

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding there are two additional requests for time. Do we have time left on the Democratic side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time remaining on the Democratic side.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that there be an additional 10 minutes equally divided and that our 5 minutes go to the Senator from Delaware, Mr. CARPER, following the statement of the Senator from Minnesota.

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

Mr. COLEMAN. Madam President, I yield to my friend, the Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. I thank the Senator from Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION

Mr. CARPER. Today is March 4. Five years ago today something called the American Legacy Foundation was created. Over the past 5 years, Legacy Foundation has helped us to make great strides in the improvement of health for all kinds of Americans, not only today but in the years to come. They have helped us to begin building a world where young people reject tobacco and where just about anyone can quit smoking. But as we celebrate the work of the foundation today, a lot more work needs to be done.

The foundation was established in March of 1999 as a result of something called the Master Settlement Agreement between a coalition of attorneys general in 46 States and 5 U.S. territories and the tobacco industry. The foundation remains primarily today funded by payments designated by the settlement.

The foundation develops national programs that address the health effects of tobacco use. They do it through grants, technical training and assistance, and youth activism, strategic partnerships, countermarketing and grassroots marketing campaigns, public relations, and community outreach to populations disproportionately affected by the toll of tobacco.

The foundation has two goals that guide its work toward creating tobacco-free generations. One of those is to arm all young people with the knowledge and tools to reject tobacco. The other is to eliminate the disparities in access to tobacco prevention and cessation services.

The truth campaign is one effort to curb tobacco use among teens. Truth is the foundation's comprehensive countermarketing campaign to prevent and reduce youth smoking. The truth campaign was credited by the National Institute on Drug Abuse as one of the major programs which contributed to the steady reduction in teen cigarette smoking.

In addition to celebrating this achievement today, I also want to share with my colleagues the very real threats faced by the American Legacy Foundation. This year the foundation received its last payment from the Master Settlement Agreement. Because of this drastic reduction in resources, all of the successes that have been achieved to date are suddenly jeopardized. I don't believe we can afford to lose any of the ground we have gained on tobacco control.

I ask my colleagues to consider these facts: Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in this country. Tobacco kills some 440,000 people per year—more than alcohol, AIDS, car accidents, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined. Twenty-four percent of high school students in my State still smoke. That is down from where it was a couple years ago, but still almost one out of four. Every day some 2,000 teenagers begin smoking. Their average age is actually about 13. Of those who become hooked on smoking, one of three will end up dying from their use of tobacco.

Each year in my State of Delaware, some 1,100 adults die from cigarette smoking. I am told over 900 kids in my State have lost at least one parent through smoking-caused death. I would also say smoking is having a financial impact. Annual health care expenditures in my State caused by tobacco use total \$221 million and over \$62 million in State Medicaid payments are related to tobacco use.

I had the privilege of being the founding cochairman of the American Legacy Foundation. Our founding chairman was Chris Gregoire, the Attorney General of Washington State. I was succeeded and joined on the foundation board by former Governor Mike Leavitt of Utah, now head of EPA, and by Parris Glendening, former Governor of Maryland. I am proud of the association I had with the foundation at its beginning and the great work we did, especially with young people who themselves helped to design, to craft, and to deliver the truth campaign. In no small part because of their efforts, especially the young people, the incidence of smoking has dropped significantly over the last half dozen years, and it is important that that work and that trend continue.

I thank the Chair for the time and I thank my colleague from Nevada and my colleague from Minnesota for allowing me to speak.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. COLEMAN. Madam President, are we still in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. COLEMAN. I would like to spend the little time remaining to talk about the economy. I was mayor of St. Paul,

MN, for 8 years, and I learned as mayor that the best welfare program is a job; the best housing program is a job. Access to health care quite often came through a job. I also learned nobody jumps on a sinking ship; that hope and confidence yield investment.

As we look at the data, look at what is happening in the economy, it is very clear the economy is moving forward. This Nation has come a long way from the terrible day of September 11 and the impact that had both on the infrastructure in New York and in Washington, but also on the psyche of the American public, the confidence.

Look at the scandals on Wall Street, the WorldComs and the Enrons. Undermining the trust and confidence in the American system, the way we do business, that has an impact. The reality is we have come so far. In the third quarter of last year we had the greatest GDP growth in nearly 2 decades. The fourth quarter exceeded expectations contributing to 6.1 percent annual growth rate in the last half of the year, the strongest 6 months gain since 1984. It is expected the 2004 economic growth will be between 4.6 and 4.8 percent.

We sound like statisticians here. I am not sure the average man or woman worried about their economic future and feeding their family understands the impact of that, but that is the fastest annual growth in this country since 1984.

When you try to turn around an economy that has suffered so much, when we try to do the things with the President's leadership—to cut taxes, put more money in the pockets of moms and dads, to allow business to increase expensing that, to generate bonus depreciation—it then results in more economic investment, which results in more jobs, more jobs.

Those are the things we have done, and the result is that the economy is moving forward. The statistics show that.

I understand that capital expenditures are on the rise. The Department of Commerce reported earlier this week that capital goods orders are rising and are 3.6 percent higher in January than in the final quarter of 2003. We have nearly 660,000 less unemployment claims than we had at our peak figure last summer and, I think, over 336,000 new jobs according to the payroll survey, the most narrow reading—and the household survey shows much more of an increase. If you do something out of your home, if you are individually employed, it doesn't count that. I learned from my 17-year-old that people do business out of eBay, and they are not listed in the payroll survey. But the household survey is significant.

