

THE EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATION IN HAITI

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn yesterday of the 7.0 Richter scale earthquake that struck Haiti yesterday. As I speak, President Obama is preparing to address the Nation about our response and support. My heart goes out to the Haitian people.

I would also like to express our condolences to the United Nations peacekeeping organization there. Currently, it is expected there will be casualties from Brazil, China, Jordan, France, and other countries. The Montana Hotel, where I have been, was one of the places where the soldiers stayed and where many of the deaths were.

So as an earthquake of this magnitude and this aftershock have wrought extensive damage to Port-au-Prince, we say that we are here to add our support, and our prayers go out to the people of Haiti.

□ 1030

DEPUTY KENT MUNDELL, JR.

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

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, the people of the State of Washington are in a state of shock once again. They are in disbelief at the news that yet another police officer has been shot and killed in the line of duty. That makes six in the last 2 months in western Washington.

As a former cop myself, I will never forget the devastating time that we have gone through in the last couple months in losing these cops.

Last week, I attended the memorial for Pierce County Deputy Kent Mundell. He was 44 years old, and he died after being shot in the line of duty. He was able to kill the suspect, save other family members, his partner Sergeant Nick Hauser, and the community he had sworn to serve and protect. He paid the ultimate price.

Visiting at the hospital and attending his service and memorial, it is clear that Deputy Mundell had a heart full of life. He was willing and ready to serve. He was full of compassion for other human beings. And, now, that heart is silenced, and we all mourn this profound loss.

Deputy Mundell leaves behind his mom, his wife, his son and daughter, his partner, his entire law enforcement community, countless friends and loved ones. I ask this body, please, to keep them all in your prayers.

Deputy Kent Mundell, out of service, gone, but not forgotten.

JOBS

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Madam Speaker, 2010 may be a new year, but our top priorities remain the same: jobs, jobs, and jobs. We must stay focused on job creation to end this economic downturn.

With our national debt well over \$12 trillion, we cannot just rely on more spending to achieve our goals. Washington has to find the right balance between investing in our future and doing more with less.

This year, I will continue to push for projects that require common sense, not millions of dollars; projects that help communities attract new industries that will create jobs, get folks back to work, and put the economy back on track. I will also work to remove barriers to success for small businesses and curb excessive regulations that can slow growth.

These low-cost job creation efforts will spur economic recovery without further increasing the debt. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting them.

FOUR KEY HEALTH CARE MESSAGES FOR VOTERS 55 AND OLDER

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, seniors who express concern about the Democrat plans for a government takeover of health care in our country are correct to be concerned for at least four reasons:

The Democrat health plans do not address the fundamental concern of lowering the cost of health care. Indeed, the Democrat plans do exactly the opposite by raising health care costs.

Not only will the Democrat health care plans cause health care costs to go up, they will raise taxes, increase the deficit, raise premiums, and hurt the quality of health care that Americans receive.

The funding mechanisms envisioned to pay the cost of Democrat health care will harm Medicare and devastate Medicare Advantage.

Passing the Democrats' health care bill will harm our economy at a time when we need to focus on creating jobs. I urge seniors to tell their Democrat representatives to vote "no" on this job-killing, deficit-raising bill.

ONE HUNDRED WAYS TO A HEALTHIER JOB MARKET

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, the Joint Economic Committee, which I chair, has just launched a non-partisan outreach looking for new and creative ideas to accelerate job creation in our struggling economy.

The JEC is looking for ideas that come from outside the bubble of the

Beltway and that may be outside the box of conventional thinking. We are surveying executives at Fortune 100 companies as well as at leading small businesses across America looking for their ideas and innovations.

The administration has already identified some of the things we must do to create jobs, including the passage of health care reform.

Under the status quo, the soaring costs of medical care serves as a hidden tax on employers in the form of higher health care premiums. But we are committed to doing more, and we are eager to hear the best ideas from the sharpest minds in the country, looking for innovative new ways to create jobs and produce an economy that is stronger, fairer, and brighter.

HEALTH CARE REFORM AND JOBS

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

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, Democrats in Congress have devoted job creation as the number one top priority that we are focusing on in this period.

The fact is that the Republican recession has created some of the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression. But it is important to note that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has actually helped our economy begin to recover, and it is important to make sure that Americans know this.

It is important for Americans to know that the Recovery Act has created more than 640,000 jobs since it was enacted almost a year ago, and could produce as many as 1.6 million jobs.

More is needed, but the Recovery Act has reduced job losses, reduced unemployment rates and the increase in the unemployment rate, and increased the gross domestic product.

So, Madam Speaker, the Democratic caucus will continue to focus on job creation and will continue to work well, and we hope to do this in a bipartisan way. But even if we can't, we will continue to make jobs first on the agenda.

VIETNAM

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today representing the voice of my Vietnamese American constituency to once again bring attention to the deteriorating human rights conditions in Vietnam.

Last Wednesday, a number of Catholics were attacked by the police for reporting an incident where Vietnam Government officials destroyed a holy cross at the Dong Chiem parish. The removal of the cross was only one incident in a series of violent actions

taken by the Vietnamese Government to unlawfully seize church property which has belonged to the parish for over 100 years.

