an amendment to another bill in March, and obtained a strong vote in favor of a 90-cent increase in the minimum wage. The Republican leader at the time, Senator Dole, responded by pulling the parks bill from the floor of the Senate, thus tying the Senate in procedural knots and moving on to select the welfare issue, rather than allow a second vote on our bill.

It was only after Senator Dole left the Senate to campaign for the Presidency that we succeeded in scheduling a vote on our bill, and only after threatening to shut down the Senate. I hope every American remembers that this victory for the working poor became possible only after Senator Dole left Washington to become a private citizen.

Now 13 months have passed since the first of the increases in our original bill would have taken effect. The Republicans’ delaying tactics have cost minimum wage workers almost $4 billion. The American people have waited tenaciously and how long the Republicans have fought to prevent this increase in the minimum wage.

By contrast, in vote after vote, my Democratic colleagues have been united in their support of fair wages for all workers. I want to salute them for that unity and thank them for their support throughout this long fight.

The perseverance of my Democratic colleagues, the poorest American workers will see their incomes increase by 22 percent. By the time next year that the second increase takes effect, they will see their incomes increase by $1,800 a year, enough to pay for 7 months of groceries or a year of community college.

Unlike the punitive welfare reform bill Congress has just passed, this raise in the minimum wage will actually improve the lives of millions of people. It will lift 300,000 people out of poverty, including 100,000 children, and save families across the Nation from having to make cruel economic decisions, such as choosing between keeping the utilities turned on and paying for groceries or medicine.

The real problem for much of the welfare population is their inability to find jobs that pay enough to support them and their families. If work does not pay a living wage, requiring welfare mothers to work will do nothing to end their poverty.

It is unfortunate that this good legislation for low-wage workers was coupled with a package of tax giveaways to large and small businesses. I regret that many objectionable changes to our tax laws are being made under the guise of raising the minimum wage.

The real problem for much of the real problem for much of the working men and women in this country is their inability to make cruel economic decisions, such as choosing between keeping the utilities turned on and paying for groceries or medicine.

Without our willingness to be more innovative and skillful in how we handle job training programs, we will not succeed with the type of welfare reform or minimum wage that enables us to have skilled young people and retrained older people entering our job markets. I think that is an important component of the success of those bills. I yield any remaining time, but say again that I am grateful. I am to all who have had a hand in the passage of this legislation.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I say how very grateful I am to so many for all of the efforts that have gone into making the passage of the House insurance reform possible tonight. It is not possible to name all the names, and I ask unanimous consent they be printed in the Record.

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

Labor Committee: Dean Rosen, Susan Hattan, Anne Rufo, David Nexion, Lauren Ewers.
Finance Committee Majority: Lindy Paul, Frank Polk, Julie James, Mark Prater, Doug Fisher, Gioia Bonmartini, Alex Vachon, Brig Gulya, Sam Olchyk, Donna Ridenour.
Minority: John Talisman, Patti McClanahan, David Podoff, Laird Burnett, Keith Lind.
Majority Leader: Annette Gurasico, Vicki Hart, Susan Connell.
Minority Leader: Rima Cohen.
Joint Committee on Taxation: Ken Kies, Mary Schmitt, Carolyn Smith, Cecily Rock, Brian Graff, Judy Xanthopoulos.
The Congressional Research Service: Beth Fuchs, Margaret Smith, Kathleen Swendiman, Jennifer O’Sullivan, Celinda Franco.

Thanks to the staff of: House Ways and Means Committee—particularly Chip Kahn, Elise Gemeinhardt, and Kathy Means; House Commerce Committee—Howard Cohan, Melody Harned; House Economic Opportunities Committee—Russ Mueller; Congressional Budget Office Staff; House and Senate Legislative Counsels—particularly Bill Baird, Ed Grossman, John Goetcheus, and Julie Miller.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Without the dedicated efforts of our staff, it would not have been possible. I mention Dean Rosen, Susan Hattan of my staff, and David Nexion and Lauren Evers of Senator Kennedy’s staff, and many others who have spent countless time and effort.

It is an important piece of legislation. I am very proud we have accomplished it in a bipartisan fashion. It could not have been done without them.

Senator Kennedy mentioned the minimum wage legislation which we will be voting on as well, in back-to-back votes. I will speak after those votes on something I regard very important to the success of both welfare reform and the minimum wage, and that is job training programs.

Without our willingness to be more innovative and skillful in how we handle job training programs, we will not succeed with the type of welfare reform of minimum wage that enables us to have skilled young people and retrained older people entering our job markets. I think that is an important component of the success of those bills.

It is possible that the House should be delayed no longer.

I look forward to casting my vote in favor of the increase in the minimum wage.