

Washingtonville, New York. It was a great opportunity to speak with small business owners about the current economic climate that has affected them.

Their message was consistent and needs to be heard. Small businesses are struggling. It is critical that we give small businesses every opportunity to succeed, which is why I joined with Representative CHRISTOPHER CARNEY to urge the extension of an immediate tax break for newly purchased business equipment. Extending this tax break will provide immediate relief for businesses that purchase depreciable property such as equipment, vehicles, furniture, machinery, buildings, and other items.

Our small businesses need every break they can get these days. They are the engine that drives our economy and creates jobs. This tax break helps small businesses and stimulates the local economy. We cannot afford to let it expire.

□ 1015

PUT CONGRESS BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you take a hard look at the economic challenges facing our country. Across the United States, unemployment is at a 26-year high, 10.2 percent, and more than 2.8 million jobs have been lost since the \$1 trillion stimulus was signed into law last February without a single Republican vote in this House.

In my home State of Georgia, eight out of the nine counties in my district have unemployment rates of 10 percent, and two counties are over 13 percent. Put simply, Mr. Speaker, my constituency needs jobs, and they need them now.

Yet the Democratic plans on the economy, on health care, and on energy do the exact opposite. These plans raise taxes, and they sacrifice even more jobs. This is not the way to stimulate our economy and not the way to help my constituents.

We need real solutions that will require tough choices in Washington. They involve tax relief for working Americans, and Republicans stand ready to work with you on that.

HELP THE DAIRY FARMERS

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to alert my colleagues to a piece of legislation that I have introduced to assist our dairy farmers across the country in their critical time of need. Dairy farmers across my upstate New York district have come to me and asked for help.

They have always been there to provide food for us as consumers, and now it is time for us to help them continue the long tradition of family-owned and operated dairy farms that are passed from generation to generation.

My bill is inspired by a piece of legislation introduced in the New York State Senate by Senator Darrel Aubertine and would reduce hauling costs passed on to dairy farmers by processors and milk haulers. The bill eliminates hauling costs for milk producers and clarifies that the ownership of the milk is transferred from the milk producers to the milk plant when it leaves the farm and is mixed with the other farmers' milk.

The bill also makes it unlawful for processors to charge a producer any cost incurred in the process of picking up the milk and delivering it to a milk plant receiving station or transfer station.

The time to act for our dairy farmers is now.

NEW AFGHANISTAN POLICY

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a 29-year Air Force veteran and prisoner of war for nearly 7 years, I know what happens when you try to run a war from the White House: you lose. Winning the war in Afghanistan, defeating al Qaeda, is vital to the safety of our Nation. To quote the President, "If left unchecked, the Taliban insurgency will mean an even larger safe haven from which al Qaeda would plot to kill more Americans."

So let's listen to the military leadership in Afghanistan. Setting a timeline to end military engagement is not the way to win a war. Instead, it empowers our enemies and sends a wrong message to our troops, our allies, and the American people. We need to listen to the experts on the ground instead of the politicians who are thousands of miles away from the front. We need to stop talking about exit strategies and troop withdrawal and focus on giving our troops the resources they want, need, and deserve.

Let's eliminate the rules and fight to win.

ETHICS REFORM

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, Louis Brandeis said sunlight is the best disinfectant. So with ethics once more in the headlines, I think it's worth asking how far we've come in bringing light to the people's House.

This is not a partisan issue. Corruption votes both ways. It is, rather, an issue of trust. These teams, more than ever, demand effective government, yet it is very hard to govern effectively

without the public's trust. We need to complete the active ethics investigations currently being considered in this House, and we need to eliminate the conditions which contributed to these violations in the first place.

I've introduced two measures to eliminate pay-to-play activities at both the State and Federal level. H.R. 614 would prohibit earmarks to for-profit entities, and H.R. 3427 would eliminate Federal provisions which prevent States like Illinois from cleaning up their act on pay-to-play corruption.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting both of these measures.

AFGHANISTAN PLAN

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I commend the President for finally making the right decision to send additional combat troops to Afghanistan. However, I have deep concerns with the President's insistence on a hard July 2011 deadline for withdrawal.

The President seeks to send our troops into battle while at the same time notifying our enemies of when they will be coming home. And to confuse matters more, the President also spoke of making decisions based on conditions on the ground.

So which is it, a withdrawal on a date certain, or based on the conditions on the ground?

The President offers many what-ifs but very few answers. Our Nation's troops have fought admirably in dangerous conditions to turn the tide against those who attacked our Nation on September 11. The President cannot have it both ways, and I urge him to focus this new strategy on victory and not withdrawal.

