

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## ECONOMIC SECURITY AND RECOVERY ACT of 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of legislation I have waited months to be able to support. At long last, the Republican Leadership has brought to the Floor an unemployment benefits extension package that can attract broad, bipartisan backing and finally demonstrate the commitment of this Congress to helping displaced workers weather the current economic climate.

As we all know, the repercussions from the September 11th terrorist attacks compounded the impacts of an already weakened labor market. By the end of January, 1.3 million displaced workers had exhausted their unemployment benefits, and workers continue to use up their benefits at the staggering rate of 80,000 per week nationwide. In my state of Rhode Island, almost 4,000 workers exhausted benefits between November 2001 and January 2002, a 33% increase over the same period last year.

For months, my constituents have been pleading for assistance to help them make ends meet while they search for new employment. For months, I have promised to fight for them in Washington. Yet I have been forced again and again to vote against extended unemployment benefits that the Republican Leadership insisted upon politicizing by combining them with controversial tax cuts. I am pleased to at last have the opportunity to extend a helping hand to struggling families in my district and move beyond the partisan stalemate that has thwarted our past efforts on this issue.

To be sure, this legislation, which includes a thirteen-week extension of unemployment benefits and a modest package of responsible, pro-growth tax proposals, is only a first step. We must still ensure that laid-off workers have access to affordable health insurance for themselves and their families. That is why I am pleased to join many of my Democratic colleagues in supporting a federal subsidy of 75% of COBRA premium costs for a period of 12 months for laid-off workers. We would also give states the option to add a new eligibility category to Medicaid to cover laid-off workers who are not COBRA-eligible for up to 12 months. America's workers desperately need our continued help, and I hope we can work together to address this issue expeditiously.

## TRIBUTE TO MAXINE ADLER

**HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2002

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent retirement of an out-

standing leader in Maryland's public affairs, Maxine Adler.

I first met Maxine as a freshman delegate during the 1987 legislative session in Annapolis. I learned soon thereafter that her diminutive stature belied a tough, persuasive manner and character which loomed large on the Maryland legislative landscape for many years.

Few Marylanders may be aware of Maxine's long and distinguished career. She began her career in Annapolis as a legislative aide to the Baltimore County Delegation to the Maryland House of Delegates. After graduating cum laude from the University of Baltimore Law School, Maxine worked as a law clerk to the Honorable Richard Gilbert, Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, and as a law clerk to the Department of Economic and Community Development under the Attorney General. For two decades, Maxine served as a successful lawyer and lobbyist as a member of the Baltimore-based law firm of Semmes, Bowen, & Semmes.

In addition, Maxine is a valuable and active participant in the greater Baltimore community. She is a member of the University of Baltimore School of Law Advisory Committee, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Self-Insurance, and a Commissioner on the Baltimore County Commission for Women.

Maxine is also a member of the Women's Housing Coalition's Board of Directors, which provides transitional and permanent housing for homeless, low-income, or at-risk women. Finally, she and her husband, my good friend Robert L. McKinney, were named one of "Baltimore's Power Couples" in the June 2000 edition of Baltimore Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, Maxine will be sorely missed by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle in Annapolis. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Maxine and her husband Bob all the best in their future endeavors.

LEHIGH VALLEY HERO—BOY  
SCOUT TROOP 29 OF CEDAR  
CHURCH IN CETRONIA

**HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2002

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share my report from Pennsylvania for my colleagues and the American people.

All across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District there are some amazing people who do good things to make our communities a better place. These are individuals of all ages who truly make a difference and help others. I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes for their good deeds and efforts.

Today, I would like to recognize the Boy Scouts of Troop 29 in Cetronia and their Scoutmaster Bob Sperling. These boys and their Scoutmaster have truly made a difference in their community.

On Saturday, December 15, 2001, the Boy Scouts of Troop 29 went to the Cedarbrook nursing home in South Whitehall Township to sing Christmas carols to the residents. Hours later after the Scouts had left to go bowling, a fire broke out at the nursing home, forcing the residents out of the building.

