

be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote be 10 minutes in length; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that upon disposition on Wednesday, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss partly the state of our economy but more precisely the state of our workers. Working Americans are in some sense being attacked from both ends. We have seen an orchestrated attempt to cut safety net programs where a low-income worker making \$9, \$10, or \$11 an hour might be eligible in some cases for SNAP or is surely eligible for the earned income tax credit.

Opponents strongly say that programs such as SNAP foster a culture of dependency and do not reward work. Those same elected officials—some of whom, I might add, have voted to raise their own pay—oppose efforts to ensure that hard work is rewarded with fair pay. Last fall one House Republican said: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

I am all for quoting Scripture. I do not think it should be used to vilify hard-working people. Detractors of SNAP, opponents of the minimum wage, cannot have it both ways. By raising the minimum wage, it means, frankly, fewer people will be eligible for SNAP, because if their wages are higher, they cannot and should not be eligible for certain benefits. So we create opportunities for Americans to earn a living wage and no longer need those benefits.

One hundred years ago in January, Henry Ford, in 1914, announced that he was going to pay his workers \$5 a day. Nobody thought, when they looked at Henry Ford and his life, nobody thought he was doing it out of the kindness of his heart. But that did not matter; he decided to pay everybody in his plant \$5 a day because he understood that paying them more would mean a more prosperous workforce who could then, presto, have the money in their pocket to begin to buy a car, to buy a Model T or to buy one of Henry Ford's cars.

We should be taking a page from Ford's playbook. Productivity has increased 85 percent in this country since 1979. It used to be as productivity went up, wages went up. Since World War II, between 1945 and 1973, productivity went like this: Wages pretty much paralleled the increase. In other words, workers who were producing more for their boss would get part of the wealth, would share in the wealth they were helping to create for their company, for their boss.

So while productivity has increased 85 percent in the last 35 years, inflation-adjusted wages increased 6 percent, and the value of the minimum wage fell 21 percent. Think about that. Productivity went up 85 percent. Profits went up significantly. Wages went up only 6 percent. The value of the minimum wage fell 21 percent. The value of the minimum wage, since 1968, is actually one-third less today—the minimum wage today is worth one-third less in buying power of the minimum wage in 1968.

Simply put, workers, while they are earning more for their bosses, they are making their companies more profitable, workers are not seeing the wealth they helped to create. Fundamentally, the contract—not literally a legal contract but the contract we once had in this country was, if you work hard, if you take responsibility, if you are productive, if you do things according to sort of society's mores, you would benefit. You would benefit in higher wages. You would benefit in a higher standard of living.

In the aftermath of the recession, the job growth, the increase in jobs, has been in the low-wage job sectors. Men and women who lost good-paying middle-class jobs, generally through no fault of their own, are returning to work at low-wage jobs, jobs that make it difficult to support a family.

Enrollment for programs such as SNAP has grown. I hear some of my sort of tea party colleagues complain that more and more people are getting SNAP. They are, because wages are not going up, because the minimum wage has less buying power than it used to. So many workers that were union, middle-class workers now are making lower wages 45 million people. So, yes, the number of people who are receiving SNAP benefits, food stamps has gone up.

In 2011, 45 million people relied on those benefits. SNAP spending increased, but that is a reason to pass the minimum wage. Increase their wages and fewer people will need that. Too many people who work harder than ever are barely getting by despite their best efforts. That is why millions of fast-food workers in cities across the country took to the streets in December for a National Day of Action, asking for and demanding an increase in the minimum wage.

More than half of frontline fast-food workers, more than half of those who work more than 40 hours per week,

earn so little that they are forced to enroll their family in public assistance. Think of all the companies, all the companies where workers are making such low wages and they are getting food stamps.

So I come to the floor to talk about the minimum wage and to specifically discuss support for the Fair Minimum Wage Act. Majority Leader REID has been supportive of this measure, as have most of my colleagues in this Chamber. We have not yet been able to corral 60 votes, which is what we need to break a filibuster, from those who I think are far out of step with the country, with their constituents, who oppose the minimum wage.