CONGRATULATING THE PARSONS CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Parsons Child and Family Center for immaculate community services that they provide for the needs of children and families in the capital region of upstate New York, which I represent.

Parsons was founded some 180 years ago and has become one of the largest human service agencies in upstate New York. Its contributions to the 9,000 children and families it serves include counseling services, parenting education, child abuse prevention and treatment, and mental services.

While there is no typical child served by Parsons, most have endured a significant traumatic event in their lives. The highly trained staff at Parsons

using the latest techniques work to improve the lives of all they serve. The role and importance of the family are stressed, with the ultimate goal of preserving the family unit whenever and wherever possible.

Today I want to commend Parsons' service and commitment to our region's families and children. I encourage us all to look towards them as a model of positive support and outcomes in a system that has turned around the lives of so many. With one in every five American children living in poverty, we commend the role of the professionals at Parsons for the work it does.

RECOGNIZING THE MURRAY GREY FOUNDATION AND WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Murray Grey Foundation and Wreaths Across America. The Murray Grey Foundation and its Military Families Support Fund provides America's military families with emergency financial support and resources in their time of need.

The Murray Grey Foundation recognizes that the sacrifices that our military servicemembers and their families continue to make are not only personal and professional but also financial. The foundation assists by providing financial assistance, education, and support to help military families avoid foreclosure or eviction from their homes and preserve their home ownership. They also provide emergency financial support, food, clothing, utility payments, transportation, rent and other critical resources.

This year, the foundation partnered with Wreaths Across America, which places wreaths on the graves of veterans, to establish the Patriots Wreaths Program.

I applaud the outstanding contributions of organizations like the Murray Grey Foundation and their work to honor the contributions of our Nation's veterans, servicemembers and their families.

ARC OF BROWARD COUNTY

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the chance to visit a remarkable organization in my congressional district, the ARC of Broward County. ARC Broward is a private, not-for-profit organization that supports children and adults with autism, Down's syndrome and other developmental disabilities.

This innovative group provides an invaluable service for their clients in our community. Currently serving over 1,600 people, ARC Broward also provides good jobs for more than 450 local

health care, educational, and other professionals.

ARC clients find independence and dignity both at home and at work. ARC is currently home to 80 residents, many of whom have single family homes that ARC owns and operates. In addition, they provide job training in fields like culinary arts and own and operate an on-campus electronic recycling business.

I would like to thank the residents and staff at the ARC for welcoming me so warmly last week and congratulate all of them on their extraordinary contributions to our community.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank President Obama for convening a forum on jobs and economic growth in the White House today.

As too many of our constituents enter this holiday season perhaps having lost their jobs or facing lower wages, higher health care costs, or out-of-control mortgages, and many of whom have lost their homes, we absolutely must focus on rebuilding our economy and pursuing all avenues to create jobs. Rhode Island felt the painful effects of the current economic downturn, and that is why it is so important to me that we have a seat at this forum.

I am pleased to say that President DiPasquale of the Community College of Rhode Island will be there to share their perspective on workforce development, job training, retraining workers, and educational opportunity for the 21st century.

Economic development continues to be my top priority, and I look forward to working with my friends in Congress and with President Obama to increase job opportunities across our country.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4154, PERMANENT ESTATE TAX RELIEF FOR FAMILIES, FARMERS, AND SMALL BUSINESSES ACT OF 2009

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 941 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 941

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4154) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the new carryover basis rules in order to prevent tax increases and the imposition of compliance burdens on many more estates than would benefit from repeal, to retain the estate tax with a \$3,500,000 exemption, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The bill shall be considered as read. All

points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. In the engrossment of H.R. 4154, the Clerk shall—

(a) add the text of H.R. 2920, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 4154;

(b) conform the title of H.R. 4154 to reflect the addition to the engrossment of the text of H.R. 2920;

(c) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and

(d) conform provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4154, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief for Families, Farmers, and Small Businesses Act of 2009. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI and against the bill itself. The rule provides that the previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervening motions except 1 hour of debate and one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

In the engrossment of H.R. 4154, the Clerk is directed to add at the end the text of H.R. 2920, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2009, as passed by the House.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend in honor of the Thanksgiving holidays, NBC's "Meet the Press" hosted the Reverend Rick Warren in a discussion on giving and civic duty. During the dialogue, Rev. Warren stated his belief that it isn't a sin to be rich, but it is a sin to die rich. While I don't agree with Rev. Warren on many issues, I ask my colleagues to now reflect on the meaning of those words. The Reverend was speaking, of course, of the importance of charity and our moral obligation to improve the condition of our fellow man whenever and wherever we can.

Today I speak to you with the same sense of duty—duty to our country that has allowed me personally to achieve personal wealth, and in turn, to help others.