

January, investigate now, holding hearings before Judiciary, Homeland Security, Armed Services, and International Relations. It is imperative that we know the truth and that we respond to the truth and that we act on the truth.

#### GOOD ECONOMIC NEWS

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute our steadily growing economy. Sometimes it is hard to remember how the intellectual fortunes of free enterprise have fallen under high taxes and government intrusion. Now that the Bush tax cuts have started to kick in and boost the economy, we see again that job growth has remained strong and in May we gained jobs. The American people are recognizing the positive leadership of George W. Bush and the Republican Congress.

Let us look at the facts: job seekers in America are getting good news and, most importantly, jobs. There were 248,000 jobs created in May. That means more than 900,000 jobs created over the last 3 months alone. Today the unemployment rate is down to 5.6 percent, lower than the average unemployment rate of the last 3 decades. America's families are seeing the change in their kitchen-table finances. Homeownership has risen to the highest level ever and real disposable income is up to an annual average rate of 3.9 percent. Finally, our business owners are benefiting. Real business investment in equipment and software is up to an annual rate of 14 percent.

This is an economics package that puts people first. The President and the Republicans in Congress will continue to knock down the barriers of high taxes and government red tape. By removing those barriers, we see the true entrepreneurial spirit of the American people and with that spirit so grows our economy.

#### COMPLAINT FILED WITH ETHICS COMMITTEE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, when we as Members of Congress choose to look the other way at wrongdoing, when the agreed-upon standards of ethics of this body are seriously violated and no one makes a peep, the credibility of this institution is seriously damaged.

One of my colleagues has filed a complaint with the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the Ethics Committee. He has raised serious questions about Majority Leader TOM DELAY's conduct, questions related to bribery, extortion, fraud, money laundering, and abuse of power. Some Republicans have tried to dismiss this

complaint as mere partisan politics rather than respond to the substance of the charges. The gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) threatened that as a result of this complaint from now on it is a matter of, quote, you kill my dog, I'll kill your cat.

This House has a duty to investigate wrongdoing, and we should do it immediately and seriously; and we should do it without killing dogs or cats.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). Neither the content of an ethics complaint nor the fact of its filing may be debated on the floor until such time as it may become the question pending before the House.

#### A GREAT DAY FOR TENNESSEANS

(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, this is a great day for the people of Tennessee. It is also a great day for the people of Texas and Washington State and Florida, Wyoming, Nevada, and South Dakota because today we are going to pass the American Jobs Creation Act in this House. In that bill, there is a provision that restores the deductibility of sales tax to our Federal income tax filing. For those of us in States that do not have a State income tax, deducting that sales tax is important. For our 5 million Tennesseans, this is a great day.

Mr. Speaker, I started my fight for tax fairness when I was a member of the Tennessee State Senate, and I have continued that upon coming here to Congress. I want to thank Congressman KEVIN BRADY, Majority Leader TOM DELAY, and Chairman BILL THOMAS for their leadership and their outstanding work on this issue of tax fairness.

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This is an enormous step forward. It is one that we have waited for since 1986. It is a great day for Tennesseans. I thank them for their leadership.

#### OIL COMPANY PROFITS

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, at the President's direction the Vice President presided over secret meetings with big oil, dirty coal, and a legion of industry lobbyists.

In secret they wrote an energy policy that has turned this country into a panhandler, begging for more oil. Motorists in downtown Seattle will pay an extra quarter of a billion dollars, that is billion, in just the next 90 days be-

cause of the increase in the price of a gallon of gasoline. The administration will blame it all on the war. The price of gasoline is over \$2 a gallon and the price in Iraq is 5 cents a gallon.

Yes, Mr. President, it is war all right. It is war that the oil companies are waging against the American people with the knowledge and consent and assistance of the administration. Oil company profits are up over 300 percent for one company, 200 percent for another. We are waging a war all right. It is a war to get America out of the hands of pricing, special interests and back into the hands of the American people. We want our country back. November 2 is coming, Mr. Bush.

#### COMMENDING DELTA AIRLINES

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

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, 75 years ago today in 1929 Delta Airlines flew its first six-passenger aircraft from Monroe, Louisiana to Dallas, Texas, inaugurating a great company and a great contributor to the United States of America.

Begun as a crop dusting company in the Mississippi Delta, Delta Airlines has grown to a worldwide company, employing 60,000 people, 30,000 of them in my home State of Georgia and our great City of Atlanta.

I am pleased to rise today and commend Delta Airlines on the celebration of its 75th anniversary and to commend them for the contribution they have made to the travel of the United States of America and its citizens and to business enterprise, travel, and tourism around the world.

#### SALUTING SONIA SCHREIBER WEITZ

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

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, today on June 17, 2004, the Holocaust Center of Boston North, Inc., located in Peabody, Massachusetts, and dedicated to the study of the Holocaust, Genocides, and Human Rights, will honor my constituent Sonia Schreiber Weitz with the Center's first Social Justice and Human Rights Award.

