

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we just had a question raised as to the effectiveness of the stimulus package in creating jobs. Well, I know that Mr. CANTOR from Virginia tries to criticize the package for not being productive, but you can't convince the members of my district of that.

In my district alone, according to the school district, 150 teaching jobs were saved; we are beginning construction on a new facility for our transit system, putting 80 new jobs on the street. Most importantly, we had an announcement from GE, General Electric appliance park, that they are moving a unit back from China building revolutionary environmentally advanced water heaters creating more than 400 new jobs in my district. That's the result of stimulus money being used for an incentive.

And, finally, we've seen housing gains for the first time in a year of 10 percent in both July and August due to the first-time homebuyers' credit that was part of that stimulus package.

So when the American people wonder whether that stimulus package, which is still in its infant stages—20 percent, at most, of the money's gone out—you can look at Louisville, Kentucky, and I'll give you evidence that the stimulus package is working and creating jobs.

THE POST-9/11 GI BILL

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, the most important domestic policy following World War II was the GI Bill which paid for the education of the brave men and women who served in the name of freedom.

Montana has some of the best colleges and universities in the country; but for some returning soldiers, a traditional campus isn't the best fit. The post-9/11 GI Bill provided flexibility for soldiers who wanted to take advantage of distance education benefits.

Currently, five of the 10 colleges with the highest veteran populations are colleges that are entirely online or have significant online course loads. While veterans may receive funds to pay for tuition, fees, and books, distance learners are ineligible for living expenses.

I've introduced the Veterans Distance Education Benefits Act, which reimburses soldiers' living expenses so they can focus on their education. I encourage my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this important legislation so we can get it passed quickly.

OVER 100 DAYS WAITING FOR A REPUBLICAN PLAN

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it has

been more than 100 days since my friend and colleague, Representative ROY BLUNT, the point man for the rumored Republican alternative health reform plan, said, I guarantee you we will provide you with a bill.

Even Louisiana Republican Governor Bobby Jindal urged his party Tuesday to work with Democrats to offer health care solutions.

The time to act on health insurance reform is now. We must act to offer the choice of affordable quality health care to all Americans putting you and your doctor, not the insurance companies, in charge of your health care while we reduce the problem of ballooning health care costs on American families, businesses, and our fiscal future.

"No" is not a solution. Saying you support reform with no evidence of that support and no plan just doesn't cut it. Continuing to say "no" to reform leaves tens of millions of Americans without health insurance, and 45,000 Americans die every year because of this.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle can't run away from the fact that they have no plan.

The time to act on health insurance reform is now.

COAL IS NEEDED

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Bjorn Lomborg, one of the world's leading environmentalists, wrote in Monday's Washington Post these words:

"Today, coal accounts for almost half of the planet's electricity supply, including half the power consumed in the United States. It keeps hospitals and core infrastructure running, provides warmth and light in winter, and makes lifesaving air-conditioning available in summer. In China and India, where coal accounts for more than 80 percent of power generation, it has helped to lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty.

"There is no doubt that coal is causing environmental damage that we need to stop. But a clumsy, radical halt to our coal use—which is what promises of drastic carbon cuts require—would mean depriving billions of people of a path to prosperity.

"To put it bluntly: despite their good intentions, the activists, lobbyists and politicians making a last-ditch push for hugely expensive carbon-cut promises could easily end up doing hundreds of times more damage to the planet than coal ever could."

I wish we would heed those words of this environmentalist because if we drastically cut back on coal, we're going to hurt millions of poor people in the process.

ARRA IS WORKING

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this week in Congress will be ending, and I have some interesting experiences to relate.

In Transportation Committee today, we had a hearing, and one of our former Members is now the Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, a Republican member from Illinois. Secretary LaHood reported to the committee that the ARRA is working, that much of the money has been spent or utilized in plans by State governments and that lots of employment has been made on building of roads and bridges and airport improvements and on rail programs around the country, that people are going back to work.

I also have an opportunity on Tuesday to attend the National Institutes of Health for a briefing, which I plan to do with other colleagues. President Obama announced that \$5 billion has been spent on cancer research through NIH. I offered an amendment to the ARRA in the House for a \$10 billion improvement. That didn't make it through the House, but a similar proposal made it through the Senate. It will be interesting to see where those moneys are creating jobs and finding cures for cancer and other catastrophic illnesses like Parkinson's, diabetes, and Alzheimer's.

The ARRA is working.

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PROTECT OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, for many immigrant families like mine, the struggle to preserve our culture and heritage and to contribute to the rich cultural fabric of our Nation assumes center stage. We make efforts to ensure, for example, that our children speak their native language and are familiar with their customs and traditions.

One of the tools most often used by immigrant communities is multimedia through which cultural traditions are exhibited and transmitted. In the Vietnamese American community, for example, music and videos produced and distributed throughout the United States have cultivated and instilled in the minds of our children the love and respect for the heritage of their parents and grandparents.

Unfortunately, organizations that produce these cultural expressions are being forced to close their doors due to significant financial losses from copyright infringement both here and abroad. Often, these organizations have lesser means and cannot survive this theft.

