

proceedings with respect to these bills. I do it en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The measures will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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

AUTO INDUSTRY REVIVAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. The auto industry is vitally important to our Nation's economy, and it is vitally important to my home State. This is not in dispute. The question before us is how to reverse the decline of some of those automobile manufacturers after decades of complicity between management and labor.

I understand congressional Democrats sent a revised proposal to which the majority leader referred, to the White House late last night. We will reserve our judgment until we see the latest text. But the proposal we saw yesterday afternoon fails to achieve our goal of securing long-term viability of ailing auto companies.

I wish to support a bill that revives this industry. But I will not support a bill that revives the patient with taxpayer dollars, yet does not secure a commitment that the patient will change its ways so future help is not needed. To do so would be a betrayal of the millions of hardworking taxpayers who are not at fault for the troubles in the auto industry. It would be unfair to the millions of Americans who depend on these companies.

On the management side, the draft plan released yesterday fails to require the kind of serious reform that will ensure long-term viability for struggling automobile companies. By giving the Government the option of cancelling Government assistance in the event that reforms are not achieved, rather than requiring it, we open the door to unlimited Federal subsidies in the future.

Instead, we should demand management make the tough choices that are required for long-term viability. This is the only fair approach from the standpoint of the taxpayer who is footing the bill. On the labor side, this bill proposal fails to require any serious reform of legacy costs. Indeed, it states explicitly that one of its purposes is to preserve the same retirement and health care benefits that have made these companies so uncompetitive.

It is delusional to expect a company that spends \$71 per labor hour to compete with a company in a neighboring State that spends \$49 per labor hour. In short, this proposal is deeply flawed because it fails to assure taxpayers, who rightly expect us to be good stewards of their hard-earned money, that they will not be asked to shell out billions

more in a few years or even a few months from now.

Now, there are times when help is needed. But one thing most people expect when they are asked for help is that the one asking makes a commitment to change. This proposal does not go nearly far enough. It holds neither management nor labor truly accountable.

In areas where one side is held accountable, the other side is not. One example is a provision that requires automakers to drop all legal challenges to State fuel economy standards that are inconsistent with the Federal standard. Where is the offer from our friends on the other side to call on environmental groups to drop their lawsuits?

Democrats say they want to solve this problem as much as we do. Yet they seem all too eager to tip the scales to the detriment of the manufacturers. Look, there is plenty of blame to go around for the problems that ail the auto industry, but fixing half of a problem is not a real solution.

Any successful proposal would force companies to reform, either inside of bankruptcy or outside of bankruptcy. Without that mandate, there can be no real expectation of reform. A good proposal would force automakers to get control of their benefit costs. A good proposal would make wages of struggling companies competitive with other automakers, not tomorrow but today. A good proposal would end the practice of paying workers who do not work. A good proposal would rationalize dealer networks.

Just as struggling airlines adjust their capacity to respond to market conditions, automakers must respond to market demands as well. I regret that the proposal Republicans saw yesterday afternoon does not do enough to fix the whole problem. It subsidizes it. A real solution must protect the taxpayers by forcing the changes needed to put these companies on the path to long-term success.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the lifeline we throw to Detroit has to be one that gets them to shore, not part way to shore. That is why I indicated in my opening statement that during the night there has been a lot of give-and-take between the White House and the two banking committees.

As I reported earlier, I think there are only two major issues that are still outstanding, and I am confident and hopeful they can be resolved in the next few hours.

The issue before us is, what can we do to stabilize an industry that has direct impact upon 2.5 million jobs in this country. The mere fact that we were trying to work something out yesterday caused the stock market to go up almost 300 points. The American people want us to try to resolve this issue.

But my friend is right. As strongly connected as I am to organized labor, it

cannot be a one-sided proposal that is brought before the Senate. I am confident it will not be. I have talked to the Big Three operators. Some are held in low repute. But that withstanding, I think we are in a situation now where we all have to kind of join hands, recognize that this is going to be a compromise, we are going to try to work something out. That is what legislation is all about, the art of compromise and consensus building. That is where we are now. As I indicated, I think we are very close to having something that I think we can bring before the body sometime today.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

FALLEN PENNSYLVANIANS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, as we bring the 110th Congress to a close, our Nation confronts a daunting set of challenges. While we face the gravest crisis, perhaps, since the Great Depression, we must also remember that we are a nation at war. From Iraq to Afghanistan, from the Pacific to Europe and countless places in between, American service men and women are proudly carrying out their duties to protect our country and our way of life. Under stressful conditions and the constant threat of danger, members of our Armed Forces do what it takes to get the job done every day.

During this holiday season, I wish to take a moment to express my gratitude to our servicemembers. Their personal courage and honor should not be taken for granted but genuinely appreciated. I know that is the sentiment of the Senate on both sides of the aisle.

Today, on behalf of my family, the people of Pennsylvania, and people throughout the country, I thank the members of our armed services and their families, especially those who

gave, as Lincoln said, “the last full measure of devotion to their country.” To the families of those who have died or for those family members who are remembering those who are far away serving our country, in either instance, either by way of the loss of a loved one or because of distance, there is obviously a void in their lives. The words of the great recording artist Bruce Springsteen come to mind when I think of what these families are living through today. I remember the words from a song he wrote right after the 9/11 tragedy as he came out with a number of songs. One of them was “Missing.” Some of the lines from that song go as follows:

When I shut out the lights, you're missing.
When I close my eyes, you're missing.
When I see the sunrise, you're missing.

I believe so many families feel that today. They know that someone who was in their lives, a member of their family, a son or daughter, a husband or wife who was among them and living and then went off to serve and lost their life, they feel that sense of missing a family member or a loved one. But even if they are just away for 6 months or a couple of months or even a year, they are missing, especially at this holiday season. So we are thinking of them today, those families who are living with that loss or living with that void.

