

There is 5 minutes 15 seconds remaining.

Mr. BUNNING. I reserve that time until the 10 minutes prior to the time expiring. In other words, the last 5 minutes is going to Senator BAUCUS. I reserve the time prior to the Baucus time. I ask unanimous consent to do that.

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

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, let me begin by addressing some of the arguments made by the other side of the aisle against my amendment. First, the Senator from Illinois said that this would cause a needless delay in extending these programs, potentially causing a protracted negotiation with the House. With all due respect, that is nonsense. We all know the House can act very quickly. In fact, they did so when they sent this bill, H.R. 4691, to us. The House has already passed my black liquor offset. I want everybody to understand that we pay for the extension of unemployment benefits, COBRA assistance, health care assistance so everybody is covered. The larger bill that we are dealing with on the floor, the one we took off the floor to address this amendment and this bill, also extends these provisions longer than just a month—the highway bill, the doc fix on Medicare, the small business loans that we heard about that we are destroying with our objections, and the rural satellite TV viewers.

I sincerely believe if we can't find \$10 billion to pay for something that all 100 Senators support, we are in deep trouble. I think the Senator from Alabama made that very clear. I am on the Budget Committee also. I have heard those numbers over and over, not from just the Republican people who come before the Budget Committee but from the Democrats who testify before the committee. We are on an unsustainable path as far as the budget.

The question before the Senate is not whether Senators support unemployment benefits or all the other important things in this bill. The question is whether we as a Senate and as a government are going to pay for what we spend.

How much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky has 1 minute 15 seconds.

Mr. BUNNING. I think everybody understands why I have been on this floor for so long. I have been here for 12 years and 12 years in the House. I don't think I have spent this much time on the floor in any one-week period in my life. Usually on the floor of the House you only get 2 minutes to say whatever you have to say. In the Senate you get as much time, usually, as you need. I have never needed this much time. But something so important, particularly after pay-go, and even the larger bill we have before us, \$104 billion of the \$108 billion expended in that bill is emergency spending. That is emer-

gency spending that is not paid for. So when we get to the bigger bill, we will have some amendments for that.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BEGICH. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions during today's session.

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

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 55 seconds remaining.

Mrs. BOXER. I want to say, on behalf of many of us on this side of the aisle, how glad we are that Senator BUNNING has changed his mind and taken the option he was presented with on Thursday; that is, to offer an amendment and then for us to get this done. Too much pain is out there with the unemployed. A lot of workers in my State and in States all across this Nation who are unemployed suffered a great deal of anxiety over this long weekend.

Mr. President, 2,000 Department of Transportation inspectors were furloughed. That led to stoppage of work on bridge and highway construction in 17 States, because Senator BUNNING didn't take the deal he is taking now. I am glad he is taking it.

I raise a point of order that the pending Bunning amendment violates section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I am sorry. I wasn't on the floor. Could the Senator make her point of order.

Mrs. BOXER. I raise a point of order that the pending Bunning amendment violates section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I move to waive the applicable section of the Budget Act, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from

Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 43, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 31 Leg.]

YEAS—43

Alexander	DeMint	McCain
Barrasso	Ensign	McConnell
Bennett	Enzi	Murkowski
Bond	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Brown (MA)	Graham	Risch
Brownback	Grassley	Roberts
Bunning	Gregg	Sessions
Burr	Hatch	Shelby
Chambliss	Isakson	Snowe
Coburn	Johanns	Thune
Cochran	Kyl	Vitter
Collins	LeMieux	Voinovich
Corker	Lieberman	Wicker
Cornyn	Lincoln	
Crapo	Lugar	

NAYS—53

Akaka	Franken	Nelson (FL)
Baucus	Gillibrand	Pryor
Bayh	Hagan	Reed
Begich	Harkin	Reid
Bennet	Inouye	Rockefeller
Bingaman	Johnson	Sanders
Boxer	Kaufman	Schumer
Brown (OH)	Kerry	Shaheen
Burris	Klobuchar	Specter
Cantwell	Kohl	Stabenow
Cardin	Landrieu	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Casey	Levin	Udall (NM)
Conrad	McCaskill	Warner
Dodd	Menendez	Webb
Dorgan	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Mikulski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murray	

NOT VOTING—4

Byrd	Inhofe
Hutchison	Lautenberg

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 43, the nays are 53. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on the passage of the bill.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mrs. HAGAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 32 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Akaka	Begich	Bond
Baucus	Bennet	Boxer
Bayh	Bingaman	Brown (MA)

Brown (OH)	Inouye	Nelson (FL)
Brownback	Isakson	Pryor
Burris	Johnson	Reed
Cantwell	Kaufman	Reid
Cardin	Kerry	Roberts
Carper	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Casey	Kohl	Sanders
Chambliss	Kyl	Schumer
Cochran	Landrieu	Shaheen
Collins	Leahy	Shelby
Conrad	LeMieux	Snowe
Dodd	Levin	Specter
Dorgan	Lieberman	Stabenow
Durbin	Lincoln	Tester
Feingold	Lugar	Udall (CO)
Feinstein	McCain	Udall (NM)
Franken	McCaskill	Vitter
Gillibrand	Menendez	Voinovich
Graham	Merkley	Warner
Grassley	Mikulski	Webb
Hagan	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Harkin	Murray	Wicker
Inhofe	Nelson (NE)	Wyden