And I ask myself, why have we not put this country, Vietnam, on the list of countries of particular concern, those who prosecute and persecute religious beliefs? I find it absolutely appalling that the Vietnamese Government continues to get away with these human rights violations, and we should do something about it.

In 2010 I hope that the United States will finally take a stand and show the world that this behavior is unacceptable. It is time for Vietnam to be held accountable.

HAITI

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, the devastating earthquake which hit Haiti last night is something that pains all of us.

The millions of Haitian Americans in this country and people who care about Haiti all over the world need to see what we can do to get aid as quickly as possible to the beleaguered people of Haiti.

The earthquake was 7.0 on the Richter scale, the largest earthquake ever to hit Haiti. And this comes on top of devastating hurricanes a little more than a year ago. The people of Haiti are going to need the United States to help.

As chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, I will leave no stone unturned to try to get aid to people of Haiti. And I know that President Obama and Secretary Clinton have already made statements and promised and pledged lots of aid.

Probably thousands upon thousands of people are devastated and killed, and this is going to touch all of us. So I call on this House, I call on the American people, I call on our government to do whatever we can to send aid to help the beleaguered people of Haiti. Now is the time.

I urge the American people to listen, to send donations to those organizations that can get aid in as quickly as possible. Money donations are probably what is needed right now. Only the United States is in a very, very unique position. And, again, we want to tell the Haitian people that the United States of America, the U.S. Congress is there with you. We will leave no stone unturned to try to save lives.

The next 72 hours is crucial in terms of saving lives, in terms of preventing any kind of epidemics, in terms of keeping food going and the water clean and making sure that there is no disease, looting, things like that. We need to do everything we can. I know we will. And, again, we will leave no stone unturned.

As chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, I know that our

committee will be right in there with our sleeves rolled up and do everything we can to help the people of Haiti.

VETO MESSAGE ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 64, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 12, 2010, the unfinished business is the further consideration of the veto message of the President on the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 64) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the joint resolution, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

(For veto message, see proceedings of the House of January 12, 2010, at page H11.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) is recognized for 1 hour.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.J. Res. 64.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I am the only speaker for our side of the aisle and I plan to be brief. So I will yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) for the purpose of debate only.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I wanted to rise in support of the position taken by my friend, Mr. OBEY. He didn't say what that position was exactly; so I am assuming that we are going to vote "no," that we are going to support the President's veto. And I think, on our side, we fully support this issue.

I find it a bit ironic that here we are having to defend the constitutional prerogatives of the Congress on a joint resolution that was originally sent to the President to respect his constitutional prerogatives.

Under Article I, section 7 of the Constitution, the President has up to 10 days to review legislation before deciding whether to sign it into law. However, when a continuing resolution is to keep the government functioning if the appropriations bill is set to expire, the continuing resolution is sent to the President to give him the opportunity to review the appropriations bill. As a matter of courtesy to the President, Congress, on a bipartisan basis, traditionally submits a short-term "signing" CR to preserve the President's ability.

That is exactly what the situation here is today. Basically, it is a moot question other than the constitutional requirements. And so we are here to say to my friend Mr. OBEY and to you, Madam Speaker, that assuming that Mr. OBEY is going to recommend a "no" vote, we are going to also vote "no."

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I think the gentleman from Florida has summed up the situation pretty well.

In December, the House and Senate passed a 5-day continuing resolution in order to give the President time to sign the Defense appropriations bill. The President received the CR and the Defense appropriations bill on the same day, December 19. He signed the Defense bill, thereby avoiding the need for the stopgap funding in the CR.

Since the President signed the Defense appropriations measure quickly, I agree that the CR was not needed to keep the government open.

The President sent the CR back to the House, as the gentleman indicated, with his veto. But in that veto message, he suggested in some ways that he had, in fact, pocket vetoed the legislation.

But the fact is clear that the Congress was here to receive a message, and we do not consider it a pocket veto. Therefore, we feel that the appropriate action to be taken is to sustain the veto and take this action to demonstrate that, in our judgment, a pocket veto is not appropriate, that the President exercised a regular veto and it should be treated as such.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I fully support my friends on the other side of the aisle taking action to protect the constitutional prerogatives of the legislative branch in this matter.

As the gentleman from Florida stated, it is ironic that the executive branch has chosen to use an action taken by the Congress as a courtesy to them against this very body. I think this should give all of us pause when we are faced with similar situations in the future.

As the gentleman from Florida has stated, the Constitution allows the President to take some time to review the legislation sent to him. However, when we are dealing with appropriations bills and operating under a continuing resolution to keep the government running, sometimes timelines don't match up neatly. As a matter of courtesy to the President, Congress on a bipartisan basis traditionally transmits a short term "signing" CR to preserve the President's ability to review final appropriations bills without triggering a government shutdown.

That is exactly what occurred in this situation. The Congress did not send the President the final defense appropriations bill until December 19, the day the existing CR was to expire, leaving the President no time to review the defense bill unless he wanted to shut the Department of Defense down. So, the Congress unanimously passed and transmitted a short term CR solely as a matter of courtesy. The President could have easily followed his