A Holocaust survivor who experienced the torture and degradation of five Nazi concentration camps and Hitler's Death March, Sonia Weitz has devoted her life to educating young people to the dangers of bystander behavior, the nature of hatred and power of one individual to create positive change. An accomplished author and poet, she is committed to fighting for human rights and sharing her experiences during the Holocaust with audiences of all ages.

Born in Krakow, Poland in 1928, young Sonia attended public schools

with both Jewish and non-Jewish friends. Only occasional whispers of anti-Semitism marred her early childhood, but in September of 1939, when Sonia was 11 years old, Germans invaded Poland and changed her life forever. Many of her relatives were murdered, the Gestapo took her mother, and she and her remaining family members were sent to a labor camp where they remained for more than a year. Sonia and her sister, Blanca, were then sent to Auschwitz, while their father and Blanca's husband were sent to Mauthausen in Austria. As liberating forces approached and the Nazis sought to destroy evidence of the camps, the inmates were sent on a death march through the snow and ice to Bergen-Belsen, in Germany, where the two sisters experienced the worst conditions of their enslavement. Finally liberated, they lived in a camp for displaced persons for 3 years before immigrating to the United States, where Sonia lives today, in Peabody, Massachusetts.

In her book, "I Promised I Would Tell," Sonia Weitz shares memories of Nazi racism, dehumanization and mass murder. "Who better to write about light after darkness than me," she says. A co-founder of the Holocaust Center North, Ms. Weitz has coordinated clergy conferences, media seminars, human rights awareness days, interfaith teen projects, and Holocaust survivors' workshops since 1982. She has been an appointee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. She is the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Salem State College, the ADL Interfaith Award, the Facing History Human Rights Award, and countless other honors.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my constituents throughout Boston's North Shore in honoring this extraordinary human being, Sonia Schreiber Weitz, and I ask that my remarks unanimously be allowed to conform with the written remarks submitted on this day.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 681, AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT OF 2004

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 681 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 681

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4520) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove impediments in such Code and make our manufacturing, service, and high-technology businesses and workers more competitive and productive both at home and abroad. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified

by the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. All points of order against the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), 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. REYNOLDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 681 is a closed rule that provides for consideration of H.R. 4520, the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. The rule provides one hour of debate in the House equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The rule further provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, as modified by the amendment printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying the resolution, shall be considered as adopted.

The rule waives all points of order against the bill, as amended, and against its consideration.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, America's economy has taken its share of hits over the past several years. We had a triple shock of terrorist attacks, corporate scandals, and recession. But each time this economy was stricken, this administration and this Congress responded with action to move forward, to create jobs, and to spur economic growth.

In fact, in just his first few months in office, after inheriting a slowing economy, President Bush and this Congress enacted a series of tax cuts that resulted in the shortest and shallowest recession in this Nation's history. Our work towards recovery has continued throughout its time and today real GDP growth has grown at its fastest rate in 20 years. More than 1.4 million jobs have been created. The unemployment rate is below the average level in each of the past 3 decades. Productivity has grown to the fastest 3-year rate in 40 years. Home ownership is at an all-time high and we have the highest number of total payroll employees in our history.

In the particularly hard hit manufacturing sector we have seen the best 4-

month period of job growth in 6 years and the manufacturing employment index was at its highest level since 1973. Even in my region of the country, which has traditionally lagged national recoveries, one prominent economic survey reported "signs of a long awaited rebound in hiring demand were evident across most regions and industries, suggesting that the economic growth may soon begin to shift into a new higher gear."

But our work is not done until every American looking for a job finds one, and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today on behalf of the American Jobs Creation Act by supporting this rule and underlying bill.

The most recent data shows that employment remained strong last month, evidenced by the creation of 248,000 new jobs and continuing three quarters of a strong economic growth. Now it is time to seize on this momentum and continue to take steps to grow our economy, generate jobs, boost domestic manufacturing, and protect small businesses and farmers.

As my colleagues well know, recent European sanctions on American exports are hurting our manufacturers and farmers to the tune of up to \$4 billion a year. Tariffs currently stand at 8 percent and will increase a staggering 1 percent per month until FSC-ETI is repealed. These sanctions are increasing the price of U.S. goods sold outside the United States. They are reducing the exporting capability of multiple industries, and they are threatening the ability of our domestic country to create jobs here at home.

We have the power to stop them now, and without our action many small businesses and other employers face financial ruin while their employees face their own job losses. But by repealing FSC-ETI through the underlying bill, this Congress will put an end to these sanctions and help yet again to put Americans to work.

H.R. 4520 permanently reduces the corporate tax rates from 35 percent to 32 percent for domestic manufacturers, producers, farmers, and small corporations. This is yet another stimulant for job growth, encouraging production and manufacturing here at home, giving employers incentives to reinvest, expand and, most importantly, create new jobs in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying bill also addresses a fundamental hurdle in realizing even bigger job growth, the double taxation of U.S.-based manufacturers. Our global counterparts currently share a significant advantage over the United States simply due to the onerous U.S. Tax Code. In reducing this double taxation faced by U.S.-based companies, we will greatly enhance their competitiveness and ability to sell American-made goods in the global market, all the while making it easier for them to create more jobs here in the United States.

Last month the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index