

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the gentleman for joining us tonight. The gentleman from Texas, if he has any closing remarks?

Mr. CONAWAY. I do. I wonder how many words have been spoken from these microphones over the almost 160 years that we have been just in this chamber.

Mr. SHUSTER. Too many.

Mr. CONAWAY. Too many, clearly. There are not a lot of lines created or spoken here that many people quote. The inaugural address produces great lines. It is not what you do for your country, all those kinds of lines that come out. I do not know of anything spoken here that many people quote.

Lincoln said, and I will butcher this, but I think he said in his Gettysburg Address, the world will little remember what is said here. As it turns out, he was wrong, but I think that is exactly what happened here.

In West Texas, I suspect, and in central Pennsylvania as well as Kentucky, talk is cheap, but what we do here is important and it is remembered. When we vote, as we did last week, to abrogate contracts with the Federal Government, when we vote, as we did last week, to tell people who have business deals with this Federal Government you really cannot trust the contract because if it begins to look like you are making a little money off this contract, some Member of Congress will think that is a bad idea and they will convince a party, maybe both parties, to take and redo that contract.

When we vote, as we did two weeks ago, to say there are some lives in this country, they are not particularly important, lives on the front end of creation, that is remembered. That is important. That has an impact on what we do.

When we vote here to do things to protect America, as I suspect over the next coming couple of weeks we will vote as to how we think this Congress ought to be commander-in-chief, that is important what we do.

The good is important and the bad is important just as well. It is long remembered and long noted by the people of this country, the people in West Texas in District 11, and many instances, the people around the world.

As I hear tonight our good colleague from Maryland talking about flaws in the bill that we will vote on tomorrow with respect to pensions, that I think all of us would love to support, when he says, well, guys, do not worry about it, this is just the House version; we will fix it in conference or we will fix it in the Senate.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Heard that before.

Mr. CONAWAY. We said it, our guys said it, but today was a particular one where our good colleague from Maryland just seemed to pooh-pooh the idea that there were some flaws in this bill that we did not need to worry about because we are the House of Representatives. I challenge that. We are the

House of Representatives, and what we do here is important. I do not know that what we say here is of particular importance, but what we do here is important.

I appreciate being with you tonight.

□ 2230

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman is absolutely correct. What we did here in 2001 and 2003 by reducing the tax rate on American people, it is going to expire in 1,440 days, unless this Congress acts.

You need to look at the numbers that the gentleman from Kentucky pointed out. Record revenues are flowing into the Federal Government. Since August of 2003, we have created 7.2 million jobs. In December alone, 167,000 jobs were created. The October and November numbers increased by 29,000 jobs. In 2006 alone, there was an increase of 1.8 million jobs. In the 2003 period to today, 7.2 million have been created. That is more jobs than the European Union and Japan combined have created.

Our economy has added jobs for 40 straight months, and I believe it is going to do that with an unemployment rate of 4.5 percent. That is well below the 5.1 percent rate of 2005, and below the average of the past 4 decades. So these tax cuts have worked.

We need to make sure that we act in this Congress and not run out the clock. The American people need to know that if this Congress does not act, if it just sits on the ball and runs out the clock, come 1,440 days, January 1, 2011, the American people will have seen a \$200 billion tax increase, and that is not good for America.

TAKING CREDIT FOR RISING GAS PRICES

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, friends from this side of the aisle have been talking tonight about the tax increase we had last week.

One of the things that I have observed in my 2 years that I have been here is sometimes people take credit for things that maybe they had an effect on, and maybe they didn't. But over the last couple of years, one of the things we have been doing is we have tried to provide for drilling for gas.

There are trillions of cubic feet of natural gas in the Gulf Coast. It is a fact, we have trillions of cubic feet of gas. You can go along the Outer Continental Shelf along both coasts, and many States do not want any drilling out there. They want all the energy, they want it cheap. They don't want any of it drilled where they may have to look at it, but they want the energy. People fight that. They don't want any drilling out there.

Then we have this area that is tundra, as we were taught growing up in

public school, tundra, where there is just not much of anything. Yet people don't want to allow drilling in that area, even though it could provide 1½ million barrels of oil a day.

