

We have passed the minimum wage bill, which is now law. We passed a balanced budget, which also has in it the restoration of pay as you go. We passed a continuing resolution. Remember, when we came here, there had been no funding preparations made for after February 1, so we had to do that, and we did. We worked on approving the appointment of U.S. attorneys. That passed on a bipartisan basis.

We worked to make sure there was equipment for Guard and Reserves that was appropriate for those people serving in Iraq. We worked hard to push Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, and now they are in theatre. We passed health care legislation for the veterans, and we provided military medicine that was over and above what the President requested.

We basically full funded the Katrina disaster, which was something that was long overdue. We provided health insurance for children. And I would say, without question, this was as much pushed by Republicans as Democrats—the \$600 million that will fund many programs in an adequate fashion until the 1st of October, which would not have been the case otherwise.

We provided \$1 billion for homeland security, something we had been working on for a long time. This will allow the Department of Homeland Security to provide more security at our train stations and on our rails and to do some things we have not been doing at airports.

For 3 years, we have been trying to get agriculture disaster relief passed. We were able to do that. Again, clearly bipartisan. Western wildfire relief is important. For example, in the State of Nevada, more than a million acres have burned.

We have had many hearings dealing with the conduct of the war. We have had only two things that have been vetoed. One was the emergency supplemental with timelines, and the other is—I don't know if the President has vetoed it yet. I didn't check with my staff before I came here. But I know we sent the President the stem cell bill yesterday, and I am told he is going to veto that.

We have a number of things that are in progress. We expect to be able to do the ethics and lobbying reform in the near future, hopefully within a matter of the next week or 10 days.

The 9/11 Commission recommendations, Senators LIEBERMAN and COLLINS have been working hard on that with their House counterparts. That is basically done. We have security at the U.S. courts. I have spoken to the House yesterday and they are going to move on that, so that can be completed with the conference because we passed it over here.

Reauthorization of FDA, we have done that here. I think that should be able to be conferenced quite soon.

WRDA, Senators BOXER and INHOFE are working on that very hard. We expect that conference to take place

without a lot of heartburn. And the competitiveness legislation. I spoke with the Speaker last evening. They have a bill they have already passed. We have passed one. We should be able to do that—again, clearly a bipartisan bill.

We have a number of things we tried to move on and were unable to do so because procedurally we couldn't get to them, even though we tried. One was to change the Medicare prescription drug law on negotiation and allow Medicare to do that. We wanted to do intelligence authorization. We were prevented from being able to get it on the floor because of a filibuster. Immigration reform is a work in progress. Perhaps in the next few days we will have a pathway to get that completed.

I have had some good conversations this morning with both Democrats and Republicans on that issue, and the Republican leader and I hope we can sit down and talk about that when he has a proposal he can give. I understand that could come as early as today or tomorrow.

We have on the Senate Floor now an energy bill—again, totally bipartisan. Everything that is in the bill that is on the Senate Floor has been bipartisan. So I hope we can move forward on that and complete that.

As I indicated, we need to start, before we leave here, the Defense authorization bill. I hope we can do that.

So we have done a lot. A lot of times you hear little bits and pieces of what we have done. I have not covered everything, but I have touched on most everything we have been able to do this year, and I think it is something that we should feel good about.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield for a moment?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I would like to thank our majority leader for his effort. He read a list in the last few moments that goes through quite quickly a whole list of things that have required an extraordinary amount of effort to be able to accomplish, and I wish to thank him personally.

This has not been an easy 6 months. I think our friends on the other side of the aisle have wished to slow things down, with procedural motions over and over again, to even go to a bill, and to see the leader's patience and determination and perseverance has been extraordinary.

I am very proud of the fact, when we compare our first 6 months to the 6 months in previous Congresses, that this gentleman has been a task master. He has kept his nose to the grindstone and has kept us focused on things that matter to the American people, from the war in Iraq and bringing that to the forefront, to having hearings where we have asked for accountability and attempted to change the direction on the war, as well as to things we in Michigan are desperately caring about

every day, in terms of our economy and our quality of life.

