

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and that Senator MIKULSKI be the first to be recognized.

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

The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

FAIR PAY RESTORATION ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I am deeply disappointed about the fact that we did not get the necessary votes to move the Fair Pay Restoration Act forward. We fell three votes short of what we needed to do to get the job done. This fight for equal pay for equal comparable work, however, will go on.

As the senior woman in the Senate, I take the floor tonight to say we will fight on. This was the first step forward. It will not be the only step we will take. But what we will not tolerate is another step backward.

We are going to continue to bring this fight. We will look for opportunities to bring this legislation back to the Senate floor. What is it we want to do? It is to end discrimination against women in their personal paychecks. In order to end that, we need to change the lawbooks so they can experience fairness in their personal checkbook.

This is the year 2008. You would think that in the year 2008, on the 40th anniversary of the passage of so many historic civil rights bills, we would finally have legislation that would guarantee fairness in terms of pay.

So we regret we didn't get the votes, but we will move on. Many people have been mesmerized by the John Adams miniseries. I like John Adams, but I really liked Abigail. While John Adams was down in Philadelphia with Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and a bunch of the other guys writing the Declaration of Independence and laying the groundwork for the Constitution and inventing America, Abigail Adams wrote her husband from the farm—while raising the four children and keeping the family going. She said: As you write those documents, do not forget the ladies, for we will foment a revolution of our own.

I stand here today to say: Do not forget the ladies because we will foment a revolution of our own. I was here in 1992 when we didn't get it on Anita Hill. I am here in 2008 when we didn't get it in pay equity.

In 1992, we had a revolution that went on. We got six new women in the Senate. There are now 16 of us. The majority of us voted for this bill. I am telling you we are ready for an "Abigail Adams" effort here. If they don't want to put us in the lawbooks so we can have fairness in the checkbooks, we will do a revolution. What do I mean by that? We will take it out to

the voting booths. We will go on the Internet. We are going to go on TV, on the blogs. And we are going to tell everybody about this ignominious vote that occurred. When we tell it, we are going to say: Call to arms, women of America, put your lipstick on, square your shoulders, suit up, we have a hell of a fight coming, but, boy, are we ready. The revolution starts tonight.

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

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

FILIPINO VETERANS

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I come to the floor this afternoon to speak again on behalf of S. 1315, the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act.

At the outset, I wish to commend Senator AKAKA for his leadership in the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, as well as the ranking member, Senator BURR, for having brought together a package, which is a good one, which is now on the floor of the Senate. I hope our colleagues come together tomorrow to pass this important legislation for the veterans of America.

The bill expands eligibility for traumatic injury insurance; extends eligibility for specially adapted housing benefits for veterans with severe burns; increases benefits for veterans pursuing apprenticeships or on-job training programs; and a whole host of other benefits that are needed for the veterans of America. It is especially crucial at this time because of the fact that we have so many returning veterans from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

This is legislation that will help not only those veterans but the 25 million veterans we have here in America. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation. I urge my colleagues to fully support it.

The issue of debate, which has, frankly, kept this legislation from receiving a unanimous consent vote in the Senate has been the issue of the treatment for veterans benefits of the Filipino warriors from World War II. I wish to remind our colleagues there were 470,000 Filipino veterans that volunteered and served to preserve the freedoms of the world during World War II; that approximately 200,000 of them were with the Philippine Commonwealth Army, with the Philippine Army Air Corps, and the Philippine Army Offshore Patrol.

Today, there are about 18,000 of those warriors who now live in the United States of America. In my view, we cannot forget the sacrifices these Filipino warriors made as they fought side by side with American troops in World

War II. They constituted the vast majority of the 80,000 soldiers who defended the Bataan Peninsula during the Japanese invasion. They constituted the vast majority of the soldiers who were forced on the Bataan Death March. The provisions in this legislation that deal with the benefits for Filipino veterans—and most of them are in their late seventies and eighties—are provisions we should support in the Senate.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the order from President Franklin Roosevelt, dated July 26, 1941, concerning his order placing the Philippine Army under the control of the United States Department of Defense.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE PUBLIC PAPERS AND ADDRESSES OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Military Order Placing Land and Sea Forces of Philippines Under United States Commands, July 26, 1941

Under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the United States, by section 2(a)(12) of the Philippine Independence Act of March 24, 1934 (48 Stat. 457), and by the corresponding provision of the Ordinance appended to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, and as Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, I hereby call and order into the service of the armed forces of the United States for the period of the existing emergency, and place under the command of a General Officer, United States Army, to be designated by the Secretary of War from time to time, all of the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines: *Provided*, that all naval components thereof shall be placed under the command of the Commandant of the Sixteenth Naval District, United States Navy.

This order shall take effect with relation to all units and personnel of the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, from and after the dates and hours, respectively, indicated in orders to be issued from time to time by the General Officer, United States Army, designated by the Secretary of War.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, in that statement and order by President Roosevelt, this is what he said, on July 26, 1941:

Under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the United States, [by the corresponding laws concerning the Constitution] . . . of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, and as Commander in Chief of the Army and the Navy of the United States, I hereby call and order into the service of the Armed Forces of the United States for the period of the existing emergency, and place under the command of a General Officer, United States Army . . . all of the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. . . .

This order shall take effect with relation to all units and personnel of the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. . . .

By this order, President Roosevelt harnessed the men and women of the Philippines, who served in the Armed Forces and helped our forces during

that great conflict, to be part of our warrior force that defended and preserved the freedoms of America during that great world war.

So I honor and I appreciate the leadership of Senator AKAKA and Senator INOUE and Senator STEVENS, who have come to the floor and have spoken, from their unique historical perspective, about this being a matter of justice for the Filipino veterans who so helped secure the place of America across the world as a beacon of hope and freedom for generations to come.

