

makes no sense. People of good will know better.

I would ask my colleagues to join with us in voting for the future and the economy of this country.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1128, H.R. 7005, the Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act.

Harry Reid, Debbie Stabenow, Byron L. Dorgan, Robert P. Casey, Jr., E. Benjamin Nelson, Joseph Lieberman, Sherrod Brown, Claire McCaskill, Carl Levin, Daniel K. Akaka, Barbara A. Mikulski, Charles E. Schumer, Christopher J. Dodd, Patty Murray, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Richard Durbin, Frank R. Lautenberg.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call is waived.

The question, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 7005, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide alternative minimum tax relief for individuals for 2008, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) would vote "yea."

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), would have voted "no."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR.) Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 215 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Akaka	Dorgan	Murray
Bayh	Durbin	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Feinstein	Pryor
Boxer	Harkin	Reed
Brown	Inouye	Rockefeller
Brownback	Johnson	Salazar
Byrd	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cantwell	Kohl	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Snowe
Carper	Lautenberg	Specter
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Clinton	Levin	Voinovich
Collins	Lieberman	Warner
Conrad	Lugar	Webb
Dodd	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Dole	Menendez	
Domenici	Mikulski	

NAYS—35

Allard	DeMint	McCain
Barrasso	Ensign	McConnell
Baucus	Enzi	Murkowski
Bennett	Grassley	Reid
Bunning	Gregg	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Sessions
Chambliss	Hutchison	Shelby
Coburn	Inhofe	Tester
Cochran	Isakson	Thune
Coleman	Kyl	Vitter
Corker	Lincoln	Wicker
Crapo	Martinez	

NOT VOTING—12

Alexander	Graham	Smith
Biden	Hagel	Stevens
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sununu
Craig	Kerry	Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 35. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to H.R. 7005.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, the night is late. Morning is fast approaching. I appreciate everyone's cooperation. We are going to be in a series of pro forma sessions and likely we will be doing no more work until we come back after the reconvening of the new Congress.

I appreciate everyone's work over the past many hours. I have already given my remarks. I only say that I would hope the President, who has worked so well with us the past few weeks on this legislation, would now consider using TARP money to help the auto industry and the workers of this country. Any conditions that were proposed by all Senators—Senator CORKER, Senator DODD; anything they wanted to put in there, they could do anything they wanted. I would hope they would consider that and do it as early as tomorrow.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Connecticut.

THANKING STAFF

Mr. DODD. Madam President, as Members are leaving, I would be remiss if I did not express my very deep and sincere gratitude to some remarkable people who, like all of us, have staff members who do incredible jobs who never get the recognition they deserve. They worked over these past 8 or 9 days literally until 2 and 3 and 4 in the morning—night after night after night—in an effort to put together a package here that would win the approval of our colleagues. These remarkable young men and women have just served our country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Could people take their conversations outside the Chamber while the Senator from Connecticut thanks the staff.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I thank you.

I want to begin by thanking the staff director of the Banking Committee, Shawn Maher. He is the father of a young 11-year-old boy, and I don't think he has probably seen Aidan much over the last number of months, let alone the last week or so, because he has dedicated himself to the work of this Chamber, this body. So I begin by thanking Shawn Maher.

I also thank Aaron Klein, Amy Friend, Dean Shahinian, Neal Orringer, and Deborah Katz; from Senator REID's staff, Mark Wetjen; from Senator DURBIN's staff, Brad McConnell; from Legislative Counsel, Laura Ayoud, who does a remarkable job for all of us.

There are many others, but these are the ones who principally did the work night after night, day after day, non-stop through the weekends, to try to package here a proposal that would win our support. And I apologize to them. We were not able to do it. I feel badly myself that maybe their Members did not probably work as hard as maybe we should have after all the effort they put in. But I want them to know, as we come into this holiday season, there are many people who in this country owe a great debt of gratitude to these people who worked so tirelessly on their behalf but never get the credit and the recognition they deserve.

So this evening I thank them immensely for what they have done, and we will be back another day to fight again, and my hope is to make a difference for people in our country. But we all owe them a debt of gratitude, and I am particularly grateful to each and every one of them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

THANKING MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. REID. Madam President, I will be very quick.

Madam President, I apologize that I did not say something a minute ago. We have had a difficult Congress. We have had the staff who are so valiant, so good, who always make us look as good as we can look. Sometimes that is not very good. However good we look, it is because of the great staff we have.

We have been through 95 filibusters this Congress. We have had many serious issues. Our country is in an economic meltdown. We had a series of important votes here. It seemed to never end. But always our staff is here—always. The Democratic staff on this side of the aisle, the Republican staff on the other side of the aisle, they are all very professional; the Parliamentarians, these wonderful pages, the court reporters. And, of course, the Capitol Police, these people—some of whom are in uniform, some not—are here to protect us as well as all the staff.

So I want everyone to know, the four of you seated in front of the Presiding Officer, how much I appreciate the work you do. You are all very patient. You take abuse a lot of times that you should not because a lot of times we are busy and forget that we also have to be nice to everyone. If I have offended any of you over the past couple years, it certainly was not intentional.

