

they go ahead with this plan, they will see how wrong they are. I know the argument has been made by the leaders on the other side: Let's get this issue behind us; it will get better. If they pass this, it will not be behind them; it will be in front of them—right in front of them. Americans are engaged in this debate in a way I have never seen in my entire career here. They know exactly what is going on. They will make sure their voices and their will is felt one way or another.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

BIPARTISANSHIP

Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I wish to respond to the Democratic leader, particularly in view of what my leader just said about bipartisanship.

It seems that last week there was a bipartisan agreement between the members of the Finance Committee on the very issue the Democratic leader spoke on. It was called the Baucus-Grassley compromise bill. It never got to the floor of the Senate. That was a bipartisan bill that was set aside for a very partisan bill that Senator REID brought to the floor and rammed through instead of the bipartisan bill, which had all these extended benefits included in it: extended unemployment benefits, COBRA health care assistance, flood insurance, highway bill assistance, the Medicare doc fix, small business loans, distant network channel for rural satellite television, and other things.

It is hypocritical of the Democratic side of this aisle passing a pay-go bill. What does pay-go mean? It means you pay for the bills as they appear on the floor of the Senate. Then, to present a bill that is not paid for or just paid for a little bit—one-third of it is paid for—and that was the Reid jobs bill he presented to us. Five billion dollars was paid for; ten billion dollars was not. Then, immediately follows a UC, which is not—which is not—something we normally do. We have unanimous consents that are much different than this. This is a House bill they have asked unanimous consent to proceed on. Regular order could prevail and the leader of this Senate could put this bill

under cloture and get his vote. He will get his 60-plus votes and normal procedure will occur. That is the normal way to deal with this bill.

Just so my colleagues understand that not all Americans feel the same as my dear friend from Maine and the majority leader of the Senate, I am going to read a letter into the RECORD from a constituent of mine from Louisville.

I am going to read it also because it is very important people understand there are other sides of this.

Dear Senator Jim Bunning:

I haven't worked a full 40-hour week in probably 2 years now, but I fully support your decision to stand up to those in Congress who want to do nothing more than to spend the taxpayers' money, even the money they do not have, on unemployment extension benefits.

So far this year I have worked a total of one week here in Louisville, Kentucky. My employer is a sheet metal fabrication plant with its main headquarters based in Cincinnati, Ohio. Normally the Louisville branch would employ upwards of fifty people on any given day if business were good. Recently that number has dwindled to about four.

This country is sooner or later going to implode because of the massive amount of debt run up over the past 40 to 50 years. Selling the Nation's soul to countries like Communist China in order to finance our life style and allow the government to further debase the currency is sheer lunacy. Throwing away hundreds of billions of dollars so executives on Wall Street can keep their multi-million dollar bonuses while others in society worry about keeping the electricity on and their children fed only helps to move this country closer to a long overdue revolution. The problem is by then we won't even own it anymore.

Politicians, on both sides, enjoy getting up in front of television cameras and talking about their support of the "pay as you go" plan, but when it comes down to actually doing what they say, they all run for cover and vote for anything they think will win them another vote or another term. Your stance in holding them to their words and expecting them to actually do what they voted for is a refreshing concept in an otherwise corrupt and hypocritical power base known as Washington, DC.

It is too bad Senator Mitch McConnell and some of the elected officials on your side of the aisle do not have your backbone or your sense of decency when it comes to keeping their promises to the American people.

For security's sake, I am just going to read his first name. It says: Sincerely, Robert, from Louisville.

There is no doubt in anybody's mind that I have supported extension of unemployment benefits, COBRA health care benefits, flood insurance, the highway bill. I was the one who proposed the Medicare doc fix on a permanent basis in the Finance Committee. I have supported small business loans and all the other things that are in this temporary bill.

