

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

THE ECONOMY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, next week Americans across our country are going to be celebrating Thanksgiving. It is a time that we reflect and give thanks for our families and friends and all that we have. But far too many of our families across my State and across this country have far less than they did just a year ago. They lost their homes, their cars, their health care, their 401(k)s, and their jobs. Just this month, we learned that this country has lost a total of 1.2 million jobs this year. Over half of that decrease came in the last 3 months alone.

Across this country, people are hurting, and some of the hardest hit have been our veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands of our veterans are still recovering from physical or psychological injuries that make it very hard for them to pay their bills or to find a job, and too many find themselves sliding quickly into bankruptcy or foreclosure. Yesterday, in fact, the New York Times reported that advocacy groups have seen a huge increase in the number of veterans asking for financial help over the last year.

Americans made it very clear on election day that they want a new direction in this country. They want action that will help pull us out of this economic crisis. President-elect Obama has already announced that his first priority will be an economic recovery plan that invests in our country's infrastructure. As chair of the Appropriations Transportation and Housing Subcommittee, I stand ready to help with that. But, as the latest jobless reports show, we can't afford to wait even until January, when we have a new President, to start providing the help Americans need today. That is why I have come to the floor. We need to take action that will create jobs, diversify and modernize our economy, and help our families cope with this economic downturn.

This week, Senator BYRD and our majority leader, Senator REID, proposed an economic stimulus bill that would do just that. Their bill is targeted at the biggest needs in our country today. It will create more than 635,000 jobs by investing in infrastructure and green energy development, and it would help our most vulnerable citizens put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads.

Congress can make a real difference for millions of families across our country. If there was a mandate given on November 4, it was for Government to work for the people once again. America's working families want a government that will turn our economy around and end this war, and they want true progress on health care and on education. That is our mandate. We have an awful lot of work to do, and we need a bipartisan effort to do it. But we

cannot just sit around waiting until we have a new administration and a new Congress. Americans are hurting today.

We have the ability in this Congress to come together across party lines and pass a bill that will put Americans back to work and stabilize our communities across this country. I wish to take a couple of minutes this morning to outline how that package will help get our country moving again and help those most in need.

First of all, it is critically important that we help families who have already lost their jobs and are drawing unemployment today. Especially with employers cutting jobs each month, there are hundreds of thousands of Americans who need help for basic needs while they look for work. This package reaches out to those families by extending unemployment benefits by 7 weeks across the country and 13 weeks in States where the jobless rate is the highest. It also brings relief to communities, since every dollar of unemployment benefits generates \$1.64 in additional economic activity. This helps everyone.

This bill also provides help for the millions of families who are struggling today to find safe and secure housing. Across the country, public housing is badly in need of repair and improvement. This bill will allow communities to rehabilitate vacant public housing units, improve energy efficiency, and jump-start construction of new projects that will serve those tenants. It will also help address a growing problem in our community: renters who lost their homes because their landlords were foreclosed on. This bill will help protect these innocent victims of the foreclosure crisis and help them find immediate shelter and long-term housing.

One reason we need this bill badly is because it offers help to those who need it most, those who have lost their jobs and homes who are struggling to find housing today. But this bill will also help our communities and jump-start our economy by creating more than 635,000 jobs, investing in new technology and repairing our infrastructure. For example, this package would make investments in highway and bridge construction in every single State—all 50 States—by providing \$10 billion to help fund projects that are ready to go today. We know that for every \$1 billion we spend on highways, we create more than 34,500 good jobs. So this package will create more than 345,000 jobs.

Additionally, it is important to note there are no earmarks in this bill, no special projects as part of the highway funding in this bill. All highway dollars will be spent according to the formula that has been established for the Surface Transportation Program in our SAFETEA-LU highway bonds. States would have to put this money to work in 180 days.

We also know that roads are not the only area where communities need

transportation dollars. Cities across our country are struggling to repair and expand their bus and rail systems as demand for mass transit and public transportation is skyrocketing. So this bill will improve and expand mass-transit systems so that millions of commuters can get to work smoothly and on time. It will help repair and improve our Nation's airports. It will make needed investments in our Nation's ferry transportation system and modernize our Nation's shipyards to make them competitive and efficient.

