

recently an offensive consultant for the Washington Redskins. "They had a big turkey in a crate, and you had to run to get it, but I won that race going away. I had never run that fast in my life, but we had a lot of mouths to feed in our family and nobody was going to catch me.

"And Cabbage Patch was the first time I ever played on an integrated team," he said. "They had great coaches there, great role models, and I think that's part of the reason I went into coaching. I owe that place a lot."

Founded in 1910 to help troubled and indigent children, the nonprofit Christian agency now serves 1,100 children and their families through recreation, education and counseling programs. It recently launched a year-long birthday observance that includes an alumni reunion (date and place yet to be announced).

"We are having a series of birthday parties with some of our partner churches this spring," said Cabbage Patch spokeswoman Angela Hagan. "We had one at Highland Presbyterian Jan. 10. We will be at Southeast Christian Feb. 21, and several others are scheduled. Our golf fundraiser at Valhalla (Golf Club) on July 12 will have a 1910 twist—think attire, for one example—and our auction event Sept. 23 at the Muhammad Ali Center will be a big birthday party. On Sept. 25 we celebrate in our own neighborhood (1413 S. Sixth St., Old Louisville) as a beneficiary of the St. James Art Show Gala."

A function of the art show's philanthropic arm, the St. James Court Charitable Foundation, the gala previously has benefited Kosair Charities and the Louisville Orchestra.

"This year, we decided to do the Cabbage Patch," said Don Keeling, the Louisville businessman and president of the St. James Court Association who, as a youth, played after-school sports there. "They raised a substantial amount of money for their renovation, but they still have more to go so we're going to help them retire some of that debt."

The centennial year of The Patch, as it has become known over the years, happily coincides with completion of the \$7.5-million structural upgrade to its Sixth Street facilities, including a renovated gymnasium, kitchen and classrooms, plus 19,000 square feet of new construction adding a glass breezeway between buildings and a two-story carriage house.

Also, starting Friday, Blue Sky Kentucky, the nonprofit group promoting appreciation of American roots music, is launching an education component that ties into ongoing music instruction at The Patch. "Our objective is to bring the art and business end of music directly to the kids," said Greg Handy, a Blue Sky Kentucky founder. "Once a month, artists will come give a brief performance, talk to the kids about what it means to be a professional, working musician, and how they got where they are now. We've developed a syllabus that covers the art of songwriting and also the business of music."

Formerly an 8th Ward alderman who grew up in Old Louisville, Handy remembers hanging out at The Patch, he says, "probably starting at 8 or 9 years old until the time I got my driver's license. I would meet friends there after school, and actually played a little softball for them. Our family was a lot more fortunate than others in the neighborhood. And The Patch was a place where children could go, be safe and learn life's lessons—just a great place."

For as long as anyone can remember, Cabbage Patch Settlement House has been a beacon of hope to inner-city kids and their families.

During the 1937 flood, when the Ohio River submerged 70 percent of Louisville and

forced 175,000 people from their homes, The Patch, which was situated on the edge of an irregularly shaped dry area, became a refuge for dislocated residents and a clearinghouse for food, clothes and other necessities. It underwent a major program expansion after World War II, adding a game room, various athletic programs, adult activities, and dances. During the 1950s it began one of Louisville's first private desegregation initiatives that by 1963 encompassed the entire operation.

During its early years, founder Louise Marshall often scoured the surrounding neighborhood for troubled and less fortunate children, promoting the value of education and inviting them to the Patch. Although from a well-to-do family—her great-great grandfather was U.S. Chief Justice John Marshall—Marshall as a young woman taught a neighborhood Bible school class, felt compelled to help the poor and was influenced by the success of places like Chicago's Hull House to help the less fortunate. She based Cabbage Patch's founding principles on the biblical injunction for charity in the Book of Matthew: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in; I was naked and you clothed me."

The agency was named for a neighborhood running along tracks of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, inhabited by L&N workers and truck gardeners growing cabbages—thus the Cabbage Patch. The area was immortalized in a sentimental best-selling 1901 novel, "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," by Louisville writer Alice Hegan Rice.

Today, it has the legacy of Marshall, who died in 1981, and the example of dedication set by the late Roosevelt Chin, longtime family services director, whose ashes are buried at center court in the renovated gym named in his honor.

