330,000 people unemployed. Keeping the airlines flying kept workers on the job and less of them laid off.

We recognize that laid-off workers need help. Obviously, that is why the President came out with a proposal. It was not an industry-specific proposal but was a generic approach to help workers—and not just from the airline industry but from all industries—with the additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits.

It was also said that Republicans refused to negotiate for 3 weeks. This was that period of time when there were shackles put on Democrat negotiators when we negotiated with them. That was part of it. But also that does not give credit to the hours and hours that Senator BAUCUS and I spent negotiating prior to a bill ever coming up on the floor of the Senate. It does not take into consideration, also, the fact that, at the instigation of the majority leader, the Senate Finance Committee met, and contrary to how we normally do our business in a bipartisan way, there was a push to get a very partisan bill out of the Senate Finance Committee. And it did come out on a party-line vote.

So it seems to me that if we are going to be accusatory, we ought to take into consideration that when there was an opportunity to develop a bill in a committee—the Senate Finance Committee, which almost always does things in a bipartisan way—there was an effort to go strictly partisan and the result was to go strictly partisan.

We have the President of the United States pushing more than anyone else, and the House Republicans passed a bill in early fall. That was a bill not very many people liked. The House accepted that. They scaled the bill back and agreed to go to conference a quasi-conference, not a formal conference such as we used to have.

The House of Representatives, in this informal setting, along with representatives of the White House, made this deal with the Senate centrists, what I call the White House-centrist bipartisan package that would have a majority vote of the Senate, albeit not the 60 votes that are required.

The bottom line is that the President of the United States, in saying he would sign the bill, and the House of Representatives, in passing it, took up the challenge and did what needed to be done. Here we are, once again, in the Senate ignoring something that had a majority bipartisan vote in December before we went home for the holidays. Here we are again. Presumably, it has the same bipartisan votes we had then.

Look with me at the other side of the aisle. I already mentioned the partisan bill in the Finance Committee. I already mentioned the intractable position in conference over non-COBRA eligible, meaning when you are unemployed, you only have to take the insurance from where you were laid off, and if you did not have that insurance, you would not be able to get any other insurance under that proposal.

We allow people to continue the insurance from where they worked with 60-percent credit, but we also allow people who are unemployed who did not have insurance where they last worked to get the same 60-percent credit. But there was an ideological block to that on the part of Democrats who were negotiating. Then we had the refusal of a vote in December on the White House-centrist agreement.

I think the Democratic leadership has resisted movement to the center represented by a bipartisan group of Republicans and Democrats who call themselves the centrists. Even though I am more conservative, I have bought into that plan as one we ought to pass in the Senate. Many amendments have been filed, debated, and voted on, so we have been trying to move this bill along.

I am going to finish where I started last December. Let's have a vote on the White House-centrist agreement. If we pass it, the President will sign it. The unemployed will get their unemployment checks, payroll taxpayers will get rebate checks from the Federal Treasury, middle-income taxpayers will get more money in their paychecks, and the unemployed will get help with health care.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session at 5:15 p.m. today to consider Executive Calendar No. 643, the nomination of Callie V. Granade, to be United States District Judge; that there be 15 minutes equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee or their designees, for debate on the nomination; that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate vote on the nomination; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate return to legislative session.

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

Mr. REID. As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to request the yeas and nays on the nomination at this time.

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

Mr. REID. 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.

HOPE FOR CHILDREN ACT— Continued

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have the greatest respect for my friend from Iowa. He is a person who has always been very deliberate and never hides his positions. I have no doubt if he were the one calling the shots and, as he said—and I am using his words—if it was in his pay grade, I am confident this legislation, the economic recovery bill, would have moved much further along.