Millions of jobs have been created in this country. So we are moving forward. In my State, the last report of the State budget showed very good news. The terrible deficits and gaps we were facing, the fiscal crisis, may be over. The National Conference of State Legislatures recently said that. So we

have a lot of good news. Over the last 6 months, in the course of a Presidential campaign, all you heard is the negative, telling people again and again how bad it is. Ultimately, common sense tells you if you tell somebody something often enough and put enough money behind it, they may actually believe it. The problem is, if they believe it, it impacts their confidence and we all suffer. That is a bad thing. Instead of criticizing, we need to work together to get things done to move this economy forward at a faster pace.

The Senator from Missouri recently talked about a highway bill, a jobs bill, a transportation bill that would create 1.7 million jobs while improving the Nation's infrastructure. We need to invest in improving locks and dams so farmers can get products to market and continue to grow a farm economy that is doing a lot better. We need to pass an energy bill to create between 500,000 and 700,000 new jobs—a bill that has been subject to a filibuster. That has to end and we need to stop criticizing and pledge to work together to get something done.

We need legal reform. We came within a vote of class action reform. Talk to the folks who create jobs in this country, to the manufacturers. They will tell you the biggest impediments they have are the cost of class actions, the cost of litigation, the cost of regulation and taxation—those things that we impose and that we can fix if we simply came together with a positive vision and commitment to work in a bipartisan way to get something done.

If you really care about moms and dads and their ability to put food on the table and to work, then figure out a way to pass an energy bill, a highway bill, class action reform, and deal with asbestos reform, which is a critical issue—pay for those who are hurt, but make sure the lack of reform doesn't drive companies under and hurt jobs, hurt the ability for mom and dad to take care of their family. I found out when I was a mayor that the best thing I could do for kids was to do those things to make sure mom and dad had a job. What we are working on today is another jobs bill. It is going to take working in a bipartisan way, putting aside some of the negative, why we cannot do it, how terrible things are. Let's focus on those things we can do to improve—and they are very clear—the opportunity for mom and dad to get a job. The way to change an economy this size is not like a race car ripping around the corner. It is more like one of those big boats that travel on Lake Superior. You just get it moving in the right direction.

I suggest that we are moving in the right direction. There is more work to be done. Let's get about the business of doing that.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENSIGN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2003

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 43, S. 671.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 671) to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to comment on a bill that has traveled a long and difficult journey to get to the floor today; S. 671, the Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 2003, commonly called the miscellaneous tariff bill.

In fact, this bill's journey began nearly 2 years ago. The Senate historically passes a miscellaneous tariff bill at the end of every Congress. The bill under consideration today was supposed to have been passed at the end of the 107th Congress. However, a markup scheduled for September 26, 2002 was cancelled, leaving the bill as unfinished business for the current Congress. Upon resuming the chairmanship of the Finance Committee, my intention was to complete unfinished business from the 107th Congress as quickly as possible. To that end we passed the bill out of the Senate Finance Committee by voice vote on February 27, 2003. It was hoped that early passage of this bill would pave the way for consideration of another miscellaneous tariff bill in the 108th Congress. But that was not meant to be.

Traditionally, miscellaneous tariffs bills are non-controversial and pass the Senate by unanimous consent. Sometimes there are attempts to load the bill down with costly and controversial items, which is why we didn't produce a bill in the 107th Congress. That's also the reason this bill was delayed this Congress. Contrary to traditional practice, a few Senators insisted on adding unrelated and controversial provisions. Unless we agreed to add these controversial provisions, these Senators would not allow the full Senate to consider the bill. In effect, a few Senators have held this legislation hostage for months for their own parochial purposes. And that is truly sad and disappointing. I hope these members know that they have all but guaranteed the end to this process.

This package contains many trade provisions, primarily duty suspensions, reductions and extensions, for products that are not produced domestically. This bill supports American factories and workers by allowing manufacturers to save money when they import these products. At this stage in America's economic recovery, we must give every opportunity to our manufacturers to reduce costs and pass the savings on to consumers.

A product generally must meet three tests to be eligible for inclusion in a miscellaneous trade bill: first, it must be non-controversial and non-competitive, that is there can be no domestic producer who objects to inclusion of the provisions. Second, the product should be intended to benefit U.S. downstream producers, that is someone who utilizes the product in manufacturing. Third, the volume of imports and corresponding revenue loss should be relatively small. To ensure that the provisions in this bill met that this test, each provision went through an extensive vetting process including a public notice and comment period to ensure that they were eligible for inclusion in the bill. This process began during the first session of the 107th Congress.

The bill also contains a number of liquidations or reliquidations for certain entries. The general rule for inclusion here is that the product entered the country under an incorrect duty rate due to Customs or other administrative error. These provisions allow those entries to enter the country at the correct duty rate.

We also included in this bill a provision that extends preferences under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to allow duty-free treatment for hand-knotted and hand-woven carpets. This provision is designed primarily to help the citizens of Afghanistan and Pakistan. I believe that allowing these products to be considered as eligible articles under GSP, will help beneficiary countries that have joined the United States in the fight against global terrorism. With respect to Afghanistan, which is rebuilding and looking for opportunities for its people, this provision is needed now more than ever.

Another important provision in this bill corrects a mistake in the Trade Act of 2002, P.L. 107-210, that inadvertently and temporarily raised duties on Andean originating handbags, luggage, flat goods, work gloves and leather wearing apparel under the Andean Trade and Preferences and Drug Eradication Act, ATPDEA. This provision retroactively reinstates the reduced duty treatment for eligible products that entered the United States from August 6, 2002, the date ATPDEA was signed, and the time in which these products met the import sensitivity test, several months later. It provides for continued duty-free treatment for these eligible products, which was the intent of the Trade Act.