

That survey suggests that from March 2001 to February 2004, payroll jobs are down by 2.5 million.

Of course, another survey of jobs, the household survey, says that we have more jobs now than at any time in our history, 138 million jobs—138 million jobs—the most in our history under the household survey. We have not lost jobs by this measure; we have gained jobs, half a million jobs more than at any time in American history, leading to the question: Which survey is right?

Let's look at the statistical abstract for 2003. If you look at this abstract, which is the final word on facts and statistics in America, you will not see the measure showing job loss. Instead, the statistical abstract uses the job measure that says the U.S. today has the most jobs ever in our entire history.

This is the Economic Report of the President. Whether it is the report of a Democratic President or a Republican President, this report uses the job measure that says the U.S. today has the most jobs ever.

If you look at the unemployment rate announced today by the Labor Department, the unemployment rate calculation by that Department and repeated by every newspaper, TV, and radio, uses the job measure that says the U.S. has the most jobs ever—the most jobs ever—in our history.

If you ask the farmer, if you ask the self-employed worker, the private household worker, the domestic servant, or the family-run business, they are part of the job measure that says the U.S. has the most jobs ever—the most jobs ever.

These workers, roughly some 8 million and some of the hardest working in our country, the "sky is falling crowd" does not count these workers under the measure they use. We think they work for a living. My friends across the aisle apparently do not.

So, you can make this absurd charge about job losses if you ignore the statistical abstract, if you ignore the Presidential reports, if you ignore the Department of Labor's unemployment rate, and if you ignore 8 million workers, but after all is said and done, after we have all revved up the spin machine so that we are all dizzy, after all this is over, we are going to have an election. On that day, all the spinning will stop, and the American people will decide. They will decide if America is closer to the worst of times—the "sky is falling crowd" claim—or nearer to the best of times, as the facts suggest. I look forward to the day all the spin is set aside.

The unemployment rate today is a good number. We would like for it to get even better, but it is a good number. It is the same good number as in 1996 when President Clinton was bragging on it. It is the same good number as in 1996 when Senator KERRY was bragging on it. So I can say despite our challenges, despite 9/11 and recessions, stock crashes and corporate scandals,

our economy is strong, our security is rising.

Challenges remain, of course. We will not rest until everyone who wants a job can find a job. But for America, have no doubt about it, the best is yet to come. It is not behind us; it is ahead of us. I think the facts are compelling that the economy is good and getting better.

I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

JOBS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for 38 months, the Bush administration has had job loss. We join in the celebration that we have had jobs created, and the President during the next 7 months until the election will have to create another 2.5 million jobs to not be known as the only President since Herbert Hoover who created no private sector jobs. So he has 2.5 million more jobs to go, and we hope that he beats Herbert Hoover's record.

Let me also say, the numbers that came out today indicate the unemployment rate went up this month. It was not stable. It went up. It went up from 5.6 percent to 5.7 percent. This number is not an irrelevant number.

I will also say that when Senator KERRY spoke, of course, he was dealing with what took place in the Clinton years. When President Clinton took office from President Bush 1, the unemployment rate was 7.4 percent. During President Clinton's administration, as a result of the very difficult deficit reduction vote that took place in 1993 where not a single Republican voted in the House or the Senate for the deficit reduction plan, the deficits disappeared and unemployment dropped downward significantly, from 7.4 percent to 4 percent. That is where we were when this man, the President of the United States George Bush, took office. Senator KERRY was talking about how good things were when it was 5.4 percent because it had dropped 2 percent from Bush 1 to Clinton 1.

The number of people unemployed in America today—5.7 percent—is not irrelevant. It is not irrelevant to the millions of Americans who are out of work. So many are out of work. The unemployment rolls are around 9 million or 10 million, but there are millions no longer listed on the unemployment rolls because they are taken off after they are unemployed for such a long period of time. The average time a person is unemployed in America today is almost 1 year. I do not think we should be doing high-fives out here.

I join with my friend, the senior Senator from Kentucky, in talking about it is good we have had for the first time in a long time a significant rise in the number of employed. But we have to go forward because during this President's term of office, we will have to gain about 2.5 million more jobs for him not to be considered a President in the same category as Herbert Hoover.

Speaking of ignoring past claims, the administration, as we know, claimed there would be millions of jobs created with these tax cuts, and we have lost jobs. Let me also say this: Of course, there are more jobs now than there were because we have millions more people in this country today. That is the reason.

As happy as we are with the creation of new jobs last month, let's understand we have a long way to go. We have gas prices that are high. Nevada has the second highest gas prices in America. We have to focus on the fact that we had nine Americans killed in Iraq yesterday. We have to focus on the fact that the number of dead in Iraq is now over 600. We have to focus on the fact now that casualties in Iraq are more than 3,500, with people missing arms, legs, and being paralyzed.

So we still have lots of problems. I have no doubt, and I join with my friend from Kentucky, about the greatness of America. We believe in the greatness of America, but as legislators we also believe we have an obligation to make our country even greater. That is why we think it is wrong that 8 million Americans are not going to be able to have overtime under the Bush rule that has been promulgated. We also think it is wrong that people who are on minimum wage are not going to get an increase as other people in America are getting. We think that is important. We also believe those people who are going off the unemployment rolls every week deserve extended unemployment benefits, as was done during the Reagan administration and during the first Bush administration.

So there is a lot of work we have to do. I hope next month we can again be talking about the increased jobs. Certainly it is something we should be happy about.

CBO REPORTS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, at the time Senate Report No. 108-236 Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2003 was filed, the Congressional Budget Office report was not available. I ask unanimous consent that the report which is now available be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the Information of the Senate.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2004.