The Fair Minimum Wage Act would raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour in three 95-cent increments. In other words, it is \$7.25 now. Upon the President's signature, it would be \$8.20. One year later it would be \$9.15. Then one year later it would be \$10.10 an hour. The bill also—this is important to note because it is rarely talked about. The bill also raises the Federal minimum wage for tipped workers from the current \$2.13 an hour to 70 percent of the regular minimum wage. If you work in a restaurant, if you are a server, if you push a wheelchair at an airport, if you are a valet, if you are working in a hotel where you get tips, in most cases those employers are only required to pay the subminimum wage, assuming that you are going to get up to the minimum wage with tips.

It does not always happen that way. It is a Federal law that it should, but it does not always happen that way. As Senator DURBIN and I were talking earlier, it is not so easy to enforce that. So if you are in a diner and you are talking to your server, the chances are that your server is making significantly less than the minimum wage, maybe higher than \$2.13—that is the law—but maybe no more than \$3 or \$4 an hour.

If you are in an airport and you see someone pushing an older person in a wheelchair, usually down the concourse, or someone who is disabled for whatever reason, they are only making \$3, \$4 or \$5 an hour.

The tipped minimum wage, \$2.13, has not been raised since 1991. So every time we have raised the minimum wage—we did it bipartisanship; President Bush signed it in 2007. We did one a few years before that—I was in the House then—bipartisanship. The Presiding Officer from Indiana supported these minimum wage increases. But every time we have raised the minimum wage since 1991, the \$2.13 subminimum wage, the tipped wage, has been stuck. It has never been raised. This will raise the tipped wage.

Let me share a couple of letters. I got a letter from Tom in Cuyahoga County, the county I live in, in Northeast Ohio:

Senator Brown, I'm a 50 year old food service worker with a college degree, and I make \$7.40 an hour. I just closed my retirement account that had \$2,500 in it to pay my bills—

and it's still not enough to cover everything. Now with that money gone, I should be able to qualify for food stamps. I only have the most basic bills, and I don't have any credit card debt or loans. How much longer do we have to wait for a livable wage?

The people whom I have met who are working minimum wage or close to minimum wage, \$8-, \$9-, \$10-an-hour jobs, are people who often hold two jobs. They are working hard. They have so little to show for it. For somebody who is willing to work as most people in this country do, they should have a livable wage.

We know there are many more stories such as Tom's that all of us will hear if we go out in our States and listen. Pope Francis I exhorted his parish priests to go out and "smell like the flock." The illusion of the Old and New Testaments and sheep and shepherds was obviously what he was referring to, but he was also referring to the fact of how important it is for people in his church, in the Roman Catholic Church, the priests, the people who minister to people, should understand how people live.

It is an important admonition for politicians too. I think more of my colleagues should get out of Washington and "smell like the flock" as Pope Francis said, meet people trying to make a go of it on a minimum wage, put food on their table to support their families, to put a little aside maybe for retirement someday; all of those are so important.

When we are seeing people working harder and harder, and, frankly, getting paid less and less money for it because of the decline of the buying power of the minimum wage, we know it is time for change.

I ask my colleagues to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act. It will pull millions of people out of poverty. It will help our economy because it will put money in people's pockets that they will immediately spend, generating other economic activity and creating jobs.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. 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.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today as we convene, I call to the Senate's attention today's commemoration of the Holocaust. The Holocaust was the systematic genocide of 6 million Jews and countless others, carried out by Adolf Hitler and his minions.

Today is Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is a reminder that we must continue to fight against genocide, racism, hatred, and violence. Yet with Holo-

caust Remembrance Day also comes the hope provided us by the survivors.

I think of my friend the late Tom Lantos, a Congressman from California. Tom was a Hungarian Jew and a survivor of the Holocaust—and a survivor he was. I had the good fortune of traveling to Hungary and meeting with him there, and he showed us a number of places where he escaped from the Nazis. It was a remarkable story, and he was a remarkable man.

He once said: "I like to work hard to make this a better country, to provide a just government for our people and make sure we have learned from the past." Tom Lantos' statement should apply to all of us.

