

out and got on a boat and took off. They wound up in Malaysia. She spent more than 2 years in a refugee camp in Malaysia—this little girl. She was then, with her family, taken to Alabama: Vietnam, Malaysia, Alabama.

When she got there, she enrolled in an American school for the first time. She did not know how to speak English, and that is an understatement. But as a third grader, everyone recognized how smart she was. She picked up the language very quickly. Miranda Du speaks—it does not matter if she had an accent, but she has none—today as well as you or I.

Her family, after living in Alabama—where her father worked on a dairy farm—eventually worked their way to California. She continued to be pointed out as always one of the smartest in any class. She was able to go to college. She got a degree in history and economics from the University of California at Davis and a law degree from one of the finest law schools in the world, the University of California, Berkeley—the famous Boalt Hall. She did well wherever she went to school.

After law school, she moved to Nevada. She joined at that time a law firm McDonald Carano Wilson, which is a very respected law firm. Bob McDonald, the founder of that firm, was a protégé of the famous Nevada Senator Pat McCarran, and he was involved in politics. He was a very prominent lawyer until he died a couple years ago. Don Carano is also a very well known, famous man in Nevada, a lawyer, and he has done extremely well. He owns major hotels and casinos. He is one of the biggest producers of wine in the State of California. Spike Wilson was a long-time Nevada State senator. They are just a very fine group of people, these three men who started this law firm.

She was made a partner of the law firm in 2002. Her specialty is litigation. She is a trial lawyer and a very good one. She specializes in complex civil litigation and also employment law. She has appeared before the State and Federal courts in all phases of litigation—trial lawyer, an appellate lawyer before the Nevada Supreme Court, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

She has the support of a bipartisan coalition of Nevada officials, including the Governor. By the way, the Governor was one of my appointments to the Federal bench. He was a Federal judge, Brian Sandoval, and a good Federal judge. He resigned that position and ran for Governor against my son, and he won. He is a fine man. He is my friend, and he has come out vocally and very publicly that this woman is a great lawyer and should be on the bench—something he should know a little bit about.

She has received vocal support from the Lieutenant Governor, also a Republican; the mayor of Reno, also a Republican. In fact, Governor Sandoval wrote to the Judiciary Committee to say, Du “has exhibited great character and is

well respected in the legal community.” He has given her his unqualified support.

Republican Lt. Gov. Brian Krolicki called Ms. Du “intelligent, inquisitive, reliable and dedicated.” The Republican mayor of Reno—with whom, by the way, we had a visit yesterday—Bob Cashell said Du “will be a great addition to our federal bench.”

In addition to being an experienced litigator, she is also an outstanding citizen. She is involved in the northern Nevada community. There are many things she has done, but she served on the Nevada Commission on Economic Development. She has also served as a court-appointed special advocate representing abused and neglected children. She now, and has in the past for a number of years, mentored high school students in Reno, NV. She is a fine example to those students.

I have had the good fortune to be able to forward to Presidents about 10 names, and I have never been more proud of one than Miranda Du. I repeat, if there were ever a success story, it is this woman who was born in Vietnam, took a boat and wound up in Malaysia, came from Malaysia to America, to Alabama, to California, and is now one of the most respected lawyers we have in the State of Nevada. This is what America is all about.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, will the Senator from Nevada yield just for a comment?

Mr. REID. I sure will.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank him for honoring those who came to this country who fled reeducation camps and execution in a most horrible, brutal regime period. The enormous contribution those individuals and their children now have made to our Nation, our economy, our political scene, is remarkable and one of which all of us should be extremely proud. I thank the Senator from Nevada for recognizing those individuals' contribution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, this is coming from a person who was held for 7 years in a prisoner-of-war camp in that country. So I think anyone hearing this—and there are lots of people watching this—should understand what JOHN MCCAIN just said. JOHN MCCAIN and I have battled on a number of substantive issues over the years, but I do not think there is anyone—at least I speak from my perspective—for whom I have more admiration and respect than JOHN MCCAIN, who has done so much for his country.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I thank the leader for his generous and kind remarks. As he said, he and I have done battle on the honorable field of combat, but I think the feeling of respect and appreciation and admiration is mutual. I thank the leader.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

LEGAL IMMIGRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, if I may just add, the colloquy between the majority leader and my good friend from Arizona certainly underscores once again the extraordinary contribution legal immigration has made to our country for over 200 years. I think of, as an example, my own wife, who came here at age 8, not speaking a word of English. The majority leader was just pointing out an immigrant from Vietnam who has done well. Senator MCCAIN has said the same thing that all three of us have said on numerous occasions. So it is indeed something to celebrate.

HIGH GAS PRICES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday afternoon I came to the floor to suggest that what has been happening in the Senate this week is precisely the kind of thing the American people do not like about Washington.

Gas prices have more than doubled under President Obama and the Democratic-controlled Senate. This is a problem that affects every single American, that drives up the cost of everything from commuting to groceries. Yet the Democratic response is to propose legislation that even they admit does not do a thing to lower the price of gas.

We have seven Democrats, in fact, on record saying the bill does not do a thing to lower gas prices. One of them has called it laughable. But this is apparently the best our friends on the other side can do. It is the most, apparently, they are willing to do. At a time when gas prices are at a national average of nearly \$4 a gallon, this is what passes for a response to high gas prices for Washington Democrats: a bill that simply does nothing about it.

But it even gets worse than that because not only is the Democratic solution to high gas prices a bill that even they admit does nothing to lower gas prices, they will not even allow Republicans to offer any amendments that would help. Not only are they pushing a bill that will not lower gas prices, they are blocking any measure that would actually make a difference.

So at a moment when working Americans are struggling with high gas prices, the message Democrats in Washington are sending this week is simple: Get used to it. Get used to it because they have nothing—nothing—but a phony proposal aimed at distracting people from the fact that they have nothing to offer.

