

The Presiding Officer and the Senator speaking are from States that have small towns and cities; 150,000 is a huge city by Nevada standards. A city of 150,000—that is what has happened these last 3 weeks. That is 150,000 people without anywhere to turn. Their government is not helping them. They have likely begged and borrowed from family as much as they could. Their savings are gone.

We know that when the economy recovers, the unemployment rate is one of the last numbers to rebound. That is what economists call a lagging indicator. That is just the way it is and has always been. So even as the economy begins to turn around, jobs will turn around slower.

That fact, incidentally, is all the more reason for us to fix our economy faster, to stop putting off reforming a broken health insurance system that bankrupts so many families. In America today, people are at the courthouse filing bankruptcy. Last year in America, 750,000 people filed bankruptcy because of medical costs.

How many people do you think filed for bankruptcy in France, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, England, Canada? How many filed for bankruptcy as a result of health care costs? Zero. People say: Oh, socialized medicine. France, Germany, and Japan have private insurance.

Our health care system bankrupts many families. We need to do a lot of things to get us out of this hole we are in. The sooner we do these things, the sooner jobs will come back. But they are not back yet. The people of Nevada and others across the Nation are hurting. Unemployment is at a 26-year high in our country and at an alltime high in Nevada. We became a State in 1864. It is the highest unemployment rate we have ever had.

These good, hard-working people lost their jobs most of the time through no fault of their own, and many lost their health care along with it. They are having trouble finding new jobs, and so they are burning through whatever savings they have, if they have any, if they put away for their old age or children.

Some of these unemployed Americans are beginning their careers, some were at the prime of their careers, and some are scrambling to finish, with dignity, what they earned over decades of hard, honest work.

This is the Democrats' simple proposal. It is not very complicated at all: Let's support those families who have been the victims of this recession. They need to put food on the table, send their children to school, and pay the ever-rising medical bills.

If you want to do something that will help jump-start the economy, that will stimulate the economy, how about giving these people who are out of work and have been out of work for an extended period of time a check? What are they going to do with it? They are going to spend it. Why? Because they have to.

We are not asking for much, and we have the money to help them. Over the years, workers have contributed a little bit each paycheck to fund a safety net in the event they lost their jobs. It was insurance against unemployment. That is what it is called—unemployment insurance. That is exactly what has happened. Now they want to take that money—money set aside for this purpose—to keep them afloat until they land the next job.

We have a proposal—a paid-for proposal, one that does not add a dime to the deficit—to extend to workers their unemployment insurance by up to 14 weeks and up to 20 weeks in States such as Nevada that have been hit the hardest. We have the power and the ability to do it. That is what we should do. It is the right thing to do.

The Republican response to that idea might sound familiar. It is a word we have heard from them more and more in recent days. The Republican response in helping the unemployed is two letters: No. Republican Senators from Louisiana, Alabama, Arizona, and Kentucky are among those saying no to helping unemployed citizens in Louisiana, Alabama, Arizona, and Kentucky. I doubt that is the kind of legislating their constituents had in mind when they sent them to the U.S. Capitol and asked them to be their voice in Congress.

When we first brought up this bill 3 weeks ago, Republicans decided they would rather fight a partisan fight, as they have been doing now, than help unemployed men and women in their own States. This unemployment is not targeted to just a few States. The Republicans decided to make a political statement by demanding completely irrelevant amendments, amendments not germane, amendments that have little, if anything, to do with unemployment or even the economy, generally, and they decided the political statement was more important than helping constituents afford to pay bills. That is wrong. It is an outrage.

That day when we started this legislation, when we first brought it to the Senate floor to help unemployed Americans, Republicans said no. The sad part about it, they are still saying no. I hope, after all we have been through and when that vote comes at 6 o'clock, we will have some brave souls step across the aisle and help us get this done.

