

since one Vietnam is enough for all of American history.

Senator, I hope this analysis has been of some assistance to you. Please let me know if I can help in any other way. And please also accept my warm wishes and genuine admiration for your work on our behalf.

Yours sincerely,

LARRY J. SABATO,

Director, U. V.A. Center for Politics &
University Professor of Politics.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to address the fact that by the end of the year more than 2 million Americans will have exhausted their unemployment insurance.

There is no more pressing issue facing our Nation's workforce, and yet Congress has chosen to put partisanship ahead of what nearly everyone agrees is smart policy.

By passing widely divergent bills, the House and the Senate have virtually ensured that on December 28 of this year thousands of workers will be in the impossible position of trying to feed, clothe, and house their families with no work and no benefits.

I strongly support the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002, a bipartisan compromise bill which was introduced in the Senate in late September.

This bill, introduced by Senators Wellstone, CLINTON, and KENNEDY, with the support of 33 Senators, extends unemployment benefits nationwide for 13 weeks, and provides 20 weeks of extended benefits for California and other high unemployment States.

It provides crucial temporary assistance to those who have been hardest hit by the current economic downturn, and provides them a chance to support themselves and their families while they look for work.

Although the compromise bill passed by the Senate does not include the 20-week extension that is vital to States such as California, which suffer from a higher unemployment rate than the national average, it provides a meaningful extension that could help American families, especially during the Christmas holiday.

Let me stress that this bill is the product of bipartisan compromise, and is supported by Senator NICKLES and other Republicans who have been vocal on this issue.

At the moment, millions of Americans have lost their job and are unable to find another, despite their efforts to reenter the labor force. The number of Americans unable to find employment has increased from 5.7 million at the end of 2000 to more than 8.2 million today.

Even more disturbing, due to continued economic weakness, the number of Americans who have been out of work for over 6 months has almost doubled from 900,000 to 1.5 million in the past year.

Between May and July of this year, approximately 900,000 workers exhausted the benefits made available through the extension that was passed in March.

By the end of this year, that number will increase to 2.1 million individuals. Those are the individuals at greatest risk for falling through the social safety net we have provided for them.

This illustrates the critical need for an extension of unemployment insurance that makes sense.

When the national economy was booming 2 years ago, California was particularly blessed. California's economy grew at double-digit rates, and California became the fifth-largest economy in the world.

Billions of dollars of investment flowed into our State, and thousands of talented workers moved to California to take advantages of opportunities in Silicon Valley and other growth engines of the New Economy. Now that picture is dramatically different.

A recent report by a group of economists at UCLA predicted that California's unemployment rate will rise to 6.5 percent next year, and that nonfarm jobs in the San Francisco Bay area contracted by an annual rate of 4.6 percent between April and June of this year. After dropping to a decade-long low of 4.7 percent in December of 2000, the unemployment rate is back up to 6.4 percent as of the end of October. The number of Californians receiving unemployment benefits has increased to 470,000 from 430,000 1 year ago.

During this period of great economic hardship, we have a duty to give people the chance to get back onto their feet. This is an obligation that we have met in the past, most recently when faced with an economic downturn during the first Bush administration.

The Senate voted in 1991 to extend temporary unemployment insurance on five separate occasions. Each time such extensions were approved by overwhelming bipartisan majorities.

Therefore, I call on the House and Senate leadership to ensure that an extension of unemployment benefits for a full 13 weeks be the first item considered during the 108th Congress. Although that will not prevent the expiration of benefits for many Americans, it will provide a fairly rapid restoration of benefits to those who will be cut off at the end of the year.

With that goal in mind, I have sent a letter to Speaker HASTERT and Senator LOTT with the signatures of more than 40 of my colleagues in the Senate, asking them to bring up an extension of unemployment insurance immediately upon reconvening next year.

Let me be clear: by ducking this issue we seem to be hoping that this problem will disappear.

It will not, and if we do not address it now, we will not be living up to our obligation to the families of this Nation.

RECOGNIZING STAFF INVOLVED IN HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, putting the homeland security bill together has been a difficult almost herculean task.

Many Senators have played important roles in this legislation, but it could not have been done without the contributions of our staff. Without the aid of these individuals, the work of this institution would be impossible to accomplish. I would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of those staff members whose contributions to this legislation have been critical and without whom we would not have been able to pass this bill.

