

Ruiz frequently attended veteran reunions once he retired from the military, as well as Veteran Commemorate Conventions to honor his comrades. At these conventions, he stressed the importance of Japanese and American cooperation and understanding. Even though he had fought the Japanese during the war, he agreed that today America and Japan are friends and allies and fervently upheld a message of peace.

Ruiz is also among forty-three men of Hispanic heritage who have been awarded the Medal of Honor. His story should inspire every American.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4307. Passage of this bill is an appropriate way to honor a great American. I thank Mr. TEAGUE for introducing this bill, and Chairman FILNER for moving this bill to the floor for consideration.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. I thank the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. TEAGUE) for bringing us this important resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4307.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1240

RESTORATION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT OF 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5618) to continue Federal unemployment programs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5618

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Section 4007 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(A) by striking "June 2, 2010" each place it appears and inserting "November 30, 2010";

(B) in the heading for subsection (b)(2), by striking "JUNE 2, 2010" and inserting "NOVEMBER 30, 2010"; and

(C) in subsection (b)(3), by striking "November 6, 2010" and inserting "April 30, 2011".

(2) Section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111-5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; 123 Stat. 444), is amended—

(A) by striking "June 2, 2010" each place it appears and inserting "December 1, 2010"; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking "November 6, 2010" and inserting "May 1, 2011".

(3) Section 5 of the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-449; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking "November 6, 2010" and inserting "April 30, 2011".

(b) FUNDING.—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and" at the end; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

"(F) the amendments made by section 2(a)(1) of the Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 2010; and".

(c) CONDITIONS FOR RECEIVING EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—Section 4001(d)(2) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting before "shall apply" the following: "(including terms and conditions relating to availability for work, active search for work, and refusal to accept work)".

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Continuing Extension Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-157).

SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION WITH REGULAR COMPENSATION.

(a) CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS NOT INELIGIBLE BY REASON OF NEW ENTITLEMENT TO REGULAR BENEFITS.—Section 4002 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) COORDINATION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION WITH REGULAR COMPENSATION.—

"(1) If—

"(A) an individual has been determined to be entitled to emergency unemployment compensation with respect to a benefit year,

"(B) that benefit year has expired,

"(C) that individual has remaining entitlement to emergency unemployment compensation with respect to that benefit year, and

"(D) that individual would qualify for a new benefit year in which the weekly benefit amount of regular compensation is at least either \$100 or 25 percent less than the individual's weekly benefit amount in the benefit year referred to in subparagraph (A), then the State shall determine eligibility for compensation as provided in paragraph (2).

"(2) For individuals described in paragraph (1), the State shall determine whether the individual is to be paid emergency unemployment compensation or regular compensation for a week of unemployment using one of the following methods:

"(A) The State shall, if permitted by State law, establish a new benefit year, but defer the payment of regular compensation with respect to that new benefit year until exhaustion of all emergency unemployment compensation payable with respect to the benefit year referred to in paragraph (1)(A);

"(B) The State shall, if permitted by State law, defer the establishment of a new benefit year (which uses all the wages and employment which would have been used to establish a benefit year but for the application of this paragraph), until exhaustion of all emergency unemployment compensation payable with respect to the benefit year referred to in paragraph (1)(A);

"(C) The State shall pay, if permitted by State law—

"(i) regular compensation equal to the weekly benefit amount established under the new benefit year; and

"(ii) emergency unemployment compensation equal to the difference between that weekly benefit amount and the weekly benefit amount for the expired benefit year; or

"(D) The State shall determine rights to emergency unemployment compensation without regard to any rights to regular compensation if the individual elects to not file a claim for regular compensation under the new benefit year."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to individuals whose benefit years, as described in section 4002(g)(1)(B) the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note), as amended by this section, expire after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. REQUIRING STATES TO NOT REDUCE REGULAR COMPENSATION IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDS UNDER THE EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

Section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) NONREDUCTION RULE.—An agreement under this section shall not apply (or shall cease to apply) with respect to a State upon a determination by the Secretary that the method governing the computation of regular compensation under the State law of that State has been modified in a manner such that—

"(1) the average weekly benefit amount of regular compensation which will be payable during the period of the agreement occurring on or after June 2, 2010 (determined disregarding any additional amounts attributable to the modification described in section 2002(b)(1) of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111-5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; 123 Stat. 438)), will be less than

"(2) the average weekly benefit amount of regular compensation which would otherwise have been payable during such period under the State law, as in effect on June 2, 2010."

SEC. 5. BUDGETARY PROVISIONS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO.—The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled 'Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.—Sections 2 and 3—

(1) are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-139; 2 U.S.C. 933(g));

(2) in the House of Representatives, are designated as an emergency for purposes of pay-as-you-go principles; and

(3) in the Senate, are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

chairman of the subcommittee, the distinguished gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, if we fail to act, 1.7 million Americans will lose their unemployment benefits by the end of this week. The House tried to address this issue a month ago as part of a much larger jobs package, but Republican opposition killed the bill in the other body.