So far, 190 sons and daughters of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have sacrificed their lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since the last time I paid tribute to those who have fallen, 21 Pennsylvania families have lost their loved ones. Today I would like to honor each of them by reading their names into the RECORD:

Aviation Boatswain Mate 3rd Class Daniel Verbeke of Exton, PA;
PFC Joshua Waltenbaugh of Ford City, PA;
LCpl Travis Stottlemeyer of Hatfield, PA;
PFC James Yohn of Highspire, PA;
SFC Shawn Suzch of Hilltown, PA;
LTC Ralph Marino of Houston, PA;
SPC Jason Kazarick of Oakmont, PA;
SSG Ryan Maseth of Pittsburgh, PA;
SGT Timothy Van Orman of Port Matilda, PA;
CPT Nathan Raudenbush of Royersford, PA;
SPC Luke Runyan of Spring Grove, PA;
Chief Petty Officer Michael Koch of State College, PA;
SSG Brian Hause of Stoytown, PA;
SPC Michael Hook of Altoona, PA;
SPC Zachary Clouser of Dover, PA;
SFC Michael Tully of Falls Creek, PA;
SSG David Wieger of North Huntingdon, PA;
SPC Camy Florexil of Philadelphia, PA;
PFC Adam Chitjian of Philadelphia, PA;
SFC David Cooper Jr. of State College, PA;
and finally
CPT Erick Foster of Wexford, PA.

To each of their families, please know our thoughts are with you today. I extend my sincere gratitude to each of these men and women for accepting the call to service. These men were courageous warriors who belonged to the finest military in the world and contributed to something larger than themselves. Later this week I will honor those who lost their lives during Operation Enduring Freedom.

I also personally thank the men and women of the Pennsylvania National Guard. The Pennsylvania Guard's motto is “civilian in peace, soldier in war.” They have certainly lived up to that motto. With two units deploying this winter and spring, the Pennsylvania National Guard is in the midst of its largest deployment since the Korean war. The 20,000 members of the Pennsylvania National Guard who give up the comforts of their civilian lives at a moment's notice, who protect Americans in the mountains of Afghanistan, the sands of Iraq, and worldwide, and who rescue Americans from devastating floods and natural disasters deserve our highest praise. Therefore, at this holiday season, I want the men and women in service to our country to know we are thinking of them, we are praying for their safety and well-being and for that of their families.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO GREG MADDUX

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as a little boy in Searchlight, as I was growing up, I used to listen every day to the “Game of the Day” baseball on the radio, and because there was no entertainment in Searchlight, I loved those games. I listened to them. Dizzy Dean was one of the announcers, and a guy named Al Helfer was one of the announcers. I thought they were very good, very entertaining. In the seventh inning stretch, Dizzy would always sing “The Wabash Cannonball.”

Now, in my youthful mind, one thing I wanted to do more than anything else was to be a baseball player. In Searchlight, we tried to play baseball. We had a little field there. We did not have enough boys for the team, so we had one girl who made up the nine players. Her name was Mary Ann Meyers. She still lives in Searchlight. She was really quite good—frankly, better than a lot of the boys. She rode a horse bareback as well as anyone could ride with a saddle.

I spent a lot of my daydreaming playing baseball. I had a little paddle of some kind, and I would throw rocks in the air and hit them with that. That was part of my entertainment. I did that for a long time.

As they had no high school in Searchlight, I went to Basic High School in Henderson, NV, which was 45 miles away. I stayed with people during the week and would come home on a lot of weekends if I could. They did not have a freshman baseball team. They had no baseball team. I guess

maybe if there had been a freshman good enough—I do not really think that was the case; I do not think they let freshmen be on the baseball team. My sophomore year, I went out for baseball. I was one of two sophomores to make that team. It was so exciting for me. That team was so good, we were so good, we won the Nevada State Championship. The first year they had a championship, we won. We beat Fallon. We had a pitcher by the name of Rey Martinez who later became my chief of staff and was a left-handed pitcher who was very good. We were so good that we beat all of the Nevada schools and all of the California schools. Even though we were from that little industrial town in southern Nevada, we were the California Interscholastic Federation champions. We beat them all.

Now, I would like to stand before everybody here and say that one reason that was the case is I was instrumental in getting hits at the right time and making stellar plays, stealing bases as I dreamed I would do as a kid. But I sat on the bench most of the time. I caught batting practice. I was a catcher. But I felt that I was part of that team and will never forget my experiences there playing baseball.

My friend Don Wilson, who was the other sophomore, was a State batting champion. He was terrific, a great athlete. He went on the play at Arizona State. But we had tremendous athletes. We had Norman Craft, who was our center fielder, who was a Big 10 football player playing at Indiana.

I went to college on a football-baseball scholarship. I was a lot bigger then than I am now. I weighed almost 190 pounds. But I got hurt early in my college athletic career—meaning football—and I came to the realization that I was not the athlete of my dreams. I was not big enough, fast enough, or good enough. So my athletic career, as a freshman in college, ended. I fought after that, but not as the baseball-football player I dreamed of being.

The reason I mention all of this today is to tell everyone within the sound of my voice how much I love baseball. I love athletics. I think it is so good and it is so wonderful that women can now participate just like men—boys and girls can participate. When I was in high school, the only thing my wife could do—she was far more athletic than I am or I was—is be a cheerleader. That was all she could do. There was not a single program for girls. So now we have programs equally for girls and boys, and that is exiting and wonderful, and I am happy that is the case.

The reason I mention all of this today is that yesterday in Las Vegas was a very big day for people who love baseball. It was an important day, but in some ways it was kind of a sentimental day because the great Greg Maddux announced his retirement.

Gregg Maddux, one of the greatest baseball players of all time, announced