

They are being told that adding more government is the solution to government's previous failures.

Now is not the time to propose more government as a solution to these crises. It is time to rethink the model to start focusing on accountability and on results. And a good place to start is the debt. Americans expect action on this issue, and they expect it right now. Unfortunately, Democrats in Congress do not seem to be listening on this issue any more than they did on health care or the stimulus or financial regulatory reform or, for that matter, anything else.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. At 4:30 p.m. today, we will turn to executive session to consider three nominations, with debate until 5:30 p.m. equally divided and controlled between Senators LEAHY and SESSIONS or their designees. At 5:30 p.m., the Senate will proceed to a series of up to three rollcall votes. Those votes will be on the confirmation of Audrey Fleissing, of Missouri, to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Missouri; Lucy Koh, of California, to be U.S. district judge for the Northern District of California; and Jane Magnus-Stinson, of Indiana, to be a U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Indiana.

This week, the Senate will consider the House message with respect to the tax extenders legislation. Also, on Thursday, June 10, we will consider S.J. Res. 26, a joint resolution disapproving a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to greenhouse gases, under provisions of an agreement reached May 25.

JUNE WORK PERIOD, OILSPILL, AND IMPERFECT GAME IN DETROIT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I welcome back my colleagues from their travels back home. It is always good to see them and my staff. I am grateful for all who are here working hard. I know we all benefit from seeing and speaking with our neighbors and constituents, honoring our Nation's bravest on Memorial Day, and talking about the good work we have done this year.

We have really done a lot. Long overdue health care reform is now the law

of the land. To show how much we have done, Norm Ornstein, one of the most celebrated pundits, columnists, journalists in all of Washington, reported a few weeks ago that this is the most productive Congress in the history of the country. That comes from someone who is not from the left or the right but someone who is a mainstream journalist in America today. The House and Senate have each passed bills to clean up Wall Street. Three million Americans who are going to work today have the Recovery Act to thank for their jobs. In Nevada, the Recovery Act created or saved more than 4,000 jobs in just the past 4 months alone. Again, that is in Nevada.

But every time I go home, I am reminded how much more we have to do and become reenergized to do it. The work period between now and July 4 is short, but our to-do list is very long. We have to pass an emergency extension of unemployment benefits and other matters related to job creation, which will be in the bill that will be put on the Senate floor this afternoon. These benefits have now expired and so should our patience for excuses. These people lost their jobs through no fault of their own. They are struggling to put food on the table and to take their kids to the doctor. It is important that we recognize that. It is an emergency for these families and for our entire country.

Many who oppose this extension gave tax breaks to rich CEOs who shipped American jobs overseas. Now their constituents are looking for a lifeline in a job market they helped sink. I hope both sides can come together to give them the help both they and our economy need.

This legislation cuts taxes for middle-class families and small businesses. This bill includes a host of tax credits, tax extenders, and tax incentives, all of which will help put people back to work—something Democrats and Republicans should come together to finish because it is something we can all support and be proud we did. More than that, it is something each of our States desperately needs.

To this legislation we intend to add a bill for FMAP funding, that is, Medicaid money to ensure the poorest in our communities can afford to stay healthy, which will protect jobs in States such as Nevada and prevent deep cuts to critical services all over the country.

Mr. President, just a few comments about the remarks of my friend, the Republican leader. We all know the debt of our country is significant and of concern to us. But I am stunned by my friend's short memory of history. One reason we have this red ink that is flowing so strongly is we had two wars that weren't paid for. The Iraq war alone cost \$1 trillion. Many say it was a war of choice, not of necessity.

The financial meltdown came about as a result of decisions Republicans made. For example, in the last 3 years of the Clinton administration, we were paying down the national debt. We were spending less money than we were taking in. Some said we were paying down the debt too fast. It was a shock to the markets. We had, in effect, during the Clinton years, something called pay-go, meaning if you had a new program you had to pay for it or raise the revenue to pay for it. It worked extremely well. That is why we were paying down the debt. When President Bush came in, that was eliminated. Pay-go rules went out the window. We have replaced them, in spite of Republicans voting against that.

Mr. President, to show the short memory of my friend, the Republican leader, there was legislation worked on here for a long time—well more than a year—by KENT CONRAD, the chairman of the Budget Committee, and the ranking member, JUDD GREGG. They put together a piece of legislation that had wide support here in the Senate to create a debt commission, similar to what we did with our base closing activities. So I brought this up for a vote. Democrats overwhelmingly voted for it. My Republican colleagues—seven of them who sponsored that legislation—wouldn't vote for it.

We couldn't get the base closing legislation done because every time we wanted to close a base, there would be a Senator from that State who would say: No, we can't do that, and so it was difficult. So we brought that base closing legislation to the floor, and there was an up-or-down vote on it, no amendments. That is the same legislation Senator CONRAD and Senator GREGG brought before the Senate. Because of the Republicans, it was voted down.

To his credit, President Obama, still concerned about the debt, created a commission that must report by the end of this year. We know the debt is an issue. But for my friends to start now criticizing what has always been emergency spending to pay for people who are long-term unemployed I think shows memories are a little short. We should realize Democrats have not created the problems. President Obama, when he was elected, found himself in a real hole created by the prior administration, and we are working our way out of that.

After we finish the bill that will be on the floor this afternoon, we have to pass a bill designed specifically for small businesses—to help them grow and to help them hire more workers. This bill will include more tax incentives and also establishes a new lending facility for small businesses.

This week, we will debate a resolution of disapproval that will prevent the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency