

actively depriving others of jobs because some union boss isn't getting his way, it has lost touch.

So this morning I am calling on the administration once again to send us the three pending trade agreements that the President himself has said would create tens of thousands of American jobs—and to leave trade adjustment assistance out of it.

There are 47 duplicative Federal retraining programs out there for unemployed workers. No one is denying or minimizing the hardships they face. But we will not allow the White House to deny one group of people the chance to get a job in order to have a bargaining chip in negotiating benefits for others.

It is not fair, and it is not right. We need to separate these issues, deal with them independently, and move ahead with these trade deals. And we should also be doing even more to create jobs by moving forward with something that has been a cornerstone of good trade policy in this country since 1974. I am talking about trade promotion authority.

If the President is really serious about doubling U.S. exports and creating the jobs that would go along with it, he should call on Congress to approve trade promotion authority and Congress should do it.

I would also suggest that any discussion of trade adjustment assistance be done only as part of the debate over extending trade promotion authority, the way it's been done for decades.

Trade promotion authority would give the President the ability to negotiate job-creating trade deals—and allow them an expedited procedure to get an up-or-down vote in Congress so that opponents couldn't block the deals or amend them on behalf of parochial interests or as a shortsighted favor to their union allies.

Without the protections afforded by trade promotion authority, Congress may never consider another trade deal again, and there will be no more trade agenda.

American businesses want to expand and hire. Here is one way to help them do it that's right in front of us. There is no excuse for inaction.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business for an hour, with Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

Following that morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 782, the Economic Development Act. The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

We will begin consideration of the EDA bill as soon as we can, which appears to be tomorrow morning when cloture is invoked.

JOB CREATION

Mr. REID. Madam President, as I was doing my exercise this morning, I heard on the news the announcement that 10 years ago today, when President Bush—I could hear his voice celebrating the tax cuts for the wealthy—said: I know we have these huge surpluses, but these moneys are the people's money and, therefore, he was going to do something about it. He did that big time.

He certainly did away with those huge surpluses we had, which amounted to trillions of dollars. He did it in a number of different ways. We had a program developed during the Clinton years called pay-go. That meant if someone had a new program they wanted to initiate, they had to pay for it either with new revenue or take money from an existing program. It worked extremely well. That is one reason, and one of the main reasons, we were able to develop the huge surpluses we did during the Clinton years. We were paying down the debt in the Clinton years. Some said it was too quickly.

Well, another way that the President got rid of that huge surplus was the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan. The war in Iraq alone now is estimated to be about a \$1½ trillion—all borrowed money.

We also know how important it is to create jobs. Now, as a result of the President finding himself in a huge hole as a result of the policies of the Bush administration, he decided that something had to be done. We passed the Economic Recovery Act. It created millions of jobs and saved millions of jobs. Was it enough? No, but it was the best we could do. We could only get three Republicans to help us on that. I appreciated their support, and I always will. They were Senators SNOWE, COLLINS, and Specter. They determined what we could spend and not spend within certain parameters, and we believed there should be more infrastructure spending. I wish we could have done more. So we have done some things to help significantly the hole that President Bush created for us.

Now this Congress has also done some things. We focused on jobs. We know how important jobs are. Regarding the FAA bill—Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization—we extended that short term 19 times. I talked to Randy Walker, head of McCarran Airport, the sixth busiest airport in America. They can't let contracts for runway repairs because they only have 1 month to do it a lot of times. They cannot do that.

All kinds of projects that would create thousands of jobs around American airports would happen if we could have an FAA bill. We passed it here. It has been held up in the big dark hole of the House of Representatives. Nothing has been done. We haven't been able to complete the conference on that, and the 280,000 jobs either created or saved haven't been completed. That has been months and months.

We have an antiquated air traffic control system in America. We want to improve it. That is what it is about—saving and creating jobs.

We believed it was important to do something about patents. Senator LEAHY has been faithful in reporting bills out of his committee, and we finally said bring it to the floor. After a lot of work, we got it done. More than six decades have lapsed, and we haven't done anything with one of the most important things we can do, which is protect our patent system and make it better. We passed it here and sent it to the House. Nothing has happened. They have not voted on that bill.

That is very unfortunate, that we have not been able to get those two bills. The patent bill is 300,000 jobs and the FAA bill 280,000 jobs. The math is pretty simple. That is a lot of jobs, and that has been held up.

We believed it was extremely important that we do something about jobs, and we did that with something that has worked so successfully in the past. So that is the bill we brought to the floor to help small businesses innovate, invent, and invest in new jobs. What a wonderful program it has been. We tried to get that reauthorized. It was killed here in the Senate by many amendments—amendments that had nothing to do with the underlying bill. So we had to take that bill off the floor after spending I think 6 weeks on the bill and not being able to get that accomplished.

We brought this bill to the floor that would help small businesses innovate, as I say, invent, and invest in new jobs, but the Republicans simply said: No, we are not going to do that. That jobs bill was so important. The electric toothbrush was invented with a small innovation grant, and there are many other examples. That is just one of hundreds. So it is really too bad we haven't been able to do something about that.

The only thing we hear from the House of Representatives, rather than creating jobs, is destroying Medicare as we know it. The American people don't like that, Republicans don't like it, Independents don't like it, Democrats don't like it, young people don't like it, and old people don't like it. It is not a good piece of legislation. Overwhelmingly, it has been just a big zero. But that is what we have from the House of Representatives. That is their main accomplishment this year.