When we started this process 3 weeks ago, they said no. The next morning, 7,000 people woke up without the unemployment insurance on which they had been counting. The next week we tried again. By now, we have 49,000 people who have lost their unemployment benefits. Once again, Republicans said no. Again, 7,000 Americans lost the help they needed to get by. Then, last week, we tried again. Once again, the Republicans said no. Again, we had a week of 7,000 people losing their work benefits.

In the days since Republicans first said no to helping unemployed Ameri-

cans, we have about 150,000 who have lost the relief they desperately need. Today, while Republicans continue to waste time, to stall so we cannot get things done here, another 7,000 will be added to the approximately 150,000 who have already lost their unemployment insurance. If we do not act, that number, by the end of the year, will be 2 million. I wonder how much higher does that number have to climb before Republicans put people ahead of their partisan excuses.

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. BROWNBACK. 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. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 7 minutes on the Republican time of the time allotted after 5:30 p.m.

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

SUDAN POLICY

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I wish to draw the attention of the body today to a policy initiative that was put forward by the Obama administration last week. It is on a topic a lot of people have been involved in for a long period of time. It involves Sudan, Darfur, and the genocide taking place in Sudan. It now involves new policy steps the administration is proposing to take to build a relationship and overtures to the Sudanese Government.

This is engagement to the extreme because President Bashir of Sudan is an indicted war criminal whose government is conducting a genocide, as declared by the Congress of the United States and the administration. For the first time in the history of America, we would be engaging an individual who is both an indicted war criminal, being pursued by the International Criminal Court, and also who has conducted a genocide in Darfur. We are talking about: OK. We need to start maybe engaging, and now there have been visas issued to top members of President Bashir's inner circle to come into the United States and discussion of a carrot-and-stick approach to Sudan, when he is running a genocide in Darfur and is an indicted war criminal. This is atrocious on its face. It is engagement to the extreme. It is wrong, and it would be harmful to long-term U.S. interests.

What happens the next time an individual is involved in genocide? Do we say: If you start behaving a little less worse on your genocide, we will start to give you some carrots to help you out. What about the next indicted war criminal, do we say: If you are a little less bad, if you only kill 500 a day instead of 1,000, we are going to start offering you carrots instead of sticks in

this approach. This undermines the moral authority of the United States. It is the wrong thing to do.

I wish to give a couple historical examples.

Toward the end of World War II, Heinrich Himmler, who was No. 2 in charge—but after Hitler committed suicide was No. 1 in charge—of Nazi Germany reached out to the Allied commander, General Eisenhower, and wanted to start negotiating with him: If he could be allowed to live, they might negotiate some sort of settlement. Eisenhower completely ignored it and treated him like the war criminal he was. Can you imagine if we would have started negotiating with Himmler at that time?

Let me give some more recent examples. What about Serbian leader Karadzic, the so-called “Butcher of Bosnia,” accused of slaughtering hundreds of thousands of innocent people? The State Department did not say: If you are a little less bad and don’t kill quite as many people, we will start negotiating with you. They didn’t say that. They put a \$5 million reward out to anybody who gave us information leading to his capture, and he currently resides in a prison in The Hague.

What about Charles Taylor, the “Butcher of Liberia,” who ran on an election slogan—listen to this: “He killed my pa, he killed my ma, but I will vote for him.” That was his election slogan. Taylor was directly involved in coordinating and supporting unthinkable atrocities over many years and, after ceding power, was indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Here is an indicted war criminal. Did we say to him: OK. Mr. Taylor, if you start not killing as many people, we will negotiate with you? Of course not. What the Congress did was offered and passed legislation giving a \$2 million reward for Taylor’s capture, and he now sits in a prison in The Hague.

It would be unthinkable for us, in those circumstances, to say: OK. We will start negotiating with these indicted war criminals, butchers of their own people, and we are going to start working with you because you are going to act a little less bad. Yet that is what we are talking about with President Bashir, an indicted war criminal, conducting a genocide in Darfur that we have declared.

We have had hundreds of thousands of people across America going to rallies to save Darfur, and now we are talking about a carrot-and-stick approach with him?