I wish to set the record straight. The majority leader has all the tools in his kit and he normally exercises them and I think he is about to do that on the bill currently before us, which we call the large jobs bill. He soon will invoke cloture to cut off debate. He normally doesn't even allow amendments. He

will file cloture, fill the tree—by filling the tree, that means the amendment tree which allows the Republicans no alternatives but to vote for cloture or not vote for cloture—and then, unfortunately, we have 30 hours of debate immediately following cloture.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST

I am going to propose, one more time, my unanimous-consent request.

Madam 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 for a third time and passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I am sorry my friend from Kentucky has made this so personal because it shouldn't be the case, but let me review history a little bit.

The Senator from Kentucky talks about the bill we voted on and passed last week as being very partisan. That bill received 70 votes. It was a very nonpartisan bill. I should say it was a bipartisan bill. It received 70 votes. Why did it receive 70 votes? Because it did some great things for America. It extended the highway bill for 1 year, saving 1 million jobs. It gave small businesses the right to write off \$250,000 in purchases, stimulating small businesses all over America. It gave employers the ability to hire people who have been out of work for 60 days, and if they hired them, they wouldn't have to pay their FICA tax if they gave them 30 hours a week. Not only that, they get a \$1,000 tax credit at the end of the year. This is a good proposal. We also extended Build America Bonds, which are so important to the American Recovery Act, and Democrats and Republicans all over the country—Governors, mayors, county commissioners—loved that proposal. So it was certainly not a partisan bill. He is right. The other bill he talked about wasn't brought to the floor. I would also say this. It was paid for. Not a cent of deficit spending—not a cent.

It is interesting my friend would talk about pay-go. He voted against pay-go. He is talking about pay-go now. He voted against it. He voted against it right here on the Senate floor. If he so likes pay-go, why didn't he vote for it? He voted against it. The Senator from Kentucky voted against pay-go. It has no applicability to the jobs bill that passed because it was paid for.

The doc fix, he talks about having voted for it in committee. He voted against it on the floor.

So my friend is throwing around words such as "hypocrite." People can make their own decision as to who is a hypocrite. I am not calling anyone a hypocrite, although I am just stating the facts: Someone who boasts about the good of pay-go but votes against it

and talks about the doc fix but votes against it.

So I would think my friend from Kentucky should get a different historian to help him with facts because they are simply wrong, and I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I will only continue for 2 minutes. Why would you vote for a bill when you know it is not going to be honored? Why would you vote for a bill you knew was going to be violated in the first bill brought to the floor after you passed it? As far as the doc fix is concerned, I have a history with the doc fix that I don't need to defend to the majority leader or to anybody in this body. Check with the Kentucky Medical Association and all my doctors whom I represent in Kentucky.

I think the letter of the gentleman from Louisville states the facts better than I. We want a country where my 40 grandchildren have the same abilities I did growing up. We want a country that doesn't owe everybody in the world for our existence.

The question I have been asked mostly is: Why now? Well, why not now? What better time to stand than now, when the majority leader has the ability to do exactly on this bill what he has done on 25 bills in the last 5 months: file cloture, fill the tree, and vote yea or nay, get the 60 votes, pass the bill, and extend these temporary benefits. We may pass this other bill—I hope we do—that will extend them on a permanent basis for a year—until the end of the year, anyway.

I think it is very important that people understand that I have the same right he does. He was elected by the people in Nevada, with fewer people than in Kentucky. So I have the same right as any other Senator here on the floor. It is not a filibuster when you object. That ought to be brought out clearly. A filibuster is when you stand on this floor and you talk and talk and talk. I have not done that.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I know my friends from Tennessee and Texas wish to speak, but I have to respond because I was mentioned again. I can't match, now or in the past, my friend's fast ball, his curve ball, or his 40 grandchildren. But I do have 16 grandchildren. I do think it is important to understand that the reasoning is a little unusual. He said I wouldn't vote for a bill that I thought would not be upheld at a later time, or procedures in the bill not followed. I don't know why anyone is entitled to be the judge and jury when you pass legislation. And if it is the law, there are ways of upholding that.

With pay-go, we have some experience. We know it works. It worked during the Clinton years. We paid down

the national debt as a result of what happened during the Clinton years. Pay-go was dismissed during the Bush years.