I have to say in response to my friend from Iowa that he is really looking at this matter, as he set out on the record, with a pair of glasses that do not magnify properly. They want to do what they want rather than go through the regular process and have legislation that we can amend, the so-called centrist package. The problem in all this—and the majority leader laid this out very well earlier this afternoon—in the Senate, whether we like it or not, it takes 60 votes to pass legislation. If someone opposes what you are trying to do, then you have to have 60 votes to break a filibuster and, in some cases, to overcome a point of order.

The fact is, the items the Senator from Iowa mentioned, about which he feels so strongly, do not have 60 votes. The two leaders know that.

Senator DASCHLE, after literally months of wrangling on this, said: OK, all this out here we do not agree on, but there are four things on which we can agree; why don't we pass something that has those four measures in it?

That is what we have been debating since we came back into session on January 23. It does not matter what we try to do, it is not quite right with the other side. Even though these four matters in Senator DASCHLE's bill are matters everyone is saying publicly they agree on, they will not allow us to move forward on this legislation.

They are even offering their amendments to the underlying measure so that at some time they can raise a point of order again on Senator DASCHLE's measure that is before the Senate.

To show how sincere the majority has been on this issue, they raised a point of order to knock down our economic stimulus package, and because it did not have 60 votes, it worked.

We could have, if we did not want to do an economic recovery package, raised a point of order on their legislation, but we chose not to do that because we wanted to keep this before the Senate. We wanted to do something with the stimulus package. Had we not wanted to, we could have raised a point of order on their legislation, and it would have fallen just like ours.

I understand the majority leader's frustration.

It does not matter what he comes up with, it is not quite good enough. I suggest when the political scientists, the historians, go over what has happened on the economic stimulus package late last year and this year, the record will be clear to the effect that Senator DASCHLE has been unable to move not because of anything he has done or not done but simply because the minority has not wanted to move forward.

In the Senate, if there are 49 people, 45 people, 41 people who do not want to move legislation, legislation cannot be moved. That is the problem we have had.

So I hope when we vote on cloture on Wednesday, my friends on the minority side will join with us to bring debate to a close on this so we can move forward with the legislative package that will stimulate the economy.

It may not satisfy everything that everyone wants. For example, today I offered an amendment, which I think is tremendously important to this country, dealing with stimulating tourism, not in the year 2009 like their death and estate tax proposal but today and tomorrow, something that would stimulate the economies all over America because it would give people an economic incentive to fly. It would give people an economic incentive to buy dinners, to go places, have vacations, activities that would stimulate the economy.

I indicated earlier today almost a half million people have been laid off in the travel and tourism business since September 11. These are people who have no jobs. A lot of these people are people who are on the Welfare-to-Work Program. They were trained because they could no longer be on welfare. I support the Welfare-to-Work Program.

They were trained to be a housekeeper, a maid, maybe a cook, an assistant to a cook in a restaurant. Many of these people had never worked before in their life. They had a job, but they lost those jobs and now they have fallen through the cracks. They did not qualify for unemployment insurance, and they are really out on the street.

All we are trying to do is move forward on legislation to stimulate this economy. We have so many more important things to do. We have to finish the farm bill. We have to do something about election reform. We have a bipartisan bill to do that. We also have energy legislation that must go forward in the immediate future. So I hope when the vote is called on cloture on Wednesday that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will vote in favor of cloture and bring debate to a close on this economic stimulus package so we can move forward with the legislation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARPER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2728

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] proposes an amendment numbered 2728 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2698.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the qualified small issue bond provisions)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ MODIFICATIONS TO SMALL ISSUE BOND PROVISIONS.

(a) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF QUALIFIED SMALL ISSUE BONDS PERMITTED FOR FACILITIES TO BE USED BY RELATED PRINCIPAL USERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) of section 144(a)(4)(A) (relating to \$10,000,000 limit in certain cases) is amended by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$20,000,000”.

(2) COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.—Section 144(a)(4) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(G) COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of a taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 2002, the \$20,000,000 amount under subparagraph (A) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(i) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, determined by substituting ‘calendar year 2001’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.”

