

benefits, if they are able to continue to offer insurance to their employees at all. The bottom line is that more people than ever will lose their health insurance.

These numbers are truly startling. But behind every one of those, every single case of those 40 million people, there is an American face and a human story.

As I travel around Oregon visiting community health centers, I meet more and more people who live without health insurance. I hear their stories. There are many ways we can help shrink that gap between the insured and the uninsured. We should pursue that goal with the policy we begin formulating in the Budget Committee.

While the stories of all of the people I meet are different, they are, in most cases, quite tragic, and the circumstances that have brought them to these places are often similar. The loss of a job. An increase in insurance premiums. A serious illness. These are unavoidable circumstances that could happen to any American.

While I understand the looming budget deficit this year will make new initiatives difficult, the current economic climate is all the more reason to focus attention and resources on covering the uninsured this year. In the immortal word of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "The time is always right to do what is right."

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 107TH CONGRESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I came to this Chamber just as we opened the session to welcome back our colleagues and staff and all of those who are so much a part of this great institution. I reiterate that welcome again this afternoon. I am sure we all hope this new year and this new session will be constructive and productive.

Much has happened in the weeks since we adjourned. In the war on terrorism, President Bush and his national security team continue to do a superb job. And our men and women in uniform continue to inspire us with their heroism and their success.

Closer to home, workers in New York continue to clear away the wreckage at ground zero. At the Pentagon, rebuilding is already underway.

In Princeton, NJ, a tiny 15-day-old baby girl—the daughter of Scott and Lisa Beamer—is living proof that the spirit of the heroes of United flight 93 will never die.

And just yesterday—more than 3 months after the largest bioterrorism

attack in our Nation's history forced it shut—the Hart Senate Office Building finally reopened.

Those are all reasons to be hopeful about this new year. But there are also reasons to be concerned. In all, there are now more than 8.3 million Americans who want to work but do not have jobs. The collapse of Enron has cost thousands of Enron employees their jobs—and their retirement savings. Tens of thousands of other Americans who have invested part of their retirement savings in pension funds have also been hurt by Enron's implosion.

In South Dakota and all across America, people are working hard to raise their children, pay their bills, and maybe, if they are lucky, to put something away for the future. Our job this year is to help them, by strengthening our national security, our economic security, and the security of our democratic institutions.

As we begin this new session, we face two significant challenges. The first is fiscal. Last year, the Congressional Budget Office estimated the Federal Government would run a \$5.6 trillion surplus over the next decade. This morning the CBO released new reports showing that \$4 trillion of the projected surplus has disappeared in the space of just 7 months.

Instead of surpluses every year from now until 2011, current projections indicate that even if you include the Social Security and Medicare surpluses, the Government will run deficits at least in the years 2002 and 2003. And it will be forced to use \$1.2 trillion in Social Security and Medicare trust funds over the next decade to pay for other essential Government programs. That is before we add one penny for the Medicare prescription drug benefit or strengthen our military or increase our investments in homeland security, education, or other critical priorities. It is also before we add one penny for an economic recovery package.

The second challenge we face is ideological. There are some who predict we will accomplish little this year because of our genuine differences in philosophy on many issues and because this session is so short and the stakes in the November elections are so high. But we do not have to accept that prediction. Important issues do not have to be insoluble. The new education bill we passed last year is proof of that.

Six days from today President Bush will deliver his first State of the Union Address. Six days after that, he will send the Congress his budget proposal. Democrats will give the President's proposals very careful and respectful consideration. He deserves every aspect of respect and care that we can give his budget.

Today I would like to say a few words about what we see as our priorities for the coming year. And I might say that we look forward to working with the President and with our Republican colleagues to find principled compromises on each of them.

The first thing we need to do is finish our work from last year. We should start by passing an economic recovery plan that will create jobs and get America's economy moving in the right direction again.

Both the Democratic and Republican economic recovery plans are more than 75 percent tax cuts.

Over the holidays, the Congressional Budget Office analyzed all of the major economic recovery proposals and indicated that the least helpful would be repealing the corporate alternative minimum tax and speeding up the income tax rate reductions passed last summer.

Earlier this month, in an effort to get the negotiations moving again, I proposed two new business tax cuts for every company in America that creates new jobs or invests in new equipment and technology. But today, I offer another proposal for breaking the impasse.

There are four ideas that appear in every major economic plan—Democratic and Republican. The first is to extend unemployment benefits by 13 weeks. Republicans and Democrats have suggested that.