While creating these jobs will help get our economy going again, we also need to work to make sure our workers are prepared to compete for the jobs of the future. So this package does that by helping 160,000 dislocated workers and youth get education, training, counseling, and job assistance. This is particularly important for young people who are disengaged from school and for disadvantaged teenagers who are often hurt the most when our unemployment rates are high. It is critical that we enable these young people to get work experience now because if they lose out, they are less likely to move successfully into a career later.

We know teens without jobs are more likely to turn to crime or join gangs which cost our communities millions in law enforcement and lost productivity. Not only will the programs this bill supports pay off as the economy picks up over time, they will help stimulate the economy in the short term too, because, you know, teens spend immediately all the money they make. So that will help everyone.

This package also recognizes that we need to start investing in new and healthy industries that will help create new, good-paying jobs and help strengthen our economy for the long term. I think one of the most promising fields is green technology. That is why this package would invest almost \$7 billion in research and development that would help us create new energy sources and improved energy efficiency.

Not only is the research and development absolutely vital in order to create the technology and the new jobs that come with it, but research and development and clean technologies are critical if we are going to become energy independent.

So these are parts of the package which I believe will be a shot in the arm, that will help our economy for many years to come.

Before I finish today, I do want to address the provisions in this bill that would help the country's struggling auto industry. I want the auto industry to remain viable and continue to support the millions of jobs across this country which depend on its success. But I cannot support any more funds without concrete assurance the automakers have a strategy to restructure and become viable, competitive companies. The auto industries cannot continue to follow a failed business model and then come here and ask for help.

I supported the \$25 billion with strong restructuring language for the auto industry in the continuing resolution we passed a month ago. I will need to be convinced that adding funding will not only save jobs but the industry leaders will take seriously the issue of restructuring and work to reinvigorate an industry that continues to teeter on the brink of failure.

I am also, I have to say, very concerned about the blame being laid at the feet of the hard-working men and women in this industry. The auto industry's current financial industry crisis is the result of many financial factors, not the result of the cost of employee health care and negotiated contract benefits upon which numerous working families and retirees depend.

If the Federal Government, funded by working and taxpaying families, is expected to explore financial aid to ailing corporations, then I expect to hear about sacrifices industry management will make during these tough times. I am very hopeful we can do that.

A month ago this Congress came together and passed a bill to help restore stability in our financial markets. Well, we need this bill to provide stability for our communities and for our working families at home. We need it to help the most vulnerable among us to keep food on their table and a roof over their head.

We need it to help unemployed workers pay the bills while they start another job search. We need it so that we can create jobs, invest in our communities, and support new developments in sustainable and emerging industries.

We can start solving this economic crisis now. We can provide our families with the help they need for the holidays and before this economic situation gets worse. I hope our colleagues will join together, work across party lines, pass this stimulus bill, and offer hope this year to millions of struggling families across this country.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MENENDEZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO STUDS TERKEL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to say thank you and farewell to a Chicago legend and a national treasure.

Studs Terkel—author, actor, television pioneer, civil rights champion, law school graduate, social historian,

jazz critic, disc jockey, champion of little guys and all the underdogs in America—died quietly in his Chicago North Side home on October 31. Studs was 96 years old.

His interviews over 50 years with the celebrated and the uncelebrated made him famous around the world. But there was no place on Earth where he was better known or loved than in Chicago, his adopted hometown.

When he turned 95 in 2007, Chicago threw a party, complete with a sky-writing plane that proclaimed: "Happy Birthday, Studs." No last name was needed.

What was remarkable, however, is not how many Chicagoans knew him by his first name, but how many Chicagoans Studs knew by their first names.