Today we remember those who were lost, honor those who survived, and share our grief with the families who suffered the tragedy of Nazi Germany during the Holocaust.

Let us remember the words of Congressman Lantos who, in spite of all he suffered, had great hope and faith that we would work to stop genocide in the future.

IATSE LOCAL 720 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the 75th anniversary for the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts, IATSE, Local 720. Local 720 was chartered on February 23, 1939, by the nine original members—Mickey Burton, Barney Deussen, Clyde Gilbert, Harry Beuford, Arden Lusch, Rudy Rear, Harry Keller, Wally Roper, and Howard Folley. Since that time, because of the hard work and dedicated service of its founding members and their predecessors, it has grown to represent over 2,500 professionals in the entertainment industry, performing over 50,000 dispatches and receiving \$60 million in gross wages in the last year alone.

The union may have started with nine stagehands, but today it represents some of the most highly trained and skilled technicians in the country, including theatrical carpenters, electricians, riggers, audio/video technicians, video projectionists, camera operators, grips, gaffers, trade show technicians, audio engineers, stitchers, hairstylists, and make-up artists. It is the hard work and passion of these members that helped make Las Vegas the Entertainment Capital of the World.

For 75 years Local 720 has fought for the rights of Nevadan workers. I applaud and celebrate with IATSE Local 720 on their 75th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MARKO MEDVED

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it has come to my attention that one of our finest Civil Engineer Corps officers, CAPT Marko Medved, who is the officer in charge of Construction, Marine

Corps Installations West, has announced his retirement from the U.S. Navy.

Captain Medved was born and raised in St. Paul, MN. He and his wife Maria Nagy, reside in San Diego, CA, with their children Jack, 15, and Carly, 13.

I ask unanimous consent that his biography be printed in the RECORD.

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

CAPTAIN MARKO MEDVED, P.E., CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS, UNITED STATES NAVY
OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CONSTRUCTION MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS WEST

CAPT Medved's first duty assignment was onboard USS *Leftwich* (DD 984), home ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii where he served as the Damage Control Officer, Missile Officer and Fire Control Officer. He deployed with *Leftwich* to serve in Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1989-1990 and returned again to the Persian Gulf in 1992-1993.

CAPT Medved transferred to the Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) in the summer of 1993. He reported to his first CEC assignment at Resident Officer-in-Charge of Construction, Puerto Rico Area, in January 1994. Here he managed construction contracts in the U.S. Virgin Islands and at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads. CAPT Medved was then reassigned to the Public Works Department (PWD) where he directed the Technical Management Division, then Customer Service for the Base Operating Support Contract. In October of 1997, CAPT Medved joined the "Professionals" of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Five, leading a Detachment for Training to assist in disaster recovery in Sao Miguel, Azores, Portugal. He later deployed to Okinawa as Charlie Company Commander and Air Detachment Commander. Upon completion of graduate school in August 2000, he reported to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Readiness and Logistics) staff to serve as Action Officer for Range Planning and Base Realignment and Closure. During the 107th Congress, CAPT Medved served as a Legislative Fellow for Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi, working on Defense Appropriations. He then served as the Public Works Officer at Naval District Washington, Indian Head, Maryland—the Center for Naval Energetics, until June 2005. Shifting coasts, CAPT Medved lead the Coastal Integrated Process Team at NAVFAC Southwest, supporting bases in San Diego, Ventura County and Monterey. In his next assignment as the Assistant Regional Engineer for Navy Region Southwest, he led the facilities programs for naval bases and reserve centers across six states. Deploying as an Individual Augment, he served as the Public Works Officer for Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, where he supported Marine and Army Division Commanders in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

CAPT Medved graduated with distinction from Annapolis with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering in May 1989. He later attended postgraduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earning a Master of Science degree in Construction Engineering and Management in August 2000. In the summer of 2011, he completed the Advanced Management Program at the Duke Fuqua School of Business. He holds qualifications in Seabee Combat Warfare and Surface Warfare, is a member of the Acquisition Professional Community, and is a registered Professional Engineer in Virginia. CAPT Medved's awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy Achievement Medal (three awards), and the Combat Action Ribbon.