

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Five minutes fifty seconds.

Mr. HARKIN. I understand that the Senate will then resume consideration of the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am going to ask unanimous consent, since I had 15 minutes—I am going to ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 5 minutes as in morning business and then the Senate would then interrupt my presentation to return to the motion to proceed and that I be recognized to finish my statement then.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, might I ask—reserving the right to object, may I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Iowa be given 15 minutes in morning business?

Mr. HARKIN. We will just go to the motion to proceed. That is fine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Which one?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Your request that you be allowed 5 minutes now, then we go to the bill, and then you be recognized to speak for an additional 10 minutes.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Chair and I thank my colleague from North Dakota. We might as well go on with the motion to proceed. I can make my presentation then, too.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, there is no secret that there is a great frustration in the American workplace today. There is a great anxiety among American working families. You can sense it, you can feel it, you can hear it no matter where you go in America, whether it is in Iowa or Wyoming or New York or wherever it is. Something is happening out there. You get it all the time from people who have been working, maybe have lost their jobs, maybe they took another job, they are not making ends meet. They see the economy doing much better. They read this in the paper all the time—the economy is getting better, tax cuts are going into effect, foreign car sales, the big cars, the Mercedes and all those, are up. We see all the higher end items being purchased and sold.

For example, over the recent Christmas holidays, the Sharper Image, I believe, which sells high end electronics stuff, and Neiman Marcus had great sales. But Wal-Mart was down.

There is a great sense among American working people that something is not quite right with what is going on in this country. Maybe most Americans don't have degrees in economics; they haven't studied it, but they sense something is going wrong.

In his recent book, "Wealth and Democracy," Kevin Phillips pointed out

that there is a trend that different countries go through at various stages of their growth. One of those stages is where more and more of the output of a country accumulates to capital and less and less accumulates to labor, to the working people.

It is with great interest I note that, after I had read Kevin Phillips' book, yesterday in the New York Times an article by Bob Herbert brought it home. The title of the piece was "We're More Productive. Who Gets the Money?" As Mr. Herbert wrote yesterday in the New York Times:

It's like running on a treadmill that keeps increasing its speed. You have to go faster and faster just to stay in place. Or, as a factory worker said many years ago, "You can work 'til you drop dead, but you won't get ahead."

American workers have been remarkably productive in recent years, but they are getting fewer and fewer of the benefits of this increased productivity. While the economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, has been strong for some time now, ordinary workers have gotten little more than the back of the hand from employers who have pocketed an unprecedented share of the case from this burst of economic growth.

What is happening is nothing short of historic. The American workers' share of the increase in national income since November 2001, the end of the last recession, is the lowest on record. Employers took the money and ran. This is extraordinary, but very few people are talking about it, which tells you something about the hold that corporate interests have on the national conversation.

The situation is summed up in the long, unwieldy but very revealing title of a new study from the Center of Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University: "The Unprecedented Rising Tide of Corporate Profits and the Simultaneous Ebbing of Labor Compensation—Gainers and Losers from the National Economic Recovery in 2002 and 2003."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, morning business is closed.

PREGNANCY AND TRAUMA CARE ACCESS PROTECTION ACT OF 2004—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 11 a.m. having arrived, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 2207, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2207) to improve women's access to health care services, and the access of all individuals to emergency and trauma care services, by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the delivery of such service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Iowa is recognized for an additional 10 minutes.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry. I did not under-

stand I was under a time limit. I had asked to continue to proceed after morning business on the motion to proceed, but I didn't recognize there was a time limit there. I did not ask consent for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has been granted 10 minutes to speak on any subject he wishes. But the total is 15 minutes under the request.

Mr. HARKIN. I think the record will show that I asked for consent to continue to speak in morning business, to yield the floor, to then return to the motion to proceed, and that I be recognized to continue to speak on the motion to proceed. That does not have a time limit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized to speak on the motion to proceed or on whatever subject he wishes to speak for 10 minutes and thereafter on the bill.

Mr. HARKIN. I understand that. I thank the Chair.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a parliamentary inquiry?

Mr. HARKIN. Sure.

Mr. GREGG. At the end of the Senator's 10 minutes, does the Senator come back and retain the floor?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It was my understanding that the time under the request was that he was going to have a total of 15 minutes. Otherwise, there would have been an objection.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I will be seeking the floor at the conclusion of the 10 minutes as the manager of the bill, for everybody's knowledge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the normal procedure, the manager of the bill may speak as soon as a bill is brought up, with the exception of the 10 minutes as a continuation of the total of 15 minutes.

The Senator from Iowa may proceed.

Mr. HARKIN. I do not mean to take more than 15 minutes. I might go into 18 or 20 minutes. I wasn't going to take a long time. I wanted to finish my statement without being constrained with the 15 minutes I had under morning business. That is why I went on the motion to proceed. I will speak on that for an additional few minutes. But I will take whatever time I can now. If I am cut off, I will be back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, Mr. Herbert further said:

Andrew Sum, the center's director and lead author of the study, said: "This is the first time we've ever had a case where two years into a recovery, corporate profits got a larger share of the growth of national income than labor did. Normally labor gets about 65 percent and corporate profits about 15 to 18 percent. This time profits got 41 percent and labor [meaning all forms of employee compensation, including wages, benefits, salaries and the percentage of payroll taxes paid by employers] got 38 percent."

The study said: "In no other recovery from a post-World War II recession did corporate profits ever account for as much as 20 percent of the growth in national income. And