

of every American's income tax-free, and in your case, since you make less than \$35,000, it eliminates Federal taxation on you.

And to illustrate that, we have this chart here, and as the chart does indicate, as you can see for yourself, your taxes under H.R. 5353 are a big fat zero. Zilch. Nada. Gornish. Nothing. And I hope that that will become permanent.

This is the biggest tax cut bill that you are going to see this year. It would have been the biggest tax cut bill if we'd introduced it last year. And I could tell you this bill gives us a nudge towards peace. I could tell you that this bill helps us to eliminate wasteful defense spending. I could tell you also that this bill reduces the deficit by \$16 billion and puts us back on the track to eliminate our deficit and our debt. I could tell you all of that, but what I am telling you now is this: It eliminates taxes on you.

Now, you may not participate very much in the political system. Certainly, the political system does very little for you, so I can understand that. You don't have the ability to contribute to candidates because you have no money. You don't have the ability to, in many cases, vote because voting takes place on Tuesdays, and you work on Tuesdays.

So you have to ask yourself, what do you have to do to get this bill, H.R. 5353, passed? And I'm going to give you some hints. I'm going to tell you what you might be able to do to get this bill passed to eliminate taxation on you.

Let's see. You can call the main number here at the House of Representatives. It's 202-224-3121, and you, as an American, can ask to speak to your Congressman. I suggest that you do that, and I suggest that you tell your Congressman that you want your Congressman to vote for H.R. 5353. Or, if you have an Internet connection, you can go to the Web site here at the House, www.house.gov. And at that Web site, you can find out how to get in touch with your Congressman and tell your Congressman that you want to support H.R. 5353 and you want him or her to do the same.

And maybe somehow, in some conceivable way, if all of America—or at least the one-third that this bill would eliminate taxation for—got together and demanded justice, demanded that this yoke be tossed off your back and that you be free of Federal taxation, and if this bill passed, then you can say at that point: Free at last; Free at last; Thank God Almighty, I am free at last.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to the television-viewing audience.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to enter remarks into the RECORD on this topic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, is

proud to anchor this hour on jobs and the economy. Currently, the CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the Ninth Congressional District of California. My name is Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, representing the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

CBC members are advocates for the human family, nationally and internationally, and have played a significant role as local and regional advocates. We continue to work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress, but we understand that all politics are local. Therefore, we provide dedicated and focused service to the citizens and congressional districts we serve.

The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, which was to promote the public welfare through legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens, continues to be a focal point for the legislative work and political activities of the Congressional Black Caucus today.

When I first became a Member of the Congress, in the fall of 2008 when I joined Congress, our economy was at its worst since the Great Depression. Predatory and subprime lending were at an all-time high. The housing bubble had just burst, and many of our largest financial institutions had gone bankrupt. Retirement and savings accounts were cut in half, forcing many of us to hold off retirement and continue working well into our golden years.

Over 200,000 American workers were being laid off each month. In the State of Ohio, unemployment was growing rapidly, quickly approaching double-digit numbers. The 11th Congressional District's unemployment rate was even greater, already at double digits and growing.

In October of 2008, when I arrived in Congress, my number one priority was promoting policies that created jobs, spurred economic development, and helped struggling Americans. I have consistently advocated for these policies.

In early 2009, one of my first and most important votes in this Congress infused more than \$787 billion into the U.S. economy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This legislation was desperately needed to create and save millions of jobs. It focused on rebuilding America using green technologies and LEED-certified construction, making the United States more energy independent. It invested billions of dollars in research and emerging technologies to make our Nation more globally competitive.

It also gave 95 percent of all American workers an immediate tax cut through the Making Work Pay tax credit. It invested billions of dollars in infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, mass transit, and energy-efficient buildings.

Finally, it invested dollars quickly into our economy. In Cuyahoga County, which is where I live, this legislation meant over 4,500 jobs and it provided salaries for teachers and firefighters. It also paid for construction workers to make critical improvements to our roads and our bridges.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus continue to support policies that create jobs, that provide career training and improve our economy. In the American Clean Energy Act, Representative BOBBY RUSH offered an amendment requiring that jobs created from the legislation go to the residents of impacted communities.

□ 2000

In the 2010 budget, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT and Congresswoman GWEN MOORE fought for and secured more dollars for job training and block grants. Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN, with the support of her CBC colleagues, authored a letter to the White House to promote funding for surface transportation projects.

