

I am also pleased that the bill includes the Emergency Protection for Iraqi Cultural Antiquities Act of 2003. I introduced the EPIC Antiquities Act of 2003 to authorize the President to impose immediate emergency import restrictions on the archaeological and ethnological materials of Iraq. The purpose of this bill is simple—to close a legal loophole which could allow looted Iraqi antiquities to be brought into the United States.

If Congress does not act to provide the means for establishing an interim ban on trade, the door may be opened to imports of looted Iraqi antiquities into the United States. Already the press has reported allegations that European auction houses have traded in looted Iraqi antiquities. The last thing that we in Congress want to do is to fail to act to prevent trade in looted artifacts here in the United States.

Also included in the package is a provision that simplifies the U.S. Customs Service's ability to process commercial importations, thereby resulting in increased efficiency and productivity for both Customs and the trade community.

I want to point out that the provisions I have covered are not the only important provisions contained in this bill. This bill makes a number of other technical yet meaningful changes to our trade laws.

While I am very disappointed some members have delayed the passage of this bill, and even tried to kill this bill with controversial provisions, I would like to thank my colleagues who respected the traditional rules governing this important legislation. I appreciate their support.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Grassley-Baucus amendment at the desk be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be read the third time.

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

The amendment (No. 2678) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 671), as amended, was read the third time.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 51, H.R. 1047, the House companion bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1047) to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all after the enacting clause be stricken and that the text of S. 671, as amended, be inserted. I further ask unanimous con-

sent that H.R. 1047, as amended, be read the third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; and that S. 671 be returned to the calendar.

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

The bill (H. R. 1047), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS STRENGTH (JOBS) ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 10:30 a.m. having arrived, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1637, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1637) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to comply with the World Trade Organization rulings on the FSC/ETI benefit in a manner that preserves jobs and production activities in the United States, to reform and simplify the international taxation rules of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Dodd amendment No. 2660, to protect United States workers from competition of foreign workforces for performance of Federal and State contracts.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

AMENDMENT NO. 2660

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, first, I thank the Finance Committee and the leadership for getting this measure before us. This is important legislation. What is extremely important is the Dodd amendment.

As we approach early March, we have to ask ourselves in this body what we are doing about the general challenges we are facing all across this country, with very few exceptions. I will come back later to the state of our economy.

This legislation provides some resolution to some of the challenges we are facing. I think the Dodd amendment is enormously important and one that I strongly support and hope the Senate will take action on. I know there is consideration that we go off this bill and on to the budget, but it does seem to me, in terms of the timetable because of the strict limitations of time on the budget, we ought to continue the debate on the issues of jobs and the economy which is of central importance and consequence to people all over this Nation.

This debate should go on. I certainly join with those who believe the institution is ill served if we refuse to give the Dodd amendment the opportunity for a clear vote in the Senate. What the

American people are looking for is action. They want accountability. They want responsibility. This amendment is a thoughtful amendment. It will be one that will make a difference in terms of the state of our economy in a very key area of economic policy, and that is the utilization of taxpayers' resources to effectively subsidize jobs going overseas.

We ought to be able to make a judgment about that in the Senate. So I applaud the Senator from Connecticut for this amendment.

I will take a moment or two to try to put it into some kind of perspective because, as he and others have pointed out, we are facing a serious economic challenge across this Nation. It is virtually uniform. In 48 out of the 50 States, new jobs pay 21 percent less than the old jobs they replace, with the exceptions of Nevada and Nebraska.

In the State I have had a chance to visit over the period of the last week, the State of New York, the new jobs are paying 38 percent less than the jobs they replaced. That is happening across this Nation, and I will get into the greater detail of it.

That is a national challenge and a national problem, and yet our Republican leadership refuses to permit us to deal with some of these issues. We can deal with a number of the issues. We can deal with the issue of the increase in the minimum wage where a majority of the Members of this body favor an increase. It would take about half an hour to debate that issue. We all know what that is about.

We could extend the unemployment compensation. Fifty-eight Members of the Senate want to extend unemployment compensation but our Republican leadership says no and this President says no. We could also defeat the Bush proposal to deny overtime from some 8 million of our workers in this country. This is the first time since the Fair Labor Standards Act has been enacted in this country, which recognizes a 40-hour workweek, that we have an administration proposing the elimination of overtime, and we will come back to that. This all starts down in the White House, make no mistake about it.

We have to have a President who wakes up every morning and says, we have a challenge and we can do something about it. Presidential leadership makes an important difference in terms of the state of our economy. We saw it in the early 1960s where we had the longest period of economic growth and price stability up until the time of the dramatic expansion of the Vietnam War, all during which we had Democratic leadership. We saw it with President Clinton, when Republicans refused to give us a single vote for an economic policy that produced 22 million jobs.

I remember my good friend on the other side, Phil Gramm, who said: This proposal makes no sense. Interest rates will go as high as the ceiling of the Senate and we will have the unemployed who will circle the Capitol.