The OCS and ANWR, those are not be-all-end-all solutions to our energy needs, but they are a small part of the solution. Alternative fuels, bioethanol. We have biomass in East Texas, where I am from, and we have oil and gas as well. We have coal. We have all these things. There are projects to produce energy with zero emissions from coal. All of these great things are going on that we are trying to push, and so much of it met with opposition.

Then we came along last week, and we end up having the incentives to do domestic drilling in the United States or off our coasts to provide additional energy and to do it with domestic people, domestic companies, domestic jobs to help the economy, as well as provide fuel that we don't have go overseas to get, and yet those incentives, it was voted by the majority as pushed by our Democrat friends across the aisle to remove those incentives.

The thing that struck me over the last couple of years as we fought against Democrats who didn't want to drill the Outer Continental Shelf, didn't want to drill ANWR, they fought like crazy against having incentives for new refineries. We are realistic enough. We know that the big oil companies are not going to build more refineries here. They do it in other places where it is cheaper. But it was to encourage independent oil companies to drill here in America, and also to refine here in America, because we need the gasoline to keep things going until we get sufficient alternative fuels.

But after fighting against us to allow those things to bring down the prices of gasoline, as gasoline skyrocketed, I was amazed. People on the other side of the aisle blamed Republicans for the skyrocketing gas prices.

The thing that struck me, and I just wanted to leave my friends in the House with this thought, if you are going to fight against the things that make for cheaper fuel, then when the price of gasoline skyrockets, at least have the decency to take credit for it. "Yes, we got the high gas prices. America, you ought to love us. We drove up the price of gasoline, and now it is way up and you ought to love us for it." Instead, we got blamed because gasoline got high.

So I hope as a result of what we saw what happen last week, as it ends up in the next year or so causing a spike in the price of gasoline, that our friends across the aisle that caused this spike that they have put in the pipeline now to generate a skyrocketing gasoline price, that when that occurs, they will go ahead and stand up and say, "You bet gasoline is high; and we Democrats, we proudly caused it."

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GUTIERREZ (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. POMEROY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. BUYER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical 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. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and January 23, 24, and 29.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and January 24.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, January 23, 2007, at 10:30 a.m., for morning hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

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

366. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Beauveria Bassiana HF23; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0316; FRL-8108-4] received January 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

367. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2007-6, Waiving Conditions on Obligation and Expenditure of Funds for

Planning, Design, and Construction of a Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Russia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

368. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality: Revision to Definition of Volatile Organic Compounds — Exclusion of HFE-7300 [EPA-HQ-OAR-2005-0124; FRL-8270-6] (RIN: 2060-AN34) received January 16, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

369. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Correction [EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0797; FRL-8269-2] received January 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

370. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Environmental Protection Agency Implementation of OMB Guidance on Nonprosecution Debarment and Suspension [FLR-8270-5] (RIN: 2030-AA94) received January 16, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

371. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Identification of the Northern Virginia PM2.5 Nonattainment Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2006-0648; FRL-82661] received January 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

372. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Plans For Designated Facilities; New Jersey; Delegation of Authority [Docket No. EPA-R02-OAR-2006-0615, FRL-8268-9] received January 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

373. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Control of Volatile Organic Compounds from Medical Device Manufacturing [EPA-R03-OAR-2006-0638; FRL-8267-7] received January 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

374. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment, Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Indiana; Redesignation of the Allen County 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment [EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0399; FRL-8267-9] received January 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

375. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0843; FRL-8261-3] received January 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

376. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of

State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

377. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of the Memorandum of Justification under Section 610 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 regarding the determination to transfer prior year funds to the FY 2006 International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Account for the Women's Justice and Empowerment Initiative; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

378. A letter from the General Counsel, General Accounting Office, transmitting the FY 2006 report of the instances in which a federal agency did not fully implement a recommendation made by the GAO in connection with a bid protest decided the prior fiscal year, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3554(e)(2); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

379. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

380. A letter from the Chief, Compliance Operations Division, Department of Transportation, transmitting revisions to the Department's annual report for FY 2005 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

381. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Financial Report of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2006, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 331(e)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

382. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

383. A letter from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting in accordance with the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-531, the Administration's FY 2006 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

384. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's report on Fiscal Year 2006 Competitive Sourcing Efforts as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY 2004; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

385. A letter from the Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's Annual Report for FY 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

386. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period October 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006 as compiled by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a Public Law 88-454; (H. Doc. No. 110-9); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.