Hon. PETE V. DOMENICI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 1576, the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2003.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN,
Director.

Enclosure.

S. 1576—Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2003

S. 1576 would expand the boundary of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia by about 1,240 acres. The bill would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire the added acreage by purchase, donation, or exchange, except that lands that are already owned by the federal government would be acquired by transfer. Finally, the bill would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for these purposes.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1576 would cost the federal government about \$5 million over the next year or two. Of this amount, we estimate that \$4 million would be used to purchase about 190 acres of private property, and \$1 million would be used to develop that land. The remaining acreage that would be added to the park is either already owned by the federal government or would be donated by the nonprofit Civil War Preservation Trust. CBO estimates that additional costs to operate and maintain those additional lands would be less than \$200,000 a year. This estimate is based on information provided by the NPS.

S. 1576 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, at the time Senate Report No. 108-230 Fort Donelson National Battlefield Expansion Act of 2004 was filed, the Congressional Budget Office report was not available. I ask unanimous consent that the report which is now available be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the information of the Senate.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2004.

Hon. PETE V. DOMENICI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 524, the Fort Donelson National Battlefield Expansion Act of 2004.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Megan Carroll, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN,
Director.

Enclosure.

S. 524—Fort Donelson National Battlefield Expansion Act of 2004

S. 524 would expand the boundary of the Fort Donelson National Battlefield, a historic Civil War site located in Calloway County, Kentucky. The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire lands to include in the battlefield by purchase, donation, or exchange. Finally, the bill would

direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into a memorandum of understanding to protect and interpret Fort Henry, a nearby Civil War site administered by the Forest Service.

According to the National Park Service (NPS), most of the lands to be added to the battlefield would be donated by the state of Kentucky, Calloway County, and the West Kentucky Corporation. Assuming the availability of appropriated funds, we estimate that first-year costs to acquire additional lands, hire staff, and purchase equipment for the expanded battlefield would total about \$1.2 million. We also estimate that future operational costs would total \$1 million annually. Finally, we estimate that the NPS and the Forest Service would spend less than \$100,000 annually to enhance interpretation services at Fort Henry.

S. 254 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any costs incurred by the state of Kentucky or local governments in that state to acquire land for the park would be voluntary.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

THE DANGERS OF FIFTY CALIBER SNIPER RIFLES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, two weeks ago, the Violence Policy Center released a report rebutting a number of assertions made by the Fifty Caliber Institute about the civilian sale of .50 caliber anti-armor sniper rifles.

The .50 caliber sniper rifle is among the most powerful weapons legally available. According to the Violence Policy Center's report, a .50 caliber sniper rifle is capable of accurately hitting a target over 1,500 yards away, and the ammunition available for the .50 caliber includes armor-piercing, incendiary, and explosive bullets. The report also cites the U.S. Army's manual on urban combat, which states that .50 caliber sniper rifles are designed to attack bulk fuel tanks and other high-value targets from a distance, using "their ability to break through all but the thickest shielding material."

One of the most disturbing parts of the report quotes a brochure from the leading manufacturer, Barrett Firearms, advertising the .50 caliber sniper rifle.

The Model 82A1 is designed to provide extreme accuracy at extended ranges with standard military ammunition. . . . The accuracy of the Model 82A1 makes possible the placement of the shot in the most vulnerable area of the target. The compressor sections of jet engines or the transmissions of helicopters are likely targets for the weapon, making it capable of destroying multi-million dollar aircraft with a single hit delivered to a vital area. The cost-effectiveness of the Model 82A1 cannot be overemphasized when a round of ammunition purchased for less than 10 USD [U.S. Dollars] can be used to destroy or disable a modern jet aircraft.

I believe that information detailing the potential destruction these weapons can cause should alert us to the dangers to airline safety, as well as

homeland security. That is why I co-sponsored Senator FEINSTEIN's Military Sniper Weapon Regulation Act, S. 429. This bill would change the way .50 caliber guns are regulated by placing them under the requirements of the National Firearms Act. This would subject these weapons to the same regimen of registration and background checks as those weapons regulated under the National Firearms Act. This is a necessary and commonsense step towards assuring the safety of all Americans.

The .50 caliber sniper rifle is among the most powerful firearms legally available. Senator FEINSTEIN's bill presents us with a simple solution to improving their regulation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN WINS THE 2004 NATIONAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, last night the University of Michigan Wolverines defeated the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights 62-55 in the final game of the 2004 Men's Basketball National Invitation Tournament to complete a 23-11 season.

The win was even sweeter for the Wolverines as they defeated Rutgers before a crowd of 16,064, largely cheering for the Scarlet Knights, at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Throughout the season and particularly during the NIT, a vocal home crowd at Crisler Arena cheered Michigan to victory. Cheering their team through the first three games of the tournament, Michigan's fans were truly the team's sixth man.

For the season, Michigan won 16 of their 19 home games. Prior to the NIT, they had only won five of their 13 road games. Winning two games in Madison Square Garden proved the mettle of this young team that has relied heavily upon its many sophomores and freshmen. I know I speak for all of Michigan in extending my heartiest congratulations to University of Michigan men's basketball team on their championship. This was a hard fought victory and one that I'm sure Wolverines fans enjoyed immensely.

Twenty years ago, Bill Frieder coached a young Wolverines team that won the NIT Championship. That team used their championship as a springboard to greater success: in each of the next two years they won the Big Ten Championship. I am sure that Michigan Coach Tommy Amaker and his players have similar hopes for a program that has not been to a postseason tournament since 2000. This banner will be raised in the rafters of Crisler Arena next to the 1989 NCAA championship and the 1984 NIT championship banners.

For 68 years, the National Invitation Tournament has showcased some of the