

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to a period of morning business. The Senator may speak up to 10 minutes in morning business.

EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, there are several other points I would like to make. I know some people are thinking, why not do this for a shorter program. Why not expand the program for maybe another 60 days. The point is, where are we going to be in 60 days? Even if, say, we get a report on Friday that says there are 300,000 jobs being created and the next month there are 300,000 jobs being created, you still have at that point 1.4 million Americans looking for work; that is, people who have completely exhausted their State benefits.

My constituents are making all sorts of choices. They are putting up their homes for sale. They are moving in with relatives. They are selling family possessions to pay mortgage payments. They are trying to hold on so this economy recovers. And they are hoping the next several months will bring good economic news, as I hope it does. I hope the next several months brings good economic news. But even if we have good economic news, we are not going to have the return of 1.4 million people or 2 million people back to work in the next several months. The question is, do we want to meet our obligation under the Federal program and help them.

In the 1990s we had a very similar situation. We had an economic downturn and the first Bush administration basically had to come up with a program for unemployment benefits. They actually had already had the program in place for more than a year and had good economic news. I think more than 600,000 jobs had been created. The administration still supported another 9-month extension to unemployment benefits.

Actually, they supported that 9-month extension, even with a richer program than what we are suggesting today. We are suggesting that the program ought to go for 13 weeks of Federal program and 13 weeks for very high unemployment States. At that point, the program was 20 weeks. So in the 1990s, the Bush administration decided, even though it had seen more than a half million in job growth—I think they had several million in job loss—even though they had seen the economy pick up, they made the decision that so many people had been impacted, laid off, and could not find work, that it was important to give them access to the Federal program. So they expanded the program for another 9 months.

Now, I know this administration is now, as I said, through various mem-

bers of its Cabinet, backing away from its economic numbers for the year, but it is also saying they would support an unemployment benefit package that would come out of the House and Senate. I say to the administration, obviously, we are not getting this bill done in the timely fashion that would benefit most Americans. Maybe they can come and help in this effort because the preceding Bush administration did a great job supporting the package, even though jobs were starting to be created, to stem the tide of job loss and negative impact on the economy, and still the economy started to pick up again. So we should do the same.

I think the administration should take some time, as it is riding around Ohio—and some of these middle America States have been hard hit with unemployment benefits—and listen to the people who have lost jobs. They will tell them this program is important to them, as I just outlined from several newspaper editorials that have been in the Dayton paper, specifically. I am sure there are editorials from other places throughout the Midwest as well. I know we had editorials from more than a dozen newspapers wondering why we were not moving forward on this legislation.

So the point is, we have a case study in the 1990s—and a good one—that this administration should follow. This administration should look at the success of that program, how jobs were being created, and still they expanded unemployment benefits because they knew it would take several months to put that many Americans back to work. That is what we are talking about today. We are talking about a jobs proposal that really is what we are going to do to incentivize or disincentivize corporations from moving overseas or doing business overseas. That is what the FCI/ETI bill is primarily about.

While we are debating what is good to massage the intention of corporations in America, we should be talking about what we are doing to support the American workers who lost their jobs through no fault of their own. Why try to mastermind and guess about corporate intentions and incentive in the tax policy but then leave American workers who have a program that is designed to help them out in the cold without an opportunity?

We have fought this battle a couple of times now. We fought it last year when the benefits expired and got it reinstated. We fought it when people actually lapsed off of benefits and we had to get them to understand that when we came back into session, the benefits were going to be restored. But now many Americans have lost hope. It has been since January 1 these people have been without benefits. Given that information, Americans have tried to make the best they can out of a tough situation. They have made those tough choices, and if you read the stories on my Web site, or talk to constituents, you will see very heartbreaking stories

of people who have struggled to make ends meet and would rather work.

I think it is very important that Congress act to move forward on this legislation. I know my colleagues would like to get the FSCI/ETI bill done. I know they would like to say they passed something that dealt with jobs. Let's be honest. There haven't been a lot of jobs created in the last 3 years. We are at a net negative jobs. We are at a net negative 2 million jobs lost in America. So let's not kid ourselves. Job creation will come back. It will come back slowly. It will start to pick up, but that pickup is not going to be at the pace to give people relief in America and relief that is due to them.

