

And yet, year after year, decade after decade, workers are losing. And the Employee Free Choice Act is yet another tool that we have that we will provide to workers so that it enables them to organize, to bargain collectively and fairly, as partners at a table, with employers and to say to employers, once again, we don't have anything against your making money, making a profit, building your business. But you cannot do that at the expense of and on the backs of workers.

And I think it's a fairly simple proposition, and I think it is one, Mr. Speaker, that the American public feels very strongly about, that somehow, all of us who get up every day and go to work for a living ought to have good wages, good benefits and safe working conditions, just three simple things.

□ 1500

Because the American worker is not asking anyone, really, for a handout. The American worker is not asking for an easy deal or for a bonus. They are saying fair wages, good and safe working conditions and good benefits. I think that the American worker deserves the opportunity to sit at a bargaining table to decide: I want to have a union; I want to easily sign up and let my coworkers know that I want a union; I want the choice to be able to do that, and then I want to bargain fairly at the bargaining table with the employer. I think that that, Mr. Speaker, is a good deal for the American people.

So I am excited about the prospects. I think it is important for us to destroy the mythology that is taking place from some who don't really believe in the American worker, and I think it is important for us to destroy the mythology of those who believe that just because a worker gets a good wage and good benefits and good working conditions it means that that is the end of the American economy. It is not true. It never has been true, and it will not be true tomorrow.

So I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for joining me this evening to speak up on behalf of the American worker and to speak up and say that the Employee Free Choice Act is about choice. It is not my choice. It is not your choice. Mr. Speaker, it is not your choice. It is the choice of the American worker to choose a union, to bargain fairly, to get a good deal, and to go to work the next morning to take care of themselves and their families.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. DAVIS of California (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of funeral of very close friend.

Mr. GRIFFITH (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of family medical emergency.

Mr. POE of Texas (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business in the district.

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 Ms. KAPTUR) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. COHEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, 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. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTHRIE, for 5 minutes, March 31.

Mr. CASSIDY, for 5 minutes, April 2.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, April 2.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, April 2.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, April 2.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 30, 2009, at 12:30 p.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:

1066. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Procurement of Energy Efficient Products (RIN: 1904-AB68) received March 19, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1067. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Formaldehyde, Polymer with 2-Methyloxirane and 4-Nonylphenol; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0794; FRL-8399-5] received March 13, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1068. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement with Germany (Transmittal No. DDTTC 141-08), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, section 36(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1069. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal and Modification of Certain Entries from the Entity List: Persons Removed or Modified Based on

ERC Annual Review [Docket No.: 090223225-9275-01] (RIN: 0694-AE57) received March 19, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1070. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a legislative proposal to eliminate the divisions within the Judicial District of North Dakota, leaving unaffected North Dakota's configuration as one judicial district with four places of holding court; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1071. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Termination of Phase-In Period for Full Concurrent Receipt of Military Retired Pay and Veterans Disability Compensation Based on a VA Determination of Individual Unemployability (RIN: 2900-AN19) received March 19, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1072. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — The Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act of 2007 (RIN: 2900-AN03) received March 19, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1073. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tier I — Industry Director Directive on Domestic Production Deduction (DPD) #3 — Field Directive related to compensation Expenses currently deducted but attributable to prior periods. [LMSB-04-0209-004] received March 19, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1074. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates — April 2009 (Rev. Rul. 2009-10) received March 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1075. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tax Treatment of Losses from Criminally Fraudulent Investment Arrangements (Rev. Rul. 2009-9) received March 23, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1076. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Safe Harbor Method for Determining Theft Loss Deductions from Criminally Fraudulent Investment Arrangements (Rev. Proc. 2009-20) received March 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1077. A letter from the National Quality Forum, transmitting the Forum's report entitled, "Improving Healthcare Performance: Setting Priorities and Enhancing Measurement Capacity" in accordance with a provision in the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. FILNER: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1171. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reauthorize the

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program for fiscal years 2010 through 2014; with amendments (Rept. 111-54). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FILNER: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1377. A bill to amend 38, United States Code, to expand veteran eligibility for reimbursement by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for emergency treatment furnished in a non-Department facility, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111-55). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FILNER: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1513. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2009, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes (Rept. 111-56). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Ms. MATSUI: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 289. Resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 111-57). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. HINCHAY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. PAUL, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, and Mr. FILNER):

H.R. 1726. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue a rule with respect to border security searches of electronic devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mrs. BONO MACK (for herself and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 1727. A bill to establish guidelines and incentives for States to establish criminal arsonist and criminal bomber registries and to require the Attorney General to establish a national criminal arsonist and criminal bomber registry program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MILLER of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. WATT, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. BEAN, and Mr. MINNICK):

H.R. 1728. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself and Mr. LATOURETTE):

H.R. 1729. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for the treatment of institutions of higher education as voter registration agencies; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 1730. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 with respect to electric vehicle infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MINNICK:

H.R. 1731. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to require any creditor who transfers, sells, or conveys certain residential mortgage loans to third parties to retain an economic interest in a material portion of the credit risk for any such loan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. HARMAN (for herself and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 1732. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for standards for energy efficient outdoor lighting; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEE of New York (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. MCHUGH):

H.R. 1733. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit against income tax for the cost of passports and other enhanced identification documents required to comply with the June 1, 2009, implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEE of New York (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. MCHUGH):

H.R. 1734. A bill to require the Secretary of State to establish passport issuance agencies within 50 miles of all major international border crossings; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. WU):

H.R. 1735. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the direct payment of attorney fees to the attorney representing a prevailing party in certain Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAIRD (for himself, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. CARNAHAN):

H.R. 1736. A bill to provide for the establishment of a committee to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. MORAN of Kansas (for himself, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. BERRY, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 1737. A bill to facilitate the sale of United States agricultural products to Cuba, as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 1738. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the city of Downey, California, regional wastewater treatment

and reclamation facility projects; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 1739. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to prohibit States from refusing to accept balloting materials solely because the materials are generated through the use of a computer program, are not printed on a specific type of paper, or do not otherwise meet similar extraneous requirements which are not clearly necessary to prevent fraud in the conduct of elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. BEAN, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. CAPPAS, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BACA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. PERRIELLO, Ms. KOSMAS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. BOREN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. MURTHA, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HARMAN, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. HODES, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. WELCH, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. NYE, Mr. CARNEY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. KILROY, Mr. BARROW, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. WALZ, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. HINCHAY, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. OLVER, Mr. SHULER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MASSA, Mr. REYES, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. BOYD, Mr. DICKS, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. OBEY, Mr. WAMP, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MANZULLO, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. POSEY, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. ISSA, Mr. MACK, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. HOYER, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. BOCCIERI, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. PUTNAM, Mrs.