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The heading of paragraph (4) of section 144(a) is amended by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$20,000,000”.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to—

(A) obligations issued after the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(B) capital expenditures made after such date with respect to obligations issued on or before such date.

(b) DEFINITION OF MANUFACTURING FACILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 144(a)(12)(C) (relating to definition of manufacturing facility) is amended to read as follows:

“(C) MANUFACTURING FACILITY.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘manufacturing facility’ means any facility which is used in—

“(i) the manufacturing or production of tangible personal property (including the processing resulting in a change in the condition of such property),

“(ii) the manufacturing, development, or production of specifically developed software products or processes if—

“(I) it takes more than 6 months to develop or produce such products,

“(II) the development or production could not with due diligence be reasonably expected to occur in less than 6 months, and

“(III) the software product or process comprises programs, routines, and attendant documentation developed and maintained for use in computer and telecommunications technology, or

“(iii) the manufacturing, development, or production of specially developed biobased or bioenergy products or processes if—

“(I) it takes more than 6 months to develop or produce,

“(II) the development or production could not with due diligence be reasonably expected to occur in less than 6 months, and

“(III) the biobased or bioenergy product or process comprises products, processes, programs, routines, and attendant documentation developed and maintained for the utilization of biological materials in commercial or industrial products, for the utilization of renewable domestic agricultural or forestry materials in commercial or industrial products, or for the utilization of biomass materials.

“(D) RELATED FACILITIES.—For purposes of subparagraph (C), the term ‘manufacturing facility’ includes a facility which is directly and functionally related to a manufacturing facility (determined without regard to subparagraph (C)) if—

“(i) such facility, including an office facility and a research and development facility, is located on the same site as the manufacturing facility, and

“(ii) not more than 40 percent of the net proceeds of the issue are used to provide such facility,

but shall not include a facility used solely for research and development activities.”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to obligations issued after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, one of the things we are seeking to do, of course, in an economic stimulus package is to cause some jobs to be created. The amendment which I have offered increases the expenditure limitation on small issue bonds for manufacturing facilities. This is an amendment which

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would go back and readjust the limits that are in law which allow for issuing of bonds for manufacturing facilities. The amount of the bonds that can be issued in any one particular time were set in 1977 and 1978 so, obviously, things have changed since that time—in fact, many times over—as the equivalent has been changed.

This amendment would make adjustments to industrial revenue bonds, the rules and regulations for manufacturing facilities. The amendment would not increase the amount of bonding capacity available to individual States. In other words, it would not be an increase of expenditures but, rather, would give more flexibility to those who are making grants to make them for a larger amount.

Actually, the industrial revenue bonding capacity available to an individual State is the greater of an amount equal to \$75 per State resident or \$225 million. The formula is not affected by this amendment. Therefore, the amount of bonding available would not be affected.

The maximum bond capital expenditure limitation on small issue bonds for manufacturing facilities has been \$10 million. This amendment moves it to \$20 million. It does not change the amount of money available. It simply makes more flexible the amount that could be offered for a particular facility. It provides for an inflation adjustment. This was established in 1978. The purchasing power of \$10 million today is much higher, of course. This amendment provides that inflation adjuster we discussed.

We have had some experience with this in our State where people seek to develop new facilities, new manufacturing facilities, which create new jobs. This allows the builder to issue bonds which are then guaranteed, which gives them a much lower rate, and encourages the development of new businesses and new bonds. It is designed primarily for software biotech manufacturing and production. It is something we ought to consider. It is not an expense but, rather, an adjustment to an existing program that makes it more consistent with today's change in the value of dollars.

It addresses the financial problems caused by inflation. It amends the definition of manufacturing facilities to include a new economy, biotech and software. It allows companies to use industrial revenue bonds for research and development facilities which is a critical component.

I think this can be accepted by both sides. It does not affect the cost of this bill. It does make what is available now much more flexible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The deputy whip.