On the Democrat side of the aisle, I want to recognize the contributions of Senator LIEBERMAN's staff—especially his staff director, Joyce Rechtschaffen, as well as Laurie Rubenstein, Mike Alexander, Kiersten Coon, Holly Idelson, Kevin Landy, Larry Novey, and Susan Propper. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Sarah Walter of Senator BREAUX's staff, David Culver of Senator BEN NELSON's staff, and Alex Albert of Senator MILLER's staff.

On the Republican side, I would especially like to thank Richard Hertling, Senator THOMPSON's Staff Director who, along with Rohit Kumar of my staff, was integral in the drafting of the bill that we are sending to the President. I would also like to compliment the rest of Senator THOMPSON's staff—Libby Wood Jarvis, Ellen Brown, Bill Outhier, Mason Alinger, Alison Bean, John Daggett, Johanna Hardy, Stephanie Henning, Morgan Muchnick, Jayson Roehl, Jana Sinclair, Elizabeth VanDersarl and Allen Lomax—all of whom played an important role in crafting this legislation. Senator GRAMM's Legislative Director, Mike Solon, and David Morgenstern of Senator CHAFEE's staff also played very important roles in the process.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of those individuals from the other body and from the White House, all of whom dedicated significant time and effort to this bill. From the House of Representatives, the efforts of the House Select Committee staff—in particular Hugh Halpern, Paul Morrell and especially Margaret Peterlin—were absolutely essential to drafting the compromise language.

From the White House, I would like to thank Ziad Ojakli, Christine Ciconne, Heather Wingate of the Legislative Affairs Office, Wendy Grubbs, Michael Allen, Richard Falkenrath, Sally Canfield and especially Lucy Clark from Governor Ridge's Office of Homeland Security, Christine Burgeson from the Office of Management and Budget, Brad Berenson from the White House Counsel's office, and Joel Kaplan from Chief of Staff Andy Card's office for their assistance in putting together this legislation. Without their efforts and cooperation, this bill could not have come to pass.

These staff members have worked diligently and largely in anonymity. Given all that they have done in service to their country, I think it is appropriate to recognize their work publicly, so that the rest of the country knows,

as we all know, how well we are served by our staff.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to our colleagues who are leaving the Senate. What many Americans do not realize is that the Senate is a place where many of us become friends. It is true that the 100 men and women who serve in this wonderful body arrive here with different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. We hold different philosophies and ideas, represent states with different and at times competing interests and needs, and we pursue different goals. But we all share a lot in common by virtue of being here, and in the course of working together on matters of national importance, we develop respect and admiration for our colleagues, and often genuine friendships are established. And so it is with the remarkable group of Senators who are completing their service as the 107th Congress draws to a close.

JEAN CARNAHAN

I want to speak first about JEAN CARNAHAN, who has accomplished many firsts in her lifetime, including being the first woman to represent Missouri in the United States Senate. She was also the first person in her family to graduate from college, in fact the first to graduate from high school.

Senator CARNAHAN has served the people of Missouri so well over so many years, including her outstanding work during her time here in the Senate. We rightfully identify her with Missouri, but actually she grew up in Washington, DC, attending Anacostia High School and then George Washington University.

Her return to Washington 2 years ago should have been a happy homecoming, but instead followed a calamity. JEAN CARNAHAN arrived in the Senate having suffered a seemingly unbearable tragedy, the death of her husband Mel and her oldest son Randy in a plane crash. She not only had little time to grieve but also was immediately thrust into the public arena.

Mel Carnahan had a distinguished 40-year career in Missouri politics serving as a judge, state representative, state treasurer, lieutenant governor, and for 8 years as a popular and respected governor and was a strong candidate for the United States Senate at the time of his death.

Just days after the funerals for her husband and son, she was asked if she would serve in the Senate in Mel's place. It was a difficult decision, and one she had to make amid shock and sorrow. JEAN CARNAHAN was not a politician, but she was her husband's political partner and trusted adviser for many years, starting soon after their marriage. She card-catalogued the names of every potential supporter and donor during her husband's career, wrote many of his speeches and wrote and delivered many of her own.