Tomorrow, the Congressional Black Caucus, along with the Congressional Progressive Caucus, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and the Jobs Task Force will lead a timely and necessary forum titled "Putting Americans Back to Work: Direct Job Creation in Local Communities."

This is only a sample of the important legislation my colleagues in the CBC have created. We are beginning to see more growth in our economy. Even *The Wall Street Journal* reported that the economist from the National Association for Business Economics predicts solid growth and employment gains through 2011. This growth would not have happened without the Recovery Act and other Democratic-led legislation putting Americans back to work.

We have done a great deal in a short period of time, but there is still much work to be done. There has been much improvement in the job outlook since I first came to Washington. The number of job losses each month, as well as the unemployment rate, have begun to fall.

In April, the Federal Reserve Bank noted that economic activity has continued to strengthen and the labor market is improving. While we have a better outlook than when I first came to Congress during the height of the financial crisis, there is still more to be done.

The Nation's unemployment rate is alarming—9.5 percent of the population is without a job. In northeast Ohio, the rate is 12 percent. Unfortunately, African Americans across the Nation have been hit hardest by this recession.

We see the devastating effects of unemployment in all of our communities. The most recent data shows 16.2 percent of African Americans are unemployed. Many parts of the greater Cleveland area suffer from abject poverty and unemployment.

Nearly one in every four Cuyahoga County residents live below the pov-

erty line. These statistics demonstrate that Americans need and deserve a more concerted Federal effort to reduce poverty and create jobs among struggling populations.

We must do more to curb our Nation's unemployment problem. We must do more to create jobs for our people.

Yet there is still much work to be done.

I cosponsored the Local Jobs for America Act. The Education and Labor Committee on which I serve recognizes we are going through one of the most difficult economic times in our history. The recession is forcing States and municipalities to cut critical jobs, those of teachers, police officers, and firefighters.

I recently spoke with Mayor Clinton Hall of Warrensville Heights, Ohio. His community desperately needs money to keep its firefighters. Mayor Joe Cicero of Lyndhurst, Ohio, has been struggling to keep his police force. The city of Cleveland has had massive layoffs in the public school workforce.

The Local Jobs for America Act will provide our economy a big boost by putting 1 million people to work by restoring services to local communities. The legislation will create and save public and private jobs in local communities this year. It will help ensure these communities have the ability to provide essential services.

Finally, the legislation will help teachers by providing \$23 billion this year to help States support 250,000 education jobs, \$1.18 billion to put law enforcement officers back to work, and \$500 million to retain and hire firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, I have been joined by the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. I now yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much. Let me begin my thanking my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Ohio, Congresswoman FUDGE, for anchoring once again tonight's Congressional Black Caucus' special hour.

We are talking tonight about job creation and the economy. Every Monday the House of Representatives is in session, we hold Special Orders so that we can bring attention to some of the most pressing issues confronting our country that often really don't make headlines. And so I have to thank Congresswoman FUDGE once again for her leadership and for leading these Special Orders, because this continues to keep our caucus and the entire country focused on the critical issues that sometimes do not receive the type of attention, really, that they should receive and, also, really puts forth what the agenda is of the Congressional Black Caucus.

As chair of the CBC, I rise once again this evening sounding the alarm for the urgent and vital need to create jobs in America. We have to create jobs in our communities that have disproportion-

ately suffered the brunt of this economic crisis and who, as a result, are in desperate need of targeted, concrete, and meaningful relief.

For many months now, members of the Congressional Black Caucus have been and continue to be laser focused on stimulating the economy and creating jobs, particularly for the chronically unemployed. We have sought to engage the Obama administration, our House and Senate leadership, committee chairs, and our coalition partners to develop a legislative strategy to address the needs of millions of Americans who are struggling in this tough, economic environment.

Last week we tried but this week I hope we will pass H.R. 4213, the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act. This includes funding for summer youth jobs and emergency assistance for needy families. These provisions will target resources to communities with the most urgent need for help.

Over the past several months, we have worked to develop a job creation strategy that will address needs of the chronically unemployed, and one of our top priorities has been the creation of a summer youth jobs program for America's youth.

The Congressional Black Caucus met with President Obama, and we raised the importance of the summer jobs program to address the huge unemployment rate among young people. We need this targeted assistance to help put our young people to work and to teach them an array of valuable job skills that they can use throughout their life but, even more importantly at this point, in many of our communities and in our districts, many of our young people have to help their families just survive. They have to help pay the rent and put food on the table.

