

of those amendments that would undermine it would be a critical step in this direction. We look forward to continuing to work with you and the Members of the Senate on these important issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views. The Office of Management and Budget has advised us that from the perspective of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this letter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL B. MUKASEY,
Attorney General.
J.M. MCCONNELL,
*Director of National
Intelligence.*

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the quorum call, which I am about to invoke, we not have time counted against either side as it runs.

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

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business and that the time I use not be counted against debate on the pending amendments.

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

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

Mr. BROWN. My home State of Ohio is deep into a foreclosure crisis. Gas prices are going up, and all energy prices and transportation costs are going up. More Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, hand to mouth, some not even that lucky. Congress is now working on an economic stimulus package, one that is desperately needed. Let me tell the story about something that happened last month in my home State of Ohio to illustrate how this recession, which has clearly already swept across my State, has had an impact on families, on middle-class families, on families who consider themselves middle class and sometimes do not—a couple of stories.

One is from Tim in Cleveland. Tim told us that for some time, he and his wife had volunteered at a food bank. They donated money to this food bank. Over time, as his budget got tighter, his pay wasn't keeping up with the cost of gasoline, heating, the increasing cost of food, and he no longer contributed to the food bank, but he and his wife kept working there. More recently, Tim said that he began to go to the food bank for food. He said he was a bit embarrassed by that, which he should not have been, and said: I used to consider myself middle class. Now I do not. He has held the same job, worked the same long hours, but he is simply not able to keep up with an

economy under the rules of globalization, where wages are stagnant and prices continue to go up.

Perhaps a more tragic story, only because it involves a larger number of people, perhaps, than Tim: In Hocking County in Logan, OH, a community about halfway between Columbus, in the center of the State, the capital in Athens, the home of Howard University, a city on the Ohio River, a town of Logan in the County of Hocking, a county of about 30,000 people, at 3:30 in the morning on a cold December night, the people began to line up at the United Methodist Church to go to a food pantry. The doors opened at 8. People in cars were snaked around the whole area in Logan, and by 1 in the afternoon, 2,000 people—7 percent of the population of Hocking County, an Appalachian county where people work hard, have raised their kids proudly, have taken care of themselves and their neighbors—2,000 people in this community of 30,000 had visited this food bank, many of them driving 25 or 30 minutes to get there.

Congress, in response, is working on an economic stimulus package that is desperately needed. The Finance Committee has passed a proposal that puts cash in the hands of working Americans and doesn't turn its back on those in need.

A stimulus package is two things: One, it is to stimulate the economy by putting money in the hands of people who will spend it. Second, it is helping those people most victimized, hardest hit by the recession. That is why the Finance Committee, better than the President's version and the House version, will do those two things. It will stimulate the economy better, and it will put money in the hands of those who have suffered, who have been hardest hit. I applaud the committee for taking the plight of every American, retirees and disabled veterans, into consideration.

The Finance Committee package aims at jump-starting this stalled economy. For those who are facing in too many cases heat or eat, whether they can afford food or paying the heating bills, it will provide immediate assistance.

Importantly, the Finance Committee package provides relief to 20 million seniors and 250,000 disabled Americans who were left out of the other package under consideration, the package most of my Republican friends are supporting, the one without help for 250,000 disabled and 20 million seniors. Some Republicans, those who are a bit more courageous and more willing to break with the President and their Senate leadership, are supporting the package that includes 20 million seniors and 250,000 disabled Americans.

The Finance Committee package includes an extension of unemployment insurance, which is a crucial and commonsense response in an economic downturn. An awful lot of Ohioans, in Toledo and Lima and Dayton and Ham-

ilton and Middletown, have seen their unemployment compensation run out. They have been unemployed for 26 weeks or longer—a situation they didn't ask to be in, a situation where they involuntarily were laid off. They haven't been able to find a job in this economy. Many of them now are in those food banks in Dayton and Cleveland and Toledo, and many of them are looking for help. That is why it is so important that we put money directly into the pockets of people, through seniors, disabled Americans, and with the extension of unemployment compensation benefits.

About a week ago, I met with seven or eight religious leaders representing several Christian denominations, a rabbi and a leader in the Muslim community who came to my office to talk about what we need to do to answer the call for social justice, the call that preaches that regardless of one's faith, we have a responsibility, those who are more privileged, to those who are less privileged. This economic stimulus package does this. These leaders from the faith community who visited me last week spoke passionately about how, with the LIHEAP program, the program for the elderly indigent who can't afford their heating bills, with food banks and food stamps and the extension of unemployment benefits, what we need to do in this stimulus package, putting money in the pockets of middle-class Americans, including 20 million seniors and 250,000 disabled, how that is so very important to celebrate American values. As these religious leaders were discussing with me, to celebrate our Nation's values and to celebrate our faith, it is particularly important that we pass a stimulus package that not just stimulates the economy but helps those people most in need who have most been hurt by this recession.

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

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

RECOVERY REBATES AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ACT OF 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 5140, the economic stimulus bill.

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

Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

RECOVERY REBATES AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ACT OF 2008

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to H.R. 5140, which the clerk will report by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5140) to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 3983

(Purpose: To provide a perfecting amendment)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3983.

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

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 ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 amendment No. 3983 to H.R. 5140, the economic stimulus bill.

Herb Kohl, Max Baucus, Mark L. Pryor, Byron L. Dorgan, Robert Menendez, Jon Tester, Christopher J. Dodd, Barbara A. Mikulski, Joseph I. Lieberman, Frank R. Lautenberg, Daniel K. Akaka, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Durbin, Claire McCaskill, Harry Reid.

AMENDMENT NO. 3984 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3983

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now call up a perfecting amendment to the amendment, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3984 to amendment No. 3983.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

This section shall take effect 4 days after enactment.

MOTION TO COMMIT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to commit the bill to the Finance Committee with instructions to report back immediately with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit H.R. 5140 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 3985.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3985

At the end insert the following:

This section shall become effective 3 days after enactment of the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3986

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask that it be reported at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3986 to the instructions of the Reid motion to commit.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

On line 2,

Strike 3 and insert 2.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3987 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3986

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now call up a second-degree amendment, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3987 to amendment No. 3986.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

On line 1,

Strike 2 and insert 1.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the manda-

tory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 5140 at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, February 6; that a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Reid first-degree amendment occur at 5:45 p.m., with the time from 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. be for debate with respect to the cloture motion, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders and their designees, with the final 30 minutes prior to the vote divided 15 minutes each for the Republican leader and the majority leader, with the majority leader controlling the final 15 minutes; and that Members have until 4 p.m. to file any germane second-degree amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. If the Senator would withhold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. OK.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I ask unanimous consent that the consent be modified so that if cloture is not invoked on the Finance amendment, that amendment be withdrawn and the Senate proceed to a vote on the McConnell-Stevens amendment regarding seniors, veterans, and illegal immigrants, and that following the disposition of these amendments, the bill, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I respectfully object to the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Is there objection to the majority leader's request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period of up to 10 minutes each.

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