The second is to provide tax rebates for workers who did not get a rebate the first time. Again, both Republicans and Democrats have offered that.

The third is to provide bonus depreciation to encourage business investment. Again, both groups have proposed that.

And finally, the fourth is to provide fiscal relief for States to help them avoid cutting critical services—especially health care—or raising taxes during the recession.

I hope we can at least take up these four measures immediately. If there are others for which there can be agreement—perhaps New York assistance, perhaps the extenders, perhaps other issues—where we can find common ground, I would like to be able to do that. I hope we can do it this week.

I have begun talking with Senator LOTT, and he has been extremely responsive in his desire to try to find a way to move this legislation along. I commend him and thank him for that.

Later on this afternoon we will offer a unanimous consent request that will accommodate Senators' wishes to offer amendments but also, I hope, Senators' desires to get something done. So I am hopeful we can accomplish that this week.

I might add, we have a very limited period of time. We have a couple of days this week. And because of agreed-to schedules, we only have a couple of days next week. And then we have just 2 weeks after that before the Founders' Day recess. In that period of time it would be my hope we could do the economic recovery, the election reform, the farm bill, and an energy bill as well.

That is a lot to do, but if we can make every day count—beginning with this one—I think we can do it. I am

hopeful Republicans and Democrats can work together to ensure that happens.

As I said, we also need to finish the farm bill. We do not need another year or another month to know we have to build on what has been done already.

Since the Freedom to Farm bill was passed in 1996, farm income has dropped 25 percent. USDA now warns that unless we pass a new farm bill or more emergency assistance quickly, farm income could drop another 20 percent this year alone.

The farm bill is economic recovery for rural America. So we ask that we can work together again on this legislation. Let's work to pass it immediately. Let's go to conference. Let's resolve our differences. And let's get this legislation on the President's desk.

As I noted, the President shares the view that Republicans and Democrats have advocated with regard to energy. We need a national energy plan. The administration has proposed a plan which relies a good deal on adding to production. Their view is that we drill on certain sensitive lands on which I personally have some objection. The House-passed version of that plan would add \$34 billion in tax relief for energy companies.

What Democrats would do is have a balance between the need for new production and what we ought to do with conservation and with alternative energy development. Let's reduce America's dependence on not just foreign oil but on oil, period. That ought to be part of the debate we have on energy.

There is a lot of work to be done in a very short period of time. I hope we can do all of that in the time we have allotted for these very important bills.

We also need to pass terrorism reinsurance. Efforts to solve this complex problem last year were impeded by some who sought to use this issue to push other extraneous issues. This year we will need to work together to assess the real needs of the marketplace and provide real solutions—the sooner, the better.

Our second responsibility is to continue to lay the foundation for long-term economic growth. An essential part of that foundation is expanded trade. Last month, the Finance Committee passed a bill that gives the President expanded trade promotion authority and addresses important labor and environmental issues related to trade. The committee also passed a bill to expand trade adjustment assistance, including assistance for farmers who are displaced by global trade.

Early this year we will bring to the Senate floor a fast-track bill that includes both of these essential components, and I hope we will pass it with broad bipartisan support.

Expanded trade was a key factor in the economic boom of the 1990s. Other key factors were fiscal discipline and increased productivity made possible by advances in technology. To keep

America's technological edge, we should take final action on the Export Administration Act this year. We should expand broadband Internet access and work to make it universal, the same as telephone service, this year. We should find a way to make R&D tax credits permanent this year, and we should build on the bipartisan success of our new education bill passed last year by expanding opportunities to go to college or attend a training program and by working toward full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Act so that children with disabilities can develop their skills to the fullest potential. After all, the minds of our young people are our best hope for long-term economic growth.

Our third responsibility is to increase families' economic security. We should raise the minimum wage \$1.50 an hour over 2 years so people who work full time don't have to live in poverty. In 1996, we changed welfare programs to say if you are able-bodied, you should work. Since then we have seen dramatic decreases in the State caseloads and increases in the number of people moving from welfare to work. For too many families, however, moving off welfare has not meant moving out of poverty. We need to strengthen welfare reform this year and make sure people who move from welfare to work have access to affordable child care, transportation, and health care so they can actually make a better life for themselves and their children.

We need to expand affordable health coverage to uninsured Americans. We need to pass a real, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. Insurers should not be able to deny medical care once you get sick, and certainly they should not be able to deny care or coverage based on the results of genetic tests that indicate you might get sick someday.