The Scouts and their Scoutmaster received a call a few hours after their visit alerting them that the same nursing home was on fire and the residents were being taken to a local school. Without hesitation, the Scouts headed to the school to offer assistance in any way needed. They used their Scout skills and worked hard unloading the ambulances of patients arriving from the nursing home, keeping their cool all the while.

Thanks to the hard work of the Boy Scouts under the supervision of Scoutmaster Bob Sperling, the Cedarbrook residents were safe, sound and out of harm's way. Boy Scout Troop 29 made a huge difference that night, helping those in need and therefore they are Lehigh Valley Heroes in my book.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my report from Pennsylvania.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FAIR  
FEDERAL COMPENSATION ACT  
OF 2002

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2002

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, when I introduce a bill to benefit the city, it generally is unnecessary for city officials to take the time to be present. However, Mayor Williams, Council Chair Cropp, joined me at a press conference today to emphasize the importance of the District of Columbia Fair Federal Compensation Act to the city's economic viability. The bill I am introducing today is as serious as the control board bill was when it was introduced seven years ago. The difference is that the Financial Authority bill was necessary to cure a crisis. The Fair Compensation bill must be enacted to forestall a crisis.

As in the 1990s, this also is a crisis of expenditures rising faster than revenues. However, this problem has nothing to do with the overspending that led to D.C.'s recent insolvency. This time, no matter what the city does, it cannot cut its way out. However, D.C. cannot grow its way out either. The Federal Government has the city fenced in on all sides. It is uniquely harmful to keep a local jurisdiction from raising revenue and then to turn around and foist federal costs on local taxpayers.

The Federal Government does both. First, it requires D.C. taxpayers to foot the bill for services used chiefly by federal workers and visitors: roads tortured by cars, 8 out of 10 originating from the suburbs, other shared infrastructure costs, public safety, and other services. Then the government catches the city at the revenue end—no commuter tax

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

from the two-thirds of workers who earn their living here; no payment from the government for the 42 percent of real property it uses for federal office space and facilities and land; and no ability to make up for it by building above a height limit on all city structures.

No city in the United States lives with this built-in mandatory financial imbalance. We cannot continue to carry the resulting federally imposed structural deficit and remain stable. The 1997 Revitalization Act removal of some state functions reduced operating costs enough to allow the city to recover from insolvency but made no pretense at relieving the city of all state costs or even of addressing the structural deficit. The District, for example, continues to carry at least \$500 million in state costs annually, according to the city's Chief Financial Officer. Today, I am releasing a letter requesting that the General Accounting Office (GAO) elaborate, document, and verify the federally imposed expenditures and restrictions on the District.

The Fair Federal Compensation Act allows the federal government to pay for part (but certainly not all) of the cost of services rendered to federal employees, without taxing commuters or raising taxes on other Americans. A simple transfer of 2 percent of the federal taxes commuters already pay would be transferred to a designated D.C. infrastructure account. Commuters would experience no change in either their taxes or their tax filings because the credit would be administered by the Federal Government. Commuter salaries simply assure an amount that is calculable, limited and related to infrastructure and other services rendered to federal employees.

There are four important reasons for the credit. It affords a reasonably accurate calculation of services used by federal workers; it assures a sustainable and predictable amount that allows the District to do the necessary budgetary forecasting; it costs commuters nothing; and it increases automatically at a modest rate tied to increases in commuter salaries. The chief strengths of the Fair Federal Compensation Act—its predictability, its gradual increase each year with inflation; and the disbursement of funds without an annual appropriation—were the principle weaknesses of the old federal payment.

A particularly important feature to the bill reinforces its purpose to compensate for the costs of services to federal employees. The funds transferred from the Federal Government will be deposited in a specifically dedicated and earmarked Infrastructure Fund. The use of this money is limited to infrastructure that benefits the region and the Federal Government as well as the city. Specifically, these funds may be used only to pay for transportation (including roads and Metro); technology; school construction and maintenance (because it is second only to roads in D.C.'s debt service costs); and debt service, because most of the city's debt service is for infrastructure debt. Directing infrastructure funds to payment of debt service has the additional, critical value of helping the District to more rapidly improve its relatively low investment bond rating that costs taxpayers millions annually in excessive interest.