So I wish to thank the leader personally for all he has done and will continue to do. I know that with all of us working together, we are changing the direction of this Congress and working very hard to address the things that people care about every day.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ENERGY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate takes up energy today. Let me say at the outset the proposed bill has some good provisions and it has some troubling ones. What most concerns Republicans are the issues it doesn't address at all.

Everyone agrees energy independence is a top priority. America imports nearly 60 percent of its oil, much of it from dangerous and unstable countries that do not have our best interests at heart. Yet the bill on the floor does nothing to increase domestic production of oil and gas—absolutely nothing. If energy independence is truly a priority, we will increase domestic production of oil and gas, period.

Increasing production at home will lead to greater independence and it will lead to lower gas prices. The average price of gas has gone from \$2.20 to \$3.15 a gallon since the Democrats took over the Senate. It is in danger of going up even more if this bill is not amended. We know gas prices go up as supply goes down. Yet this bill, as written, does nothing either to increase domestic supply or refinery capacity and, thus, drive down gas prices.

Liberals in Congress have historically blocked both these efforts. But with the price of gas where it is, this annual gift to the environmental lobby is a luxury we can no longer afford. If we are serious about gas prices, we will increase both domestic production and refining capacity. This bill, as written, does nothing to address either; therefore, nothing to lower gas prices.

Republicans will be offering amendments that will fill the gaps and give Members a chance to do something about energy independence and out-of-control gas prices. Yesterday, Senator INHOFE offered an amendment to increase refinery capacity, and Republicans will soon have a chance to vote on his proposal.

I also appreciate Senator BUNNING's hard work on coal to liquids, which is poised to become a major industry in Kentucky. This technology is one of the more promising alternative fuels we know of. Its addition to the market is one more way Republicans are proposing to lower fuel prices.

We will also debate fuel economy standards, and that is appropriate. We

should do all we can to increase fuel efficiency of our cars and our trucks. But we have to do it in a way that is realistic and that doesn't cost thousands of autoworkers, in places such as Louisville, Bowling Green, and Georgetown, KY, and countless other communities across the country, literally eliminating their work.

Every summer, our good friends on the other side dust off the old class warfare playbook and blame our gas prices on cigar-chomping oil executives. Look, price gouging is wrong. If it is found, it should be punished. But the other side has called countless hearings to try to pin down big oil on price gouging and they haven't come up with the goods yet. It is time to put away the playbook and do something that can help Americans who are suffering every day from high gas prices.

Republicans are eager to move forward on this energy legislation. We are acutely aware of the dangers associated with our dependence on foreign sources of oil. But we can address all of these dangers responsibly, and we should start with the most immediate concern, which is gas prices. Increasing refinery capacity and domestic production should be our goal in this debate. After all, the purpose of an energy bill is to reduce the cost of energy and that is what Republicans intend to do.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The first half shall be under the control of the majority, of which 20 minutes shall be under the control of Mr. BROWN or his designee and the second half shall be under the control of the Republicans.

The Senator from Ohio is recognized under the order.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the 20 minutes time be divided among myself, Senator STABENOW, and Senator DORGAN and that we will, during this 20 minutes, do a colloquy and discussion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRADE POLICY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, it is pretty clear, as we survey the landscape around our great country, what has happened to manufacturing jobs and what has happened to our economy. Over and over, in my State of Ohio, I know, and Senator STABENOW's State of Michigan, we have seen huge job losses, especially in manufacturing. In my State, since 2000, Ohio has lost 1,800 manufacturing companies, more than 200,000 jobs with average wages of

\$48,000, according to the Northeast Ohio Campaign for American Manufacturing. We also know that American workers, when it is a level playing field, can outcompete workers, can outcompete small businesses, can outcompete companies all over the world—when there is a level playing field.

