

rates began to go down, when the job growth began to go up? What happened? What occurred there?

Well, lo and behold, Mr. Speaker, you know what happened. We had tax decreases, appropriate tax decreases, responsible tax decreases. By making certain that Americans got to keep more of their own money, and when you allow Americans to keep more of their own money, what happens? They spend it and they save it in wise ways and then the economy flourishes. So because of the tax policies of this Congress, of this Congress, and this administration, we have seen increasing job growth and decreasing unemployment.

What else about the economy is going on? Revised reports show the fastest real gross domestic product growth in over 2½ years in the first quarter. Real GDP growth grew at an annual rate of 5.3 percent in the first quarter. Productivity increased at an annual rate of 3.7 percent in the first quarter. Hourly compensation, real hourly compensation rose at a 3.2 annual percentage rate in the first quarter. Personal income increased at an annual rate of 6.7 percent in April. Since January of 2001, real after tax income has risen by 12.9 percent. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because of tax policies, appropriate responsible tax policies put in place by this Congress, this administration, this leadership. And oftentimes, in spite of what you hear at home, and in spite of what you hear by my friends on the other side of the aisle, oftentimes, more often than not, frankly, without a single individual helping on that side of the aisle.

In fact, they come down and they say these tax decreases, the tax reductions will destroy the economy, will throw people out on the streets. But, Mr. Speaker, you know what happens. What happens is that unemployment goes down, job growth goes up, and in fact, sometimes they will even say that at 1 minute and then they will vote for the same thing that they just said was awful, just said was awful just a moment before that.

Mr. Speaker, truth is so doggone important in the public discourse. Remember, you can have your own opinions, but you are not welcome to your own facts. You have got to talk about facts. And that is why the Official Truth Squad takes the opportunity as often as possible to come down here and talk about facts, talk about facts with the American people because the politics of division again, does a disservice to every single American.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a glorious Nation, a wonderful Nation, a Nation that is still seen by men and women around the world as a beacon of liberty and a repository of hope. I am proud to serve in the United States House of Representatives and to have the opportunity to share a positive, productive perspective and vision with my colleagues, and I hope that we can be joined by more and more colleagues on both sides of the aisle as we work to

solve the incredible challenges that we have before us as a Nation. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BACA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of primary elections.

Ms. HARMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a family illness.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. WATERS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. WOOLSEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mrs. BONO (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of June 6 on account of her son's graduation from high school.

Mr. GIBBONS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending his son's high school graduation.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. Ross) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. FOXX) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, June 7.

Mr. HUNTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today and June 7, 8, and 9.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and June 7, 8, and 9.

Mr. BLUNT, for 5 minutes, June 13.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today and June 7 and 8.

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, June 7, 8, and 9.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, June 12 and 13.

Mr. SODREL, for 5 minutes, June 7.

Mr. ISSA, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2784. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama, in recognition of his many enduring and outstanding contributions to peace, non-violence, human rights, and religious understanding; to the Committee on Financial Services.

S. 3322. An act to build operational readiness in civilian agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1953. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Old Mint at San Francisco, otherwise known as the "Granite Lady", and for other purposes.

H.R. 3829. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Muskogee, Oklahoma, as the Jack C. Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

H.R. 5401. An act to amend section 308 of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act to make certain clarifying and technical amendments.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1235. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and extend housing, insurance, outreach, and benefits programs provided under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to improve and extend employment programs for veterans under laws administered by the Secretary of Labor, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on May 25, 2006, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 5037. To amend titles 38 and 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain demonstrations at cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration and at Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at midnight), the House adjourned until today, Wednesday, June 7, 2006, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7767. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in supporting Plan Colombia, pursuant to Public Law 106-246, section 3204 (f) (114 Stat. 577); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7768. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7769. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7770. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — April 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7771. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7772. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

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7782. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7783. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7784. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 06-32, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on International Relations.

7785. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-386, "My Sister's Place, Inc. Grant Authority Temporary Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7786. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-387, "Disclosure of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Fatality Review Committee and Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Incident Management and Investigations Unit Information and Records Temporary Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7787. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-385, "National Guard Operations Coordination Temporary Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7788. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-383, "Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund and Tobacco Settlement Financing Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7789. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-382, "Closing of a Portion of S Street, S.E., a Portion of 13th Street, S.E., and Public Alleys in Squares 5600 and 5601, S.O. 04-11912, Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7790. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-381, "Organ and Tissue

Donor Registry Establishment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7791. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-384, "Closing of Public Streets and Alleys in Squares 702, 703, 704, 705, and 706 and in U.S. Reservation 247, S.O. 05-6318, Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7792. A letter from the Assistant Director, Executive & Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

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