

EXTENDERS PACKAGE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I will say just a word this morning about the still unfinished extenders package that is about to come over from the House.

The first thing to say is that Republicans are ready and willing right now to extend necessary benefits and to pay for them. We could get this done in literally no time. So any delay in passing this bill is coming from the other side of the aisle. I say this not to point fingers but because we have seen this Democratic playbook.

We know they will try to blame Republicans for their own inability to come to an agreement if we don't go along with their effort to add another \$130 billion to the deficit by the end of the week. Let me say that again. We know they will try to blame Republicans for their own inability to come to an agreement if we don't go along with their effort to add another \$130 billion to the deficit by the end of this week.

So let's be perfectly clear: There is one reason Democrats are having trouble getting an agreement on this bill, and one reason only. That is because it is so blatantly reckless.

Europe is in the midst of what German Chancellor Angela Merkel describes as an existential crisis, all brought about by governments that spend money they don't have. Americans are watching this crisis play out, and they see Democrats doing the same thing here day after day after day. This extenders package is just the latest example, the latest evidence of a majority that simply is out of control.

As early as today, we will reach a dubious milestone in America: a \$13 trillion national debt—the first time in history we have crossed this frightening threshold.

This extenders bill would add another \$130 billion on top of that—more debt in one vote than the administration claimed their health care bill would save over 10 years. The majority would have us add \$130 billion to the \$13 trillion debt in 1 week that would eat up all the alleged savings from the health care bill over 10 years. This is fiscal recklessness, and that is why even some Democrats are starting to revolt.

The time is long since past to reverse this dangerous trend, the way Europe has been forced to reverse the trend. But far from doing anything about our own looming debt crisis, Democrats only seem interested in making it worse.

The true emergency here—if we are looking for one—is our national debt. That is the emergency. A line must be drawn somewhere. Americans are simply running out of patience.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MAKING EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4899, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4899) making emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief and summer jobs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 4174, to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

Sessions/McCaskill amendment No. 4173, to establish 3-year discretionary spending caps.

Wyden/Grassley amendment No. 4183, to establish as a standing order of the Senate that a Senator publicly disclose a notice of intent to objecting to any measure or matter.

Feingold amendment No. 4204, to require a plan for safe, orderly, and expeditious redeployment of the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan.

McCain amendment No. 4214, to provide for the National Guard support to secure the southern land border of the United States.

Cornyn modified amendment No. 4202, to make appropriations to improve border security, with an offset from unobligated appropriations under division A of Public Law 111-5.

Lautenberg modified amendment No. 4175, to provide that parties responsible for the Deepwater Horizon oilspill in the Gulf of Mexico shall reimburse the general fund of the Treasury for costs incurred in responding to that oilspill.

Cardin amendment No. 4191, to prohibit the use of funds for leasing activities in certain areas of the Outer Continental Shelf.

Kyl/McCain amendment No. 4228 (to amendment No. 4202), to appropriate \$200,000,000 for a law enforcement initiative to address illegal crossings of the Southwest border, with an offset.

Coburn/McCain amendment No. 4232, to pay for the costs of supplemental spending by reducing Congress's own budget and disposing of unneeded Federal property and uncommitted Federal funds.

Coburn/McCain amendment No. 4231, to pay for the costs of supplemental spending by reducing waste, inefficiency, and unnecessary spending within the Federal Government.

Landrieu/Cochran amendment No. 4179, to allow the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to create or save jobs by providing interest relief on certain outstanding disaster loans relating to damage caused by the 2005 gulf coast hurricanes or the 2008 gulf coast hurricanes.

Landrieu amendment No. 4180, to defer payments of principal and interest on disaster loans relating to the Deepwater Horizon oilspill.

Landrieu modified amendment No. 4184, to require the Secretary of the Army to maximize the placement of dredged material

available from maintenance dredging of existing navigation channels to mitigate the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oilspill in the Gulf of Mexico at full Federal expense.

Landrieu amendment No. 4213, to provide authority to the Secretary of the Interior to immediately fund projects under the Coastal Impact Assistance Program on an emergency basis.

Landrieu amendment No. 4182, to require the Secretary of the Army to use certain funds for the construction of authorized restoration projects in the Louisiana coastal area ecosystem restoration program.

Landrieu amendment No. 4234, to establish a program, and to make available funds, to provide technical assistance grants for use by organizations in assisting individuals and businesses affected by the Deepwater Horizon oilspill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. 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.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

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

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today, as I have done each week for over a month now, to give a doctor's second opinion about the health care bill that has now been signed into law. I do this as somebody who has practiced medicine, taken care of families in Wyoming since 1983. During that time, I was medical director of something called the Wyoming Health Fairs, offering low-cost blood screening for people all around the Cowboy State, giving them an opportunity to take more personal responsibility for their own health, to learn about their health, to help get their blood pressure under control, get their cholesterol down, and get their blood sugar under control, and diagnose cancers early. All of this is aimed at early prevention, meaning better care, better survivability, which is what we need to do in this country—work on patient-centered health care.

Today, I bring to the floor of the Senate my second opinion because I think the bill that was passed into law has failed. It has failed and gotten the diagnosis and the treatment wrong.

The goal of health care reform should be to lower costs, increase quality, and increase access. I continue to believe the new health care law is bad for patients; it is bad for payers, the American taxpayers who are going to be