Fortunately for Missouri and for us, she volunteered to serve, motivated by a desire to further the work that Mel and she had done together to help the people of Missouri.

Talk about severe stress! Loss of her beloved husband, her high school sweetheart, lifelong companion, loss of her son, moving to a new home, changing jobs . . . all with people watching closely, openly questioning her abilities and wondering if she would succeed.

Senator CARNAHAN has demonstrated remarkable composure and grace while proving that she was indeed up to the challenges of the Senate. She had to learn the intricacies of legislation and policy quickly, and I am sure she would have been even more effective if given the opportunity to serve longer.

But she succeeded by seeking commonsense solutions to complex problems and helping to forge compromises. She didn't seek attention or credit for her accomplishments but worked hard and made a difference.

Senator CARNAHAN's accomplishments include helping protect the jobs of more than 12,000 airline employees during the merger negotiations between TWA and American Airlines. She also worked hard to help local school districts hire teaching specialists and deal with disruptive students. Her Quality Classrooms provisions were included in the landmark education bill we passed last year.

Senator CARNAHAN supported efforts to bolster our national security and win the war on terrorism. She was a member of the first bipartisan congressional delegation to travel to Afghanistan to visit the troops and meet with regional leaders.

And I am especially grateful for her strong opposition to the Administration's plan to ship nuclear waste across the country to Yucca Mountain. Many people thought this plan would harm only Nevada, but she understood that storing nuclear waste in Nevada would require tens of thousands of shipments of highly dangerous substances across highways and railroads in Missouri and almost every other state. And she could not accept this risk of potential harm to the children and families and environment of our great country.

So JEAN CARNAHAN deserves our admiration, respect and gratitude for all she has done. She has occupied Harry Truman's seat in the United States Senate and worked at his old desk. Missouri should be proud of how she has continued Harry Truman's legacy and her husband's legacy and been an advocate for the working families of Missouri.

By a narrow margin she was unable to overcome a well-funded opponent whose campaign benefitted from the popularity of the President this year. She might have come up short in this election, but she understands that a political defeat is not the most significant loss one can suffer.

Her time here has been all too brief, but Senator JEAN CARNAHAN has made

a difference and I will miss her very much.

JEAN will enjoy spending time on her family farm in Rolla, Missouri, visiting with her children and grandchildren. And I expect her to continue writing books, giving speeches and advice. She has much to say, and we would do well to hear and read her words.

MAX CLELAND

I also wish to pay tribute to MAX CLELAND, Georgia's senior senator and a true American hero.

While his story is familiar to those of us fortunate enough to know him and have served with him, I encourage Americans looking for inspiration to read his book *Strong at the Broken Places*, which describes his experiences overcoming tremendous adversity and reveals his remarkable character.

He is a native Georgian who is proud of his state and has served it so well for so long, but MAX CLELAND personifies qualities that the people of Nevada and all Americans appreciate: patriotism, courage, and fortitude.

MAX CLELAND was awarded the Bronze Star and a Silver Star for meritorious service in Vietnam.

During college he joined the Army ROTC program and after graduation he took a Second Lieutenant's commission in the Army. MAX CLELAND volunteered for duty in Vietnam in 1967 and the following year he was promoted to the rank of Captain.

Just one month prior to the end of his tour of duty, he was seriously wounded in a grenade explosion. As a result he lost both legs and his right arm.

His body broken, he spent the next year and a half recovering from his injuries in various Army and Veterans Administration hospitals. Despite his enormous sacrifice, he refused to let his injuries break his spirit. And he did not dwell on his own experiences but rather sought to help others.

He described the difficulties veterans were experiencing returning home from Vietnam in testimony before the United States Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in 1969.

The next year, he was elected to the Georgia State Senate, thus beginning a career in public service that has continued for more than 30 years. As the youngest member of the Georgia Senate at the age of 28, he wrote the state law making public facilities in the state accessible to the disabled.

MAX was hired to work for the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in 1975 and two years later, President Jimmy Carter appointed him to head the U.S. Veterans Administration. He became the youngest VA administrator in history and the first Vietnam veteran to head the agency. In this position, he instituted the revolutionary "Vets Center program" which for the first time offered psychological counseling to combat veterans in order to heal their emotional wounds as well as their physical wounds. There are now more than 200 Vets Centers across the country offering support to combat and