

and 2522 be withdrawn; that at 2 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, July 12, the Senate vote in relation to the following amendments: amendment No. 2524, which is the Cantor language; substitute amendment No. 2521; that there be no other amendments or motions in order to the amendment to the bill prior to the votes other than motions to waive or motions to table; that upon disposition of the two amendments the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of S. 2237, as amended, if amended; further, that at a time to be determined by the majority leader after consultation with the Republican leader the Senate proceed to consideration of a bill to be introduced by Senator REID or designee, extending the 2001, 2003, and 2009 tax cuts for 98 percent of Americans and 96 percent of small businesses as outlined by President Obama; that the only amendment in order to the bill be an amendment offered by Senator MCCONNELL or designee, which is identical to the text of amendment No. 2491, as filed by Senator HATCH; that the amendment not be divisible; that there be 4 hours of debate on the amendment and the bill, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to a vote in relation to the McConnell or designee amendment; that upon disposition of the amendment the Senate proceed to vote on the passage of the bill, as amended, if amended; that there be no motions or points of order to the amendment or the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I am glad my friend the majority leader has dropped his earlier opposition and now wants to make an effort to set up these votes on this important issue. On Monday, the President said that if the Senate passes his tax hike on small businesses he would sign it right away. So I am glad the Senate will have a chance to beat that bad idea that will raise taxes on nearly 1 million small businesses.

I will be happy to take a look at what my good friend the majority leader is offering, but I cannot at this time agree to lock in a vote at an indeterminate time on a proposal that has not yet been written. My good friend has had all day to come up with a written proposal, but I gather that so far they have been unable to do so or, if they have, we certainly have not seen it. Our proposal is drafted and filed and has been available for all to see.

My goal here—and it is one that I laid out several weeks ago—is that we act now to ensure that no one's income taxes go up January of next year. The mere threat of this tax increase is already a drag on our economy and I do not plan on standing by and letting that tax increase go into effect.

So we would be happy to set up a vote on this issue as soon as the majority leader produces a bill to show us what tax increases they have in mind. I want to make sure that everyone un-

derstands the differences in our positions. My goal—and I hope it is one that is shared by a majority of Senators—will be to enact a bill that protects small businesses by extending current income tax rates for 1 year to ensure that no one in America sees an income tax hike in January, and tasking the Finance Committee to produce a bill that would enact fundamental progrowth tax reform. Their goal will be the President's proposal to raise taxes on nearly 1 million business owners in the middle of the worst economic recovery in modern times.

The Senate ought to make absolutely clear which policy it supports. I look forward to having the chance to do that, but until that time, until we actually have a product we can take a look at, I cannot agree to this request, and therefore I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will be very brief. My friend the Republican leader said this morning, and I quote directly: I am trying to get a vote, a vote on what he says he's for, on what the President says he's for, and what the Republicans say they are for. That is what this consent agreement does.

I am happy to let the Republican leader read the exact language. But let no one be fooled by this. The Hatch amendment does not do anything to protect small businesses. It does everything to protect Grover Norquist and his pledge; that is, make sure the American people are not satisfied. They believe—Democrats, Independents, and Republicans—that the top 2 percent of income earners in this country should contribute to solving the problems we have with the deficit and the debt in this country. That is what this is all about.

I look forward to working with my friend the Republican leader to see if we can come to a position here where we can vote on the bill that is before us. I am concerned because the Hatch language eliminates our bill, but I am happy to have staff, during the night, look and see if we can arrive at some way to move forward. But I think I made my point clear.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, one other brief observation. I have already objected, but one other brief observation. The consent that I objected to also chose for us the amendment we would get to have, and of course that is not an agreement the Republican side would feel we would want to be a part of.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am only trying to do what they said they wanted to do this morning. Senator HATCH came and gave a big speech: This is what they want to do. If they have something else they want to propose, I am happy to take a look at that, but I only am trying to do what they said they wanted to do this morning.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum unless my friend has more to say?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BOWLING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Mr. John Bowling of Laurel County, KY. "Big John Bowling," as he is affectionately called by friends and family, not only served Laurel County as jailer during the 1970s, but has also lived a life of kindness and integrity. His legacy to Kentucky exceeds his public service because not only was he a compassionate jailer, he also built a loving home for his family that welcomed all members of the Laurel County community.