I say no. I say we cannot do this, and if we do this in this circumstance, what about future genocidal regimes? What about future indicted war criminals? Is there any standard upon which the United States can or will stand at those points in time or could we, at that point in time, if we do this in this particular case?

I am all for getting some form of movement on the north-south agree-

ment so the south can vote next year and will probably vote to secede and form its own country in the south. I think that is prudent and wise, after many years of civil war and the negotiations that took place to get a north-south agreement. But I do not at all think you can trade that for us negotiating with this indicted war criminal.

I urge my colleagues not to support this effort on behalf of the administration to engage a genocidal regime in Khartoum.

I appreciate my colleagues’ attention. I yield the floor.

Mr. BAUCUS. 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. BAUCUS. 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. BAUCUS. Mr. President, what is the pending business before the Senate?

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3548, with the time equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees.

Mr. BAUCUS. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, the unemployment rate is now 9.8 percent. Before long economists expect it to top 10 percent. That means nearly 15 million Americans have lost their jobs—15 million. That is 15 million people looking for work. About 5 million people have been looking for work for more than 6 months. There are about 3 million job openings. That is 15 million people chasing 3 million jobs.

We are in what folks call the “Great Recession.” Real people are facing real hardships every day. On September 15 of this year, the Finance Committee held a hearing on unemployment insurance benefits and where we would go from there. Senators discussed the effects of the current condition on beneficiaries, the business community, and the State unemployment systems. We considered proposals to support unemployed workers through the continuing recession.

A recent edition of the Federal Reserve’s Beige Book reported that the economy is still stabilizing. Unfortunately, the labor market still remains weak. Companies are being cautious about adding permanent staff. Instead, they are asking more from their existing staff.

We need to continue our work to create jobs, and we also need to help our neighbors who are looking for work. That is what we did in the Recovery

Act. We need to act on behalf of unemployed Americans and their communities. In helping our unemployed neighbors, we also can help to keep open the neighborhood grocery store and the neighborhood gas station. That is how unemployment insurance benefits not just people who are unemployed but helps communities.

In helping our unemployed neighbors, we also help to keep houses out of foreclosure. In helping our unemployed neighbors, we also help our economy and ourselves.

The House of Representatives passed a bill to give an additional 13 weeks of benefits to unemployed people in States with unemployment rates of 8½ percent or more. That is what the House did. I commend our colleagues in the House for their rapid response. But Leader REID and I want to make sure all Americans who have exhausted their benefits during these tough times get help.

Today we are joined by Senator REED of Rhode Island, Senator SHAHEEN, Senator DODD, and a total of 38 Senators in all in offering an amendment to the House bill. Our amendment would give 14 additional weeks of benefits to unemployed people who exhaust their benefits no matter what State they live in—14 additional weeks of benefits for everyone. Our amendment would also give 6 additional weeks of benefits on top of that to unemployed people who exhaust their benefits in States with 8½ percent unemployment or more. So 14 weeks to all States, and then an additional 6 weeks in those States where unemployment is 8½ percent or more.

The total cost of our package is \$2.4 billion and paid for with an extension of the Federal unemployment tax, or FUTA, until June 30, 2011.

Today we have a chance to lend support to unemployed Americans. In so doing, we have a chance to help our economy and ourselves. But first we have to proceed to the bill. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and vote for the motion to invoke cloture.

Mr. President, I yield 5 minutes to the Senator from New Hampshire, Mrs. SHAHEEN, who is one of the main co-sponsors of the amendment. She is the real strong advocate of getting this legislation passed and a strong advocate for the people of her State, and I deeply appreciate her work.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I thank Senator BAUCUS for his very kind remarks and for his leadership to do something to help those workers who are unemployed across this country who are losing their benefits and don’t know where to turn.

As Senator BAUCUS has said, the Senate is about to vote on a motion to advance the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act. I am disappointed that we still haven’t been able to pass this extension, but this evening we can