

my intention to vote “yea.” I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote, which will not affect the outcome.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is a great honor that we have been able to add the name of a distinguished Senator—one of the most distinguished of all time—to this bill. We expect this to multiply into 7 million volunteers. To call it the Edward M. Kennedy bill is a great honor for all of us, even for those who voted against it. It was an overwhelming vote under the circumstances. There were a lot of sincere people on both sides. I am very happy we could name this after our friend and colleague whom we have served with all these years, who has made such a great difference.

What is great about it is the whole Kennedy family has been a service family. I look at TED’s sister Eunice and what a whirlwind of great achievement and giving she has been all these years. I am sure she is very proud of her brother this evening. I am very pleased we could do this, and I am very grateful to all our colleagues for having participated in this.

It is an honor for all of us to honor our friend, Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I have just come from an all-day session with the Budget Committee. I am very pleased that we have voted it out to the floor, and we will be taking up next week President Obama’s budget, his priorities. Certainly the chairman of the committee, Senator CONRAD, gets tremendous credit for his hard work, as usual, and his expertise, and his staff’s expertise as well.

Particularly, on a personal level, since it is such a difficult time for those Senator CONRAD loves in North Dakota, we know his heart and mind has been there, as well as shepherding this budget through. We appreciate his diligence in this very challenging time.

What was clear from the budget debate not only in the committee yesterday and today but in the comments that have gone on in the last couple of weeks from Republican colleagues is that they have dusted off a 15-year-old

set of arguments about the budget, which is in front of us. You could use the headline: GOP Dusts off, Reuses 15-year-old Message of “No.”

We have heard no on equal pay and from too many people around here on health care and on protecting public lands. The issues go on and on—whether it has been slow walking, filibustering, or just plain saying no.

So when we look at what is happening, I think it is important to put it into context. This year, 2009, we saw multiple headlines. One was: “GOP Warns About Budget Hardball.”

We know they are going to come to the floor and play hardball on the budget next week and fight us every step of the way on our priorities and the President’s vision for education, health care, and energy independence. They clearly have indicated that.

If you roll back the clock, this is not a new message. It is very much recycled. This was a headline in 1995: “GOP Plan For Budget To Take No Prisoners.”

They took on President Clinton and his priorities of investing and creating children’s health insurance and focusing on jobs and on ways to bring down the deficit, which, by the way, created 22 million jobs in this country.

I can tell you coming from a State with now 12 percent unemployment, we would be happy to have taken the Clinton budget and the era of creating jobs. I know the Presiding Officer comes from a State also hard hit. When we talk about what is best for people, people in this country would love to go back to an era of creating 22 million jobs.

President Obama is focusing on getting us back to that point by moving forward to invest in jobs, invest in the economy and what people care about.

But all we are hearing over and over again is how we are going to have a fight, it is going to be tough. One more time it is no.

1993: “GOP’s Politics of No.” “One-word vocabulary hobbles GOP.” Sound familiar? “Republicans grouse as Senate takes up budget bill.” This was back in June 18, 1993. At that time, we had a Democratic President putting forward priorities for the American people—not the wealthiest in the country but middle-class families working hard every day, playing by the rules, who wanted to know their country was focused on them and their families.

We fast forward to today, and in the Budget Committee and on the floor, what do we see? We see a Republican repeat: Same old politics, same old policies that have gotten us to where we are, that have gotten us into this crisis.

The debate in the Budget Committee was very much about going back to the policies that did not work, that have created such financial chaos and job loss in this country. Whether to move us forward, that is what we are talking about, changing course, moving us forward, a different set of values and pri-

orities, a different vision about what is important for America.

The American people have rejected the same old politics and the same old policies. But yet every day we see the same old politics, forcing us to go to 60 votes rather than working together to move legislation forward.

H.R. 1388 is a terrific bill on community service, the national service bill. Rather than being able to move it forward every step of the way together, there was constant effort to force cloture votes, to move in a way that has slowed it down, even though we know the majority of people were supporting it.

So we see the same old politics over and over again and the same old policies. When you listen to Republican colleagues over and over again, their mantra is always about tax cuts for the wealthy, we will solve great problems for everybody else. I can assure you the 11 million-plus people in this country who are unemployed right now are not concerned about another supply-side tax cut. They were waiting a long time, for the last 8 years, for it to trickle down to them, and all that trickled down to them was job loss, home loss, health care costs up, education costs up, energy costs up, food costs up.

This budget goes in a different direction. We reject the same old policies that got us where we are, that got us into this crisis.

Instead, we have put forward under the President’s leadership a budget that is investing in America’s future, investing in jobs. I am very proud to have led an effort in the committee to make sure we are focused on manufacturing, to focus on jobs in our budget resolution. I know our Presiding Officer shares my deep concern about those issues, and I am proud to partner with him on so many initiatives around manufacturing and jobs.

Health care: to make sure we have put in place the ability to tackle health care costs and health care access. We are in a unique position in health care. It is one of those rare situations where the more people are covered, the more you provide health care, you actually bring the cost down because you have fewer people using emergency rooms inappropriately, fewer people unable to go to the doctor before they get very ill, being able to get preventive care. This budget focuses on health care.

This budget focuses on energy independence. I am very proud to have authored in the bill a clean energy fund. This is based on work we are doing in the Energy Committee. I am so appreciative of the leadership and commitment of the chairman, Senator BINGAMAN, to work with us on manufacturing and energy independence, focusing on green technologies, focusing on a clean energy fund that will help us invest in those technologies and create great new manufacturing jobs. This is a part of the budget, energy efficiency efforts, creating the opportunity for us to work

together to address climate change in a way that is responsible and allows us to focus on jobs and creating new opportunities in the green economy.

