

Mr. WELLSTONE. The same way, I say to my colleague, we did it in a bipartisan way in the early 1990s, where it was 13 weeks, and for States with higher levels of unemployment, it went to 20 weeks. We have done it before, and we can do it again right now.

Mr. NICKLES. I will just inform my colleague that I just need to see his bill.

One additional question: Has there been a cost estimate? I think I am familiar with old cost estimates on a clean 13-week extension, but I am not familiar with how much additional the Senator is asking. Does he have a cost estimate on his bill?

Mr. WELLSTONE. CBO has not given us an estimate. I think it will be \$10 billion to \$13 billion. If I may say to my colleague for a moment, I appreciate his question and what he is talking about, and we will let you read it. But people are flat on their backs. In the case of States with high unemployment, it would be 20 weeks. We have done it before. The CBO estimate—I have given you what I believe it is going to be. I am not neutral. We need to do this. We need to take this action.

Mr. NICKLES. Just for my colleagues' information, I have not seen his bill. I understand from staff it was introduced on Thursday, but it has not been printed yet. I would appreciate a copy of the bill. We would like to review it and see what it is. I will work with my colleague and my friend from Oregon, who I know is interested in the bill as well. We have other colleagues who are also interested in passing some extension of unemployment. Whether it goes beyond the 13 weeks or not needs to be discussed. There are Democrats and Republicans—other Senators—besides just a couple who want to address this issue.

At this point, I will object. But I will tell my colleague that I will work with all interested Senators to see if we can pass some form of unemployment compensation extension before we adjourn in the next week or so. We at least need to see the bill. This idea of having a bill introduced on Thursday and not printed in the RECORD yet, and then wanting to pass it on Tuesday, without other people looking at it, I think is premature. So at this point I shall object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, if I may say to my colleague from Oklahoma, I appreciate what I heard and his willingness to move forward. I can guarantee him that he will have the bill in a matter of seconds, lest we harp on the complexity of all of this to the point where it becomes a reason for not taking action; it is very simple and straightforward, as I have defined. We have done this before in a bipartisan way. God knows, there is not one Senator in here who doesn't understand the economy in their State. We can take prompt action right away, and for people out of work in Minnesota and

around the country, they need this. We are pleased to do this. We will come back to the floor ASAP and pass it in a bipartisan fashion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At this time, all time remaining under morning business belongs to the minority.

Mr. REID. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President. The minority has how much time remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Two minutes 17 seconds.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have a number of people who wish to speak. We are told we are not going to be able, even though we are going forward for the fifth time, to invoke cloture. I do not think on our side we need all that time. Each side has a half hour. While my friend, the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma, is in the Chamber, I am wondering if we can have 15 minutes on our side for Senator LIEBERMAN to talk about cloture, and the other 15 minutes would be for morning business because Senator KENNEDY has been here all morning wishing to speak, Senator SARBANES is here, and Senator DURBIN has shown up.

I, therefore, ask unanimous consent we have the vote at 12:15 p.m. rather than 12 o'clock, and that the time be apportioned accordingly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. NICKLES. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, the vote was originally scheduled for 12 o'clock, with 1 hour debate equally divided. I know my colleague from Oregon wishes to speak on the unemployment compensation issue. I know he has not had a chance. Does the Senator want to move the vote to 12:15 p.m.?

Mr. REID. Yes, we want to use 15 minutes of Senator LIEBERMAN's time for morning business. Senator LIEBERMAN only needs 15 minutes. He is so good he can handle it in 15 minutes.

Mr. NICKLES. That is perfectly acceptable. The assistant majority leader is basically saying this side gets 30 minutes and his side gets 30 minutes, and he is going to change the time allocation of the 30 minutes?

Mr. REID. That is right.

Mr. NICKLES. I have no objection, except I would like the Senator from Oregon to be able to speak.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. I wonder if I may take the remaining 2 minutes on the minority side even though I am speaking for the majority position.