It has programs like the vegetable-growing and cooking initiative From Seed to Table, begun by Kathy Cary, chef/owner of Lilly's Bistro. It consistently turns out winning produce at the Kentucky State Fair, taking second place last year for Roma tomatoes, cabbage and corn, and 10 first-place ribbons in 2000, including best hot pepper collection.

It has volunteers extraordinaire such as Lea Fischbach, who in 2007 received the President's Volunteer Service Award from President George W. Bush for her 11 years and more than 4,000 hours of charity work.

"Those who participated in our programs tell the story of our mission," the agency's executive director, the Rev. Tracy Holladay, said in a statement. "When we celebrate 100 years of service, we're celebrating the hope and potential of all those who have come through our doors, past and present, and those who will come in the next 100 years."

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

EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last night a number of Senators stayed on

the floor until almost midnight—I thank the staff and pages for their endurance and patience.

This was over an issue that was critically important to our Nation. It is an issue which relates to this recession we are in and the fact that literally millions of Americans in every State across America are out of work and doing their very best to find jobs. It is not easy. There are as many as four unemployed workers for every available job. People are taking jobs that pay substantially less than what they are used to earning in the hopes of keeping their family together and weathering this economic storm.

Some of the sacrifices that are being made will literally change lives and families forever. People are losing their homes because of the loss of jobs. Folks are finding their kids have to drop out of college and come home because the families can no longer help them afford to pay for tuition and the expense of higher education. So many families in desperate straits are turning to the food banks in cities across America. As I visit these food banks, they tell me there is a dramatic increase in the number of people who come in looking for the basic food they need to put on the table to keep their families together.

Some of these families have lost their health insurance. It is one of the first casualties of losing a job. Unless you have lived as a father of a sick child without health insurance, you cannot imagine what goes through his mind in that circumstance. It happened to me when I was first married and did not have health insurance. I had a sick baby. My wife and I just prayed we could find the care she needed when we did not have health insurance to cover it.

For millions of Americans, that is not only a threat, it is a reality. When you look at this hardship many Americans are facing, through no fault of their own and despite their heroic efforts to put their lives back on track, I believe it is unthinkable, unforgivable that we would cut off unemployment insurance payments to these people; that we would cut off COBRA payments which help them to pay for their health insurance while they are unemployed.

Yet that is what is going to happen Sunday night. It is because the Senator from Kentucky has objected to extending unemployment insurance payments and COBRA health insurance payments for 30 days. In my State, there are 15,000 people who do not realize this morning but will come to realize Monday morning that their lives have dramatically changed. They are not only out of work and they are struggling to survive, but that one lifeline, that unemployment check that keeps them together, that provides \$250 a week so they can get on with life and try to turn the corner, is going to disappear.

You say: Well, why? What is it that has brought us to the point where we

as a nation would cut off help for our own people? The Senator from Kentucky explained last night it is because he wants to balance the budget. He wants to cut the deficit. He is concerned about the debt.

Well, I share his concerns. What was said last night by so many Members on this side of the aisle, which is, for goodness' sake, find a way to express your political views that is not at the expense of helpless people.

That is why so many Members stayed here until almost midnight talking about it. Senator STABENOW from Michigan, what a terrible economic situation in her State. One out of six people in her State is on food stamps. They have had high unemployment for the longest time because of the loss of manufacturing jobs and other employment opportunities.

It is an awful situation, repeated in Rhode Island, where they have one of the highest unemployment rates in the Nation. They were the first in the recession and are struggling to get through it. It is a small State in comparison to Illinois or Michigan. But when Senator JACK REED and Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE came to the floor, they talked about hundreds of people in their State who will be cut off from unemployment checks as of Sunday night because of the objection of one Senator who says we have to learn our lesson about deficits.

The simple fact is, this is an emergency situation and should be treated as such. If the floodwaters were rising in Kentucky or Illinois and people were displaced from their homes, desperate to survive, we would not sit down and do a calculation about whether to send them emergency aid, we would do it because we are a nation that cares and a nation that responds and we believe helpless victims deserve a helping hand. These are helpless victims of the recession, and their helping hand is an unemployment check that will be cut off Sunday night because of the objection of one Senator.

Some came to the floor last night—Senator CORKER of Tennessee, whom I respect—and said: I do not think you ought to be doing this. I do not think this is the way the Senate should work, that we should come and renew the unanimous consent request to extend unemployment for 30 days.

