

districts. And, as DAVID SCOTT has said, Madam Speaker, Dr. Reverend Major Jim Higgins, as we know, has brought us a very inspiring message as we open business today in the United States House of Representatives as our guest chaplain of the day.

But, as Representative SCOTT said, his service to us and to his constituents in Powder Springs and to our country goes much beyond just the spiritual. When you think about his service as a chaplain in the United States Army and, as DAVID SCOTT was just saying, his service in Vietnam, and his tour of duties, Madam Speaker, of 18 months.

Now, today, the Marines limit rotation to 7 months and the Army to 12 months. But Jim Higgins' rotation in Vietnam—a pretty tough place—was 18 months. Of course, he has this week, as has been said, been recognized as the United States Military Reserve Chaplain of the Year.

So we really are indebted to this great man, not only for his spiritual leadership, Jim, but great service to your country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

STIMULATE THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. We need to pass a stimulus conference report that stimulates the economy. We need to combine the best of public oversight and private spending in public-private partnerships to build and, in some cases, rebuild public infrastructure. This stimulative spending should be encouraged by Federal and State stimulus programs and bills.

But here's what we have to look out for. Public-private partnerships are different than private-public partnerships where the private sector tells the public what is in their best interest. Do not confuse the two. It doesn't work.

Do not confuse public-private partnerships with quasi-public-private partnerships. They are not the answer. They lack public accountability and can be rife with corruption. Only by achieving the best in publicly accountable oversight in public works projects, with private capital, can the balance be struck and we create jobs.

Today, the President will limit executive compensation for executives of companies that take advantage of taxpayer bailout funds. This is the right thing to do. However, the relationship between the public sector and the private sector should not be an afterthought, and the private sector cannot demand its own rules while using taxpayer funds.

We are slowly getting to the idea, Madam Speaker, of public-private partnerships as a way of bringing government, business, and labor together. It's time to establish a new American paradigm.

STIMULUS AND THE NATIONAL DEBT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. The national debt will jump by more than \$1 trillion in the 6 months ending in March. \$1 trillion dollars in 6 months. Think about that. The previous record increase in the national debt was less than half this amount, and that was over the course of an entire year, which means we are currently racking up debt at four times the rate of the previous record. And all of this debt doesn't include the so-called stimulus package that the Senate has already porked up to \$900 billion. It's so full of spending unrelated to job creation that we can't even begin to tally the waste.

We must stop and take stock. With hardly a second thought, the Federal Government is careening towards a record \$2 trillion deficit—payable by our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. My friends, we cannot borrow and spend our way to prosperity.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. BACA. Our country is in desperate need of comprehensive immigration reform to ensure the security and the future of America. Our broken immigration policies have failed to secure our borders and have taken on racial profiling tactics.

Our families are being separated and terrorized with unjust border raids, such as the one that was held in my district a couple of weeks ago at a Home Depot parking lot. In the greatest Nation of the world, no one should ever live in fear of being torn apart from their families.

We shall not be a Nation of discrimination when our faces promote diversity. We need a cohesive program such as comprehensive immigration. We cannot stand complacent with our broken immigration policies. We need to take action.

Mr. President, you called for change. You and Madam Speaker need to deliver on that promise. I urge my colleagues to join me in passing comprehensive immigration.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Today, February 4, 2009, will go down as a historic milestone in America's long journey towards universal health coverage. In a few hours, with a bipartisan vote, the House will pass an expansion of the Children's Health Insurance Program, extending health insurance to 4 million more American youngsters, keeping a promise that President Obama made to the American people to get this much-needed change accomplished. He did it in 2 weeks' time. I would just say, contrast that with the 2-year rancorous partisan debate that divided this country over the issue.

The new Congress and the new President are delivering on this incredibly important step towards extending health coverage to children—strengthening their dental coverage; strengthening their mental health coverage; locking in for States like Connecticut eligibility so that working families' children will be insured and will be covered.

Building on that success, extending health IT technology to our health care system, which is included in the stimulus package, extending people with unemployment Medicaid coverage, we are going to move forward as a country towards universal health coverage. Today will go down in history as an important step forward to accomplish that much-needed goal.

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HONORING MARLIN BRISCOE

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

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to honor a great Nebraskan, Marlin Briscoe.

Marlin was a standout basketball and football player at Omaha South High School. He attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he played quarterback, something unique for an African American in the 1960s. He was drafted by the Denver Broncos. He played for them and the Miami Dolphins, and he went on to play several years in the NFL. But he really made his mark when he fell from grace because of his addiction to drugs, and he even spent time in jail.

But Marlin eventually recovered and has since turned his life around and has been a strong advocate for at-risk youth. He is a mentor, a teacher, a role model. He once said that working for the Boys and Girls Club was the most important thing he had ever done in his life.

Marlin, our country, and especially the people of Omaha, Nebraska, are very proud of your contributions and accomplishments.