Mr. President, while I am not making a unanimous consent request, I hope that my colleagues understand how important this is, and that tomorrow we will find time to vote on this amendment. Not to vote on this amendment, again, is to say it is more important to deal with corporations and their tax incentives and tax breaks than it is to deal with the American workers who have lost their jobs. I don't want to send that message to these high-unemployment States, to those individuals who thought they supported this concept of a Federal program, and then tell them we have almost \$15 billion in a Federal fund that was paid into by their employers, but now they are not going to be able to access any of it. I would rather tell them this body decided to do the right thing; that while we are waiting for the private sector to return to a strong economic engine, we are going to do the right thing and give people access to the Federal dollars from the program they have already paid into; that we are going to help the American workers in their time of greatest need; that our body, this institution, and the other side, the House of Representatives, believe the American workers deserve to have support.

I hope tomorrow we can work out a time agreement so this amendment can be voted on, so we can move forward on not only getting the underlying bill done but getting this legislation moved, since both bodies have supported it and a majority of Members have supported the legislation.

I yield the floor and 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. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CINCO DE MAYO

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on the fifth of May, 1862, in Puebla, Mexico, a fighting force of 2,000 peasants confronted 6,000 well-equipped and expertly trained French troops. The French troops had come to conquer the

small town. Instead, the peasant army prevailed, and their historic victory is celebrated each year as Cinco de Mayo.

Today, millions across the Americas will celebrate the spirit of Cinco de Mayo. They will cheer the shared goals of independence, liberation, and freedom. Today, the people of North America are united in good will.

Indeed, the relationship between the United States and Mexico is closer than it has ever been. We are neighbors and we are friends.

Mr. President, 33 million Latinos live in the United States. The large majority, 66 percent, are of Mexican origin.

In my home state of Tennessee, the Hispanic population has grown by nearly 1 million people since 1990.

Hispanics are strongly represented in our Armed Forces and can claim more Congressional Medals of Honor for valor than any other group.

The U.S. and Mexico are partners in NAFTA. Mexico is our second largest trading partner.

The United States accounts for 60 percent of all foreign direct investment in Mexico.

Mexicans living in the United States send about \$9 billion a year home to their families.

And more than 500,000 American citizens live in Mexico.

So, today, I rise to recognize this historic day and join others in celebrating this day in this spirit. It teaches us a profound lesson: that freedom is a universal drive, and ultimately, freedom will out.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Cinco de Mayo, a holiday celebrated in Mexico and increasingly in the United States, that commemorates an important victory of the Mexican Army against the French at the Battle of Puebla. In my home State of New York and across the Nation, Hispanic communities—particularly the Mexican-American community—have embraced this holiday and transformed it into a day of recognition and celebration of the contributions Hispanics have made in the United States.

Among all cities across the Nation, New York ranks 11th in the size of its Mexican population, close to cities with long standing Mexican communities such as San Diego, Santa Ana, and San Jose, CA. The number of Mexican New Yorkers counted by the U.S. Census more than tripled in the 1990s, increasing from 61,772 in 1990 to 186,872 in 2000. Currently, Mexicans constitute the third largest Hispanic/Latino population in New York State after Puerto Ricans and Dominicans.

As the Nation's largest minority group, Hispanics are adding to our Nation's cultural richness and economic prosperity. Every day they are working and creating businesses in all sectors across the country. Today, one in nine workers in America is of Hispanic descent and there are currently 1.2 million Hispanic-owned businesses with annual revenues of \$200 billion.

Even as we celebrate these important contributions, Hispanics across the Nation continue to face unique challenges, including high unemployment, stagnant or declining wages, high school dropout rates, poverty, and lack of access to health insurance. The Bush administration's 2005 budget proposal fails to make adequate investments to help improve the quality of life for Hispanics. In fact, his budget proposal cuts funding for small businesses, fails to adequately fund the No Child Left Behind Act, eliminates funding for dropout prevention, and underfunds minority health care programs.

The President's budget also provides tax breaks that benefit the wealthy at the expense of working families. That is why I have joined my fellow Democrats in Congress in supporting an agenda that increases investments in key economic, educational, and health-related programs to make America even stronger for future generations and will continue to fight for these key programs in the 108th Congress.

I hope that today's Cinco de Mayo celebrations serve as an important reminder of the contributions of Hispanics and the need to support additional investments in programs and services that help them build a better future for their families and for our Nation.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Cinco de Mayo, an important day in both Mexican and American history as well as a symbolic day to honor Mexican heritage.