My friend talked about free-trade agreements. I am not a big fan of free-trade agreements. My voting record is

in accordance with that. I think if you asked people in Nevada: Boy, hasn't NAFTA helped us a lot, they would just sneer and walk away. We keep talking about free-trade agreements, but where is the fair part of those trade agreements? Shouldn't we be more worried about our American workers than workers in other places? I think that certainly is the case.

In keeping with the theme of jobs, I thought it was important we do something about creating jobs. I have talked about patents, I have talked about, of course, what we did with the FAA bill, and I talked about what we tried to do with the small jobs innovation bill. What we have decided to bring up now is the EDA, the Economic Development Administration. This has been something that has been in effect since 1965. It has been a wonderful program. In the last 5 years, we have invested \$1.2 billion, creating more than 300,000 jobs. For every dollar invested, we get \$7 of private capital. That is a pretty good deal. We want to bring that to the floor and have a debate on it, pass it, and put more money in the stream of creating jobs. As I said, for every dollar we invest, we get \$7 that comes from the private sector. We plan to work this week on debating and reauthorizing this Economic Development Administration bill, which for more than 45 years has created jobs for the most needy and economically distressed communities—as I have said, in just the last 5 years, more than 300,000 jobs.

This is our first bill of this new work period because creating jobs is our first priority. But Republicans are stopping us from moving to it because creating jobs, it appears, is the last thing they care to do. They are more concerned about what jobs are being created in Colombia or Panama or Korea than what jobs are being created here in America.

The merits of reauthorizing this job-creating administration bill are very clear: EDA works with businesses, universities, and leaders at local levels, so it creates jobs from the bottom up, and it helps manufacturing producers compete in the global marketplace. I repeat, it is a great investment. Seven-to-one is an incredible return rate.

Last night, I had to file cloture on this bill. I hope we don't have to invoke cloture. We have it set up now so we will have the vote in the morning, an hour after we come in. Maybe during the recess we have for our caucus meetings the Republicans will be able to bring in these people who are stopping us from doing this and we will be able to move to it and do something meaningful here on the Senate floor for the rest of this day and tomorrow rather than invoking cloture, waiting 30 hours, and doing nothing. We need to start creating jobs.

Let me repeat. The FAA bill, the House has killed it. On patents, we have done it, and the House has killed it. We tried to do small jobs innova-

tion, but it was killed here in the Senate. We are now trying to do EDA. At this stage, we are not able to move forward.

We are ready to create jobs—we Democrats. We have done it before with programs such as the Economic Development Administration, and we are ready to do it again. The American people are desperate for stable and secure jobs. All they ask of us is that we do our job, and we haven't been doing that because we have been prevented from doing it. Why haven't we passed the FAA bill? Why haven't we completed work on the patent bill? Why were we stopped from moving forward on the small jobs innovation bill? Why are we unable to move on the EDA bill?

Would the Chair announce morning business?

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. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, 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 Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak until I finish my remarks.

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

FREE-TRADE AGREEMENTS AND TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today to speak in support of our pending trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea.

Right before Memorial Day, the Finance Committee held two trade hearings, the first on the U.S.-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement, the second on the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement. Earlier, the Finance Committee held a hearing on the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. These agreements have been thoroughly reviewed by our Finance Committee. In fact, given that the Colombia agreement was signed in 2006 and the Panama and South Korea agreements in 2007, these agreements have been more than thoroughly reviewed by U.S. elected officials and U.S. agencies over the past several years. For the sake of the U.S. economy and for the sake of our country's standing in the world, it is clearly time to take the next step. It is time for President Obama to submit implementing legis-

lation for these agreements to the Congress.

The U.S. trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea are good agreements that will benefit the United States and American workers. According to the nonpartisan U.S. International Trade Commission, these trade agreements, once fully implemented, will likely increase U.S. exports by over \$12 billion and grow the U.S. gross domestic product by over \$14 billion. Put simply, our trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea will boost U.S. exports, expand the U.S. economy, and thus promote job growth in the United States.

The President and members of his administration understand this. They have spoken on numerous occasions on the benefits of the U.S. trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea for our country. Please bear with me as I review some of their statements.

Four months ago, President Obama, in his State of the Union Address—4 months ago—expressed his support for the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, which he stated will support at least 70,000 American jobs. He then asked Congress to pass the Korea agreement as soon as possible.

Last December, President Obama noted that the South Korea agreement is expected to increase annual exports of American goods by up to \$11 billion. In that same speech, he said:

I look forward to working with Congress and leaders in both parties to approve this pact because if there is one thing Democrats and Republicans should be able to agree on, it should be creating jobs and opportunities for our people.

I couldn't agree more.

Just 2 months ago, the President stated that he believes a recently announced labor action plan of Colombia serves as a basis for moving forward on a U.S.-Colombia free-trade agreement and that this represents a potential \$1 billion of exports—our exports—and could mean thousands of jobs for workers here in the United States.

After meeting with President Martinelli of Panama, President Obama said he is confident now that a free-trade agreement would be good for our country, would create jobs here in the United States and open up new markets with potential for billions of dollars of cross-border trade.

The President's principal trade adviser, U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, just last month recognized that the U.S.-Korea trade agreement will support more than 70,000 American jobs, and he noted as well that it will result in over \$10 billion in increased annual exports from the United States.

In April, Ambassador Kirk said Colombia represents \$1.1 billion in new export opportunities for the United States. Regarding Panama, he stated that the Panama agreement will provide access to one of the fastest growing markets in Latin America.