

will have a lot who are paying the AMT, many who have investments of a variety of sorts—I believe that alone could trigger a bit of a revolution around here. I think the challenge is for people to see just the kind of tax hole we have dug ourselves into over the last 20 years—14,000 changes, needless complications.

I really do not see how a middle-class person can get ahead with a Tax Code that discriminates against work. The Senator from Illinois has been a champ for the middle-class kind of family.

Here is the way it works. If a cop in Chicago gets a \$500 pay raise, that cop pays 25 percent of his or her pay raise to the Federal Government in income taxes, and then they pay Social Security payroll taxes on top of that. If somebody in downtown Chicago makes all their money from capital gains and investment, they pay 15 percent on their capital gains and no Social Security payroll tax.

Again, I have tried to emphasize that I am not for soaking anybody. I believe in markets, and I believe in creating wealth, as I believe Senators of both political parties do. But as the Senator from Illinois has pointed out, if Senators were really forced to deal with these kinds of situations themselves, starting with the Tax Code complications, when they fill it out on their own, that could start a revolution around here.

I believe this is a bipartisan opportunity that comes along rarely.

I will wrap up with one last point.

I believe the Social Security reform showed a lot about what our citizens think about a vital American program. A lot of Americans love Social Security dearly, and there are a lot of rallies outside the offices of Members of Congress, with folks carrying signs saying, "I love Social Security." I tell colleagues that there will be no rally outside your office with people carrying signs saying, "We Love the IRS Code." This is something which could be reformed, could be changed on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield for one question which I think gets to the concern people have about tax reform, it seems like a zero-sum game in this respect: If you end up lowering the taxes paid by someone in order to keep the same return to Government in revenue, you have to raise the taxes for others.

So I ask the Senator to step back from his proposal for a minute. Who are the winners and losers?

Mr. WYDEN. The Senator asks a good question. First, a quick word on my proposal, which is available from the Congressional Research Service and Jane Gravell, the top economist who is there to discuss it with Senators. It would actually reduce the deficit by about \$100 billion over 5 years, making downpayments in terms of deficit reduction.

But here is what the distribution profile looks like in terms of our legisla-

tion. We believe that upwards of 70 percent of the people in this country would get a solid tax cut. These are middle-class folks making \$60,000, \$70,000, \$80,000, and \$90,000. Essentially, what the Congressional Research Service has shown is that millions of middle-class people would get relief. It is upwards of 70 percent. We have calculated that about 15 percent of the people in this country would be treated about the same.

For example—and it is matter of public record, and I can discuss it—I have a Senate wage of about \$160,000, and I have a bit of investment income. I come out about the same under my proposal as under the status quo. We have to make 6 or 7 percent of the people in this country who make virtually all their income from capital gains and dividends—not from wages—pay a bit more.

So that is what the distributional effect of one actual proposal looked like. That was again very similar to what happened in 1986 when Ronald Reagan, after having started his Presidency with a set of tax changes—and my colleague will remember they were largely for investment—did an about-face and passed a reform proposal that gave real relief to middle-class people.

I want to close by thanking the Senator from Illinois, who I know has a great interest in this subject and has been a strong champion of the middle class.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, it is my understanding the Senator from New Hampshire is going to make some remarks and I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized after he has completed his remarks.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

USA PATRIOT ACT ADDITIONAL REAUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2271, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to consider S. 2271, a bill to clarify that individuals who receive FISA orders can challenge nondisclosure requirements, that individuals who receive national security letters are not required to disclose the name of their attorney, that libraries are not wire or electronic communication service providers unless they provide specific services, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks time?

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of the motion to proceed and in support of the underlying legislation itself. This bill was introduced to make changes, changes to the PATRIOT Act conference report that was delayed at the end of last year, just as we were ready to adjourn for the holidays.

That conference report had some flaws and weaknesses. I began focusing on and working on reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act well over a year and a half ago, recognizing that we could do more to improve the original Act, we could make this bill more balanced by adding better protections for civil liberties even as we reauthorized the law enforcement tools in the PATRIOT Act to give law enforcement power to conduct terrorism investigations.

I don't think there is anyone in this Chamber who believes we should not provide law enforcement with tools necessary to deal with the threat of terrorism, both domestically and overseas. But whenever we give law enforcement new tools, new powers, we want to make sure they are balanced, balanced by the ability of individuals who think they have been singled out unfairly to raise objections in court, balanced by the ability of individuals to seek legal advice, balanced by restricting the use of these tools to ensure they are only used in appropriate circumstances. That is what protecting civil liberties is all about.

As the process of reauthorizing the PATRIOT Act began well over a year and a half ago, a bipartisan group of Senators, including myself, joined to highlight a number of areas where we felt the legislation could and should be improved and strengthened to provide the kinds of protections I mentioned.

We spoke with Justice Department officials, not a month or 2 months before this process began, but, as I've said, over a year and a half ago, raising our concerns in a clear, articulate fashion, trying to make certain that DOJ knew full well that there was a bipartisan group that would push to make changes to improve the PATRIOT Act and that we would be willing to stand up for those changes and stand up on principle.

Unfortunately, the people who should have been engaged in this discussion process early on simply were not and much of the work was left to the very end of the process, and continued after the law was originally set to expire at the end of last year. As a result, changes that should have been made early were not, and we found ourselves