I would say to Senator CORKER, whom I respect, and Senator BUNNING, whom I respect very much: We were caught by surprise last night. We could not believe we would actually have the Senate go home to our home States, to the loving arms of our families, to a relaxing weekend, and know that, Sunday night, unemployment checks were going to be cut off across America for hundreds of thousands of people.

That came as a surprise to me last night. That is why we gathered on the floor and talked about the economy and this issue. We talked about the deficit, and we pointed out to the Senator from Kentucky that he has voted for

tax cuts that were not paid for, obviously that added to the Nation's deficit. He has voted for programs not paid for that added to the Nation's deficit.

Yet now he has decided to make his stand, not when it comes to tax cuts for the wealthy but unemployment benefits for the poorest struggling families in America. It is a stark contrast. Last night, we begged him to save this debt debate for a different day and a different issue and please do not victimize these helpless people who are struggling to get by. We were not successful in that effort.

I do not know if the Senator has had a change of heart today. I hope he has. I am going to renew my unanimous consent request that I made last night. I hope we can agree to go forward. I certainly would say to the Senator from Kentucky, we have ample opportunity in the days ahead to debate this deficit and debt, in the budget resolution, in our appropriations process, in virtually every bill that comes before us.

Why did he pick the unemployed families of America, falling behind, losing their homes, struggling to survive, to make his political point about debt and deficit?

One of the Senators said: Oh, in a week or so we will probably send those benefits along. I guess that is true. I hope it is true. We may eat up 3 or 4 days on the floor of the Senate to get it done, instead of instantly doing it this morning, as we can in the process.

In my State, the State of Virginia, the State of Kentucky, there will be unemployed people who will not receive their checks and will go through the anxiety of wondering what happened in Washington that caused them to lose that check they needed so desperately to keep their home, to care for their kids, and to try to turn their lives around and get another job.

That, to me, is an unacceptable approach to governing. It is one I hope we do not do in the future. It is the reason we stayed so late last night to speak to this issue.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4691, a 30-day extension of the provisions which expire on Sunday, February 28: unemployment insurance, COBRA, flood insurance, Satellite Home Viewer Act, highway funding, SBA business loans, and small business provisions of the American Recovery Act, SGR, and poverty guidelines, received from the House and at the desk; that the bill be read three times, passed and the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. BUNNING. First of all, let me say this, that I believe the Senator

from Illinois is correct that everybody in this Chamber wants to extend unemployment benefits, COBRA health care benefits, flood insurance, the highway bill assistance, medical doc fix, small business loans, and rural satellite television for our viewers who cannot get cable.

I will not object if the Senator from Illinois amends his unanimous consent request to adopt my amendment or any amendment that pays for the bill—we had a pay-go vote last week, and the Senate voted to pay for all the bills that come through—or I will not continue my reservation, I will not object if the Senator from Illinois would spend the \$10 billion it costs to renew these extenders for 30 days.

For example, we could do an across-the-board rescission of the bloated Omnibus appropriations bill that was passed for this fiscal year, which increased appropriations by 10 percent. That is just one, besides my pay-for, which you have objected to. If we cannot find \$10 billion somewhere for a bill that everybody in this body supports, we will never pay for anything.

I continue my objection.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier this week, the Senator from Kentucky made the same request. The Senate majority leader, HARRY REID, said to the Senator from Kentucky: I will give you a chance to come to the floor with your paid-for amendment, fully debate it, and put it up for a vote.

If you can convince a majority of the Senate to do that, you will prevail.

If you can't, then we will treat this as we have so often, as emergency spending, and proceed to help these unemployed people. The Senator from Kentucky rejected that and said he did not want to bring this matter to the floor for a vote because he might lose. I think it is possible he might lose.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes.

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

Mr. DURBIN. If he has a way to pay for this and wants to offer it as an amendment on the floor, we have given him the opportunity to do that. But for him to say he wants to dictate how this is going to be paid for from sources that, frankly, many of us believe are not realistic in any way whatsoever—he wanted to take the money from the Recovery and Reinvestment Act that has already been committed to construction projects and to tax cuts across America; he wants to take that money and reduce tax cuts for working families—I would vote against that. I think that is very shortsighted and would hurt the economy rather than help it. If he wants to make across-the-board cuts in appropriations bills, he ought to have an opportunity to offer

that amendment, and he has had that opportunity. But he doesn't choose to do that. He wants to be guaranteed he will win. There are no guarantees you can win.

