

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2004

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, April 21, 2004.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO FILE A REPORT ON H.R. 3866, ANABOLIC STEROID CONTROL ACT OF 2004

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary have until midnight tonight to file a report on the bill H.R. 3866.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. FRANK R. WOLF OR HON. TOM DAVIS OF VIRGINIA TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH APRIL 20, 2004

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 2, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable TOM DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through April 20, 2004.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is accepted.

There was no objection.

JOB PICTURE IMPROVING THANKS TO TAX CUTS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we are going on an Easter break and spending time back in our districts, and before I head back to the Seventh District of Tennessee I wanted to take just a couple of moments and talk just a little bit about the headlines that are out there today.

"U.S. job growth soars." That is from CNN Money. "308,000 jobs: Far better than Wall Street's forecast." I have got other copies of articles here, Bloomberg, My Way, talking about jobs growth.

There are reasons for this, Mr. Speaker, and it is the Bush tax cuts that this body passed last year, the third largest tax cut in history. This check, \$1,133, this is what the average family, 91 million American taxpayers, saw last year. Over 25 million small businesses are seeing about \$2,800 in tax cuts. That is why the economy is growing.

The tax cuts are working, 308,000 new jobs.

THANKING MEL GIBSON AND WISHING A HAPPY EASTER BREAK

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to address a "thank you" to Mel Gibson and his movie "The Passion of the Christ."

I think it is appropriate during this Easter break that we understand that no greater love is this, than one lays down their life for someone else.

As we go back to our districts and work and try to address the concerns and problems of our constituents and the Nation, I think it is just appropriate to remember that we are all one family and we need to work together to solve our problems.

Mr. Speaker, I wish all my colleagues a happy Easter break.

MANUFACTURING JOBS NEEDED TO PUT AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is very dramatic to come to the floor of the House to show the possibility of 300,000 jobs being created and provide a sense of relief. But, Mr. Speaker, we have lost 3 million jobs, and I can assure you that if you go to States like Texas, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and States in the deep South, you still have individuals in some of our congressional districts that are more disadvantaged than others.

We have family members who are supporting their families by putting together hamburgers. I do not disrespect good, hard work for a good day's pay, but when the administration cites putting hamburgers together as "manufacturing," you know we still have a problem.

Mr. Speaker, we still have a problem when you give a tax cut to the 1 percent richest of Americans who do not invest in job creation. You still have a problem when corporations are outsourcing and taking jobs overseas.

We have not answered the real question of job creation in America. Until we get back the manufacturing jobs that have been lost, 3 million of them, this celebration over 300,000 begs the question.

We need jobs in America, and it is time to put Americans back to work.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana 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. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

IGNORING CONSEQUENCES OF INCREASING BUDGET DEFICIT

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we have had a great day today. It is really historic. The average American family could teach Congress a lot about budgets, and it appears that at least four Members of the other body may be listening, despite the roar out of the White House.

Today, some Republicans still do not want to face the consequences of their actions. The budget deficit under the Republicans is growing so fast and so high you cannot even see a "debt ceiling" any more. We are facing trillions of dollars of debt that will be shouldered by Americans not yet born. That is how bad it is.

It does not have to be that way. Years ago, the Congress established the pay-as-you-go rule. That is a shorthand way of saying what every ordinary American already knows: You look at both sides of the ledger, how much money you have, what are your expenses, before you do anything.

Instead of pay-as-you-go, the Republicans and the President have said they are going to give America a new policy. It is called "pray-as-you-go." Pray. If you say things are fine long enough, somebody might believe it. Pray that something, anything, good happens somewhere in America. Pray that Americans are so consumed with the economic crisis caused by this President and the Republican leadership that they will not have to time to vote in November.

We are not voting on a budget today because the Republicans are rolling in the street fighting amongst themselves. Why?

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Some of them are beginning to figure out there are consequences.

We cannot slash taxes and give millionaires \$112,925 without paying for them. We are paying for these massive tax cuts for the rich with massive deficits for America. The economy has produced 300,000 jobs this month, and none last month, not a single one. This month they say they have 300,000. I do not know, maybe they saved last month's to build up this month's; or whatever they did, 250,000 jobs are required every month to simply maintain. They have not added anything to the economy; they are maintaining.

The administration remains in denial, but some Republicans are beginning to see the truth, and I hope the light, about extending unemployment benefits. Unemployment is getting worse in State after State. My State ranks fourth in the Nation, yet the administration refuses to extend unemployment benefits.

To every American I say this: the money is there in a trust fund to provide for this lifeline program. Not a single dollar in new taxes is needed to extend a helping hand to people who cannot find a job because this administration cannot create one. Not one job, remember, last month.