Maybe the reason they voted yesterday to get off their own bill is they realized the American people were on to them. Maybe they realized they did not have the political issue they thought they did. Well, my point is that they should be more concerned about helping Americans than helping their own campaigns.

So if Democrats will not allow us to offer any proposals to address this crisis, we are still going to talk about

them anyway because Americans need to know there are some things we could do about this issue. We could actually have an impact on high gas prices right here in Congress. They need to hear us debate these ideas, and they need to know Democratic leaders in the Senate will not even allow a vote on any of these ideas.

This whole episode is completely unacceptable. Hopefully, at some point, a number of Democrats will recognize this—will recognize that this should be about more than political games. We ought to actually try to accomplish something.

This issue affects real people. For them, it is an urgent matter. Democrats should summon the same urgency in dealing with it. We were sent here to solve problems, not to hide from them.

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, something very special in the world of sports is happening in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Kentucky is well known as the home of the Kentucky Derby, often called the greatest 2 minutes in sports. But this coming Saturday, March 31, we will witness one of the greatest moments in Kentucky sports history. Two of the most storied and winningest programs in all of college basketball, the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky, will meet this Saturday in the 2012 NCAA Tournament Final Four. The two teams will face off in a semifinals game in New Orleans, and the winner of that game will contest for the national championship next Monday night.

In my State of Kentucky, the rivalry between UofL and UK is indeed a passionate one. From birth, it seems, Kentuckians are raised to root for one of these two teams; you either wear red for the Louisville Cardinals or blue for the Kentucky Wildcats. The two teams boast two legendary coaches, Rick Pitino and John Calipari. The teams have met every year since 1983, and they have met in the NCAA tournament four times in the past—most recently in the Mideast Regionals way back in 1984. Between them, they have 24 visits to the Final Four. But never have these two teams faced each other in the Final Four with the stakes so high. If the excitement and frenzy and turbulence that has been stirred up in Kentucky could be harnessed, we could solve our energy crisis. Basketball fans from Kentucky have been waiting their whole lives for this game.

On Saturday, we will prove that these two schools have the best rivalry in all of college basketball and that the Commonwealth of Kentucky is the best college basketball State in the Nation.

Let me say that again so my friends in North Carolina can hear it. UofL and UK have the best rivalry in all of college basketball, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky is the best college basketball State in the Nation.

But only one team can win on Saturday.

I am actually an alumnus of both schools. I attended the University of Louisville as an undergraduate, and I went to law school at the University of Kentucky.

I don't know who will win Saturday's game, but whoever the winner is will go on to defeat either Kansas or Ohio State and bring the national championship back home to Kentucky where it belongs. So count me in with my fellow Kentuckians and college basketball fans everywhere as we tune in this Saturday to see history in the making. It is going to be really exciting to watch. I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

IMPOSING A MINIMUM EFFECTIVE TAX RATE FOR HIGH-INCOME TAXPAYERS—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2230, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 339 (S. 2230) a bill to reduce the deficit by imposing a minimum effective tax rate for high-income taxpayers.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 5 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes, the majority controlling the second 30 minutes, the majority controlling the time from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., and the time from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. to be controlled by the Republicans.

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in colloquy with a number of my colleagues for the next 30 minutes.

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

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today, as I have over the last 2 years since the health care law was passed, with a doctor's second opinion. I do that as someone who has practiced medicine and taken care of families across the country—primarily in Wyoming—for a quarter of a century, listening to them, trying to care for them, and knowing that what the American people want is the care they need, a doctor they want, at a price they can afford.

During the last 2 years since the health care law was passed, the American public has found out that now that it has passed, they get to know what is

in it, they don't like what they are seeing. Instead of providing patients with the care they need from the doctor they want and at a cost they can afford, they are seeing time and time again a significant change and the promises the President has made broken.

I am here with my colleagues to talk about some of these concerns. I see the Senator from Arizona, who has heard the promises made. I know that when he goes to townhall meetings and talks to people, they have found out that the costs they were promised would go down have gone up instead. The opportunity of patients to keep the care they want and the doctor they want—they are not able to do that. Is that what the Senator from Arizona has been finding?

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I thank my colleague for his continued leadership on this issue and his eminent qualifications to address it and help educate the American people about what is at stake.

I think this colloquy we are having has to be considered in the context of the arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court. I think my colleague from South Carolina, Senator GRAHAM, will mention that we should not draw too many conclusions from the questions that are asked by the Justices of the Supreme Court.

One of the things I find when I watch the talk shows—and I ask the Senator from Wyoming this—the first thing they say is that the most important thing about ObamaCare is that parents can keep their children on their health insurance plan until they reach age 26. Well, you know, I think all four of us right now would be glad to put that into law as an amendment in a New York minute. If they want to keep their children home living in the basement until they are 30, that is fine. But for that to be the centerpiece, saying that this is why we have to preserve ObamaCare, is, of course, a bad joke.

What we are arguing about here is the thousands of pages—I guess the Senator from Wyoming knows—is it 100,000 pages of regulations that have been already issued to try to implement this plan?

Mr. BARRASSO. Yes.

Mr. MCCAIN. Also, we have promised to repeal and replace ObamaCare, depending on not only the Supreme Court decision but the will of the people as expressed, perhaps, next November.

Of the areas that I think we have not focused enough attention on, one is the unsavory process that resulted in passage of this legislation—behind closed doors and everybody at Blair House bludgeoning the AMA and the pharmaceuticals and the deals that were cut here.

Another area was a promise made by the President that he would consider—it wasn't committed to, I will admit—medical malpractice reform. And here we are talking about 20 to 30 percent of the health care costs in America