

## ACCELERATING RECESSION

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

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, last month the employment of George W. Bush came to an end. Unfortunately, so did the jobs of nearly 600,000 Americans, hardworking men and women hit in every sector of our economy, thrown out of work in the toughest recession to hit our Nation in decades.

The job losses of January show that this is an accelerating recession. We lost 1.7 million jobs in the first 10 months of 2008, then almost 600,000 in the month of November, again in December, again in January.

Look at this chart. This shows how this recession compares to the other two. No easing of job loss, no end in sight.

We must pass a stimulus responding to this crisis. This is the worst rate of job loss ever recorded. We must help Barack Obama, our new President, respond to this economic crisis facing our Nation.

## MONEY FOR THE MOB MUSEUM

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as Americans worry about the economy, Washington is using the politics of fear to promote a so-called stimulus package. This \$800 billion bill will cost every man, woman, child and illegal in the United States about \$2,700. However, we're told unless we pass this big spending bill, we're, in essence, all going to die.

The intimidating tactics used by the proponents give money to special interest groups like museums, including, believe it or not, the Mob Museum. That's right. The Mayor of Las Vegas correctly claims the bill allows for millions of dollars to go to funding the Las Vegas show piece, the Mob Museum.

I wonder how the money for a high dollar edifice to glorify organized crime will help out our economy. Obviously, the government should not strong-arm the taking of the people's money only to give it to this or to other special interest groups.

Let the people keep more of their own money. Cut taxes for all those that pay taxes. Then with more of their own money, the people will decide how to stimulate the economy. After all, it is their money. And I doubt they will be buying tickets to a museum dedicated to organized crime.

And that's just the way it is.

## IN SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. This body passed a very good recovery package. It's important to note, as we prepare to go to conference, that most economists have warned that it would be a far greater risk to pass one that is too small and that, therefore, it would be better to take that risk on the side of making the package a bigger one.

The increase in food stamps and unemployment benefits, the tax credits, all begin to put money in the hands where it's needed. Robust State stabilization funds and infrastructure projects, green jobs, small business and training provisions create and replace the millions of jobs lost over the past 8 years. That's the recovery part.

These and the education, health care, broadband and renewable energy provisions are the critical reinvestments and the important change that Americans voted for and want the President and Congress to bring about.

We should keep much that the Senate put in and keep our provisions, even if it means a bill that may cost \$900 billion, because it would have the dramatic impact our communities need today and build the strong foundation our Nation needs for the future.

The American people want and need change. Let's begin it with a robust American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

## U.S. DELEGATION SILENT AT UPR OF THE WORLD'S WORST HUMAN RIGHTS OFFENDERS

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

Mr. WOLF. The United Nations Human Rights Council is now conducting reviews of the human rights record of 16 countries, among which are China, Cuba, Saudi Arabia and Russia. And I was shocked and, quite frankly, disappointed to learn that the new administration has failed to fill its seat and has washed its hands of even questioning these countries. How can America be silent about four of the worst offenders of human rights and religious freedom around the world?

China has been designated by the State Department's annual Religious Freedom report as a country of particular concern since 1999. No administration comments.

Saudi Arabia has received this designation, too. Again, no comments from the new administration.

The U.S. Commission on Religious Freedom placed Cuba on their watch list. Again, no comment from this administration.

The administration made a pledge to place human rights at the top of its agenda, and yet they're absent at this very critical point. This is a bad start for this administration in the area of human rights and religious freedom.

## MEDIA'S DOUBLE STANDARD ON PARTY ID

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, breaking news. The national media spells scandal without the "D."

Two weeks ago the Governor of Illinois was removed from office. All three television networks ran full reports on the story the same night and again the following morning. Not one report mentioned that he is a Democrat.

The same has been true of numerous other Democrats recently embroiled in scandal. CNN ignored the party affiliation of the Democratic Mayor of Baltimore as news broke that she had been indicted. The AP did the same while covering the indictment of the former Democratic Mayor of Detroit. And in the aftermath of his sex scandal, network newscasts apparently forgot that the former Governor of New York is a Democrat.

Americans need and deserve balanced reporting from the media, not selective omissions.

## THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO FEAR IS FEAR ITSELF

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

Mr. REHBERG. In 1933, in the midst of the Great Depression, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, elected on a platform of change, said in his inaugural address, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

In 1961, another President, John F. Kennedy, elected on a platform of change, said, "Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate."

I ask my friends from both parties to heed this advice and reject the politics of fear. Let's not fear the negotiating table. Let's talk about meaningful bipartisan solutions that will benefit our country and get people back to work.

As Kennedy continued, "United there is little we cannot do, but divided there is little we can do."

Let us work together because people won't remember how fast we fixed this problem. They will, however, remember how well we fixed it.