Cinco de Mayo pays tribute to the courage and strength of the people of Mexico and to the profound contributions Mexican Americans have made to our country's history and culture.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there are nearly 10 million people of Mexican descent living in my home State of California alone. Every day, Mexican Americans make huge contributions to our communities in every sector of the economy, in every level of government, and in every aspect of society.

Mexican-American leaders such as the late Cesar Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers Union, have left indelible footprints in our national memory.

Organizations such as the League of United Latin American Citizens, the National Council of La Raza, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund collaborate with government, civic, community, and other organizations to improve economic, educational, and civil rights for Latinos.

Truly, a comprehensive snapshot of California would be grossly incomplete without full representation of the Mexican-American community.

Many celebrations with traditional food, music, and parades take place across the country and throughout California on Cinco de Mayo. Hundreds of thousands will gather to embrace and celebrate Mexican heritage.

Cinco de Mayo celebrations can be large festivals drawing thousands of people, such as those in San Diego, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, and San Jose as well as small, more intimate events among neighbors.

It is very much the same as the way we observe the Fourth of July—both in the variety of ways people choose to celebrate and in that a specific historic event inspired the holiday, which has come to symbolize a much broader spirit.

No one would want to limit the meaning of the Fourth of July to a narrow celebration of American independence from Great Britain, nor would you reduce Cinco de Mayo to a commemoration of the Mexican military victory in Puebla by itself.

However, it is important to recall the bravery of the Mexican Army when France, under the rule of Napoleon III, sought to establish a political and economic foothold in Latin America by installing their own ruler in Mexico.

Napoleon's troops, who had not been defeated in battle for almost 50 years, entered Mexico with considerable technological advantages over the Mexican Army. The French Army moved west to attack Mexico City, mindful that if the Mexican capital fell, a complete takeover of Mexico was imminent.

On May 5, 1862, the Mexican Army defeated the invading French forces in the city of Puebla under the command of General Zaragoza and Colonel Porfirio Diaz. If not for the great courage of the Mexican Army, the course of history would be undoubtedly altered.

In my mind, Cinco de Mayo epitomizes what it means for immigrant communities to flourish, making their own unique additions to American culture.

One San Francisco family, the Ramirezes, who immigrated to the United States from Jalisco, Mexico, in 1955, are truly an American success story.

Ramon Ramirez and his wife Guadalupe worked several jobs before acquiring a San Francisco deli in 1967. Soon the space proved too small to accommodate their customers and in 1982, they expanded and opened Don Ramon's restaurant.

I used to frequent Don Ramon's when I was the Mayor of San Francisco and I was always sincerely impressed with the Ramirez family. Ramon and Guadalupe still work every day at Don Ramon's, arriving before dawn. Their three daughters remain involved in running the restaurant, though their youngest daughter, Nati, has also pursued another career as director of the San Francisco district attorney's subpoena unit.

This is only one of many examples of how Mexican Americans have helped our country to flourish.

Finally, I am pleased to join every American and every Mexican in celebrating this important day in Mexican history. On Cinco de Mayo we pay tribute not only to the bravery shown at

the Battle of Puebla, we also recognize the contributions of Mexican Americans to our country as well.

IRAQI PRISONERS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, over the past week we have become aware—indeed, the entire world has learned of the graphic evidence—of abuse against Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison. We express shock; we express condemnation of these despicable acts. That has been expressed on the floor—indeed, throughout the Nation.

The persons who carried these acts out must face justice. The perpetrators have disgraced themselves and, in the process, have brought shame to all of us who cherish justice and decency and dignity.

Moreover, their behavior is deeply un-American. This country is founded on those universal principles of human rights and respect for each and every individual. Those disturbing pictures show men and women who have abandoned America's values and, in the process, jeopardized our efforts to bring democracy and the rule of law to Iraq.

Thousands of honorable men and women are working and sacrificing each and every day to bring peace and freedom to the Iraqi people. We cannot let these intolerable acts of a few undermine the noble work of the overwhelming majority of our troops.

The abusers of Abu Ghraib must face justice and they will face justice. In March, the Army charged 6 military police officers with physical and sexual abuse of 20 Iraqi prisoners. Three of the six cases have been referred to military trial. The criminal probe into allegations against four other soldiers is continuing. In total, our military has launched five separate investigations. An administrative review has resulted in notices of reprimand filed against seven officers and noncommissioned officers this week. The inspector general of the Army and the commander of the Army Reserve are also conducting their own investigations.