President Bush says he opposes genetic discrimination. We hope to work with him this year to prohibit both employers and insurers from using genetic test results as a basis for discrimination and to prevent disclosure of genetic information to banks, employers, and anyone else who has no legitimate need for information.

The collapse of Enron has left thousands of former Enron employees suddenly fearful of growing old in poverty. For every Enron worker, there are tens of thousands of workers in other companies who worry that they could share the same fate. We have a responsibility to look at everything from Federal rules governing 401(k) pension plans to corporate disclosure requirements under securities laws, to accounting reforms and whether the accounting industry's self-regulatory system is sufficient.

We need to learn what happened and then work together to prevent it from ever happening again. We must also work together this year to protect, not privatize, America's public retirement system, Social Security, and Medicare,

and to add real prescription drug coverage to Medicare. Half measures such as voluntary discount cards that just push the costs off on pharmacists and provide little savings to seniors are simply not adequate.

Our fourth responsibility is to strengthen homeland security. On September 11 and when the anthrax letter was opened in my office, we saw how devastating it can be when terrorists are able to slip through the holes in our homeland security. We need to work in a bipartisan manner to close those holes as quickly as possible.

We were puzzled during the debate on economic recovery when some insisted that strengthening our homeland defense was not an emergency. We are pleased by new reports that indicate the administration has now decided to devote real attention and resources to homeland security, and we will certainly work with them to do so.

Our fifth responsibility is to strengthen the security of our basic democratic rights and institutions. That includes the right of every American to vote and have that vote count. A year ago, we had just come through the most difficult Presidential election in our lifetimes. Since then, Senators DODD, MCCONNELL, BOND, SCHUMER, and TORRICELLI have come up with a bipartisan plan to strengthen our election system. I intend to bring their bill up as soon as possible. The American people are asking—fairly, I believe—whether our campaign system is part of the reason Enron was able to do what it did. Whether that is true or not, the mere suspicion that it might be true is damaging to our democracy.

House supporters need only three more signatures on a discharge petition to bring the Shays-Meehan bill to the floor. I expect they will get those votes and pass a good, comprehensive campaign finance reform bill this year. We must change the system now.

One of the heroes who defied the hijackers on flight 93 was Mark Bingman, a gay man. His courage may have helped save this very building. This year we should have the courage to pass ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and prohibit employers from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. We must also pass the bipartisan bill expanding the Federal hate crimes law to include gender, sexual orientation, and disability, and to provide greater protections against crimes motivated by racial and religious bias.

Scott Beamer will always be remembered for those final brave words: "Let's roll." His new daughter Morgan, born just 15 days ago, is probably the best known of the babies born to fathers who died in the September 11 terrorist attacks. But she is not the only one. So far there are 17 such babies, including a pair of twins. By summer there will be 40 more babies born to fathers who died in the September 11 attacks. Every day in America, 11,000 babies are born.

Last year was one of the saddest in our Nation's life. As we begin this new session, with its new challenges and new opportunities, let us remember those who died on September 11. But let us also remember the children they left behind, some of whom they never even had the chance to see or hold. Let us also remember the other children who are depending on us to pass on to them an America that is filled with as much hope, freedom, and possibility as the Nation we inherited from our own parents.

Let us resolve together to find a way to meet the most important of all of our responsibilities. I am confident that we can.

I look forward to working with our Republican leader, as I have always done at the outset of a new session of Congress. This year is certainly one of those years again.

I thank my colleagues and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR AMERICAN SECURITY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator DASCHLE for his opening statement. I see a lot in his remarks that should give us encouragement and hope that we can come together and achieve things that need to be done this year in the Congress for the American people. Regardless of party, regardless of past difficulties, we should try to find a way to work together.

There's a common word between what Senator DASCHLE said and what I will be saying, if you look at what we have in our remarks and the thrust of those remarks. That word is "security." We need to pay close attention this year more than ever to that issue, that word. We need strong national security. We need to make sure that our men and women have the tools, the weapons, whatever they need to deal with the threat of terrorism and with threatened democracy wherever we may find it in the world. We also need to have personal security for our people here at home.

Last year brought so many startling things to our attention. Never before had we been attacked here at home like we were last year. And so, this year working on homeland security, working on personal security, we have to find a way to protect American people. Surely that's one of the obligations that we have as a Congress, to at least be safe and secure here at home.

