

small businesses can obtain loans to keep their doors open and people employed; waiting for expanded health care and unemployment benefits for those in the tourism industry who have been laid off since September 11.

Mr. Speaker, like all Americans, Nevadans have waited too long for the Democratic leadership to start putting the welfare of this Nation and its economic prosperity ahead of their political priorities. It is time for an economic stimulus package to be passed by both Chambers of Congress and sent to the President and signed into law. America's economy, stability, and the individual prosperity of every American depends on it. Let us do it now.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The Chair would remind Members that remarks in debate may not include characterizations of Senate action or inaction.

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT BIRTH OF CHRIST

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the school prayer issue is out of control, literally. Students in Pennsylvania were prohibited from handing out Christmas cards. Reports say students in Minnesota were disciplined for having said merry Christmas. Now if that is not enough to find coal in your athletic supporter, check this out: A school board in Georgia removed the word "Christmas" from their school calendar because the ACLU threatened to sue. Beam me up. If this is religious freedom, I am a fashion model for GQ.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the fact that Christmas is not about a jolly old fat man. Christmas is about the birth of Christ.

A JOB WELL DONE

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1984 the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) and myself were elected to Congress from adjoining districts. He started out sleeping in his congressional office, and I started out picketing then-majority leader Jim Wright, which the gentleman from Texas helped me do. He went on to become conference chairman of the Republican Conference and when the Republicans became the majority, majority leader.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) is a man of big ideas. It was his bill that began to streamline our military base positions in this country. He is also a supporter of school vouchers

and flat taxes. He came from can-do North Dakota, and he brags about that even though he now lives in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) did come, he did do. I say well done to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY).

REJECT RECOMMENDATIONS OF SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, there are three good reasons we should reject the recent recommendations of the Social Security commission, this commission that has said that we should move in the direction of privatizing Social Security.

The first is the commission was stacked with individuals who had a preconceived notion of the outcome. Second, the commission recommends private accounts but does not take into consideration the cost. Many observers believe converting Social Security to private accounts would cost \$1 trillion. Where is that money to come from? Out of Social Security, of course.

And finally, private accounts invested in the market are risky investments. We only need to look at our recent downturn to see how risky these investments are. Are we going to throw people out on the streets in their golden years because they have lost their retirements in the market? I certainly hope not.

COMFORT THE KIDS

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of two Arizona families, the Porter family and the Rogers family. Following the September 11 attacks, Steve and Liz Porter and Todd and Mikki Rogers wanted to help those affected by the tragedies.

Together, these two families created a project called Comfort the Kids. Their goal was lofty, to create 10,000 small red, white and blue quilts for the children who have suffered family losses by the end of the year. They were not alone in their efforts. Their Web site, www.ComforTheKids.org, is currently receiving an average of one hit per minute. School districts, Boy Scouts and countless other families and individuals are joining them in their efforts. These quilts will not only comfort the recipient, but will serve as a hand-made symbol of compassion. I thank the Porter family and the Rogers family for their diligence and hard work, and commend them for their efforts. They represent the best of America.

SAVE AMERICAN STEEL INDUSTRY

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today steelworkers from across the United States have come to Washington to ask our House to recognize their plight and the plight of U.S. Steel. Today the United States steel industry is faltering and in danger of collapse. Tens of thousands of men and women who have helped to secure the defense of this country through their work in creating and making this product called steel are in danger of losing their jobs and having their whole way of life be destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this country to ask itself whether or not it is in our national interest and in the interest of our national defense to maintain our steel industry; or shall we become dependent on foreign steel, the same way we are dependent on foreign oil.

This House will have an opportunity before we complete our business to address the issues, to give the steelworkers some relief, to make it possible for steel loan guarantees to be more widely applicable, to give an opportunity for net operating loss to put cash into steel companies so they can keep going. This Congress has an obligation to carry forth for the future of this country our ability to make steel.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Members are again reminded not to characterize the actions of the Senate.

CALLING FOR LEGISLATION TO AID THE STEEL INDUSTRY

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues have talked about before we go home, we must pass a stimulus package. I agree that we cannot go home without doing something for the people who have lost their jobs as a result of the recession and the attack on our country. And we must do something for the steelworkers so they do not become part of the people collecting unemployment insurance in our community. We have to protect the retirees for the health benefits that they are currently receiving.

