

1990s. We owe them more for making this country successful and prosperous. We owe them a strong secure safety net when they lose their jobs through no fault of their own. Thirteen additional weeks of unemployment benefits is only a small tribute to the strength and perseverance of the American worker, and I am disappointed that this Congress has once again denied them the respect they deserve.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in support of legislation to extend Federal emergency unemployment benefits to the millions of Americans who have exhausted their regular benefits.

I strongly believe that, given the state of the economy, Congress has an obligation to extend the Federal Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation, TEUC, program before we leave for the Memorial Day recess. This is especially urgent when considering the U.S. Department of Labor has estimated that by the end of 2003 more than 2.1 million workers will have exhausted their State unemployment compensation benefits without finding work. In my State of Maine, almost 11,000 unemployed Maine workers are projected to exhaust their State and Federal unemployment benefits in the next 6 months and more than one-quarter of these workers, 26 percent, will have exhausted all benefits available under the extension and still be unable to find work.

The bill before us today is similar to Senator MURKOWSKI's legislation, S. 1079, of which I am a cosponsor, and is an extension of the current Federal TEUC program due to expire at the end of May. H.R. 2185 will extend TEUC for an additional 7 months, to December 31, 2003, and will provide benefits to an estimated 2.1 million Americans.

But we must think of these many millions of unemployed Americans as more than just numbers. In Maine, they live in towns like Millinocket, Old Town, and Sanford, where large, established employers have either closed their doors or downsized, and in the process forced longtime workers onto the unemployment rolls. If the program is not extended, according to the Maine Department of Labor, 6,000 Maine workers will exhaust their State unemployment benefits without ever receiving any Federal benefits. Extending temporary Federal benefits is particularly important for hard-hit mill towns like Millinocket, where every store and every landlord has been affected by the layoffs. The TEUC program can get help to those individuals and those communities that need it most.

In closing, Mr. President, I believe that it is critical for Congress to continue to provide the temporary support to families who have been hurt by the economic downturn, and give these families access to the resources they need to stay afloat until they can find new, gainful employment. As such, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Sen-

ate version of H.R. 2185, and urge my colleagues to join me in support of this effort.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS OF 2003

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2185 to extend the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002; providing further that the bill be read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I object.

Let me get it straight. Do we have the yeas and nays?

Mr. REID. We will take care of you. Let's get this done.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I withdraw my objection.

Mr. REID. If I might, I appreciate very much the consideration of the Senator from South Carolina because we have not finished his amendment. We failed to tell him that the Senator from Alaska was going to offer this request.

This is, as I understand it, the House passed unemployment insurance compensation action; is that true?

Ms. MURKOWSKI. That is correct.

Mr. REID. We have no objection.

We are very grateful this is completed. As we indicated earlier, we are sorry it is not an extended benefit but we are better off than we were an hour and a half or 2 hours ago. We extend our appreciation to the majority.

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

The bill (H.R. 2185) was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

INCREASING THE STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE PUBLIC DEBT—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 836

Mr. HOLLINGS. I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. REID. I say to the Senator from South Carolina, the Senator from Iowa will speak for a very brief period of time and then he is going to, I understand, move to table your amendment.

I wonder, is the Senator going to yield back his time?

Mr. HOLLINGS. I am happy to yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is all time yielded back?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I will yield back my time.

I move to table the amendment and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

Mr. GRASSLEY. The Hollings amendment would prevent the "disinvestment" of the Social Security Trust Fund. What that means is if we did not increase the debt limit, the Social Security Trust Fund could not be used to pay Social Security benefits. We need to defeat this amendment and pass a clean debt limit bill so Social Security checks can go out on time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to table amendment No. 836.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 201 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Dole	Miller
Allard	Domenici	Murkowski
Allen	Ensign	Nickles
Bennett	Enzi	Roberts
Bond	Fitzgerald	Santorum
Brownback	Frist	Sessions
Bunning	Graham (SC)	Shelby
Burns	Grassley	Smith
Campbell	Gregg	Snowe
Chafee	Hagel	Specter
Chambliss	Hatch	Stevens
Cochran	Hutchison	Sununu
Coleman	Inhofe	Talent
Collins	Kyl	Thomas
Cornyn	Lott	Voinovich
Craig	Lugar	Warner
Crapo	McCain	
DeWine	McConnell	

NAYS—46

Akaka	Dorgan	Lieberman
Baucus	Durbin	Lincoln
Bayh	Feingold	Mikulski
Biden	Feinstein	Murray
Bingaman	Graham (FL)	Nelson (FL)
Boxer	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Breaux	Hollings	Pryor
Byrd	Inouye	Reed
Cantwell	Jeffords	Reid
Carper	Johnson	Rockefeller
Clinton	Kerry	Sarbanes
Conrad	Kohl	Schumer
Corzine	Landrieu	Stabenow
Daschle	Lautenberg	Wyden
Dayton	Leahy	
Dodd	Levin	

NOT VOTING—2

Edwards Kennedy

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

SENATOR PETE V. DOMENICI'S TWELVE-THOUSANDTH VOTE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, may I have the attention of the Senate. On the last rollcall vote, No. 201, the one we just completed, the distinguished senior Senator from New Mexico, current chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the former long-serving chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator PETE V. DOMENICI, cast his twelve-thousandth vote in this Chamber—12,000 votes.