These are people President Clinton nominated who never ever got a hearing—not 2 days later, 2 weeks later, 2 months later, 2 years later. They never got a hearing. Fine people. In Illinois, Wenona Whitfield; in Missouri, Leland Shurin; in Pennsylvania, John Bingler; in South Dakota, Bruce Greer; in California, Sue Ellen Myerscough; Texas, Cheryl Wattley; in Texas, Michael Schaffman.

Circuit judges in the Fourth Circuit, James Beaty; Richard Leonard, never got hearings; Annabelle Rodriquez. In the 105th Congress, Helene White, Ohio; Jorge Rangel in Texas; Jeffrey Coleman, North Dakota; James Klein, District of Columbia; Robert Freedberg, Pennsylvania; Cheryl Wattley, Texas; Lynette Norton, Pennsylvania; Robert Raymar, Third Circuit; Legrome Davis, Pennsylvania; Lynne Lasry, California; Barry Goode, California. No hearings.

In the 106th Congress, 33 never get a hearing: H. Alston Johnson, Louisiana; James Duffy, Hawaii; Elana Kagan, District of Columbia; James Wynn, North Carolina; Kathleen McCree-Lewis, Ohio; Enrique Moreno, Texas; James Lyons, Colorado; Kent Markus, Ohio; Robert Cindeich, Pennsylvania; Stephen Orlofsky, New Jersey; Roger Gregory, Virginia; Christine Arguello, Colorado; Elizabeth Gibson, North Carolina; J. Rich Leonard, District of Columbia; Patricia Coan, Colorado; Dolly Gee, California; Steve Bell, Ohio; Rhonda Fields, District of Columbia; S. David Fineman, Pennsylvania; Linda Riegle, Nevada; Ricardo Morado, Texas; Gary Sebelius, Kansas; Ken Simon, Hawaii; David Cercone, Pennsylvania; Harry Litman, Oklahoma; Valerie Couch, Oklahoma; Marion Johnston, California; Steve Achelphol, Nebraska; Richard Anderson, Montana; Stephen Liberman, Pennsylvania; Melvin Hall, Oklahoma.

Before I sit down, they talk about Hispanic nominees. There is a Hispanic nominee they say has not moved quickly enough.

Jorge Rangel, who was nominated in July of 1997, never got anything. Enrique Moreno, Fifth Circuit, nominated in 1999, didn't get anything. Christine Arguello, July of 2000—nothing happened. Ricardo Morado, south Texas—nothing happened. Anabelle Rodriguez—these are just some of the names.

I suggest before the tears run too heavily down the cheeks of my Republican friends, they should go back and read their own statements given by their own Senators, and find out the States where people who were nominated by President Clinton never got a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARPER). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, how much time do we have remaining on this side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 14 minutes.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry, if the Senator will yield: How much time is remaining on this side of the aisle?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Fourteen minutes.

Mr. LOTT. On each side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the majority leader took some time at the beginning of this debate. Was that out of leader time?

Mr. REID. It was not out of leader time.

Mr. LOTT. It was not out of leader time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It came out of morning business time.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask, of the remaining 14 minutes, that I have consent to have 5 minutes and the remaining time for my colleague from Minnesota, to be followed by me.

Mr. LOTT. I reserve the right to object, Mr. President. I believe the agreement was we would have it equally divided; we could go back and forth. So after 5 minutes I would like to then have an opportunity to speak out of our time on this side.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Then, Mr. President, I will yield to the Senator from Minnesota. He has a time problem.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, that is very gracious. The Senator from Florida will go now followed by the minority leader and then I will follow the minority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

THE NEGRO LEAGUES

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, last week I learned of the death of three men. They lived apart from each other—one in Florida, one in Virginia, and one in Maryland—but they shared a special past.

All three played in baseball's Negro Leagues. They did not receive million-dollar contracts. They did not get endorsement deals. They just played baseball.

Sadly, these three men were part of a group of about 165 players who never received a pension for their time in the leagues.

The Negro League was founded in 1920 by Andrew ''Rube'' Foster. With 72 teams and more than 4,000 players, the Negro Leagues lasted until 1960, when its last team folded.

For half a century, most of the Negro League players were denied the opportunity to play in the Majors.

Even though Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947, it took another decade for Major League Baseball to really become integrated. All the while, baseball had its antitrust exemption to unfairly compete against the Negro Leagues, and systemically discriminated against most Negro League players for many years after 1947.