My friend talks about the debt. He wants to make sure the debt doesn't go up. Where was he during the Bush years, with two unpaid-for wars, taxes unpaid for, running up trillions of dollars of red ink on the American people? We tried to address that. We asked for a debt commission to be established. We did that by legislation on the floor. My friend didn't vote for that. He didn't vote for pay-go. So we are trying on the floor—we have legislation that will resolve this issue.

What my friend said is a little unusual. He said why doesn't the leader file for cloture, use up a week or 10 days, waste that time, and then hold off getting to all of the other things. That doesn't make sense. It is without any sense, when, in fact, with the Senator withdrawing his objection, we could get it done just like that. We wouldn't have to wait a week or 10 days. He made his stand. I think he is wrong, as do the American people, and as do the people of Kentucky, in spite of the letter from Robert.

Madam President, so that I don't take advantage of my position as being leader, I ask unanimous consent that the time I consumed in my back and forth with Senator BUNNING, which was under Republican control, be charged to leader time.

I wonder if the staff has heard whether Senators SESSIONS and LEAHY wish to take the full hour of time. How much time does my friend from Texas wish?

Mr. CORNYN. About 10 minutes.

Mr. REID. And the Senator from Tennessee is here. If we run into a shortage of time, we will be happy to try to work it out in some way with the minority.

Mr. SCHUMER. Will the leader yield for a brief statement?

Mr. REID. My friend from Texas has been so very patient.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republicans control the time.

The Senator from Texas is recognized.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I want to take a few minutes to talk about Texas Independence Day. On this day in 1836, delegates from 59 Texas settlements signed a declaration of their right to live in liberty, and to take charge of their own destiny.

The document they produced shares much in common with the Declaration signed in Philadelphia six decades earlier. For example, both sets of Founders believed in fundamental human rights, including the right to address their government for grievances.

Both groups of Founders insisted on the obligation to change their form of government if it trampled on those rights.

Both groups of Founders created new nations and have been honored by successive generations for creating legacies of liberty.

Of course, there were differences between the conventions of 1776 and 1836, between Philadelphia and Washington-on-the-Brazos. For one thing, the Texans took action quickly. They adopted their declaration on the second day of their convention. They acted quickly because they knew the forces of tyranny were already in the field and at that moment were trying to crush their freedoms.

Less than 200 miles to the west, Santa Anna's army was laying siege to the Alamo. Its young commander, William Barret Travis, had sent out an inspiring letter 6 days earlier. In it he wrote:

Fellow citizens and compatriots, I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna.

The enemy has demanded a surrender. . . . otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword. . . . I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat.

History tells us that death came to the defenders of the Alamo. But soon victory came for the people of Texas. On April 21 of that year, Sam Houston and about 900 Texas soldiers defeated the much larger Mexican army at the battle of San Jacinto. By this victory, Texans won the independence they had declared less than 2 months earlier.

Sam Houston, the commander of those troops and commander in chief of the battle at San Jacinto, served as a Congressman from Tennessee, he served as Governor of Tennessee, and after the battle of San Jacinto, he went on to be elected to the Republic of Texas and became one of the first Texans to serve in the Senate in the seat I currently occupy.

I believe that he and the other founders of our Republic and of our great State would be proud of the 24 million Americans who call Texas home. They would be proud that Texas remains a land of opportunity, and that we are outperforming the Nation in job creation. They would be proud of the fact that Texas remains a welcoming State for pioneers of all stripes, and we have led the Nation in population growth over the last 2 years, as people have voted with their feet and moved to the land of opportunity, otherwise known as Texas.

They would be proud that even during a severe recession we continue to build businesses, raise families, and make our communities even better places to live. Just like the founding generation, we are showing the world that, when faced with adversity, Texans do not retreat, we reload.

In honor of the founders of the Republic of Texas, and all who are free because of their vision and sacrifice, I say: God bless Texas and may God bless the United States of America.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.