PREVENTING FUTURE DISASTERS

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

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, this weekend marks the first anniversary of the combustible dust explosion at the Imperial Sugar Refinery in Savannah, Georgia.

What we learned in my community since this disaster hit is that the experts have known about this problem for decades. The private sector has developed standards that effectively deal with this problem, but the public sector hasn't responded. The trouble is not enough people know about the problem, much less the solutions, and those who do know about the solutions aren't required to adopt them.

The only standards that are mandatory really are not designed with this problem in the first place, and so they aren't working. The result is we have good standards that are not mandatory and inadequate standards that are mandatory. It ought to be the other way around.

Today I am reintroducing legislation we passed in the last Congress, legislation that will take such upside-down policy and flip it right side up.

On the anniversary of this latest disaster, our thoughts and prayers go out to the folks who are still suffering from their losses and injuries. But our work to fix what is broken with our regulatory system should continue until we have done everything that we reasonably can to prevent any such disasters from ever happening again.

GIVING VOICE TO THE UNBORN

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

We all know this quote, Madam Speaker, and it is no accident that life is mentioned first. It is our most basic right given to us only by our Creator.

Every life is a gift given to us by the grace of God, and there can be no doubt that life begins at the moment of conception. But as I stand before you today, my heart breaks for the faces that are missing because they were never born.

Madam Speaker, I pray for the men and women throughout this country and the world who are expecting a child and they believe they are in an impossible situation. I hope they would understand that with God, all things are possible.

We recently saw thousands descend upon the Supreme Court to stand up for the rights of the unborn. To them, and all those who work every day to give a voice to the unborn, I say thank you and God bless.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, last week American companies announced that they will be laying off more than 102,000 employees in the coming weeks.

The economic situation is clearly getting worse, and Congressional Democrats are taking steps to get people back to work and to save jobs that without action will be lost in the next few months.

Last week, the House passed legislation that will save and create 3 to 4 million jobs. We will create nearly half a million jobs by investing in clean energy. Our economic package also puts nearly 400,000 people to work repairing crumbling roads, bridges and schools.

In another effort to jump start our economy, it also gives 95 percent of Americans an immediate tax cut.

Madam Speaker, economists told us that we needed to act boldly and swiftly to address our Nation's troubled economy. This week, the Senate must pass the economic recovery package so that we can begin the long process of turning this economy around. Failure to act, as some on the other side of the aisle seem to be more happy to do, is simply not an option.

STIMULUS MUST STIMULATE ECONOMY

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I believe that there is broad bipartisan consensus in this House that we must act to stimulate our economy. And actually, the vote last week indicated that there is a bipartisan belief that we can do better.

I have talked to my constituents, to local school districts, and local government and business leaders, and the consensus is that we must do better.

Too many programs were included in that bill that will not stimulate our economy. When we are borrowing money from our children and grandchildren, we have a responsibility to make certain that the plan will work, that it will create jobs, and that it will help get our economy moving.

President Obama has reached out his hand asking for bipartisan cooperation, and many of us are ready to answer his call. I believe that we can create a bill along the broad outlines put forward by the President and pass such a bill with strong bipartisan support. All it will take is the majority including good ideas and putting aside other non-stimulative policy goals for another day. We can get this done, and for the sake of our economy and the American people, I hope that we will get it done.

CHIP PASSAGE DEMONSTRATES CHANGE

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

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, the American people have heard a lot about change these days, but exactly what will that change be and what will it mean to them?

Well, today, real change will come to Washington when this House passes an expansion of the Children's Health Insurance Program. This is legislation that will have a direct impact on children in our country.

When we pass this bill today, an additional 4 million children living without health insurance will soon be able to afford seeing a doctor. Congress has worked hard to pass this legislation twice, sending it to President Bush, and both times he vetoed this bill. But now, change has come to Washington.

Today, the House will pass legislation very similar to what President Bush vetoed twice; only this time, we will reach a total of 11 million children. And President Obama is expected to sign this bill later today.

This is change we can believe in, and that's going to mean a lot to the 4 million children who will now be able to see a doctor when they are sick.

STIMULATE PRODUCTIVE SECTOR

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, the mantra that we keep hearing from the left, that we just heard from the gentleman from New Jersey, that government rather than the productive sector needs to create more jobs.

Well, according to our new President and Members of this House, the \$825 billion spending bill is going to create 3 million new jobs. I thought that sounded pretty good in an economy that is hurting like ours until I pulled out a pocket calculator and did the math: 3 million new jobs for \$825 billion, that comes to \$275,000 per job. That's by the President's own numbers, \$275,000 that will have to be paid back, with interest, by average Americans for every job that he himself says will be created.

Madam Speaker, we do not need to stimulate government. Government continues to grow just fine. We need to stimulate the productive sector, and the best way to do that is to get off its back.

SAVING CHILDREN'S LIVES

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

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I have five children, two of them are 3-year-olds who were born prematurely. They were in the hospital for a long time. They were on respirators for a