

is more difficult now to convince workers to organize a union than before. So why does big labor want to change this system? They don't want to ever lose these elections. Even though they win most of these elections, union membership has declined significantly in the past few years. The percentage of employees in labor unions is down from 20 percent in 1983 to 12 percent today. Because labor unions simply are not as attractive to workers as they once were, labor bosses have come to Congress to demand a legislative mandate designed to circumvent private ballot elections. They want more dues-paying members.

Throughout this debate, there is a clear example of hypocrisy in the argument in favor of the new card check system. Under current law, the process to certify a union is the same as the process to decertify a union. However, this bill and its supporters are silent on this matter. Apparently, they believe that when it comes to removing a union, workers will be best served by a secret ballot. But when it comes to forming one, they don't deserve that protection. This kind of logic and inconsistency is further proof that this proposal is half-baked and indefensible.

Congress should not empower big labor bosses by depriving individual workers of their right to be free of intimidation. Taking away private ballot elections and subjecting workers to undue pressure and coercion goes against the basic principles on which this country was founded. The secret ballot election must be protected at the workplace.

I understand the new majority in Congress feels they owe a great deal of debt to their allies in big labor for the success they enjoyed in November of 2006. That is why we are considering this flawed bill. As the majority, they can bring up any piece of legislation they choose. Fair enough. However, this bill is purely political payback in its worst kind of policy. I urge my colleagues—which they have done in the first instance—to vote against considering this piece of legislation, as they did when we had our cloture vote earlier today.

This is a personal aside. In 1964, I was a professional athlete. We were forming a players' union at the time so we could compete with the owners on an equal basis when it came to negotiations. We acquired 30 percent of the signatures from our players and we had an election. But it was a private-ballot election and 85 percent of the ballots collected were in favor of forming that union. I think the same should go with every union that is trying to be formed under the circumstances in today's market. Not only did we form a union, we formed one of the most successful unions in the history of the United States of America. Now all players at the major league level are covered by that union and represented by that union. The benefits derived by that player union in major league baseball

have been significant—the same as most unions would have when they do it correctly with a private ballot.

I thank my colleagues for voting against cloture today. I urge them, if it comes back to the floor again, to do likewise.

I yield the floor.

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

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. REID. Madam President, at 2:15, the amendment was 10 minutes away. We called a few minutes ago and it is now 5 minutes away. I don't know how time is kept in the legislative office, but I understand that people have made minor changes and that has caused the need to reprint part of the amendment. I wish to waste as little time as possible. I think it will be a few more minutes, so maybe we can adjourn subject to the call of the Chair, and as soon as it gets here, I will let everyone know.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:54 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair until 5:38 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. SALAZAR).

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to proceed to S. 1639 is agreed to.

Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 1639, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1639) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 208, S. 1639, Immigration.

Ted Kennedy, Russell D. Feingold, Daniel K. Inouye, Tom Carper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Pat Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Ken Salazar, Frank R. Lautenberg, Joe Lieberman, Dianne Feinstein, John Kerry, Charles Schumer, Ben Nelson, B. A. Mikulski, Harry Reid.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that there be a limitation of 26 first-degree amendments

to S. 1639, the immigration bill. This is the list of the 13 Democratic amendments, the 12 Republican amendments, and 1 managers' amendment, which each are at the desk; that there be a time limitation of 1 hour equally divided for each amendment; that they be subject to relevant second-degree amendments under the same time limitation; and that upon the disposition of the amendments, the bill be read the third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DEMINT. I object, Mr. President. We just received the substitute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina objects.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I renew my request and ask that we have an hour and a half per amendment, with the same conditions I just propounded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, how about 2 hours per amendment, with the same conditions and provisions in the previous unanimous consent requests I made.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COBURN. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, with all deference to the majority leader, this procedure has excluded many of us from our right to offer amendments on the floor. I think he understands our discomfort with this process. There will not be an amount of time that will pave over the loss of our rights to offer amendments on this very important bill that needs to be dealt with. So it is not in terms of trying to delay what the majority leader is trying to do, but there is not going to be a period of time on this particular set of amendments, unless there is a set of amendments that we will be allowed, as Senators in the United States of America, to offer on behalf of our constituencies.

Mr. REID. So I take it there is an objection.

Mr. COBURN. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is objection.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my distinguished friend, the junior Senator from Oklahoma, he always comes directly to the point. I appreciate him and his objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 1934

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I tried to line up these 26 amendments for debate and vote. We have been told that no matter what the time per amendment is that would be allocated, that is not good enough. I also included second-degree amendments. That was objected to. I have no choice but to offer, after consultation with the Republican leadership, an amendment that contains these Democratic and Republican amendments and ask that it be divided

so that these 26 Senators may get votes in relation to their amendments.