While the most recent job reports issued at the beginning of May show the overall teen unemployment rate dropping significantly, African American and Latino teens remain unemployed at significantly higher rates than their white peers. African American and Latino teens are unemployed at 37.3 percent and 29.2 percent respectively, compared to an overall national rate of 23.5 percent. These figures underscore the urgent need for this legislation and for the United States Senate to quickly follow. We know that these jobs and the jobs initiative provisions in these bills will help all young people.

Due to this recession and due to parents being unemployed, again, our young people have a critical role to play now in terms of just the stability of their families. Studies have shown also that teenage joblessness has many long-term consequences. Young people who fail to find early jobs are more likely to be unemployed, are underemployed into their 20s and permanently, mind you, trapped at the margins of the economy.

So I urge all of us to support H.R. 4213 and get this passed. This bill will

also provide critical tax cuts and support for American workers through the end of this year. Some of the other provisions included in this legislation would provide tax relief to businesses and State and local governments to help them invest and to create jobs, provide important tax cuts to put money back into the pockets of working families, and help restore the flow of credit to enable small businesses to expand and hire new workers by extending small business loan programs. This bill also expands career training for Americans who are looking for work. It extends eligibility for the unemployed who need the unemployment insurance benefits, also COBRA, the health care tax credits, and other critical programs that families and communities depend on through these hard economic times. This, and sometimes I call it the survival package, which is what it is, helps families maintain and only maintain until they can get back on their feet and also until we can do more in terms of creating some real good paying and sustainable jobs.

This bill also ensures that seniors and military servicemembers and Americans with disabilities continue to have access to doctors that they know and trust. Also, it closes tax loopholes for wealthy investment fund managers and foreign operations of multinational corporations.

So we need to consider this bill quickly. We also need to look at Chairman MILLER's bill, which is called the Local Jobs for America Act, because many of the provisions that the Congressional Black Caucus has been championing are included in that bill also.

In the Miller bill we target funding to community-based organizations serving communities with poverty rates of 12 percent and-or unemployment rates that are 2 percent or more than the national average. We provide for on-the-job training for thousands seeking new skills for a new economy. In many of our districts throughout the country, even if we created jobs, our workforce may or may not have the requisite skills and may not have the preparation and the job training for those jobs because they have been undereducated, they have not had the type of resources, and have been chronically unemployed for many, many years. And so we need to have on-the-job training and workforce training as part of any comprehensive jobs package.

Also in the Miller bill we target communities that are hit hardest by the recession, and we support programs that train, retrain, and hire teachers, law enforcement officers, and firefighters. So this bill that we are working on and talking about tonight, H.R. 4213, is building a foundation. It is an excellent first step, but we must move forward and have a comprehensive jobs bill to invest in people, invest in our workers, provide for worker training and retraining, apprenticeship, pre-appren-

ticeship programs, but also direct investment in job creation efforts.

I want to thank once again my colleague from Ohio for sounding the alarm. Certainly in Ohio we have witnessed an economic downturn that is hard to imagine with the foreclosure crisis, the loss of jobs, outsourcing, the lack of health care. I know Ohio has really gone through some very difficult times.

In my own State of California we are facing a huge budget deficit. People are being cut. Of course, unfortunately, the safety net is being cut. And so what we need to do here is provide Federal investment in job creation, because this ultimately will help us reduce our deficit, put people back to work, and allow American men and women and families to finally regroup and be part of the American dream.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say that our chair is involved in so many things, but one of the things that I can always say is that she has been a tireless advocate for jobs programs, especially summer jobs programs for our young people, and has always made sure that we kept at the top of our agenda what we need to do for those who are most in need. I just appreciate that, and I appreciate her leadership and her friendship.

And I think that under her leadership the caucus has made great strides in making our communities aware of the work we do and how hard we work on their behalf. I thank you so much, Madam Chair.

Mr. Speaker, as we in Congress have worked to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable health care, I thought to include an important provision in the health care legislation. This provision requires the Advisory Committee on Health Workforce Evaluation and Assessment to monitor the retention and expansion of the health workforce and to maintain quality and adequate staff levels in the wake of reform.

This legislation will create job opportunities for my constituents. It provides a rapid response to the current shortages in the health care workforce.

Recently, I, along with Chairman TOWNS of New York, introduced H.R. 5055, the College Debt Swap Act of 2010. This proposal allows college graduates to exchange a portion of their private college student loan debt for Federal loans.