I am so grateful that my Democratic colleagues allow me to serve in the capacity I do, as amateurish as I am on occasion, but it is not because I am not trying. I have the greatest affection for every one of my Democratic Senators. They are always so good to me and work so hard.

I look forward to the next year. We need a productive year. Our country is in big trouble. We have so many things happening to us, individuals, that it does not matter where you look in America today, there is very little good news economically. And what happened today is not going to help that. But I talked about that before.

So I appreciate all that everyone does, including the Sergeant at Arms, the Secretary. They do such good work. We have all the committee chairs who work so hard, subcommittee chairs. I have been fighting for some words to express myself how appreciative I am. I am not forthcoming of them, so I will say thank you all very much for what you do for us and, of course, the country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, change is on the way, but it didn't get here tonight. The American people said they wanted change in the Senate, but it is not here yet. I think it was proven tonight by this vote. The American people will see who stands with the middle class of this country and who doesn't, who cares about working people and who doesn't by this vote tonight. Anyone could have picked a

number of reasons for voting no tonight, but as far as I am concerned, with this economy in crisis, we should have voted yes.

All I wish to say is we are going through tough times and tomorrow things are going to be a whole lot tougher for a whole lot of people, unless Henry Paulson does the right thing. I wish to say to my colleagues, Senator LEVIN and Senator STABENOW—I know they are headed out, which is fine—that I am going to work as hard as I can to convince the Treasury Secretary to take action to save these 3 million jobs that could be on the line.

People played Russian roulette with this recession tonight. We don't know what is going to happen, but we do know that Hank Paulson can save these jobs. If he can save all those jobs in the white-collar industry, certainly he can save some jobs in the blue-collar industries. Everyone knows I have had problems with Detroit. I think the fact that they didn't listen to those of us who felt they ought to produce clean cars and fuel-efficient cars, the fact that they didn't listen to us led to, in many ways, the problems they face. To lose our manufacturing base, without even a helping hand to try and save it tonight, is shocking.

So, in closing, I wish to say I have a heavy heart right now. I have 200,000 workers in my State, second only to Detroit, who depend on a thriving auto industry. That is 200,000 families, frightened tonight, but I have a message for them: HELP is on the way. Change is on the way. Change is coming to this Chamber. We are going to have people who are here for the right reason—what I consider the right reason—which is fighting for the middle class, fighting to make sure we have a clean environment, a strong economy, educated kids, peace in the world, all those things. That is what the election was about. This is a lame duck Senate, and they acted like a lame duck Senate. It is too bad. But we did get a majority vote, so the message to Mr. Paulson is: Listen to that. More than 51 people here voted to give a chance with a bridge loan, so I hope, Mr. Paulson, you are watching this, and I hope you will do it. Then, when we have our new President and our new Senate and our new House, we can get back to work.

I see Senator DURBIN is on the floor and is about to speak. I wish to thank him, Senator DODD, and Senator REID, all those who worked so hard and those on the other side who tried—who actually tried—to do something. So I yield the floor, with a heavy heart, but I know that the future is going to be much brighter, much better.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, just a few weeks ago on the floor of the Senate, we passed legislation to give

\$700 billion to this administration to try to rescue America from its economic crisis. That money was being spent by the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Paulson, whom I respect, and he made an effort to try to save a key element of our economy—the financial sector—investing literally billions of dollars and buying equity and capitalizing investment banks and other institutions, including insurance companies, in the hopes that it would turn this economy around. There is scant evidence of any success.

Many questions have been raised about the wisdom and judgment of those investments, but the fact is literally hundreds of billions of dollars have been spent by this administration in an effort to rescue many financial institutions which had made fatal errors in judgment. They brought together rotten portfolios of bad investments on mortgage securities based on this subprime mortgage fiasco which we are now paying a bitter price for.

Tonight, we had an opportunity to loan money—a bridge loan—to one of the most important sectors in our economy: the automobile industry. Now, let me tell my colleagues at the outset, I buy American cars. I do it out of a sense of patriotic duty, and I find that most of those cars are good. But I expect more out of Detroit than I have seen in the past two decades. I have been disappointed—bitterly disappointed—by the positions the big three have taken on critical issues involving the environment, energy efficiency. They didn't seem to get it. When Toyota came out with its Prius, a hybrid car with great mileage, they were scoffed at by the leaders in Detroit. That is a car no Americans would want. Well, there is a waiting list now for those cars. When the price of gasoline reached \$4 and beyond a gallon, many people started asking hard questions about the gas guzzlers Detroit put in the showrooms year after year. It seems Detroit was kind of caught in this mindset that they could make a profit by building more of their successful cars from last year. It ran out. It reached a point where they can't sell their cars, and they are struggling. I have some sympathy for them but not a lot when it comes to management. I think they have made some technical and strategic errors that they have paid a heavy price for.

I recall about a year and a half ago when the CEOs of the big three were just off this Senate floor in an office. We had a private meeting with about five or six Senators. They said: Do you have any questions? I said: I do. I said: I buy American cars. I have bought all your cars—GMs, Fords, Chryslers—I have owned them all, and I am pretty loyal to your companies. But I have a question to ask of you: Have any of you ever heard of the magazine Consumer Reports? There was this awkward silence in the room. Finally, a few of them said yes. I said: I read it, and I have been wondering for 20 years why