

reach. Let's put this into real dollars. An average family in the State of Georgia—and this would equate pretty much across the country—makes about \$40,000. So it makes it a lot more clear what our goal is. If we were going to adopt as a principle that we need to return to the worker at least two-thirds of the fruits of their labor to manage his or her family, that means that the goal for the U.S. Congress is to return or let them keep \$8,000 more a year. That is a pretty significant undertaking. But if we set out to accomplish that, we will do enormous good.

If we can figure out how to leave another 20 percent of that paycheck in their checking account to be talked about at their kitchen table, we will see many, many positive results. We will see larger savings. We will see new companies forming because there is capital to invest in them. The job lines will be shorter. Interest payments will be less. The family will have an opportunity to make sound judgments about educating their families. They won't have as high a consumer debt on their credit cards because they will have their own cash in their accounts. The list just goes on and on.

I want to reiterate, what do all these numbers mean? They mean that for an average family in America, the Government is taking \$8,000 out of their checking account that it really can't rationally claim and that is doing severe damage to these families—severe damage. They can't prepare for the future, for education, or retirement, or a health crisis. There is nothing left. They can barely get through the ABC's of running that family. There is no margin. You can't pick up a newspaper without reading about the distress in middle America. This is what causes it. We are choking the resources necessary for them to make healthy decisions about running their families.

Madam President, I hope that more and more Members of Congress will just write a very simple goal on their ledger: Let's go to work and fight to ensure that an American worker can keep two-thirds of what he or she makes. Let's resolve that the fact that they keep less than half today is unconscionable. If we could line up our forefathers here and they could see what we have done to the fruits of labor, they would be stunned and they would admonish us all.

Now is the time, in this 105th Congress, to start turning that around and leaving those resources in the checking accounts of American families.

Madam President, I see that the hour of noon has arrived. I yield the floor and 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. WELLSTONE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### THE BILLINGS MONTANA STORY: "NOT IN THIS TOWN"

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I rise today to tell my colleagues about some events that took place in Billings, MT, a few years ago. It is the story of a town whose citizens decided that hatred and bigotry were not welcome in their community.

The people of Billings enjoy the high quality of life that only Montana can provide. The magic city is the largest city in Montana, but it still has the feel of a small town. Folks still say hi to each other on the street. Families go to the symphony in Pioneer Park during the summer. And neighbors still go out of their way to help someone when they need a hand.

That placid life was shattered in November 1993, when a group of skinheads threw a bottle through the glass door of a Jewish home. A few days later they put a brick through the window of another Jewish home—with a 5-year-old boy in the room. Then they smashed the windows of a Catholic high school that had a Happy Hanukkah sign on its marquee.

The events frightened and repulsed the citizens of Billings. They were shocked to find that hatred and violence had penetrated their peaceful community.

But the people of Billings did not allow this outside menace to take root. The community banded together. Thousands of people put menorahs in their homes. They showed the skinheads that they were united against hate. And that year, Billings held the largest Martin Luther King Day march ever in Montana. The skinheads left town. Billings showed that hatred can be overcome.

Madam President, the people of Billings didn't ask to be recognized. They just did what came naturally. Recently, the USA network has decided that the Billings story was worth telling to the world. With all the bad news out there these days, it is refreshing to know that someone wants to tell a positive story. The people of Billings can be a shining example to the rest of our country; Montana will not tolerate hatred in any way, shape, or form.

I commend the USA network and—most important—the people of Billings, for their efforts in making this country a more tolerant place for us all.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT AMENDMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 104, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 104) to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Murkowski amendment No. 26, in the nature of a substitute.

Reid (for Wellstone) amendment No. 29 amendment No. 26), to ensure that emergency response personnel in all jurisdictions on primary and alternative shipping routes have received training and have been determined to meet standards set by the Secretary before shipments of spend nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste.

Reid (for Wellstone) amendment No. 30 (to amendment No. 26), to express the sense of the Senate regarding Federal assistance for elderly and disabled legal immigrants.

Lott (for Domenici) amendment No. 42, (to amendment No. 26), to provide that no points of order, which require 60 votes in order to adopt a motion to waive such point of order, shall be considered to be waived during the consideration of a joint resolution under section 401 of this Act.

Lott (for Murkowski) amendment No. 43 (to amendment No. 42), to establish the level of annual fee for each civilian nuclear power reactor.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Madam President, I wonder whether I might, before I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside and the Senate now consider amendment No. 29—I am actually waiting for my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI from Alaska, under courtesy—I wonder whether I might ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak for 3 or 4 minutes on another matter without this counting against my time.

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

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair.

Madam President, I shall be brief and then go on with the amendment as soon as my colleague is here.

#### WELFARE ASSISTANCE FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Mr. WELLSTONE. Madam President, I wanted to call the attention of my colleagues and the people in the country to what I think is an important gathering here in the Nation's Capital.

It is a gathering which focuses on the elimination of assistance for legal immigrants. The sponsors of this gathering have done over the years a great deal of work with the Soviet Jewry, and I guess we can now say Russia and other republics. And, of course, they are concerned about legal immigrants—Jews that have come from Russia or the other new republics, many of whom are elderly, many of whom have meager resources, and many of whom now as a result of action taken last Congress in the welfare bill will be without supplementary security income assistance and will be without food nutrition assistance.

What is important about this gathering, this rally, that is now taking place is that the sponsors have made it very clear that they don't want to focus just on Jews who have come to our country or who have fled persecution, but really on legal immigrants across the