Today, I call my upon my colleagues in Congress to join me in tough oversight of the Federal agencies responsible for prosecuting copyright infringement because enforcing these

laws is critical for the survival of our cultural diversity.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, everyone here knows that we have spent the past several months working to craft legislation that will bring much-needed health insurance reform to the American people. Costs and premiums are spiraling out of control, and more and more families, working families, are being priced out of health insurance.

While Democrats have debated the best way to produce a reform package that will cut costs and ensure quality and affordability, our colleagues across the aisle have been playing hooky with their responsibilities to the American public.

It has been over 100 days now since Congressman BLUNT told us his party would be offering an alternative health reform bill. We've heard nothing yet. Representative CANTOR recently suggested to a constituent that she find "charity care" for an unemployed family member in need of surgery. Find a charity? Is that the full extent of Republican health care reform?

So I ask again, where is the GOP plan for health insurance reform? Or is it just to maintain the status quo?

IN PRAISE OF THE "BUDDY WALK"

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the "Buddy Walk" being held this Saturday in State College, Pennsylvania. It is sponsored by the Centre County Down Syndrome Society. The society exists to be a resource for families with a child with Down syndrome and for those who are expecting a child with Down syndrome. Their goal is to educate friends, relatives and even communities that individuals with Down syndrome are energetic, capable and loving people who play, work and go to school just like the rest of us.

The statistics on their Web site change some of the preconceived stereotypes many people have. For example, half of all Down syndrome children go to mainstream school classes, one out of every five plays a musical instrument, and three out of five know how to operate a computer.

I am a member of the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus who supports legislative activities that would improve Down syndrome research, education, treatment and promote public policies that would enhance the quality of life for those with Down syndrome.

The Centre County Down Syndrome Society does a great deal to educate

people that those with Down syndrome do lead productive lives, and they deserve to be commended.

POLANSKI EXTRADITION

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, the laws of the United States should stand for all. No one is above the law, whether it is the criminal laws or the extradition laws. That's why I ponder why some of the elites in Hollywood are now telling us that Roman Polanski should not be subject to the laws of the United States, the State of California or the international law that recognizes extradition.

What is it that suggests that fame excuses criminal conduct? What is it that allows some people in our society to say that a rape is not really a rape, or to suggest that because someone is a great film director that therefore they ought not to be brought to the bar of justice?

Thirty some years ago in the State of California, a crime was committed. Thirty years ago, someone admitted to that crime, and 30 some years ago, that person did not show up when his sentence was to be given to him. And now it is time for the laws of the State of California and the United States and international law to be followed.

Mr. Polanski should come home, and he should meet his justice.

AMERICAN TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN: COMMIT 100 PERCENT OR GET THEM OUT

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we know that in the 1960s and 1970s we committed our troops to Vietnam. But we found out at the end of the war, after 2 weeks of constant carpet bombing of Hanoi when SAM JOHNSON was leaving the Hanoi Hilton, he was told, You silly Americans, if you'd kept bombing us for 1 more week like that, we would have had to surrender unconditionally.

The message of Vietnam should be either commit 100 percent or get out. Don't leave people out there to die without full commitment.

Now we have people on the left saying, get out of Afghanistan now. We have people on the right saying, do whatever it takes to win. And I'm here to say, Mr. Speaker, the President should not keep going on talk shows and going around the world while he has a report suggesting what to do. He needs to commit 100 percent to the war in Afghanistan, give them everything they need, or get out now.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

IT'S TIME FOR MORAL LEADERSHIP IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, President Obama has often said that America must restore its moral leadership in the world. He took a very important step toward doing that last week when he spoke at the United Nations. In his speech, the President called for a new era of engagement and diplomacy. He called for international cooperation to address such critically important issues as nuclear nonproliferation, climate change and economic recovery. He also spoke about banning the use of torture and his decision to close Guantanamo as examples of America's new desire to abide by the rule of law.

I welcome the President's words. They show that President Obama is committed to peace and human rights. Those are the foundations of moral leadership. But now the President is facing the greatest test of his moral leadership as he reviews his strategy in Afghanistan.

The generals are urging him to pour in more troops. I'm sure there are others who are telling him to escalate the fighting just so he can look "tough on terrorism." But as the President makes his next decisions about Afghanistan, I would urge him to make the tough choices. I would urge him to base his decision-making on the following facts: the American people do not believe the war in Afghanistan is worth fighting and want to draw down the numbers of troops there. Sending in more troops will cause the Afghan people to see us as occupiers. And history has told us that the Afghan people always resist foreign occupations and always succeed.

America cannot afford to pour billions of dollars more into a futile occupation when we are going through the worst economic crisis of the past 70 years. We cannot, in good conscience, ask our brave troops to take more casualties without a clear mission, and we don't have one. We cannot ask our military families to continue to sacrifice when they have already suffered so very much.

And finally, we have no exit strategy. After the disaster of Iraq, the American people will not stand for another endless foreign occupation, one that will cost many lives and not make our country any safer.

Afghanistan is a difficult problem, but the President still has good options. He can order the Pentagon to develop a troop redeployment plan and a timetable for withdrawal. At the same time, he can be bold and shift to a new mission that will be far more likely to succeed because it will actually have the support of the Afghan people.