Mr. NICKLES. The Senator is entitled to speak. They can get their vote at 12:15 p.m. Can the Senator from Oregon have 5 minutes to speak on the unemployment compensation issue, and then we will divide the hour as described?

Mr. REID. The Republican side has 2 minutes left. He can take that 2 minutes.

Mr. NICKLES. We will give him 5 minutes.

Mr. REID. From where does his 5 minutes come? I do not care as long I know.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Oregon have 5 minutes and then the hour be apportioned as described by the assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. I dare the Presiding Officer to tell us what we have just done.

Mr. NICKLES. The Senator from Oregon gets 5 minutes and then we have 1 hour.

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

Mr. REID. I ask the Chair, how much time do we have for the three speakers on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Thirty minutes.

Mr. REID. Ten minutes per speaker. Ten minutes to Senator KENNEDY, 10 minutes to Senator SARBANES—

Mr. SARBANES. Five minutes. We are saving 15 minutes for Senator LIEBERMAN. It will be 5 minutes.

Mr. REID. Five minutes for Senator KENNEDY, 5 minutes for Senator SARBANES, 5 minutes for Senator DURBIN, and then the other 15 minutes for Senator LIEBERMAN. If he feels very generous, he can yield part of his 15 minutes to these other Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT OF 2002

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I probably will not use all the 5 minutes allocated. I thank my colleagues for their courtesy in granting me this time.

I have been on the floor this morning listening to charges and countercharges between the parties as to who is to blame for the current state of the economy. Frankly, I do not believe we planned this economy. I think Congresses and Presidents are given too much credit and blame for the free-market system. I think the people at home could care less about all the fingerpointing. In my view, now is the time to come together, not as partisans but as Americans and as bipartisans, if you will, to support legislation that is critical to those who are bearing the brunt of the economic downturn our country has been experiencing.

I have joined Senator KENNEDY as the lead cosponsor of this legislation to extend emergency benefits for workers who have already exhausted their benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Program. I am here again to offer my support for another attempt to extend the emergency benefits for unemployed workers.

Last week, Senator KENNEDY, Senator WELLSTONE, and I introduced the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002. This is yet another effort to push the issue to provide benefits from this Congress before it adjourns.

I note for the record, I have been pushing emergency benefits for unemployed workers in Oregon for a year

now, since October of 2001. After months of work, last March Congress finally extended emergency unemployment benefits to workers who have lost their jobs during the economic downturn, but this is no longer adequate.

Under the extension, unemployed workers in 48 States received 13 additional weeks of benefits, and those in 2 States received 26 weeks. My State, the State of Oregon, was one of those two States, as our economy has been hurt, in a relative sense, worse than any other in the United States.

Now those benefits are ending for Oregonians. Starting this month about 1,000 Oregonians a week will stop receiving badly needed emergency unemployment benefits. That is a lot of buying power that will leave the economy of the State of Oregon if it happens but, more importantly, there will be an awful lot of human hardship that will ensue among these Oregonians if it happens.

These benefits are not gratuitous. They are not excessive. They are the barest of safety nets required by these families. For many of these families, as I have said, 1,000 a week, these benefits will cease if we do not act before we go home. For that reason, we are, again, introducing legislation, this time the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002, in an effort to provide for these families.

Under this new legislation, those Oregonians will receive up to an additional 20 weeks of emergency benefits. This is a temporary extension through July of 2003. Oregon's unemployment rate is simply the highest in America, and this is the least we can do for those who are bearing most of the burden of this economic downturn.

I am going to join with Senator KENNEDY and Senator WELLSTONE again to work in a bipartisan way to get this bill passed before we go home and influence our leadership to come to an agreement, as the assistant Republican leader indicated his willingness to do. This is a must-do before we go home.

I thank my colleagues for the time and yield the floor.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to address the increasingly serious problem of unemployment in the United States, in particular the number of workers who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits and are still unable to find work.