We need to do this because the price of steel in this country is below cost, international cost, because our trade policies have allowed dumped, subsidized steel to come into the United States. Our own trade policy has reduced capacity so we have what is known as legacy cost, high cost for the steel industry for retirees.

This House, this body, must pass legislation helping the steel industry before we leave town. It is our responsibility to do it. We must create a level playing field. If we do, steel in the

United States can compete with steel produced anywhere in the world on quality and cost. Yes, we must pass legislation before we go home.

STILL NO RESPONSE FROM THE SENATE ON ECONOMIC SECURITY

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have passed an economic security package to create new jobs and help unemployed workers. But the stalling economy continues to be in jeopardy because of the legislative process which continues to stall economic security legislation.

What are we waiting for? A stock market crash? Two-dollar-per-gallon gasoline? The failure to prepare and respond with sound initiatives to aid the economy indicates a disturbing disconnect between the elected officials and the state of the union.

The unemployment rate rose to its highest level in 6 years. Yet the leadership in Congress is constructing roadblocks and sitting on legislation to get the economy out of recession. More Americans lost their jobs last month, yet the legislative process refuses to respond with a plan of recovery.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to get the economic security act moving. It is time to get serious and match the House's work.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY LIFE

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a wonderful organization named Family Life. Since the tragic events of September 11, there have been numerous stories of couples seeking assistance in reconciling their differences and continuing their commitment to each other. Many of these couples have sought out the assistance of Family Life.

For 25 years, Family Life, under the leadership of Dennis Rainey, has been helping struggling relationships become happy unions again. Formed as a means to provide Campus Crusade staff members premarriage seminars, community leaders and pastors soon learned of the group and encouraged them to provide their blueprint on how to build strong homes to the general public.

Since then, more than 1 million people have attended Family Life conferences and even more have used their materials. At the heart of Family Life is a lay volunteer network of more than 10,000 couples. Many are helping Family Life reach couples as city ministers or by leading study groups. With their help, Family Life has blossomed into a very effective support network for families, one home at a time.

In honor of their hard work and dedication, Governor Huckabee proclaimed this week will be Family Life Week in Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I stand with my governor in recognizing the importance of the family unit and the service that Family Life has provided to preserve this cornerstone of society.

HONORING STUDENTS FROM MOLALLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special group of students from Molalla Elementary School. Like the rest of America, these girls and boys were shocked by the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. After a great deal of brainstorming, they agreed to raise \$1,000 to send to the Families of Freedom scholarship fund which has been set up by former President Bill Clinton and former Senator Bob Dole. This fund will provide education assistance for postsecondary education to financially needy relatives of those killed or permanently disabled as a result of the terrorist attacks.

I know that the students worked extremely hard to raise the \$1,000. Some of them, I know, made great sacrifices to do this. I am so proud to represent the students of Molalla Elementary and thank them for their generous, heartwarming gift.

ECONOMIC SECURITY NOW

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, last week I wrote the leader of the other body a letter. Today I call on the majority leader in the other body to schedule a vote on the economic stimulus and security package immediately. There is no greater need in America today than to put people back to work in good jobs. People are hurting, unemployment is rising, and now we have proof that the economy is in recession. What more evidence does the leadership in the other body need? The American people deserve action on this now. It is time to put partisanship aside and work together to turn our economy around.

The Democratic leadership in the other body failed to push through a strictly partisan version of a stimulus plan on November 14. Despite including big subsidies for chicken manure and bison burgers, the other leadership did not even consider President Bush's plan to accelerate tax relief for at least 34 million American workers.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve action on this now. It is time for the other body to stop stalling and pass an economic security/stimulus plan.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Members are reminded by the Chair not to encourage or discourage action by the other body.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to 10 United States Code 4355(a), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. HINCHEY of New York.
There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2883, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 312 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 312

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2883) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. Goss) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 312 is a standard rule that allows the House to consider the conference report to accompany H.R. 2883, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002. The rule waives all points of order against the consideration of the conference report. The rule is the normal rule we have for conference reports.

The intelligence authorization bill is a critical piece of legislation in any average year, but this year, given the recent September 11 tragedies and the war we are waging against terrorism as we speak, it is absolutely essential that we get this bill to the President's desk without any further delay. As Members are aware, the National Security Act requires that Congress authorize each dollar the U.S. spends on intelligence and intelligence-related activities. We are unique in that respect. The war on terrorism means that there has