I think we, as a Senate body, can do no less than to honor the sacrifice of these great veterans—part of the greatest generation—by making sure we adopt the provisions of this bill as they have been presented by Senator AKAKA in his bill.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I speak today in support of S. 1315, the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007.

Our service men and women as well as their families make enormous sacrifices for our freedom. In return, Congress has an obligation to spend the money and create the programs necessary to provide quality, comprehensive health care services, mental health counseling, disability compensation, pay increases, better education benefits, and more. That responsibility grows daily with so many of our troops fighting overseas.

I am proud of what this Congress has accomplished to date. We passed a Defense authorization bill that will enhance wounded soldiers' health care and rehabilitation benefits as well as streamline the physical evaluation process. Last year, this Congress provided the largest increase in veterans' spending in this country's history. This February, the Senate passed and President Bush signed the economic stimulus package that would provide stimulus checks to more than 250,000 disabled veterans and to the survivors of disabled veterans. We passed a housing stimulus package on April 10 that had several benefits for veterans including increased limits on the VA Home Loan program and authorization for the VA to provide increased adapted housing grants to disabled veterans.

As a member of the Budget Committee, I am happy to report that this year's budget puts us on track to provide our veterans adequate support in the coming fiscal year. The resolution would provide \$48.2 billion to help ensure that the Veterans Health Administration within the Department of Veterans Affairs can provide the highest quality care for all veterans.

But our work is far from done. S. 1315 contains several critical benefits improvements to ensure that veterans young and old have what they need to provide for their families and lead full, productive lives. Provisions in S. 1315 would improve life insurance programs for disabled veterans, expand the traumatic injury protection program for active duty servicemembers, extend for

2 years the monthly educational assistance allowance for apprenticeship or other on-the-job training, and provide individuals with severe burns specially adapted housing benefits. These are important benefits and services that mean a great deal to the nearly 500,000 veterans living in Maryland and to veterans around this country.

But, for 8 months now, members of the minority party have kept the Senate from even debating S. 1315 because they oppose a provision in the bill that would extend certain VA benefits to elderly Filipino veterans, residing in the Philippines, who fought alongside U.S. troops during World War II. Drafted by our Government, hundreds of thousands of Filipino soldiers served with honor in some of the most dire circumstances of the war. These Filipino veterans were promised veterans' status and were even considered United States veterans until that status was taken from them by Congress in 1946. Restoration of that status rights a wrong committed decades ago. And it is a correction we don't have many more years to make. We should grant these former soldiers full status and the limited pension rights contained in this bill so that they can live out their remaining years in dignity and peace.

I know that some Senators may disagree with me on this issue. That is their right. But I regret that they have made it so hard for us to consider this important bill. I hope the Senate will be able to vote on final passage soon. We owe that much and so much more to this Nation's veterans.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

EQUAL PAY

Mr. ENZI. A few minutes ago, we concluded the vote on H.R. 2831 that came after a very short debate. It was a clever use of the rules by the majority, I have to hand them that. There is a requirement that there can be only 1 hour of debate before the cloture vote. So we didn't have any session today until 5 p.m. The Senate was closed. That is an interesting way to limit debate. As I noted in my earlier remarks, the bill we voted on also didn't come to committee and follow the regular order.

I am very proud of the fact that Senator KENNEDY and I are able to work out a lot of things on a lot of bills. In fact, I think we hold the record for major bill passage. The way we were able to do that is to work in a very bipartisan way. We have worked out difficulties and sometimes we have compromised and sometimes we have left things out so things could get done. On this bill, we never had that opportunity. We never had that courtesy. We never got to debate this for 1 minute in committee mark-up, let alone on the floor.

The debate was kind of fascinating to listen to because there is equal pay,

which all of us are in favor of; and there is the pay gap, which all of us want to close. But the discussion ranged between the two, making them sound like they were the same thing. I want people to be clear that they are not. When we talk about women as a whole in the United States getting 23 cents per hour less than men do, we are not talking about equal pay for equal jobs; we are talking about pay for jobs that are not equal. We have held some hearings in our committee on this, and they have been very enlightening. If a person takes what is considered a traditional job—if a woman takes a traditional job—the jobs don't pay very well. If a woman takes a nontraditional job, they pay very well, just like the men who are doing that job. But they are not traditional jobs for women. Somehow, we have to move women from those traditional jobs, where there is overemployment, to some of the nontraditional jobs where there is underemployment.

One of the fascinating people who spoke at our committee was a young lady who became a mason. She puts rocks on buildings, and she was proud of the work she does, and she should be. She started out paving, then later adding some marble steps, then adding pieces to buildings, and then doing high-altitude work. And I want to tell you, she makes more than I do because she does something different than most people do, and it pays well.

We have this thing in America where we say there is this kind of job, and these are the people who ought to take those; and there are these other jobs, and you are probably not qualified for those. Well, when does that qualification happen? Throughout life. We have to be training people and encouraging people to do better things.

In order to encourage that kind of training we had the America COMPETES Act which we passed last year. It puts an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math so that people can become doctors and engineers, and other high-paying jobs. We ought to get more people into these fields, but what we are getting now is fewer and fewer people into them. We are facing a shortage in those fields, except for the fact that we can bring people in from other countries who can do those because they are turning out a lot of people with the necessary skills.

I have asked the reason for that, and the answer is that they do some things we are never going to do in this country. I went to India recently and learned a lot about their education system. They promise that every kid gets an education through sixth grade, but they do not follow that promise. Only 20 percent of the girls get an education at all. They also have this little review at fourth grade to see if people are interested in education, and if they determine that you aren't they kick you out of school. Now, that is before sixth grade. That is fourth grade. They kick them out of school. Those people will