I commend President Bush for his efforts to reach out to the Arab world to address this matter. It is important that we address these reprehensible acts directly and fully and quickly and in a fully transparent manner.

Our men and women in uniform are respected around the world. They are respected for their professionalism and because they defend the highest of political ideals: individual rights, freedom, justice, and the rule of law. In Bosnia, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Iraq, and elsewhere, our troops are serving with honor, with courage, and with professionalism to advance democracy and to advance liberty.

As the Abu Ghraib investigations unfold, I do urge my colleagues and everyone watching and listening to keep that in mind. The vast majority of our men and women in uniform are serving ably and honorably, and through their heroic efforts, they are advancing our freedoms and values.

HONORING WOLFGANG PUCK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the city of Las Vegas, in my native State of Nevada, is recognized as the entertainment capital of the world.

Our amazing resorts offer many options for fun, but one of their greatest attractions is world-class dining.

Over the last 12 years, many of our Nation's leading chefs have opened restaurants in Las Vegas, transforming our desert city into even more of a culinary oasis.

The man most responsible for this remarkable transformation is Wolfgang Puck.

Wolfgang Puck was born in Austria. He began his formal training at age 14, inspired by his mother, who was a hotel chef. By the time he came to this country at age 24, Wolfgang had prepared himself for success, but nobody could have predicted just how dramatic that success would be.

By combining classic French techniques with influences from Asia and California, and by using the finest ingredients from local purveyors, he has changed the way Americans think about food and the way chefs prepare it.

Along the way he has become America's most famous chef, and created an empire comprising a dozen fine dining restaurants and more than 50 casual and quick service establishments.

Four of his best restaurants are in Las Vegas: Spago and Chinois at the Forum Shops at Caesar's Palace; Trattoria Del Lupa at Mandalay Bay; and Postrio at the Venetian.

One thing all these places have in common is a remarkable attention to detail. Wolfgang Puck is a person who thinks about everything that could possibly affect the dining experience. Some would even call him a worrier. The story goes that before his first Spago restaurant opened, he couldn't sleep for two days because he was worried that nobody would show up. Well, people did show up, and they lined up to get in. So Wolfgang's reaction was to worry about how he would ever be able to feed such a crowd.

Wolfgang Puck has been influential because of his cooking techniques and his approach to food; almost every American chef has learned something from him. But you don't have to be a chef to learn from Wolfgang Puck. We can all learn from his willingness to take risks and try new ways of doing things. He has said that he learned more from his one restaurant that failed than he learned from the many that succeeded.

Wolfgang has a great partner in life and in business—his wife, Barbara Lazaroff. She is an acclaimed architectural designer who has created magnificent environments where diners can appreciate Wolfgang's food. I'm sure Wolfgang would be the first to acknowledge that he couldn't have accomplished what he has without Barbara by his side.

Wolfgang and Barbara and their two sons live in California, but we think of

them as part of our Las Vegas community. They are very active in charitable activities in Nevada, as well as California. Their Puck-Lazaroff Charitable Foundation was established in 1982, and has raised more than \$5 million for charity. It sponsors the annual American Food and Wine Festival, which raises money for Meals on Wheels.

Wolfgang and Barbara are also major supporters of the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the Boys and Girls Clubs, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of California and Nevada, and the Alzheimer's Association.

In fact, on May 15, Wolfgang will be the honored guest at Keep Memory Alive, an annual dinner in Las Vegas that combats Alzheimer's by raising money and public awareness. This event began in 1996 as an intimate dinner party. It has been repeated each year since, thanks to Larry Ruvo and Bobby Baldwin. Last year, Keep Memory Alive had grown to a feast for 300 people at Postrio. Wolfgang and other chefs prepared a memorable dinner, and Muhammed Ali and other celebrities auctioned off some memorable items. The evening raised \$2.6 million to fight Alzheimer's.

It is entirely fitting that this year's event at the Mirage will honor Wolfgang Puck for his work to combat this horrible disease. Please join me today in saluting Wolfgang and Barbara for all their contributions to the southern Nevada community, and the entire country.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I today speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On August 9, 2000, police charged four men in Daly City, CA, for allegedly assaulting two gay men in a fast food restaurant.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. By passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PAT TILLMAN

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life and mourn the death of Corporal Patrick D. Tillman, age 27, who was killed in action in Afghanistan on April 22, 2004. Pat Tillman was originally from San Jose, CA. He was a true hero.

Pat Tillman exuded greatness and humility throughout his short life. He