The only way we can look after our national security and personal security is to have economic security. We've got to make sure that America is strong, that our economy is growing, that jobs are being created, that Americans have the opportunity to get a job, a good paying job, and to keep that job. And when they have a problem, on a temporary basis, that there's something there for them, that there will be un-

employment compensation. But we don't want them just to have a check for tomorrow.

We want a job for the future. Both of them are important. But we've got to look at economic security this year. We've got to take some actions in the Congress, by restraint, perhaps, by encouragement in other ways, so that we can have a stimulus to the economy, so there is some commonality in the themes of what's been said here today.

I think we've gotten off to a good start this morning. The President called the bipartisan, bicameral congressional leadership to the White house, and we met for 35 minutes, started right on time, ended right on time. He talked to us about what's happening around the world, our threats abroad and at home and what we needed to do with the economy. He listened to us. He extended a hand of cooperation. I believe that this President has changed the tone in Washington. He has tried to work with the Congress. We have produced a bipartisan vote, House and Senate, for major tax reform and tax relief for the American people last year. We did come together on the most fundamental education reform in 35 years. A lot of people thought the Thursday before we got the conference agreement it couldn't happen, but it did happen. And we came together—Republicans, Democrats, Liberals, Conservatives, President Bush. We got an agreement the American people liked.

I think that President Bush is going to be persistent in calling on us to do our work, to work through the procedure, the process. But to do our work, to produce the things we need for our country.

Last year we had a tremendous period of cooperation and bipartisanship. And then we kind of lost it there at the end. Maybe—maybe we were tired. The issues were different. Maybe we got to thinking about politics again. We kind of lost our ability to come together on an economic stimulus package. We didn't produce an energy bill. We didn't do trade. We didn't do agriculture. And we left a lot of nominations on the calendar. That was last year.

Now let's do it. Let's get this job done. And each one of those—those issues—were mentioned by Senator DASCHLE in his remarks, today.

Right now we're working to see if we can come up with some substance and a process and a procedure so that we can, in fact, consider and hopefully get a result on the economic security package, and we're working on what the substance might be and what the procedures may be. Right now we're working in a bipartisan way with three Senators, MCCONNELL, DODD, BOND, and others—Senator DODD as chairman of the Rules Committee. They've come together on election reform.

Now, is it perfect? Would we all like it just like it is? Not necessarily. Will some amendments be offered? Surely. But there's a case where when it looked like it was going to be a par-

tisan shootout, they've come together. And so this afternoon we're working to see if we can identify amendments and come up with a procedure to do this bill, perhaps in short order. Boy, wouldn't that stun people? The House has acted. Let's act in the Senate. Let's do it in a bipartisan way.

So, I'm encouraged. It is a new year. We have a window of opportunity. The President is doing his part. We're working to see if we can move some of these things that have stalled out. We should do that, and I will do all I can to try to encourage that and foster that. It'll take, again, working together and a little trust here and there, but there is a period here when we can accomplish, I think, a good deal for the country.

As we look back on last year and the horrors of September, we've been doing a lot. We've come together. I think we've changed. We changed for a while last year. Could we build on that attitude this year?

You know, the American people's attitude toward the Congress in terms of a favorable rating went up to the highest its ever been. Why was that?

It's because the American people saw us working together and doing what ought to be done. Rising above party. Now, over the last couple of months, those numbers have started coming back down. I would like to drive them back up. When you talk pure politics I've been on both sides. I've been in the majority and the minority. I've been in situations where we gained seats, held our own, lost seats. But I've figured out something. When we do our work, when we produce results, if you're in a leadership position, it pays positive dividends. People like it when they see us doing what we ought to be doing.

So we should look at the courage and the sacrifice of those who gave their lives last year, the families that have endured a terrible time here over the past four months—the courage of the firefighters, the policemen, the calm of Mayor Giuliani. Now there's a guy who rose above politics. I saw people cheering for him, chanting his name when they could have been chanting Senator DASCHLE's and mine. No, they were chanting Giuliani when we went to see Ground Zero. He rose to the occasion. When we look at the loyal support from overseas, the leadership of the President, when we look at how we did come together, then I think we can and should be able to learn from that and rise above just the normal things we get into here.

Our soldiers are fighting overseas right now. They're fighting for freedom. They're counting on us to give them the help they need. It would help if we could show this is a different time and a different place and we all learn something from September.

Next Tuesday, President Bush is going to deliver his State of the Union Address. I think the Congress will be wanting to hear what his agenda is, will listen very carefully to it. I believe