According to the latest data from the Department of Labor, the adjusted unemployment rate in the United States is now 5.7 percent, with over 8.1 million, 8.1 million, workers now unemployed. 1.4 million other workers who want work but cannot find it are not included in this total because they had not looked for work in the four weeks before the survey was completed.

In my State of New Mexico, we are doing much, much worse than this. Our adjusted unemployment rate is 6.3 percent, which puts us at number nine in the Nation in terms of the worst unemployment rate. Our unadjusted unem-

ployment rate is 6.6 percent. We have had an increase of 31.6 percent in initial unemployment insurance claims since July 2001, and an increase of 33.4 percent in continued unemployment insurance claims in that same time-frame.

The bottom line in my State and across the Nation is that jobs are being lost, and there are no new jobs being created that workers can apply for. Even worse, the workers that have not been able to find work now face an additional crisis, that being that they have been on unemployment insurance for as long as allowed and will soon no longer be eligible for new benefits.

According to the Department of Labor, by the end of August over 1.1 million workers have exhausted the extended unemployment insurance benefits provided by the stimulus legislation and now have no funding at all available to them. According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, this number will rise to over 2.2 million by the end of 2002. The number of workers who exhausted their regular unemployment insurance benefits in August 2002 was 46 percent higher than the number of who exhausted such benefits in August 2001. The number who exhausted their regular unemployment benefits in the first six months of 2002 is 75 percent greater than the number who exhausted these benefits in the first eight months of 2001, and is more than double the number who exhausted these benefits during the same months of 2000.

For workers in New Mexico and across the Nation, these data are truly frightening. And in spite of these data, the comments we keep hearing from the administration is that we are on the verge of a recovery, or we have a strong foundation for a recovery, or the recovery is just around the corner. But I see no evidence of this. Investment in new research and development is falling. Investment in new equipment is flat. Production is falling. Lay-offs are rising. From what I can tell the economy stalled, and I have seen no evidence at all that the administration knows what to do. Even worse, from what I can tell there is a complete lack of concern in the administration about where the economy is going right now. Nothing is being said about what should be done or when it should be done.

Given this lack of response by the administration, I say it is time we in Congress act. The Emergency Unemployment Insurance Act of 2002 is a very positive step in this direction. Its purpose is very straightforward: it will revise and extend the temporary unemployment program to provide an additional 20 weeks of temporary extended benefits for "high unemployment" States, States like New Mexico, and an additional 13 weeks to all other states until June 2003.

As a practical matter, this means workers can continue to get unemployment insurance benefits while they

continue to search for work. In my view it is the least we can do for these folks. Unemployment insurance offers at most a subsistence-level existence, and most workers who receive benefits are forced to choose between paying for education, health care, mortgages, and food. These are folks that have played by the rules over the years and now find themselves in hard times. Personally, I would prefer that we offer them more, but if we cannot, then it seems to me we should be able to offer them some minimal financial security when they need it the most.

So I want to add my voice to the others today and say that we must pass this legislation before we go out on recess. American workers deserve to be dealt with in a fair and equitable manner, especially in this time of need. They need a lifeline, and it's up to us to provide it. I recognize that there are a number of important issues that we have to address in a very short time-frame. But from where I sit, this is a priority. The administration can talk all it wants about how the economy is going to improve, but what matters to the folks in my home state is whether they can find good jobs and keep them. Right now, they can't do that. We need to give them some help until they can. This is one step in that direction.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CARNAHAN.) Morning business is closed.

HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 11 a.m. having arrived, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5005, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5005) to establish the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Lieberman amendment No. 4471, in the nature of a substitute.

Gramm-Miller amendment No. 4738 (to amendment No. 4471), of a perfecting nature, to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States.

Nelson of Nebraska amendment No. 4740 (to amendment No. 4738) to modify certain personnel provisions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be an hour for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, pursuant to the unanimous consent agreement, I have been allocated 5 minutes to speak?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.