

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ENGEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BOEHNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STOUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, last week President Bush and Commerce Secretary Don Evans announced the recipients of the Malcolm Baldrige Award, our Nation's highest honor in quality and performance excellence, named after the 26th Secretary of Commerce. It is my pleasure to join them in congratulating the University of Wisconsin-Stout for becoming the first university ever to receive the award. I would also like to commend my good friend Chuck Sorenson, the chancellor at Stout, and the entire faculty and staff there for their hard work and dedication in helping make UW-Stout the extraordinary institution it is today.

In 1987, Congress established the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award to enhance the competitiveness of U.S. businesses. The award promotes quality awareness, recognizes the quality and performance achievements of U.S. organizations, and publicizes successful performance strategies.

It is given to U.S. organizations that have exemplary achievements in seven areas: leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, information and analysis, human resource focus, process management, and business results. All applicants for the Baldrige Award undergo a rigorous examination process that requires nearly 1,000 hours of outside review. Teams of examiners visit the finalists to clarify questions and verify information; and finally, an independent board of examiners reviews all applications and produces a report citing strengths and opportunities for improvement.

I am pleased that UW-Stout has received such a prestigious award. Many of us in western Wisconsin have long known the outstanding work done by the students, the faculty and the staff at UW-Stout that have made it an exceptional institution of higher education. UW-Stout is an outstanding role model for the 21st century education organizations, and it will now gain the national recognition their efforts deserve.

UW-Stout Stout is one of 13 publicly supported universities in the University of Wisconsin system. It has approximately 1,200 faculty and staff and about 7,700 students. UW-Stout offers 27 undergraduate and 16 graduate degrees. In addition to undergraduate and graduate degree programs, there are a variety of outreach programs and services to business, industry and society, and provides a full range of support services to students.

In addition, UW-Stout's "mission driven-market smart" focus is characterized by an array of programs leading to professional careers, primarily in industry and education. It has maintained graduation replacement rates at or above 98 percent since 1996, and employers have consistently rated 99 to 100 percent of its graduates as prepared to work.

Although the Malcolm Baldrige Award is a tremendous achievement for UW-Stout, it is not the first award that the University has received. UW-Stout has received multiple awards for innovative programs and partnerships. In April 2001, UW-Stout received the national recognition from Newsweek as one of 34 schools cited as a "hidden treasure."

Some of the other awards include the 1995 Governor's Glass Ceiling Award; the 1999 Outstanding Award for Technology Transfer from the National Association of Management and Technical Assistance Centers; and the 1998 American Association of University Women Equity Initiative Award Winner.

Furthermore, UW-Stout has excelled in applying technology to instruction. Technology, when used effectively, can stimulate learning, enrich lives and create greater opportunity for the future of UW-Stout's students.

Beginning in the fall of 2002, toting laptops to class will soon be as common as carrying books. UW-Stout is the first university in Wisconsin to launch an initiative that will place a laptop in the hands of every incoming freshman.

To make the notebook computers even more portable, the program opted to use cutting-edge wireless technology. Each laptop is equipped to communicate with one of several Lucent base stations located on campus, allowing students to work on their laptops while in the classroom, the hallways, or even outdoors.

That is, however, only one of UW-Stout's innovative achievements. It is truly an exceptional university, and I am proud that this university is in my congressional district back in western Wisconsin.

Again, I am pleased UW-Stout has achieved the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. They are truly a leader in the field of higher education, and I commend them for their hard work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BRADY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROPOSALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government recently announced what we already knew, that the economy has been in recession since last March. According to the Labor Department, from September to October, the unemployment rate jumped from 4.9 percent to 5.4 percent, the largest 1-month jump since February of 1986. There are now 7.7 million unemployed Americans across this country, an increase of over 1,650,000 since March. The terrorist attack of September 11 only hastened the economic downturn and highlighted the need for a Federal response to stimulate the national economy.

Congress, as we all know, is locked in the debate about how best to quickly revive the U.S. and global economy. We need a response that is tailored to meet the problem, one that puts money in the hands of consumers, one that stimulates job creation, one that helps those most immediately hurt by job losses.

Following the terrorist attack on September 11, the House and Senate budget committees issued a set of principles for the economic stimulus package. These principles stated that any stimulus measure should, first, be limited in duration; secondly, that it not cause the Federal Government to have an on-budget deficit; thirdly, that it not result in high, long-term interest rates; fourthly, that it be approximately \$100 billion in size; and, finally, that the cost should be fully offset in the future to ensure maximum repayment of our \$5.8 trillion Federal debt. I repeat that, that the cost be fully offset in the future to ensure maximum repayment of that debt. And that is an important point, that we have to make sure that we pay for what we expend.

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Sadly, the House of Representatives' leadership passed a tax bill disguised as an emergency stimulus package which ignored each of those principles. The misnamed Economic Security and Recovery Act, which basically only stimulated the corporations, provides little true economic stimulation to lessen our Nation's recession and will delete the U.S. Treasury of \$274 billion over the next 10 years. Some 58 percent, or \$161 billion, of this total would come from our Social Security and Medicare trust funds. It is coming at the backs of our senior citizens and their pensions.

In the long run, the bill is likely to increase the long-term interest rates,

which would raise home mortgage rates and, thereby, threaten the long-term growth of the economy. The fiscal discipline of the last 8 years that produced the largest budget surpluses in decades would be wiped out by this legislation, especially when combined with a \$2 trillion tax reduction bill passed earlier by this Congress.