John Bowling met his wife, Imogene, at a church dinner. After commenting on the quality of a macaroni salad at the dinner, his pastor introduced him to Imogene. At that time Imogene was married, but later, in 1964, her husband was tragically killed in a car crash and Imogene was left with three children aged 7, 4, and 2 years old. Imogene began working at Hoskins Grocery where, 5 years later, she and Mr. Bowling became reacquainted.

The couple began dating and they brought Imogene's children along on every date. After 6 years, the couple married. In their first year of marriage, Imogene had another daughter, Tammy Jo. The four children loved their parents and considered John to be an excellent father. Mr. Bowling truly cared for the children, which he showed by ensuring chaperones came along on all of their dates which were only at church.

The family continued to grow when Imogene was approached to take in Toni, a 21-year-old who did not have a palette in her mouth, had limited hearing in one ear, and no hearing canal in the other ear. Though Toni could only communicate through sign language, she quickly became part of the Bowling family.

Crediting faith in God for their success in blending a harmonious family, John Bowling created a home atmosphere that was accepting of anyone who crossed his home's threshold. From adopting his wife's children, to taking in Toni, to allowing relatives and family friends to stay with the family, Big John made his home one of love.

It is an honor today to pay tribute to my fellow Kentuckian, John Bowling. Mr. Bowling not only made a family and lovingly raised his children, but also opened up his home for those in need of a place of refuge and comfort. He is an example of what it means to live by the Golden Rule. The Laurel County community is better off today because of the impact "Big John Bowling" has made and the compassionate way in which he treated others.

At this time I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. John Bowling for his service to Laurel County, KY. An article from the Sentinel Echo: Silver Edition magazine, published in Laurel County, recently highlighted this humble man's invaluable contributions to his family and community. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[The Sentinel-Echo: Silver Edition, Spring 2012]

JAILER BY VOCATION, FATHER AT HEART
(By Nita Johnson)

Though known more commonly as "Big John Bowling," a former and extremely popular county jailer, John Bowling is also remembered as an excellent father.

He was renowned for his kindness and humanity while serving as Laurel County Jailer during the 1970s, traits he showed to both jail employees and inmates and he also displayed to his wife and children at home.

Although only one of the five children he raised with his wife, Imogene, was his biological child, Bowling's other children recall him as being a loving father to them.

Bowling met Imogene at a church dinner at Piney Grove Holiness Church on Ky. 363 on an invitation from then-pastor Bobby Medley. Bowling and Medley were good friends, and Imogene, who was married at that time, and Medley's wife were good friends, though Bowling and Imogene had never met. When Bowling sampled some macaroni salad at the dinner that Sunday, he was impressed.

"He said he told Bobby that he didn't know who made that macaroni salad, but if she was single, he was going to marry her," said his daughter, Joyce Parker. "So Bobby introduced John to Mom."

That meeting was one of the highlights of Imogene's life. In 1964, her husband was killed in a car crash, leaving her with three children—ages 7, 4, and 2—to raise alone. She had no job, no car, no driver's license, and was herself very ill.

"The day after the funeral, she went to Good Samaritan Hospital," Parker explained. "She was in and out of the hospital five times for 10 days with bleeding ulcers."

"She'd been eating vanilla wafers and drinking skim milk," added Barbara Wells, another daughter.

"She was actually healed from the ulcers," Parker said. "She came home to spend some time with us and went to a revival. The preacher went to her and told her she needed healing. When she went back to the doctor, she didn't have the ulcers."

Once back in good health, Imogene set out to obtain a job. She got her driver's license, bought a car, and began working at Warner's store in London around 1966. She later worked at Hoskins Grocery on Ky. 363, where she met John again when he came into the store one day.

The couple began dating, with Imogene insisting on taking the children with her on dates, even though other family members offered to keep the children.

"When she and John dated, she wouldn't go without us," Wells said. "John had a truck with a camper on it and we'd ride in the back and look through the window into the front."

Their union came six years later. The family consisted of Imogene's children, Barbara, Joyce, and Gerald, as well as Imogene's mother, who had lived with them since Imogene's husband died. Eleven months after their marriage, John and Imogene became the parents of Tammy Jo.

