

short time until we work out a longer term solution. We are going to start working on that on Monday. It is irresponsible and basically it is immoral.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I was not on the floor after the vote last night, but I did get a chance to read some of the transcript of the back-and-forth between Senator BUNNING and Senator DURBIN and others. I understand that Senator DURBIN retained the floor for the most part and yielded for questions, but basically the procedure denied Senator BUNNING and Senator CORKER, who I know also weighed in, an opportunity to explain precisely what was going on.

I have seen some news reports this morning that have suggested that because of the objection to more deficit spending in order to pay for this temporary extension of benefits—that this was an unreasonable thing to do, to actually insist that Congress pay for benefits it is providing.

I would like to put it in a little bit of context. I think if there are two things that are causing the lack of approval of the American people of Congress these days it boils down to two things. One is a lack of fiscal discipline, and the second is a complete lack of credibility whatsoever when it comes to fiscal matters.

Let me give one example. Pay-go, the so-called pay-as-you-go requirement that was passed about 2 weeks ago, in the jobs bill that was passed earlier this week, \$15 billion, the Senate voted to waive those pay-as-you-go rules that it passed 2 weeks ago and the President signed into law with great fanfare.

But the problem goes further than that. It is not just the Senate being unwilling to live by the very law that it passed 2 weeks earlier and was signed by the President. It is the illusion of fiscal responsibility.

Let me tell you what I mean by that. For example, within the pay-go requirement itself, I think most Americans would be surprised to learn that discretionary spending, which is about a third of the Federal budget, is exempted completely. In other words, the senior Senator from New Hampshire frequently calls this the Swiss cheese pay-go because it is so full of holes, it is not what it would otherwise appear to be, and you can see why, if it exempts discretionary spending. Nor does pay-go apply to current entitlement spending—baseline. For example, many of us talked about the \$38 trillion in unfunded liabilities for Medicare itself which is not fixed, which was actually made worse by the health care proposals which have been made by the President most recently and which passed the Senate on Christmas Eve. The pay-go rules don't even apply to current entitlement spending. So under the rules that give the illusion of fiscal responsibility but not the reality, entitlement spending can continue to grow 6 percent annually.

Suffice it to say as well that the problem the majority leader just got through talking about, which is the inability to pass these benefits because they are not paid for, is really a product of his own creation. You recall a couple of weeks ago Senator BAUCUS and Senator GRASSLEY were working on a large jobs bill, which was a bipartisan bill, which was rejected in its entirety by the majority leader in favor of a partisan bill. He did not allow any amendments, did not allow any other suggestions. That was the very jobs bill that was passed by waiving the pay-go requirement.

All the Senator from Kentucky has asked for is that we do what every American family has to do and what every small business has to do; that is, be honest in our accounting of the public's money and to not continue a sham, which is to pretend as if we are being fiscally responsible when, in fact, we are not—by waiving the requirements, by creating the perception or patina of fiscal responsibility with these pay-go rules but which are so fraught with exceptions that they really do not mean what they are sometimes represented to be.

We know there is broad bipartisan support for the legislation that is pending before this body. All the Senator from Kentucky has asked for is that it be paid for, that we not add \$10 billion more to the Federal deficit. That is on top of the roughly \$1.6 trillion that already exists. That is just the deficit. That is not dealing with the unfunded liabilities of the Federal Government.

I am advised that there is about \$100 billion left in discretionary spending from the stimulus bill that was passed the first part of last year—\$100 billion. Using those funds, using \$10 billion of that to pay for this extension of jobless and other benefits does not seem like an unreasonable request at all. It does raise the question, again, of whether Congress is continuing to say one thing and do another.

I remember when we talked about the stimulus funds that it was advertised as being targeted, timely, and temporary. We know it was none of those things because now there is still \$100 billion left in discretionary spending here a year later, along with the TARP which is used as sort of a revolving charge account by Congress—again, more deficit spending. This has been anything but fiscal responsibility when it comes to doing the people's business here in the Congress.

If there is one message I hear from my constituents in Texas and other people around the country it is this: Stop the spending and be responsible when it comes to these unmet liabilities, whether they be annual deficits or when it comes to unfunded Federal liabilities.