NAYS—19

Alexander	Cornyn	Johanns
Barrasso	Crapo	McConnell
Bennett	DeMint	Risch
Bunning	Ensign	Sessions
Burr	Enzi	Thune
Coburn	Gregg	
Corker	Hatch	

NOT VOTING—3

Byrd	Hutchison	Lautenberg
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The bill (H.R. 4691) was passed.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

TAX EXTENDERS ACT OF 2009— Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4213) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Baucus amendment No. 3336, in the nature of a substitute.

Sessions amendment No. 3337 (to amend amendment No. 3336), to reduce the deficit by establishing discretionary spending caps.

Thune amendment No. 3338 (to amend amendment No. 3336), to create additional tax relief for businesses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

AMENDMENT NO. 3335 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3336

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I know we have returned to H.R. 4213. It is my intention to call up amendment No. 3335, sponsored by myself, Senator COCHRAN, Senator WICKER, and Senator VITTER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is set aside.

The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU], for herself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. COCHRAN, proposes an amendment numbered 3335 to amendment No. 3336.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the low-income housing credit rules for buildings in GO Zones)

After section 185, insert the following:

SEC. 186. EXTENSION OF LOW-INCOME HOUSING CREDIT RULES FOR BUILDINGS IN GO ZONES.

Section 1400N(c)(5) is amended by striking “January 1, 2011” and inserting “January 1, 2013”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I spoke at length about this amendment today, so it is not necessary for me to go into a great deal of detail. I offer it on behalf of several Senators from the gulf coast in order to help extend the placed-in-service state for several low-income housing units along the gulf coast. We are not asking for additional authority, we are not asking for new tax credits but just to allow us the tax credits that have already been allocated.

Without the State extension, we will lose literally thousands of affordable housing dwellings and approximately 13,000 jobs. Since we are focused on jobs and focused on economic growth and development, we thought this would be an appropriate amendment to this bill.

I have called up the amendment, and I will allow the leadership to decide when the appropriate time to vote on this amendment will be.

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. SCHUMER. Madam 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. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, this week, March 1 through March 7, is National Peace Corps Week. It marks the 49th anniversary of this unique and important government agency.

When proposing the creation of the Peace Corps to Congress, President John F. Kennedy declared that, “Our own freedom, and the future of freedom around the world, depends, in a very real sense, on the ability to build growing and independent nations where men can live in dignity, liberated from the bonds of hunger, ignorance, and poverty.”

For 49 years, nearly 200,000 dedicated Americans have served in 139 countries around the world helping developing nations with health and sanitation projects, assisting them in increasing their agricultural production, and educating their young. In pursuit of the Peace Corps goal of helping people help

themselves, Peace Corps volunteers have served as school teachers, economic development advisers, agricultural and environmental specialists, and in various capacities as skilled laborers. Today, Peace Corps volunteers are working in countries around the world in emerging and essential areas such as information technology and business development.

In fulfilling the mission that President Kennedy established for it on March 1, 1961, the Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of the American commitment to freedom through the encouragement of the social and economic progress of all nations. It is truly one of the most successful and influential programs in the history of our Nation.

Madam President, I use this opportunity, the 49th anniversary of the Peace Corps, to congratulate and to thank everyone ever involved in this program that provides such an important service to our country, as well as other nations, and to our fellow man.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VERMONT OLYMPIANS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, on a happier note, I see the distinguished Senator from Vermont, Senator SANDERS, on the floor today. I want to congratulate the Vermonters who represented our country at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

The Olympics themselves were exciting. I know Marcelle and I watched hours and hours of them. But we watched especially, obviously, when we saw some of these young Vermonters.

These athletes carry on a long tradition of Vermonters participating in the Winter Olympics. Hundreds of Vermonters have competed in the 21 Winter Olympiads, and it is no secret that Vermont produces great winter sports athletes, thanks to our northern climate, beautiful rugged terrain, and also a healthy sports industry.

After all, the first ski lift in the United States was a rope tow built in the town of Woodstock. I remember what a thrill it was when then-President Gerald Ford told me that the first ski lift he was on was on that ski lift in Woodstock. It is a nice memory of a wonderful person, President Gerald Ford.

Thanks to Jake Burton Carpenter and his wife Donna, Vermont is the cradle of snowboarding and it is now a central Olympic event. The Carpenters have worked so hard to make this a real sport, and they have. Our schools in ski areas have hosted dozens of international snowboarding, Alpine, and Nordic ski competitions.

Many Vermonters have won medals at the Winter Olympics over the years.

These champions include alpine skier Andrea Meade Lawrence from Rutland who was the first American to win two gold medals in 1952, Brattleboro's Bill Koch who was the first American nordic skier to medal in 1976, and alpine