There is a guarantee, because of his objection, that hundreds of thousands of unemployed Americans will lose. Come Sunday night, they will have their checks cut off. To be told people have a beating heart and care about unemployed people and to cut off their unemployment checks just doesn't track. I don't think it is any comfort to these families to believe you care, but you are going to cut off their checks anyway. What point are we making—how hard we can be, how tough we can be? At what expense? The most vulnerable families in America are going to suffer because of this political decision by one Senator. I think that is unfortunate. I am sorry he has objected.

I promised I would not renew the request this morning, but we will be back. We will try to get this done. I say those families, hang in there. After the politicians are finished with speeches and debates, America will not give up on you. It is going to be tough for a while, while we work out this political difference, but, unfortunately, that reflects the Senate and where it is today.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4691; that the amendment at the desk, which offers a full offset, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

Mr. DURBIN. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. BUNNING. We have tried to work this out with the majority, particularly after the pay-go vote last week. When 100 Senators are for a bill and we can't find \$10 billion to pay for it, there is something the matter, seriously the matter with this body. I said that last night. I don't wish to repeat myself. I have offered several ways to pay for it. If everybody in this Chamber—and there are no Senators except me here right now, but there are 100 Members of this body—believes, as the Senator from Illinois does, that this is essential and we should pass it, then we should pay for it. There are going to be other bills brought to the floor that are not going to be paid for, and I am going to object every time they do it. I don't much agree with the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, but it was striking yesterday when he said if the present level of debt and the present administration's budget is passed, the debt of the United States will be unsustainable. "Unsustainable" to me means there is a chance of one of the rating agencies downgrading the rating on our debt. We cannot allow that to

happen. I have too many young grandchildren who want America to be the same America I grew up in. I am worried to death that will not be the case.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF BARBARA MILANO KEENAN TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 527, the nomination of Barbara Milano Keenan, of Virginia, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Fourth Circuit.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Barbara Milano Keenan, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant 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 nomination of Barbara Milano Keenan, of Virginia, to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Harry Reid, Herb Kohl, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Mark Begich, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Mark R. Warner, Russell D. Feingold, Al Franken, Roland W. Burris, Dianne Feinstein, Patrick J. Leahy, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Edward E. Kaufman.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, March 2, after a period of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Keenan nomination; that the time until 12:15 p.m. be for debate only on a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination, with the time equally divided and controlled between Senators Leahy and Sessions or their designees; that at 12:15 p.m., the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture with the mandatory quorum waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we talk a lot in the Senate about procedure. Our debates sometimes relate only to procedure, and often that is appropriate. As we know, sometimes these procedural rules we have in the Senate are complex. But the issue before us today is not something that is arcane, very ritualistic, or very complex. It is very simple. It is clear that it is going to be a lot more noticeable by people Monday morning because it is going to affect the lives of thousands of Americans and their livelihoods.

The issue before us is this: Our country is in a state of economic turmoil. Lots of people are out of work. Lots of people have been out of work for a long time. They are trying to make ends meet drawing unemployment compensation, which is something we have had in effect in this country for a long time. By Monday morning, tens of thousands of Nevadans and more than a million Americans who rely on unemployment insurance and health benefits will simply lose them.

We have traditionally, during times of stress, automatically given unemployment benefits, and we should do that. These people are getting poorer every day. They are out of work for long periods of time. Unemployment is rampant in every single State in the country, some worse than others. So many of those unemployed have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

Those opposed to helping people who are down and out, at a time of their greatest need, should not have to talk about process. If you can't afford to feed your kids, process doesn't mean a thing. If you can't make your car payment, it doesn't mean one thing to talk about process. If you can't make your house payment, if you can't go to the drugstore and buy a prescription that needs to be filled, process doesn't matter.

If we do not act, these benefits will expire, but the need to buy groceries, medicine, make a car payment or house payment does not expire. Those benefits will expire but the need to heat their homes—it is wintertime—or put gas in their cars doesn't expire. They do not care about the procedure or process. Those benefits will expire. I repeat, the need to take their medicine does not or the need to take care of an aging parent or to take care of their children does not expire. They don't care a thing about process.

The catch here is that these benefits do not need to expire. We have the ability right now to extend them for just a