But while Congress purports to be fiscally responsible on a number of fronts, you see small bills such as this benefits extension, not paid for, \$10 billion a clip, which continue to add up, and

pass the burden of paying for that on to our children and grandchildren, because that is what they are going to inherit, huge deficits, huge unfunded Federal liabilities, that they are going to pay for, not the present generation. That is not right.

I want to say I admire the courage of the junior Senator from Kentucky, Mr. BUNNING. It is not fun to be accused of having no compassion for the people who are out of work, the people for whom these benefits should be forthcoming, and I believe will be forthcoming.

But somebody has to stand up finally and say enough is enough: No more intergenerational theft from our children and grandchildren by not meeting our responsibilities today. That is what I interpret him to have done. If the majority leader and the majority wanted to have this taken care of, they could have had it done in the Baucus-Grassley bipartisan bill that the majority leader shelved in favor of his partisan jobs bill.

I anticipate that next week when we do take up further legislation, we will take care of these requirements that are now being objected to because of deficit spending. That is appropriate. But I hope, unlike this current proposal, we will do the right thing by the American people and by our children and grandchildren and not borrow or, probably more correctly stated, steal from future generations. We will meet our responsibilities by making sure that any legislation we pass is paid for by an offset, unlike the current bill that has been objected to.

I yield the floor and 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. UDALL of Colorado. 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 PETER H. FONTAINE AND THERESA A. GULLO

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Peter H. Fontaine and Theresa A. Gullo for 25 years of outstanding service to the Congress as staff at the Congressional Budget Office. My colleagues understand the important work done by CBO, providing Congress with high-quality, objective, nonpartisan, and timely analyses. The success of CBO and the respect it has built up over the years is the result of the hard work and dedication of employees such as Mr. Fontaine and Ms. Gullo.

Mr. Fontaine started at CBO in February 1985 as an analyst for energy issues in the Natural and Physical Resources Cost Estimates Unit in the Budget Analysis Division. He was promoted to unit chief of the Natural and

Physical Resources Cost Estimates Unit in 1995, to deputy assistant director for budget analysis in September 1999, and to assistant director for budget analysis in August 2007, where he oversees the staff who prepare the cost estimates for legislation and baseline budget projections that are so instrumental to the work of Congress.

Ms. Gullo gained her first experience working at CBO as a summer intern in 1982, before returning in February 1985 as an analyst for natural resources programs in the Natural and Physical Resources Cost Estimates Unit in the Budget Analysis Division. In 1995, she became the first unit chief of the newly established State and Local Government Cost Estimates Unit, and in September 2007, she was promoted to the position of deputy assistant director for budget analysis.

As chairman of the Budget Committee, I greatly appreciate the sacrifices that Mr. Fontaine and Ms. Gullo—as well as their families—make in assisting the Budget Committees and Congress. This sacrifice has never been truer than over the past year, where CBO has faced an unprecedented work load, with the staff working endless nights and weekends under extraordinary time pressures on an array of complex issues. As assistant director and deputy assistant director for budget analysis, Mr. Fontaine and Ms. Gullo oversee much of that work. I thank them for their dedication and professionalism.

The outstanding work being done behind the scenes by public servants like Mr. Fontaine and Ms. Gullo rarely gets the recognition it deserves. But their efforts are critical to the functioning of our government. They are providing a tremendous service to Congress and the American people.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Fontaine and Ms. Gullo on their 25 years of outstanding service to Congress.

INTENTION TO OBJECT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, consistent with Senate standing orders and my policy of publishing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a statement whenever I place a hold on legislation, I am announcing my intention to object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to legislation extending any expiring laws that does not include extension of unemployment benefits and COBRA health insurance benefits.

Last night, there was an attempt to extend some laws that expire at the end of the month without extending the enhanced unemployment insurance and COBRA health insurance benefits that were enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I objected to that attempt.