The bill includes long-term tax benefits for the wealthiest 2 percent of our taxpayers, \$24 billion in retroactive tax relief for the largest corporations in America, accelerating the reduction in the top individual tax brackets affecting those persons making more than \$297,000 per year, and provided \$21 billion in tax benefits to U.S. corporate profits made outside the U.S. as long as the money is kept outside this country.

A scant 11 percent of the overall benefits of the bill would benefit those that are unemployed due to the downturn of the economy. That is 11 cents out of every dollar would only go for those that are in need.

The irresponsible failure to offset the cost of those tax cuts will leave us with future budget deficits and upward pressure on long-term interest rates. I would repeat that this bill would come and create additional deficits for our country.

Finally, the passage of this bill, and as we look at a bill, we have to make sure that it helps those that are in need and that it looks at stimulating the economy. It should follow the balanced alternatives that would quickly put money in the hands of people who have been hurt by the economic downturn and most likely to spend it and stimulate the economy. September 11 not only hurt New York, but it hurt everyone. It hurt those people on the borders that are having to wait. I ask that we really take into consideration and that we seriously look at what we are doing and that we vote for an appropriate piece of legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSBORNE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BREATHING LIFE INTO HUMANITARIAN LEGISLATION FOR AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the President of the United States signed legislation to assist the starving Afghan women and children. Not only was this legislation to address these terrible physical needs, but also to address the need to include Afghan women in the political

and governmental structure of a new Afghan.

I would simply say that the signing of the legislation and the work that was done by the women of this House and the Senate, many women in the Democratic Caucus who began many, many months ago speaking about the plight of the women in Afghanistan, is something that we all can be proud of. I salute the signing of this legislation.

Right now, there are 1 million people from the Afghanistan nation on the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan. These individuals are suffering because of the inclement weather and the very cold season. In refugee camps, 175 people have already died, and most of those are children.

It is important as we sign legislation, Mr. Speaker, that we utilize part of the \$40 billion to act on the legislation. The people in Afghanistan need food, they need clothing, they need the ability to be resettled, they need housing that will be warm. In order to make this legislation a living, breathing document, I call upon the President of the United States to expend some of those dollars to utilize them immediately to help the starving children and the plight of those families on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is enormously important that as we fight to rid ourselves and the world of terrorism, that America emphasizes and reemphasizes its humanitarian approach and its view that there is a need to protect families, women, and children.

Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago I passed a resolution, H. Con. Res. 228, and that resolution was to emphasize that those children who lost parents or a guardian on September 11 should receive Federal benefits or any benefits with the highest priority. We know of the horrific tragedy of September 11, the divide that it caused in families and the loss of loved ones here in the United States, and I believe it is extremely important to emphasize the need to provide resources for those children. But equally so, as we have made a commitment to helping restructure the nation of Afghanistan, meaning to provide the opportunity for that government to build itself in a peaceful manner, we have also committed to making sure that women will be included in the rebuilding of that nation and in the governmental structure. We realize that the imprisonment of the burqas was the imprisonment of the spirit and of people's freedoms.

Now women are able to take off those uniforms. Now we need them to be fully involved in the structuring of government so that women's interests and children's interests can be emphasized.

Next week I intend to hold a briefing on the plight of children in Afghanistan and the hunger that they face, the devastation that they face, the fact that children have to go to work at 7 and 8 years old to provide for their families making bricks. We must find a

way to involve ourselves in the aspects of giving Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan a future and a sense of hope. Particularly, we must find a way to involve ourselves in the lives of those children so that they will become freedom-lovers, lovers of stability and government, and appreciating their own faith and recognizing that their faith, the Muslim faith, the Islamic faith, is one of love and peace.

We must do that now, Mr. Speaker. We must ensure that the resources are there. We must breathe life into legislation that was signed today. We must address the question of 1 million refugees. We must find a way to stop children from dying in refugee camps. We must find a way as well to help rebuild this nation in a way that it stands alongside of the rest of the world family as a freedom-loving place, a place of peace, and a place where all can raise their children in harmony and with opportunity.

SERVICE WITH DISTINCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today was a day that our majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), announced that he would not be seeking reelection in the 26th district of Texas, his hometown of Denton, Texas and the county of Denton.

Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader ARMY, upon making this announcement, gathered his family together and spoke with his family about his hopes and dreams of a new life that he wishes to have outside of the Congress. He spent 16 years in this body. This body respects DICK ARMEY. This body loves DICK ARMEY. This body also understands that DICK ARMEY is a man who brought high energy, ideals, high ideals and ideas that have moved this country, that have been a part of the political debate of this country.

I, as one Member, was asked to run for Congress by DICK ARMEY, and he described it to me as a place that would be not only an honorable place and a place where ideas would be talked about and discussed, but also a body upon which was an institution, the institution of the Congress of the United States. DICK ARMEY is one of the few people who have been to the very top who, upon their own choosing, has decided to leave. He served this body with honor and distinction, and he looks forward to those times that he will spend with his family.

But today was a special time, for he had his beautiful wife, Susan, and his family gather with him in this body as he described not only his hopes and dreams of this country that he has served, but also the hopes and dreams of this country when he goes into retirement. It is DICK ARMEY who worked to make this a better place. It is DICK ARMEY who chose to bring ideas not