That is the crux of the argument many of these old-timers have about not getting even a small pension.

Though Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig sought to fix some of the problems of the past when, a few years ago, he awarded an annual $10,000 pension benefit to some of the Negro Leaguers, he left out those who played solely in the Negro Leagues from 1948 to 1960.

Major League Baseball contends they were left out because the sport was integrated during that time. But an accurate reading of history shows it took the Big Leagues many years to integrate following Jackie Robinson's debut. In fact, the Boston Red Sox didn't have a single black on its team until 1959—more than a decade after Robinson's move to the Majors.

The players still seeking a small retirement have been reaching out to Commissioner Selig now for 5 long years now. But their requests have been ignored. I joined them last year in trying to find some resolution to this dispute, but my efforts to meet with Commissioner Selig also have been ignored.

Meantime, these ex-players are getting old. Three of them died late last month—two on the same day.

On April 23, we lost James ''Pee Wee'' Jenkins, a native of Virginia. Jenkins pitched for the New York Black Cubans.

Just last year, Jenkins threw out the first pitch at Shea stadium, as the 2001 Mets—dressed in Black Cuban uniforms—paid tribute to Jenkins and the rest of his fellow 1947 Negro League World Series champions.

James Cohen, Sr., of Washington DC, also died on April 23. A World War II veteran, he pitched for the Indianapolis Clowns from 1946 to 1952, earning the nickname ''Fireball.''

In his last year with the Clowns, he played with the great, legendary Hank Aaron. Mr. Cohen went on to be a postal clerk for 35 years. And in 1994, he was honored at the White House by Vice President Al Gore. Mr. Cohen was survived by two sons, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Back in Florida, we lost Eugene White, of Jacksonville, on April 26. He was an infielder for the Chicago American Giants and the Kansas City Monarchs. As a retiree, he coached little league. On the playing field, he taught more than baseball.

Rob Stafford, one of Mr. White's former players, recently recalled some of the lessons Mr. White taught the kids.

Said Mr. Stafford:

> He taught me a lesson that I only learned to appreciate as a man—the lesson of tolerance.
>
> He taught to never prejudge, minimalize or marginalize a person. He taught me that every person deserves a chance to participate, to be included. . . .
>
> He is now a star on God's level playing field.

Mr. White, Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Cohen were some of baseball's living legends. But these legends are dying.

And so today, to Mr. Selig and to Major League Baseball, I say this: time is running short for you to do the right

thing. Major League Baseball can choose to resolve this issue and, can give these players a small token for their achievements.

I sincerely hope Major League Baseball will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank my colleague from Florida for his very eloquent statement. Second, I thank the minority leader, Senator LOTT from Mississippi, for his graciousness in letting me proceed. I will try to be brief.

HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, last week I said to people in northern Minnesota—specifically northeast Minnesota on the Iron Range—that I thought we had a real breakthrough. I thought it was part of fast track on trade adjustment authority, including legacy costs, and a 1-year bridge where health care costs would be covered. Through no fault of any of the retirees, a lot of these companies, including LTV, declared bankruptcy and walked away from health care benefits, which is terrifying to people in their older age.

Yesterday, the administration came out with a statement about this trade adjustment assistance package:

> Specifically, the administration opposes the Daschle substitute last-minute addition of health insurance assistance for steel retirees.

There is a nightmare. I say to my colleague from Mississippi that this is an absolute nightmare for people on the range.

The President talked about how concerned he is. But this is just a 1-year bridge to help pay for these retirees' health care costs until we put together a package that deals with the legacy costs for the future.

The President crushed the hopes of people with this position that the White House has now taken.

The President says: Look what I have done for the steel industry. He talks about section 201, but now there are 1,000 exceptions to the kind of trade relief we thought we were going to get through section 201.

In Minnesota, we were concerned about what was happening to the taconite industry. We were talking about the unfair competition from semi-finished slab steel.

Basically, the administration came up with a tariff quota, and it was 7 million tons of slab steel a year, which is what is being dumped right now on the range. It didn't give us any relief whatsoever.

But, most important of all, what is happening now with this statement of position by the administration is they are just walking away from dealing with the legacy costs.