I did so because Oregon currently has one of the highest unemployment rates in the Nation with an unemployment rate of 11 percent. Extension of unemployment benefits is critical for many

unemployed Oregonians who are in jeopardy of running out of benefits if they are not extended before the end of this month. What's worse, many jobless Oregonians and unemployed workers in other States lose their health benefits when they lose their jobs, leaving them without either income or health care. In order to ensure unemployed workers in Oregon and other States will not be left without these critical, lifeline benefits, I am announcing my objection to any unanimous consent to extend other expiring laws, unless extension of unemployment benefits and COBRA benefits are included as part of the legislation.

I have no objection to the Senate proceeding to H.R. 4213 to provide for certain extenders because extension of unemployment and COBRA benefits are included as part of that legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONFRONTING THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about a bill that I introduced a year ago with Senator SAM BROWNBACK to confront Africa's longest running rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army. This bill was passed unanimously by the Foreign Relations Committee in November and it is now cosponsored by 63 members of this Chamber, a supermajority. According to the Congressional Research Service, no bill specifically on sub-Saharan Africa has had this many cosponsors since at least 1973, which is as far back as our online records go. This demonstrates an unprecedented bipartisan consensus to address an issue that was called "the world's worst neglected crisis" just a few years ago.

This historic consensus should not go unnoticed and it must ultimately translate into action.

For two decades, the LRA and its brutal leader Joseph Kony terrorized the people of northern Uganda. They filled their ranks by abducting children—some estimates suggest over 66,000 of them—and forced them to fight as child soldiers. Meanwhile, the people of northern Uganda were forced into displacement camps with little protection from their own government, where they were vulnerable to attacks, disease and starvation. In 2007, I visited those camps and saw first hand the terrible conditions people were forced to endure.

In recent years, the LRA have been pushed out of northern Uganda and fortunately many people have been able to leave those camps. But that has not meant an end to the LRA's terror; it has just shifted to a new theater. Under pressure in 2005 and 2006, the rebels moved into the porous border region of northeastern Congo, southern Sudan and the Central African Republic, where they have recently resumed their attacks and abductions. Accord-

ing to the United Nations, between September 2008 and June 2009, the LRA killed some 1300 civilians, abducted 1400 more, and displaced 300,000 others. That level of violence persists today. The stories are jarring: families locked inside huts and burned alive; people having their lips and ears cut off; people hacked to death with machetes; villages massacred as they gathered for church on Christmas Day.

This continuing violence is senseless and it is horrific. It shocks our collective conscience. That is why Senator BROWNBACK, Senator INHOFE, and I, along with 60 of our colleagues, leading human rights groups, and thousands of young idealistic Americans have come together around this bill. We may not agree on all the specifics of how the United States should go about addressing this issue and what role our government should play, but we all agree the ongoing atrocities committed by the LRA demand more attention, more resources and a more proactive strategy.

Our bill would require the Obama administration to develop such a strategy for how the United States will work more actively with regional governments, the U.N. and others to bring a lasting end to this war. That strategy would need to integrate all elements of U.S. policy—economic, political, intelligence and military—and coordinate our efforts regarding the LRA across the four affected countries. Our bill also authorizes a modest amount of additional funding, \$40 million over 3 years, so we can better support peace and reconciliation in northern Uganda and help meet the humanitarian needs of communities outside Uganda that are currently affected by the LRA's violence.

Unfortunately, one Senator has objected to passage of this bill because of the authorization of funds. Now let me be clear: I share concerns about our record deficits and believe we have a responsibility to our children and our grandchildren to control reckless spending. That is why I make a point to include an offset whenever I introduce a bill that authorizes funds. This bill was no different. When it was introduced, it included an offset to reduce excess secondary inventory for the Air Force; inventory that the GAO found wasteful and the Air Force acknowledged it didn't need. Unfortunately though, some objected to this offset and it was removed in committee.

Now, I have offered to stipulate that the bill should use already authorized funds, rather than authorizing new funds. Apparently that's not sufficient. While I am disappointed that the offset was removed from this bill, I do not believe it is sufficient cause to stop this bill from moving forward. We should keep in mind that passing this legislation would not automatically trigger increased spending. This bill authorizes funds, but appropriating them is a different matter. I am more than willing