## GOVERNMENT SPENDING DOES NOT FIX ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

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

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, to paraphrase an old saying, those who don't learn from history are doomed to make things worse. History shows us that government spending does not fix economic problems. If spending was the key to a robust and sound economy, the U.S. should be in a boom time.

Government spending has been out of control for the past 20 years. Look where it has gotten us.

Spending that is delayed for 2 years is not stimulus. Spending for pet causes of Members of Congress is not stimulus. And temporary tax credits for people who already pay no income tax are not stimulus.

Madam Speaker, we need fast-acting tax relief for working families and small businesses. I urge the Senate to put good policy above politics.

□ 1415

#### THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, job losses hurt individuals. They hurt families. They hurt other families because they hurt the economy, and everyone is hurt mentally as well as economically.

So what is causing the job loss? What is causing the downturn? Well, there is one thing we heard when we went to China and talked to people about why they moved their industries. They said it is because they have less than half the corporate tax than we have in the U.S. Yet still we are going to take up a bill to limit more drilling in the United States.

The report is out that, if Alaskan oil and gas were allowed to be developed, then it would create jobs in all 50 States. California would get 334,000 new jobs. Washington State would get 139,000 new jobs. Pennsylvania would get 142,000 new jobs. New York would get 93,000 new jobs. New Jersey would get 39,000 new jobs. Illinois would get 40,000 new jobs. Overall, 2.2 million jobs would be added. Let us help America. Let us open up our own resources.

#### THE STIMULUS PACKAGE

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, right now, the United States Senate is still debating an \$827 billion stimulus package. It is \$7 billion more than what passed the House last week. Not only is it more expensive; it actually does little to create jobs and to grow the economy.

It spends \$300 million on new cars for the Federal Government, and we just learned today that some of this money will be used for golf carts—that's right—for fancy golf carts. Unbelievable. \$900 million will be used for public interest groups.

Our top priority in Congress needs to be turning our economy around and helping hardworking, middle class families. However, this legislation is showering money on the Federal Government so that government workers will be driving the newest cars, will be working in new or in recently renovated buildings and will still be receiving high wages and generous health and pension benefits while our small

business owners and middle class families are struggling to make ends meet.

House Republicans have offered commonsense alternatives to stimulate and to grow the real economy. We would stabilize those home values and give much needed tax relief.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 4 p.m.

□ 1600

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MORAN of Virginia) at 4 p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 114) supporting the goals and ideals of "National Girls and Women in Sports Day".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 114

Whereas, since 1987, the National Girls and Women in Sports Coalition has declared February 4 as "National Girls and Women in Sports Day";

Whereas the House of Representatives has recognized the importance of girls and women in sports through title IX, which governs the overall equity of treatment and opportunity in athletics so that women have equal opportunities to participate in athletics;

Whereas the number of girls playing high school sports has increased from just under 300,000 during the 1971 to 1972 school year to nearly 3,000,000 during the 2005 to 2006 school year;

Whereas the number of women playing college sports grew from fewer than 32,000 in 1972 to nearly 171,000 from 2005 to 2006;

Whereas, despite great advancement, high school girls still receive 1,300,000 fewer participation opportunities than do boys, and the money spent on girls' sports is still far less than that spent on boys' sports;

Whereas high school girls who play sports are more likely to get better grades in school

and are more likely to graduate than girls who do not play sports;

Whereas as little as 4 hours of exercise a week may reduce a girl's risk of breast cancer, osteoporosis, and obesity;

Whereas girls and women who play sports have a more positive body image, higher levels of confidence and self-esteem, and experience higher states of psychological well-being than girls and women who do not play sports;

Whereas the celebration of "National Girls and Women in Sports Day" would increase awareness of the importance sports play in the lives of girls and women in the United States; and

Whereas February 4, 2009, has been designated as "National Girls and Women in Sports Day" by the National Girls and Women in Sports Coalition: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "National Girls and Women in Sports Day", an event sponsored by the National Girls and Women in Sports Coalition to honor the achievements of and encourage participation of girls and women in sports; and

(2) encourages the continued participation of schools and communities in providing opportunities for girls and women in elementary, secondary, and college sports to promote awareness of the positive influence of sports participation in the lives and health of girls and women, and the continuing struggle for equality and access for women in sports.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material regarding House Resolution 114 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 114, which recognizes February 4, 2009 as the 23rd National Girls and Women in Sports Day, and it also urges an increase in awareness of the importance sports plays in the lives of girls and women.

In 1987, the National Girls and Women in Sports Day began to celebrate the work of Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman to advance gender equality in athletics. Today, National Girls and Women in Sports Day seeks to honor the struggle and achievements of women in athletics.

The participation rates of women and girls in sports has risen dramatically. Currently, more than 3 million girls participate in high school sports compared to less than 300,000 girls in 1971. The number of women playing college sports has increased from 32,000 to