As a result of the conversion, the Federal Government would earn about \$9 billion, and this would improve funding for the Pell Grant program and provide opportunities for learning and training in various jobs that are available right now.

Finally, I am introducing CAREER, Career Attainment Remedial Education and Resources Act of 2010.

□ 2015

This act is for dropouts and adjudicated youth. With the help of the Na-

tional Urban League, I crafted this legislation to help those most in need of career training services. This bill will provide grants to communities and organizations helping young people find jobs.

We must retrain workers in expanding industries. Instead of those industries that are shrinking, we must provide financial support for students to complete their trade certifications and their college degrees. Education is the only way to end the cycle of poverty. We must demand innovation in lending so small businesses and those in minority communities have access to capital. We must aggressively advocate for loan modifications to reduce foreclosures and keep Americans in their homes. In short, Mr. Speaker, we need a concerted effort from the Federal Government to expand critical services and resources in minority communities. Targeted assistance to those Americans who have been disproportionately suffering from the recession is crucial to reducing the unemployment rate for all.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make sure that the American people understand that even though we know that we need jobs and we know that we need them badly, we understand that there are many issues in this country, but jobs will solve a lot of the problems. In fact, we have done more in the short time that Mr. Obama has been the President of the United States than has been done in recent history. We have done more for our military; we have increased and provided better pay and better benefits. Taxes are lower than they have been in recent history. Business policies have been put in place that encourage growth of small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, we have been mayors. We know what difficulties cities are having today. We understand that our cities can no longer provide fire service, police service, trash pick-up, trash removal. Times are tough. When you live in communities that survive by property taxes and people are losing their homes every day, people are losing their jobs every day, these communities cannot survive. It is our job as a government—and I say this to anyone—the only job the government has is to take care of the people it serves. And so it is important for us to make sure that we do our part to pass legislation that is going to make life better for the citizens we serve.

Jobs do more than just put money in your pocket. Jobs can change our whole attitude, and they can change the attitude of an entire community, an entire class of students, an entire street. When you have a job, you start to feel good about yourself, Mr. Speaker. You start to feel that you can do things that are going to contribute not only to your household, but to society. So jobs are of significant importance.

I would just ask that we continue to keep jobs in the forefront; but as well, that we continue to help those who

can't find a job because we are in tough, difficult times. We want to make sure that we do extend the unemployment benefits, and we want to make sure that we do continue to assist people with COBRA payments. We want to make sure that we can keep people living in their homes at least until they can find a way to better their situation.

So I would ask all of my colleagues, those being on either side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, that we work very, very hard to ensure that we pass the kind of legislation that is going to be something that is good for this country so that people will understand that we do know their pain, we do understand that America is hurting, we do understand that these are difficult times. And we certainly do want to encourage people to go to work. We want to encourage the small businesses to hire more people. We want to make people understand that we are doing the very best we can.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of the death of his mother-in-law.

Mr. MANZULLO (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GRAYSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, May 25, 26, and 27.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, for 5 minutes, today and May 25.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, May 25.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, May 28.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, May 28.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, May 25 and 26.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on May 21, 2010 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 5014. To clarify the health care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that constitutes minimum essential coverage.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 25, 2010, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the fourth quarter of 2009 and the first quarter of 2010 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO HAITI, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED ON MAR. 26, 2010

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Barbara Lee	3/26	3/26	Haiti .....	.....	.....	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hon. Joseph Crowley	3/26	3/26	Haiti .....	.....	.....	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
David Barnes	3/26	3/26	Haiti .....	.....	.....	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tim McClees	3/26	3/26	Haiti .....	.....	.....	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, Speaker of the House, Apr. 6, 2010.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THAILAND, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 28 AND MAR. 30, 2010

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Jim McDermott	3/28	3/30	Thailand .....	.....	244.00	.....	.....	.....	244.00	.....	244.00
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	244.00	.....	.....	.....	244.00	.....	244.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JIM McDERMOTT, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2010.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR 31, 2010.

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Cynthia Lummis	1/2	1/4	Egypt .....	.....	267.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	267.00
	1/4	1/7	Israel .....	.....	1,142.33	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,142.33
	1/7	1/8	Turkey .....	.....	658.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	658.00
	1/8	1/9	United Kingdom .....	.....	816.57	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	816.57
	1/9	1/10	Iceland .....	.....	250.80	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	250.80
Hon. Bob Goodlatte	2/15	2/16	Nigeria .....	.....	918.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	918.00
	2/16	2/17	Ethiopia .....	.....	323.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	323.00