Jerry Fowler, who testified before the HELP committee a couple of weeks ago, president of Local 4108, talked about the pain on the range, and talked about all of these people. Gosh. You talk about what we say we believe in—people who have just worked their heads off all of their lives, taconite workers, helping to produce steel, which is so critical to our national security, and a part of all of our military efforts. People are really proud and are proud of their families. They are proud of the range. Through no fault of their own, 32 steel companies have declared bankruptcy, and then they walk away from these people.

They say they can no longer cover their health care benefits, nor their retiree benefits. Many people are afraid of no longer having prescription drug coverage.

People were really hopeful, and I was able to report last week, and I was proud. I thank Senators ROCKEFELLER, MIKULSKI, STABENOW, LEVIN, and certainly my colleague MARK DAYTON. We worked hard to have iron ore and taconite included.

This was a pragmatic part of the trade adjustment assistance—only a 1-year bridge, but it was a start. It would give people some security, and it was the right thing to do.

The President has talked about his concern for steelworkers. Over and over again, he professed his concern for steelworkers. Then, specifically, the administration opposes the Daschle substitute last-minute addition of health insurance assistance for steel retirees.

We know there is going to be a point of order and a budget challenge on this amendment. I believe what the White House has now done is basically sealed its fate. We are not going to be able to have this bridge. We are not going to be able to have this assistance for people.

I question this fast track for a lot of reasons, but, at the very minimum, when people are out of work through no fault of their own—or people work for an industry that has been besieged with unfair trade—the only thing they are asking for is a bridge to make sure retirees don't lose their benefits.

All of us have worked so hard together—Senator SPECTER and Senator DEWINE—to get this done. Now the administration comes out yesterday and torpedoes the whole thing.

Mr. President, are you for the taconite workers on the Iron Range? Are you for the steelworkers? You say you are.

We will be back on this over and over again. But this is a huge blow for the Iron Range in Minnesota and for me as a Senator from Minnesota trying to do my best to represent people.

Yesterday the President made it very clear that all of his talk about helping the hard-working men and women of the U.S. steel industry is just that—talk. His latest pronouncement is that steelworker retirees don't need the assistance this bill would have provided to help them for 1 year to pay for health insurance they are losing because their company has gone bankrupt.

This is outrageous—these are hard-working, decent, compassionate men and women who have devoted their lives to the steel industry—an industry that is essential to our national security—and now they find themselves without health insurance they were promised in their retirement because their companies have gone bankrupt, they're out in the cold without the resources to pay for health insurance, and the President says, oh, no, they don't need the 1-year lifeline this bill offers.

Frankly, President Bush talks about what he's done for the steel industry and for steel workers. But there is not a lot of substance there.

First, we had a section 201 decision that is looking more and more cosmetic. It may have brought relief to some sections of the steel industry, except that now the administration is entertaining all sorts of exceptions—there are over 1,000 exceptions to the President's section 201 decision and Secretary O'Neill is reported as saying that ''a significant portion of them will be favorably decided.''

Then there is the fact that the decision did nothing to help Minnesota's Iron Range—nor the iron industry as a whole—deal with import surges of semi-finished slab steel. While the President imposed tariffs on every other product category for which the International Trade Commission had found injury, for steel slab he decided to impose ''tariff rate quotas.'' This brings us virtually no relief. Nearly 7 million tons of steel slab can continue to be dumped on our shores before any tariff is assessed. For folks on the Iron Range, the injury will continue.

Then, the President in his section 201 decision—and subsequently—has totally ducked the serious legacy cost problem that is suffocating the domestic steel industry. In the last 2 years, 32 U.S. steel companies have filed for bankruptcy, and these companies represent nearly 30 percent of our domestic steel making capacity. These failures weren't the fault of the workers at these companies. These failures resulted from unfair and predatory practices of our trading partners over an extended period. Yet despite the moral and economic imperative to do something about this legacy cost problem so that the steel industry, so essential to our national security, can rebuild and revitalize itself, the President has washed his hands of the matter. It is somebody else's problem he says.

And now there is the current bill. Those of us who are serious about this legacy cost problem, and it is a bipartisan group, have introduced S. 2189, the Steel Industry Retiree Benefits Protection Act of 2002, to address the legacy cost question in a comprehensive way. In the meantime, however, recognizing that every day steelworker retirees whose companies are going bankrupt are losing their heath insurance, Senator DASCHLE introduced provisions to provide stop gap assistance—