I now call up that amendment, which is at the desk, on behalf of Senators KENNEDY and SPECTER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), for Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. SPECTER, proposes an amendment numbered 1934.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

Mr. DEMINT. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The clerk will continue to read.

The assistant legislative clerk continued with the reading of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MENENDEZ). The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in light of our discussion with the distinguished majority leader under which we won't take further action until tomorrow, so we can begin to digest this mammoth amendment, I move to waive reading of the amendment.

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I did have a conversation with the junior Senator from Louisiana and a number of his colleagues. I think it is only fair that they have the evening and night to work on this big piece of legislation. It took a lot longer to get here, as always happens. It is "always on its way," be here "right away," "another 5 minutes."

Of course, it took several hours. I think in fairness, it is only the right thing to do. We are going to come back at 10 o'clock in the morning. There will be no morning business tomorrow. I would say to all Senators, there is a briefing that starts at 10 o'clock with Admiral McConnell. I have not had the opportunity to speak to him yet. But I am confident that for any Senators who are unable to go to that briefing because of being obligated to be here on the Senate floor, another time can be arranged that he and/or his staff would be happy to come and visit with another group of Senators. So we are not going to be in recess during the time of that briefing. But I would hope tomorrow we can get some movement on this bill, and the Senator from Louisiana and others will better understand this tomorrow, and make a decision of how if, in fact, they want to proceed, along with a number of others.

So that being the case, I express my appreciation to the Senator from Louisiana and his colleagues we met with earlier today.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a pe-

riod of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be no more votes tonight.

Mr. President, 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. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

REMEMBERING SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a colleague and a friend—someone whose presence is missed but whose legacy will undoubtedly endure.

Senator Craig Thomas was a westerner through and through. The story of his life reflects the spirit of the West—his work ethic, his strength of character, and his love for the land and resources of his cherished Wyoming.

Craig's life lessons were formed as a summer horseback guide, as a competitive wrestler, as a marine, as a husband, and as a father. He brought those lessons with him to Washington, D.C., as a Congressman and a Senator, and he never forgot them or strayed from them. That is clear from the issues he held closest to his heart.

As a fellow westerner, I always admired Craig's commitment to being an exemplary steward of our national parks. His love for them probably developed during his childhood summers around Yellowstone National Park, but he was able to translate that passion into monumental improvements that generations of Americans will enjoy.

He also worked tirelessly on issues impacting public land management, agriculture, rural healthcare, and fiscal responsibility—all issues that greatly benefited his constituents in Wyoming. And they understood and appreciated his advocacy for their well being by electing him time and again to represent them in the Nation's Capital.

Craig definitely had a special presence on Capitol Hill. He never gave up a fight; he had a certain grit that drew others to him; and he loved to joke around—all tributes that led to his being described as a cowboy or a Western hero.

The epitome of the American cowboy, John Wayne, has inscribed on his headstone: "Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learnt something from yesterday."

Craig Thomas treated every "tomorrow" as a new and exciting opportunity

to make a difference for the people of Wyoming and the United States. He loved his work; he loved his family; and he loved life. While he is no longer serving as the voice of the westerner in the Senate, his years of dedicated service ensured that his legacy will survive.

Craig was a statesman and a leader, a fighter and a friend. The Thomas family, the people of Wyoming, and those of us who worked with Craig will always remember the spirit of Western freedom, trusted integrity, and heartfelt kindness that he embodied. We are all fortunate to have known such a remarkable person.

WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am proud to submit S. Con. Res. 39, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims. This resolution is the Senate companion to H. Con. Res. 87, which was recently submitted in the House.

Each crash might seem to us, in its immediacy, like an isolated tragedy, but when we step back, we see that each has its part in a global crisis that is deepening year by year. The day of remembrance—set by the United Nations General Assembly for the third Sunday of November—is not just for the 40,000 people who die in road crashes each year in America; it is for the 1.2 million who die in crashes in every part of the world and for the staggering 20 to 50 million who are injured. In fact, the World Health Organization predicts that, by the year 2020, the death rate from crashes each year will surpass the death rate from AIDS.

True, many of these crashes are unique disasters, but that leaves many more whose causes are systemic and preventable. Unsafe roads, poor medical facilities, and inadequate driver education all contribute their share to the death toll. And unsurprisingly, the toll is highest, and rising, in middle- and low-income countries. Road safety, then, is an issue of economic justice.

On the world day of remembrance, we will recall all of the victims of road crashes; we keep their families in our thoughts, and we pray for the full recovery of those still living. But our compassion for individuals must not obscure the bigger picture. "We have to change the way we think about crashes," said Diza Gonzaga, the mother of a car-crash victim in Brazil. "The majority of people think that crashes are due to fate. We have to think of a crash as a preventable event."

MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any