NOMINATION OF CALLIE V. GRANADE, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

Mr. REID. The Senator from Alabama is here to speak on behalf of the judge he worked so hard to nominate. I ask unanimous consent we immediately move to the matter relating to the nomination of Judge Callie V. Granade.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Callie V. Granade, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Senator from Nevada for his courtesy. I will speak about Callie—known as Ginny—Granade, who will be voted on shortly for the U.S. district judgeship for the southern district of Alabama. Ginny Granade is a nominee of the highest order. President Bush has nominated her to be the judge in the southern district of Alabama. She has the temperament, integrity, legal knowledge, and experience that will make her an outstanding jurist on the Federal bench. I know this from firsthand experience.

She served as assistant U.S. attorney when I was U.S. attorney for 12 years. She had been originally appointed assistant U.S. attorney by my predecessor in the late 1970s. She served with great skill and distinction. I was there when she was named one of the first senior litigation counsels in the Department of Justice, a position that recognized her extraordinary skill and integrity in prosecuting throughout the country.

Later, she became the chief of the criminal section of the U.S. Attorney's Office under my tenure, and then she became the acting U.S. attorney, until recently, when the new U.S. attorney was confirmed by the Senate.

Ginny is levelheaded, fair minded, trustworthy, and very smart. She has tremendous capabilities. She graduated from the University of Texas School of Law. After graduation she served as a law clerk to the Honorable John Godbold for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Judge Godbold was chief judge of the Fifth Circuit. When the Fifth Circuit split, he became chief judge of the Eleventh Circuit. He was one of the great jurists in America. This old Fifth Circuit is the same circuit in which her grandfather served, one of the grand judges of the old Fifth Circuit. He is widely credited as being part of a group of judges on that court who wrestled with and moved the South out of its days of segregation into a new day of race relations. He certainly is a champion of those causes.

As Senator DURBIN recognized in the hearings, his was a contribution to harmony and integration in the South.

Her experience has been particularly valuable for her to serve on the bench. She served for 20 years in the U.S. Attorney's Office where she practiced on a regular basis, in the very same district court for which she has been nominated, as well as her experience in appellate work in the Eleventh Circuit where she always wrote her briefs and argued her cases. The cases she tried have given her extraordinary exposure to understand how a Federal district court works, and more importantly, how a Federal district judge should conduct herself.

Since Ginny joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in 1977 as the first female assistant U.S. attorney in the southern district of Alabama, she has proven her merit as an extraordinary prosecutor and leader. Her abilities in the courtroom have been demonstrated time and again in her prosecution of complex white-collar fraud cases, tax cases, public corruption cases, cases of every kind—cases she not only tried but supervised.

I remember one case very distinctly. It was the longest criminal case to my knowledge ever tried in the district, 11 weeks. She was the lead attorney. It was a very intense case, with prominent attorneys on the defense side representing prominent defendants. It was well and intensely litigated.

At the end of the case, she made, without a doubt in my mind, the finest closing argument I have ever heard. It was down to earth, simple, not emotional, but logical. She took every allegation, every contention of the Government's case and explained patiently and in detail, with that incredibly bright mind of hers, why the allegations in the indictment were true, and obtained a conviction in that case.

To me, that is an unusual skill. It is an unusual ability she possesses. I have never in my many years of practice seen anything better.

The American Bar Association has unanimously rated her well qualified, the highest rating one can receive. I thought that was a great testament to her reputation with the attorneys in the southern district of Alabama. They know her. They know her reputation. They are the ones to whom the Bar Association talks. It was a tremendous affirmation of the excellence of her career and the integrity she displayed year after year after year.

Former Senator Howard Heflin of Alabama, who also was chief justice of the State of Alabama, and a Democrat, is a fan of Ginny Granade and has supported her and stated he knows of no opposition to her appointment. Her litigation skills, as well as a command of the complex issues, has won her respect and admiration and overwhelming support throughout her area of practice.

I am glad we are moving on this nomination. We have a judicial crisis in the