

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2011

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 782, which the clerk will report by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 782) to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Snowe) amendment No. 390, to reform the regulatory process to ensure that small businesses are free to compete and to create jobs.

DeMint amendment No. 394, to repeal the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Paul amendment No. 414, to implement the President's request to increase the statutory limit on the public debt.

Cardin amendment No. 407, to require the FHA to equitably treat home buyers who have repaid in full their FHA-insured mortgages.

Merkley-Snowe amendment No. 428, to establish clear regulatory standards for mortgage servicers.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 390

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I called for regular order, which I am, that would mean the Snowe amendment would be pending; is that right?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The amendment is now pending.

Mr. REID. OK. Mr. President, first of all, I appreciate the cooperation of Senator SNOWE, Senator COBURN, and others. It is important we move along with this legislation. So for the next 3 hours we will be able to debate the Snowe amendment. The time will be equally divided during that period of time.

We have a number of amendments others want to offer. We already have four in addition to hers that have been offered. We have time agreements on those. I appreciate everyone's help in moving forward in this regard.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 2:15 p.m. be equally divided between Senators SNOWE and BOXER or their designees; that at 2:15 p.m. the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Snowe amendment; that no amendments, points of order or motions be in order to the Snowe amendment prior to the vote,

other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; the amendment not be divisible; that the amendment be subject to a 60-vote threshold; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

I would also say, before the Chair rules, we have Senator MCCASKILL who wants to offer an amendment on the same subject matter. We will do that at some subsequent time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as I understand it, I will have an hour and a half to present our side on the amendment and Senator SNOWE will have an hour and a half. Could the Chair please give me the exact timeframes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the order, 1 hour 37 minutes for each side.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you very much. I was close.

I wish to let Senator SNOWE know what my plan is at this time. First, I am going to yield some time on another subject—but it will be used on our time—to Senator WHITEHOUSE, who has something very important pertaining to his State, and then I am going to come back and take as much time as I might consume and it will not be that long. I wish to lay out where we are in this debate, why this bill is so important, and I am going to make some remarks about Senator SNOWE's amendment. So I do not know exactly how long it will take, but I will do it as quickly as I can and retain the remainder of my time.

But at this time, I yield 10 minutes of my time to Senator WHITEHOUSE.

Senator WHITEHOUSE is coming back into the Chamber with his charts, and I reiterate, I will yield the first 10 minutes of my time to Senator WHITEHOUSE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN of Ohio). The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I thank Senator BOXER.

COMMEMORATING GASPEE DAYS

Mr. President, my time in this Chamber often gives me cause to reflect on our history and on the brave patriots who went before us, many of whom risked or even gave their lives to create this great Republic. Today, I would like to talk about a group of men who, 239 years ago tonight, engaged in a daring act of defiance against the British Crown.

For many, the Boston Tea Party is one of the first events on the road to our revolution. Growing up, we were taught the story of painted-up Bostonians dumping shipments of tea into Boston Harbor, to defend the principle: "no taxation without representation."

Conspicuously missing from history books is the story of the brave Rhode Islanders who challenged the British

Crown far more aggressively more than a year before Bostonians dumped those teabags into Boston harbor. Today, on its anniversary, I would like to take us back to an earlier milestone in America's fight for independence, to share with you the story of a British vessel, the HMS Gaspee, and to introduce you to some little-known heroes now lost in the footnotes of history.

In 1772, amidst growing tensions with American colonies, King George III stationed his revenue cutter, the HMS Gaspee, in Rhode Island. The Gaspee's task was to prevent smuggling and enforce the payment of taxes. But to Rhode Islanders, the vessel was a symbol of oppression.

The offensive presence of the Gaspee was matched by the offensive manner of its captain, LT William Dudingston. Lieutenant Dudingston was known for destroying fishing vessels and confiscating their contents, and flagging down ships only to harass, humiliate, and interrogate sailors. But on June 9, 1772, an audacious Rhode Islander, Captain Benjamin Lindsey, took a stand.

Aboard his ship, the Hannah, Captain Lindsey set sail from Newport to Providence. On his way, he was hailed by the Gaspee to stop for a search. The defiant captain ignored the command and continued on his course. Recently, Dr. Kathy Abbas, director of the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project, has suggested a motivating factor for Dudingston to have sought to seize the Hannah: she may have been carrying 250 pounds sterling onboard. As Dr. Abbas told the Providence Journal, that was "an enormous sum" in those days.

In any event, Captain Lindsey and his Hannah sought to evade the Gaspee. Gunshots were fired, and the Hannah sped north up Narragansett Bay with the Gaspee chasing behind in pursuit.

Oversized and outgunned, Captain Lindsey drew courage and confidence from his keen familiarity with Rhode Island waters. He led the Gaspee into the shallow waters off Namquid Point, where the smaller Hannah cruised over the sand banks. The heavier Gaspee ran aground, and stuck. The Gaspee was stranded in a falling tide, and it would be many hours before high tide would lift her free.

Arriving triumphantly in Providence, Captain Lindsey visited John Brown, whose family helped found Brown University. The two men rallied a group of patriots at Sabin's Tavern, in what is now the East Side of Providence. The Gaspee was despised by Rhode Islanders who had been too often bullied in their own waters by this ship, and the stranding of this once-powerful vessel presented an irresistible chance.

On that dark night, 60 men in longboats led by Captain Lindsey and Abraham Whipple moved quietly down Narragansett Bay. They encircled the Gaspee, and demanded that Lieutenant Dudingston surrender the ship.