Finally, and certainly not least, education. In terms of access to college or whether it is preschool and Head Start or whether it is funding our K-12 system, it is critically important that we not forget education and job training for the future. We have a lot of people who are going through transition today from one job to another, and job training is particularly critical.

In the Obama budget, we are investing in America's future: jobs, health care, energy independence, and education.

I am also very proud of the fact that we make a strong commitment again this year. For the last 2 years, with our Democratic majority, we have made veterans a priority, veterans health care a priority. It is so terrific to see the commitment of President Obama and his administration, the commitment they put in the budget that we have sustained a strong commitment to keep the promise of America for our veterans and their families, those who have served us, are serving us now, and come home and expect us to keep our promises as well.

There are many important values reflected in this budget, from focusing on veterans, focusing on jobs, as well as addressing what happens when a plant closes. I am very pleased to have put language in to increase money for communities, where there are closed plants, to create new opportunities for jobs and economic development.

There are a lot of different strategies that are represented and funded in this budget.

Again, it all comes down to how we view America, what are our priorities, what are our values, whom do we represent? Do we have a budget for American families? Do we have a budget for the middle class of this country which, by the way, gets significant tax cuts? We have significant tax cuts in this bill as well. The difference between the tax cuts in this budget and in budgets when our friends on the other side of the aisle were in the majority is these tax cuts go to the middle class. These tax cuts go to working families.

We also in the committee under Senator CARDIN's leadership have increased the dollars going to SBA, for small business, because we understand small business is an engine of this economy.

This budget does reflect jobs, strengthening manufacturing, support for small business, addressing job training, and where we go in the new green economy around jobs and energy independence. It focuses on health care. It focuses on education. We are keeping the promise that has been made by this country to our veterans.

I am very proud of this budget. I am very proud of this President for submitting this budget to us. It is different. We will hear honest disagree-

ments about philosophy and how we stimulate the economy, differences in how we put together a budget and whether we invest in people or whether we continue the ways of the past that have gotten us where we are today.

This budget is a change. This budget is a commitment to the American people, a commitment to families, a commitment to communities, American businesses, keeping our jobs here at home. That is what this budget is about. Yes, it is different. Frankly, we tried it for 8 years under the philosophy and the direction that came from former President Bush and colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and it did not work. We cannot sustain having the same old politics and the same old policies if we are going to move America forward. We cannot sustain that any longer.

I urge colleagues to come together on a bipartisan basis and stand for the values and the people represented in this budget.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

BIPARTISANSHIP

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I was intending to walk through here on the way back to my office when I saw the sign blaming Republicans for everything—it blames us for the crisis, it blames us for—we keep talking about bipartisanship, but that is not the way you develop bipartisanship.

We did have some bipartisan votes today in the Budget Committee. One of them was to have an investigation into what is happening. I bet you are not going to point the finger at just one party on that. I am betting there is plenty of blame to go around on the situation we are in. Congress has contributed, as well as business, as well as employees. We are going to find out the country has been on a path and is still on a path that is not sustainable. We maxed out our credit cards and that causes a lot of problems. Now we are still trying to figure out how to spend more money.

I was disappointed that we went into a partisan speech right after such a bipartisan effort that happened in this Chamber. We passed a bill this afternoon that is going to provide 7 million volunteers across America, that is going to make a real difference for America.

One of the problems I have with Washington is when something good like that happens, it kind of disappears overnight; when something nasty happens, it is talked about forever. We have to talk more about bipartisanship. We have to stop blaming each other and start working together.

One of the ways that bill got done this afternoon is we have been following an 80-percent rule. We know we can agree on 80 percent of the stuff, and we did. Actually, we went a little

further than that because we found some third ways in part of the other 20 percent. That made a bill that both sides could agree on that could get finished. There will be more work to do in that area.

I am glad we got that done this afternoon. I hope it is not a little, tiny paragraph in the paper. It probably will not be because it was named after the Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, because he has been such a leader in this effort and worked on this bill for years and certainly deserves to have the bill named after him.

That should not be the only reason we get publicity on something such as this bill. There ought to be people looking at what we achieved and talking about what we achieved and talking about how, on a bipartisan basis, Democrats and Republicans sat down and said: This is what we need. We also said these are programs that are not working; let's replace them. We did that, and we did that in a very fiscally responsible way.

That is what can happen when both sides work together. We need to do more of that. We need to do a little bit less blaming. We are not even close to an election right now. So the blame game does not need to be done.

I certainly hope we can work for some common goals. I think we have some common goals. Next week, we will be talking about the budget, and there are even some common things on that. But I am willing to bet what we talk about on this floor will be the 20 percent we do not agree on, and that is the 20 percent that can ruin America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

THE BUDGET

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, there are good examples, as Senator ENZI declared, of bipartisan work in this Senate. We have a lot of those examples. I would point out, however, that a budget is a document that tends to favor an individual party's belief. It tends to point out where they want to take the country. It is a roadmap for the country, and that budget is a vehicle to achieve the goals that party has.

I want to say this about the budget: A budget is not just something an individual has to submit. The President submits one, but the numbers contained in it, the directions contained in it, are the choices made. You can choose to spend less, you can choose to spend more, you can choose to reduce debt, you can choose to increase debt. It might be more popular to spend more and run up more debt today, but it may not be good for the long-term interest of America.

We just left the budget markup, and the Democratic majority passed out of the committee on a straight party-line vote—with no Republicans supporting