After Studs died, a British journalist recalled a day he spent with Studs more than a decade ago when Studs was still doing his syndicated radio program 5 days a week at WFMT in downtown Chicago. This person wrote:

The journey to and from [Studs'] office was through a subterranean labyrinth of corridors and shopping arcades linking the WFMT building with the tower containing the luncheon club. Beside the elevator door was an Irish attendant he knew, and they burst into song. Then there was an extraordinary ritual, involving an employee at Johnny's Shoe Shine. "Another day!" belated Terkel from quite a distance. "Another triumph!" boomed back the reply.

Forget Sinatra. Chicago was Studs Terkel's kind of town. He loved Chicago because, in his words, "Chicago is the country. It is America; it is a metaphor for everything."

Elizabeth Taylor, the Chicago Tribune's literary editor and one of his good friends, said Studs Terkel "was Chicago and everything good about the literary world—make that the world in general." I agree.

The last time I saw him was about 2 months ago at a bookstore in Chicago. Studs was signing copies of his second to last book, a wonderful memoir called "Touch and Go." He wore his trademark red-checked shirt. The bookstore was packed with people. Studs was nearly deaf by then, but if he looked straight at you, he could tell what you were saying. But that is what he was doing—still listening, listening, listening to everyone who approached him.

It was a slow moving line as we waited to have our books autographed. I waited more than an hour to say hello and get my book signed, but I am glad I did.

"Calling [Studs Terkel] a 'writer and broadcaster' would be like calling Louis Armstrong a 'trumpeter' or the Empire State Building an 'office block.' Strictly and sparsely speaking, it is true." So read his obituary in London's Guardian newspaper.

On radio, TV, and more than a dozen books, Studs Terkel interviewed some of the most famous of the 20th century—Simone de Beauvoir, Margot Fonteyn, Arthur Miller, John Kenneth

Galbraith, Tennessee Williams, Margaret Mead, Leonard Bernstein, Louis Armstrong, Buster Keaton, Marlon Brando, Bob Dylan, Aaron Copeland, Zero Mostel, Mahalia Jackson, James Baldwin, and the list goes on and on.

He interviewed a 90-year-old Bertrand Russell in a village in North Wales during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis and almost erased the tape of their conversation because he was pretty clumsy with his tape recorder. Studs never overcame that ineptitude. He said it was actually an asset because it made the people he interviewed want to help him.

But it was Studs Terkel's interviews with ordinary Americans, not celebrities, that set him apart. What guided his work? Studs said: "The principle is that ordinary people have extraordinary thoughts—I've always believed that—and that ordinary people can speak poetically."

Accepting an honorary National Book Award medal in 1997, he said:

When the Chinese Wall was built, where did the masons go for lunch? When Caesar conquered Gaul, was there not even a cook in the army? And here's the big one, when the Armada sank, you read that King Philip wept. Were there no other tears?

That's what I believe oral history is about. It's about those who shed those other tears, who on rare occasions of triumph laughed that other laugh.

By talking and listening to ordinary Americans, Studs Terkel harvested what the Economist magazine called "not only the most complete American history of this century, but the most compassionate."

"De Tocqueville with a tape recorder," is what the Times of London called him.

Robert Coles, professor of psychiatry at Harvard, told the L.A. Times:

I think he was the most extraordinary social observer this country has ever produced.

Said his son Dan, Studs "led a long, full, eventful, sometimes tempestuous but very satisfying life."

He was born in the Bronx on May 16, 1912, a month after the Titanic sank. He used to like to say: "I came up when she'd gone down."

His real name was Louis. He took the name "Studs" in the twenties, after Studs Lonigan, the protagonist of James T. Farrell's 1930s novels about an Irish kid from Chicago's South Side.

His father Samuel was a tailor. His mother Anna was a seamstress who moved to America from Poland.

The Terkel family moved to Chicago in 1922 after his father suffered a heart ailment. They ran a rooming house at Wells and Grand.

It was there in a small park nearby formally known as Washington Square but better known as Bughouse Square—a place, Studs said, "where free speech is the power and the glory"—where he first met the workers and activists who would shape his view of the world and fill up his books and tapes.

He graduated from the University of Chicago with degrees in philosophy and