

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.

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION ACT OF 2002

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, I rise in very strong support of the legislation to extend unemployment insurance benefits, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act, which Senator WELLSTONE and others have introduced. I am very pleased to have joined in cosponsoring this legislation.

I have a few points to make in the limited amount of time that has been allotted to me this morning. First of all, we have extended unemployment benefits in every previous recession. The concept behind extending benefits is that when the economy goes soft and people lose their jobs, in order to help support them, we extend unemployment benefits beyond the standard 26 weeks. Otherwise, benefits are limited to 26 weeks. Let me underscore we are talking about working people. One cannot draw unemployment insurance if one has not been working. So by definition, the people we are trying to help are people who were working and producing and helping to move our economy forward and, because of conditions beyond their control, find themselves out of a job. Therefore, they are out of income that is needed in order to support themselves and often their families.

Traditionally, we give benefits for 26 weeks and then we figure that people will find a job and go back to work. But when the economy goes soft, then we have a very difficult problem on our hands, which is there are not any jobs to go back to.

Most of the economic indicators now are trending downwards. We continue to face a serious economic problem, and the effort to extend the unemployment insurance benefits is a response to this pressing need. This need is felt by unemployed workers all across the country as they confront the problem of how will they take care of their families, and where will they find the income with which to make it from day to day.

Unemployment insurance pays only a small percentage of what people were previously earning. When a person is receiving unemployment insurance benefits their income takes a real hit. In any event, these benefits provide unemployed workers some support so that they are not completely cast out without any means of sustenance.

Unemployment insurance has been carefully devised to be a countercyclical measure against recession because it provides extra income at a time of economic downturn. Almost by definition this money will be spent since the formerly employed workers are receiving benefits that are far below what they were previously earning. Thus, these benefits will all go into the income stream. They will help to provide an impetus to the economy. Those who talk about how can we get the economy moving again, this is one way to do it.

Furthermore, there is a trust fund that is designed to take care of paying

these unemployment benefits. Payments have been made into the trust fund in good times, such as when we experienced low unemployment rates over the last 7 or 8 years, and as a result of this we have well over \$20 billion in that Federal trust fund. That money is in the trust fund because it was paid for the purpose of paying unemployment benefits when we confronted an economic downturn.

People ask: Where is the money going to come from? It is going to come from the trust fund. It ought to come from the trust fund. That is why the trust fund is there, and that is why the money has been paid into the trust fund—for the purpose of providing a safety net at the very time that we run up against the kind of economy we are witnessing today.

So the rationale for extending these unemployment benefits is overwhelming. It is consistent with past precedents. We have done it in every previous recession. It conforms to the structure of the system in the sense that we have paid into a trust fund to pay this money out. It will meet the pressing needs of formerly employed workers now confronting the very real problem of how they are going to support their family now that they have lost their income, and it will provide a boost to the economy because this money will be paid to formerly employed workers who will spend this money back into the economy, helping to boost this economy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 5 minutes.

Mr. SARBANES. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it is my understanding that I was allotted 5 minutes under the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, we are discussing unemployment insurance. A few of these charts really tell the story. If we take a look at the economic record over the last year and a half, we see some rather dramatic things have occurred. When President Bush took office in January 2001, 648,000 Americans were listed as "long-term unemployed." That is more than just a temporary loss of a job. These are people who have been unemployed for more than 26 weeks.

By August of this year, that number had more than doubled to 1.4 million Americans facing long-term unemployment. In fact, if we compare the record of the Bush administration on private sector jobs, it is a dramatic indication of the failure of our economic policy.

This chart starts with President Eisenhower, goes through every single President, all the way to President George W. Bush. Without exception, every one of these Presidents saw an increase in private sector jobs during

their administration. The largest increases came under President Johnson, then President Carter and President Clinton. There is only one President who has seen a decline in the number of private sector jobs in their administration, and that is the current President, George W. Bush.

So fewer jobs are being created, and there is higher unemployment. Traditionally, the Senate has not wasted any time in reacting. Take a look at what happened in the second worst record of the last 50 years—under President Bush's father—when they had a job increase of only four-tenths of 1 percent. When they faced high unemployment under President Bush's father, the Senate went to great lengths to pass extensions of unemployment benefits, realizing there were hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of Americans out of work. Look at how quickly Congress responded, not only once but five times, to increase and extend unemployment benefits.

Then look at the votes in the Senate. There is not a single vote with fewer than 66 Senators supporting it. In some cases, as many as 94 Senators supported it. So there has been strong bipartisan support.

I cannot understand this, but why is this administration resisting the effort of providing unemployment compensation to Americans who have lost their jobs? The President's economic policy has failed. It has created an economy which is sluggish. Take a look at the stock market on a day-to-day basis and tell me there is any indication of hope on the horizon.

This morning, I met with representatives of major businesses. I went around the table and asked: What do you think the future holds? And not a single one of them is optimistic beyond the range of a year or two from now. So more and more people will face unemployment.

Why, then, should unemployment insurance become this political football? The Democratic side is insisting we extend unemployment insurance, to make certain that people have some more money to live on in the hopes that they can find another job or at least keep their families together during some of the most perilous times.

In the State of Illinois, we announced an unemployment rate in the month of August that put us fifth in the Nation for the highest unemployment rate. We frankly have a situation now where across this country many people are losing their jobs and, frankly, have nowhere to turn. The August 2002 unemployment rate of 5.7 percent nationwide is more than 18 percent higher than it was the year before.

So under the Bush administration, the value of people's savings has declined because of the stock market crashing. We have seen people's pension plans decimated and their plans for their actual activity changed because they have had to decide to go back to work.