The bill would generate \$413 million in FY 2003, according to the CFO. Particularly considering that infrastructure debt service alone accounts for nearly \$500 million and that public safety and public works amount to \$240

million, our bill is more than fair to the Federal Government.

Mayor Williams, Council Chair Cropp and the Council should take great pride in the extraordinary turnaround they each have helped engineer for their city—from a half billion dollar deficit to a half billion cash surplus. It is fair to ask them to continue to reduce the cost of government, to improve services, to rationalize the tradeoff between tax cuts and budget cuts, and to produce a balanced budget. Of course, it is not fair to ask city leaders, and particularly D.C.'s fragile base of taxpayers, to subsidize federal workers and services.

The landmark Revitalization Act of 1997 was an emergency measure that always contemplated that there would need to be a second and final step. After five balanced budgets and surpluses by a local government that has shown itself willing to make tough decisions, it is time for the Federal Government to work with us to make the necessary tough decisions of its own.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN ALLEN YOUNG

##### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2002*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career has come to an end. Mr. John Young, of Jefferson City, MO, has retired as director of the Division of Air and Land Protection in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Young joined the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in 1973, after receiving bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Kentucky University. His career with the department has been full of achievements. He was directors and deputy director of the Division of Environmental Quality. He was affiliated with the Water Pollution Control and Land Reclamation Programs and has been a member of numerous state and national environmental committees.

Mr. Young has also been a recipient of several awards. He was honored by the FBI for his criminal investigation efforts and by the Missouri Conservation Federation for his leadership in contamination cleanup at Times Beach.

Mr. Speaker, John Young has dedicated nearly 30 years to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, serving with honor and distinction. I know that the Members of the House will join me in wishing him all the best in the days ahead.

#### TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE BISHOP LARRY D. TROTTER

##### HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2002*

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Bishop Larry D. Trotter, Pastor of Sweet Holy Spirit Church of Chicago, IL. Bishop Trotter was called to the ministry in 1974 and was called to the pastorate of Sweet

Holy Spirit Church in 1981. Since that time, God, through him, has made and continues to make a difference in many lives.

Under his leadership and vision, the Sweet Holy Spirit's membership has grown from 22 members to over 5,000. He preaches four Sunday services in two locations and is aired on radio and television each week. Over 28 years of untiring service, faithful dedication to the community, and strong leadership have earned him the deserved respect and admiration of all whose lives he has touched.

Bishop Trotter has been instrumental in shaping the future of the community, state, and country. I applaud his leadership and commend him for toiling so long to provide the type of guidance which has empowered so many to make meaningful contributions to the community. He is currently the Third Presiding Bishop—International, assisting in the oversight of more than 1,500 churches and ministries. In addition, he serves as a Board Member for the Joint College of Pentecostal Bishops. His accomplishments are far too numerous to list but I applaud him for each and every one of them and for having the dream and desire to use his faith as a vehicle to effect social, political and economic change. He is a true testament to his faith and an asset to our country. I commend Bishop Larry Trotter and wish him many more years of exemplary service to the Lord.

#### RATIFY CEDAW

##### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2002*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of International Women's Day and to urge the U.S. Senate to ratify The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

CEDAW is the only comprehensive international treaty guaranteeing women's human rights and the prevention of discrimination against women. This treaty requires States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in political and public life, law, education, employment, health care, commercial transactions, and domestic relations.

In the past few months, we have been actively engaged in our continuous struggle for freedom and equality for women around the world. CEDAW is highly critical to ensuring that Afghanistan will have a democratic government that protects and upholds fundamental human rights for women.

Under the Taliban regime, women in Afghanistan had no rights. They were unable to hold jobs, go to school, or leave their homes unless accompanied by a close male relative. Now that the Taliban has been toppled, we must work together to implement CEDAW within the new Afghan government. CEDAW will ensure that women in Afghanistan will have the right to an education, health care, employment, and other basic rights. However, it is unfortunate that since the United States has not ratified CEDAW, we cannot employ CEDAW's universal standards in our efforts to assist the women in Afghanistan.