"John was always good to us," Parker said. "He hauled trucks from GM dealers and he got us all a new watch so we loved him."

"He never spanked us," Wells added. "I guess that's why we never resented him. Mom did all the discipline."

"The kids were never much trouble," Bowling said. "They were always good kids."

Wells, the eldest of the brood, said rules were very strict at the Bowling household, however.

"We had curfews and rules. We had chaperones on our dates, which was only going to church," she said. "There was an old lady that lived near us and, when I had a date, she chaperoned us. Then later on, Joyce and Gerald chaperoned."

"Then I chaperoned when Joyce dated," chimed in Tammy Jo.

Children were always welcome at the Bowling household, with nieces and nephews from both sides of the family often living with the family. Imogene also took in disabled adults and elderly persons, as she was certified to keep as many as three at one time.

Then the family extended again with the arrival of Toni, who has now lived with the Bowling family for 38 years.

"She was an orphan and was born with deformities," Imogene said. "Her father wanted to just leave her at the hospital (in Philadelphia) but her mother wouldn't do it. She remarried and had another child and died. The stepfather kept (Toni) around until the baby was big enough that he could take care of her and he took her to a mental health office."

"They called me and asked if I could take her," Imogene continued. "She cried every day, all day, for three weeks and I told them I couldn't keep her. Then she started doing better. She's been with us since she was 21 years old."

Toni, who lacked a palette in her mouth and had only 20 percent hearing in one ear and no hearing canal in the other ear, can speak only partially and uses sign language to communicate. But she is as much a part of the Bowling family as the other four children, all of whom express their love for one another.

While many question the success of blended families, the Bowling family credits their faith in God and religious background for their own success. They also credit the demeanor of their parents.

"John was not a typical stepfather," Parker said. "He took care of us, always worked hard and my parents never raised their voices."

"I think one key to blended families is that Mom did the discipline," Wells said. "My husband, Mark, has three stepdaughters and he never spanked them. I did the discipline. I think that is one reason that our family worked. We didn't have that jealousy or resentment or saying that he wasn't the real dad."

Whatever the secret of successfully blended families may be, the Bowlings and their children all agree that staying in church was a key factor. Now approaching their 43rd an-

niversary in June, the couple continues to stay close to their children, always showing their love and support for one another and celebrating the true meaning of family.

TRIBUTE TO ALICE HELTON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Mrs. Alice Helton of Laurel County, KY. Though she may have never held public office, Mrs. Helton invaluablely served her community through kindness, hospitality, and an unselfish desire to help those around her. On April 26, 2012, she died at age 94. Her legacy of faith, generosity, and love will survive her in the memories of her family, friends, and the citizens of London, KY.

Mrs. Alice Helton, then-Miss Alice Hill, the last of eight children, was born on May 2, 1917, in Keavy, KY, to farmers Mr. John and Mrs. Sallie Hill. She was raised in the country and lived a simple life. The family would work together in the fields during the day and on Sundays be visited by neighbors while the children played marbles. Alice, in her interview with the Sentinel-Echo for the London Living Treasures special series, recalled plucking duck feathers with her mother as a child and walking for hours to find ducks to make feather beds and pillows.

At age 7, Alice began attending Keavy School. One of her fondest memories of grade school was spending time at recess with her friends throwing horseshoes and watching boys play basketball. After elementary school, she attended a boarding school called London School. Upon finishing the eighth grade, she returned home, lived with her parents, and looked after her siblings' children while they were at work.

Alice met William Raymond Helton, a truckdriver from Corbin, KY, when she was 22. Though her family didn't support the relationship, the two eloped and were married. Mrs. Helton, during the first 17 years of her marriage, had seven children. The family lived in a small house, near her parents, which soon became the place where the entire family would meet and spend time together.

Her children have many colorful memories of growing up with Mrs. Helton. They never questioned her love or willingness to protect the family because during the week, when her husband was away driving a truck, she would ward off thieves trying to steal the family chickens by shooting her rifle toward a row of trees behind the coop. In order to avoid becoming a victim of her unique security system, all family members would call out to her any time they passed the yard.

Mrs. Helton was described as a "magnet" that drew all of the family together. She would take on the role of mother to her nieces and nephews as her siblings passed away and loved them as if they were her own children. Her love also was shown by entertaining them at game nights, where