Now, the other day, Myra, a lady from Washington State who is part of the "Show Me the Jobs" bus trip across America, came here. Fifty-one people representing every State and the District of Columbia went from town to town telling their personal stories of grief and hardship as a result of economic policies of the administration. They ended their trip here the other day because they came to the place where you can actually do something. We tried in December, Scrooge said no from the White House. We tried after the first of the year, the President said no. We tried in February, and the President said no.

The money is there, set aside for this very purpose, paid for by the very people who are out of work, and the President continues to say no.

We have tried over and over again. Just the other day the Democrats tried to get the President and the Republican leadership to extend those benefits on a bill that was before us. Once again, the President, with his warm, compassionate conservative heart said, no.

Now, Myra, you do not have to feel bad. You can hold up your head. You have nothing to be ashamed of, but we do. Because this administration knows the truth of what is happening across America, but will not act.

You have to believe, folks. They want you to pray that there will be a job. People young and old are losing jobs and losing hope. People are graduating from college, they studied hard, they worked hard, they did everything they were supposed to do to get the American dream. Under this President and this Republican leadership, the Amer-

ican dream is turning into a nightmare for millions of Americans. Instead of pay-as-you-go and work-and-you-get, you get from these people, pray-as-you-go. Let us hope our prayers are answered on November 2.

In the meantime, the Congress on this day should pass extended benefits. The money is there, Mr. Speaker. Please tell the President the money is there. I told Myra the money is there. I hope some Republicans finally have the courage to do the right thing and extend benefits now.

OUR GROWING ECONOMY IS CREATING JOBS

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as we have all seen by now, the Department of Labor released its payroll survey dated today showing that in the month of March the economy created 308,000 new jobs. Mr. Speaker, 308,000 new jobs created in the month of March. It also revised its new jobs data for January and February with sharp increases in both months.

Now, these strong numbers, Mr. Speaker, clearly demonstrate the vitality of our 21st-century economy. They are a reflection of what other indicators like the strength of the stock market, the level of homeownership, and the growth in gross domestic product have shown. They have been telling us for months that we have a growing economy that is creating jobs.

But the real significance of the job creation numbers is what it tells us about the best way to ensure job growth in this country. We would all like a job creation number like 308,000 every single month. It is a strong number that Americans would like to see more of; and everyone here would, of course, like to see that continue. The question is, How can we ensure that those kinds of job numbers continue?

There are always lots of ideas and proposals being touted as the best way to grow the number of American jobs, but they all boil down to essentially two fundamental approaches.

The first is to try, try very hard to keep any existing job that we have from being lost. We have seen this in proposals such as the one included in the presumptive Democratic Presidential candidate, JOHN KERRY's, economic plan. He proposes a tax increase for companies that invest in growing overseas markets in an attempt to prevent any American job from being lost.

Now, many of our colleagues have proposed different approaches like preventing globally engaged companies from bidding for Federal contracts or saddling them with further regulation. But the ultimate goal is always the same: to prevent any job from being lost.

These job-preservation proposals may be new here in the United States; but

they are old news, they are old news in Western Europe. For years, countries like France and Germany have imposed strict regulations in an attempt to prevent any company from ever making an employment decision that would possibly eliminate a single job.

For example, both countries, France and Germany, require a significant notification period before a company can reduce its workforce. France guarantees all workers a hearing; and in Germany, a worker can go to court and get a preliminary injunction to stay on the job until the issue is resolved in the courts.

Now, at first glance, these "job security" measures may seem like a good idea. After all, they are clearly intended to save jobs and prevent hardship for workers. But have they worked? Are the French and German people better off than the American people are?

Well, let us look at the jobs data. It clearly shows that they are not. In France, the unemployment rate has been stuck around 10 percent, more than double the unemployment rate that we have here. In Germany, the job situation is almost as bleak, with a long-term average of over 8 percent unemployment.

Growth in GDP has been at a near standstill for many years in both of those countries as well. Neither country has seen an annual growth rate of over 2 percent in a long time. Remember, we had an 8.1 percent growth rate a couple of months ago, and we are going along now at an excess of 4 percent growth that is double what France and Germany have seen. New business start-ups, venture capital, research and development, by virtually every possible measure, the French and German economies and job markets are very, very weak in all of those areas.

Now, Mr. Speaker, these attempts at job preservation clearly failed the workers in France and in Germany. They will not help American workers, either. What will help Americans is encouraging greater job creation.

Fortunately, this is where Americans excel. While the French and Germans have cornered the market on stifling regulation, Americans have long been the global leader in innovation and entrepreneurship. We are the world leader in venture capital, new business start-ups, research and development, and new patents. Our emphasis on creativity, productivity, and free thinking has made our economy the most dynamic in the world. It has allowed Americans to constantly develop new ideas and create new jobs.

In fact, fully 25 percent of all Americans are working in fields that did not even exist in the Department of Labor's job codes 25 years ago; and today, a third of all job creation is in the entrepreneurship categories of self-employment and independent contracting.

If we continue to encourage the innovation that leads to new opportunities, we should be looking at the barriers to