Last week, Senator STABENOW and others participated in a manufacturing summit. She brought leaders of small businesses and large manufacturers to the Nation's Capitol with labor leaders and other people who care about manufacturing. We discussed how we remain competitive, how we shape trade policies to help not hurt our small- and medium-sized manufacturers. At that summit, an Ohio businessman named John Colm walked up to me with a stack of fliers. They were auction notices. He had received 47 of them in the last 4 months. These notices were for "going out of business" sales; they were companies selling off assets, in essence cannibalizing their companies, selling their machinery at rock-bottom prices—all that this manufacturing crisis has done to small manufacturers and large manufacturers but especially small companies in our communities.

We also know how U.S. trade policy has failed American business, especially small business, especially small manufacturers. We know the year I first ran for Congress, in 1992, we had a trade deficit in this country of \$38 billion. Today our trade deficit, whether you count services or not, exceeds either \$700 billion or \$800 billion—from \$38 billion to \$700 billion to \$800 billion in a decade and a half. Our trade deficit with China went from low double digits a decade and a half ago to somewhere in the vicinity of \$250 billion today.

President Bush, Sr., the first President Bush, said for every \$1 billion in trade deficit, it costs a country somewhere in the vicinity of 13,000 jobs. You do the math and you figure how many jobs we have lost, in part, because of our trade policy.

The response of the administration is: Let's do more of these trade agreements. We have already had NAFTA, we have already had PNTR with China, we have already had CAFTA and Singapore and Chile and Morocco and Jordan; let's do more, let's do a trade agreement with Panama, let's do one with Peru, let's do one with Colombia, let's do one with South Korea. The fact is, this trade policy is the wrong direction for our country.

In elections last fall, where Senator STABENOW, who has been a leader on trade and manufacturing, was reelected with a huge margin in a State that has been devastated by bad trade policies; in my State, and Senator WEBB's, Senator SANDERS', Senator TESTER's, the Presiding Officer's, and Senator CARDIN's—in all of our States, the voters spoke loudly and clearly that our trade policy has failed our middle class. Our trade policy has failed small business. Our trade policy has failed

our communities. When a company shuts down with 300 workers in Steubenville or Lima or Dayton or Finley—when a company shuts down, it devastates a community. It means schoolteachers are laid off, police and firefighters are laid off. It means people are not as safe in their communities as their economy deteriorates.

I will close and turn the podium over to Senator STABENOW with a brief mention of energy. Senator REID, the majority leader, spoke about energy. He spoke about Democratic accomplishments today and talked about the energy bill coming up. I wish to illustrate, for a moment, how energy policy can matter and make a difference in manufacturing. At Oberlin College, a community not too far from where I live, between Cleveland and Toledo, on the campus of Oberlin College is located the largest building on any college campus in America that is fully powered by solar energy. When speaking to David Orr, the professor who helped raise the money to build this building, he told me the solar panels that power this building at Oberlin College—a whole roof, a large expanse of roof or solar panels—they were bought in Germany and Japan because we don't make enough of them. Go west of there, where the University of Toledo is doing some of the best wind turbine research in the country. Yet we are not building the turbines and the components and the solar panels and solar cells in this country. This Energy bill we will discuss today, this week and next week, coupled with a real manufacturing policy as Senator STABENOW has articulated over the last several years, can mean more good-paying industrial manufacturing jobs in our country, can help to stabilize energy prices, and can make a difference in rebuilding the middle class in Ohio, Michigan, North Dakota—all over this country.

I yield the floor to Senator STABENOW and thank her for her leadership.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, thank you to my colleague from Ohio. It is so wonderful to have this strong voice, a leader in the House of Representatives on trade and manufacturing and all the issues that affect middle-class families and to now have Senator BROWN joining us in the Senate. It is such a benefit for all of us who care deeply about keeping the middle class in this country, about making sure we move forward with a 21st century manufacturing strategy that works for our country in a global economy. I thank the Senator from Ohio for his words and also join with him and with our wonderful colleague from North Dakota who has been such a champion on issues of fair trade.

First, I will start by reinforcing what has been happening to manufacturing in the last 6½ years. In this country, we have lost over 3 million manufacturing jobs. Why should we care about 3 million jobs that people raised their kids on, sent them to college—middle-