America's unemployed workers cannot wait any longer for all of us to do the right thing. Many of them have lost their benefits after just 26 weeks. And we're not talking about people who've had 99 weeks of unemployment. We're talking people 26 weeks of unemployment in a time when we have almost 10 percent unemployed. And that's even as long-term unemployment has reached the highest levels since we've been counting. And yet, only one, one of more than 200 Republicans in Congress has voted to continue the benefits.

So we're bringing up a stand-alone bill to extend unemployment benefits so there can be no excuses. There's no place to hide in this. You are looking the unemployed straight in the face.

If you vote "no" you will be cutting off unemployment benefits to Americans who have worked hard and played by the rules but now find themselves with no job, no savings, and no support.

If you vote "no" you are abandoning unemployed Americans when there are five of them desperately searching for every job that's out there.

If you vote "no" you'll be helping increase the number of homes in foreclosure. If you don't get an unemployment check, you don't have money to pay your mortgage, so your house is going to go in the tank. The number of families declaring bankruptcy and the number of children going hungry will go up in America, in the richest country in the world.

If you vote "no" you're undermining economic recovery by choking consumer demand at a critical time.

And if you vote "no" I honestly don't know how you're able to go home and march in a Fourth of July parade as millions of Americans are left without any way to keep a roof over their head or food on the table for their children.

No excuses this time. No place to hide. We must pass this bill.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Here we go again. Another month, another bill extending unemployment benefits and extending the Federal deficit. Only this time, the Democrats have waited now almost an entire month since these programs last expired to come up with a plan for how to extend them, leaving hundreds of thousands of long-term unemployed people without needed benefits. And it's all because the Democrats refuse to pay for these benefits, despite record Federal deficits.

Madam Speaker, I'm one of many on this side who support helping long-term unemployed people. I voted for these benefits. Even though my home State of Michigan recently ended its 4-year run, the highest unemployment rate in the Nation, the pain suffered by our residents remains real.

But the American people know it isn't right to simply add the cost of this spending to our already overdrawn national credit card. They want to help those in need. They also know that someone has to pay when the government spends money. That assistance must not put our fiscal house, as a Nation, in even worse shape. And we're already in terrible shape, thanks to the other side.

The Democrats' trillion-dollar stimulus plan created millions of unemployed workers, instead of millions of promised jobs. We can and should cut that ineffective stimulus spending to pay for extending UI benefits, as my colleague, Mr. HELLER of Nevada, has proposed.

Stimulus hasn't worked. In its wake, nearly 3 million private-sector jobs were lost. Unemployment soared to 10 percent nationwide, and 48 out of 50 states lost jobs. The only thing we stimulated is more government jobs.

Even Democrats now question the wisdom of all that spending, as is evidenced by the fact the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee proposed last week to cut some of it to pay for expending other expired policies.

But instead of that commonsense approach, our colleagues on the other side have brought up this unpaid-for bill, under a process that prevents any amendment, including an effort to pay for this spending. So I expect, because of those reasons, this bill will be defeated. And they know that. They want a campaign issue. Not because Members on both sides oppose helping the unemployed, but because Members reflecting what they're hearing from their constituents, listening to the people they represent, are opposed to adding another \$33 billion to our \$13 trillion mountain of national debt. Our national debt is now more than 90 percent of our total economy.

Look around the world. Countries are sinking in debt. Yet, the Democrat leaders of this House seem among the last to recognize that this reckless spending cannot go on forever.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this deficit-extending bill today so that we can bring up a real bill that allows us to pass and actually pay for these benefits for the long-term unemployed. That's the only road out of this policy dead-end into which the other side's spending ways have driven us.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), a member of our committee.

Ms. BERKLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for extending me this courtesy.

I am not at all concerned about finding a campaign issue to run on in November. What I'm looking for is relief for the people that I represent.

Nevada's unemployment rate went up last month. We are the highest in the country, officially over 14 percent, probably closer to 20 percent, which means a fifth of the people living in the State of Nevada have no jobs. And the problem is, there's no jobs to have.

When I hear people say, well, we shouldn't extend unemployment benefits because people are going to get accustomed to being on unemployment. Not one of the people I represent that's unemployed has come to me and told me what a picnic it is living on the brink with their unemployment benefits.

You know what they're saying to me? Find me a job, Congresswoman. I want to work.

Until this economy recovers, until people can go back to work we have an obligation and responsibility to keep these families afloat. So let's stop talking about nonsense like campaign issues, and let's start talking about how we're going to save our fellow citizens from going under in such a way that they're never going to be able to bounce back, no matter what happens with this economy.

I strongly support this.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, I yield 3 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I appreciate and applaud the leadership of Mr. CAMP on job-creating issues in this Congress.

My friend from Washington is correct; there are no excuses on this bill. Democrat leadership has known for months that this would run out for those who need unemployment, and they did nothing. Now it's lapsed for 30 days, and the question is why.

The answer is, to Democrats deficits don't matter. They thought they could attach this bill to a big spending bill and talk the rest of Congress into adding even more to our deficit, and Congress balked. Today they think they can add another \$33 billion to our deficit and Congress will go along with it. But we won't. At a time when Democrats believe deficits don't matter, the rest of the American public says it does matter.

□ 1250

People are frightened by the amount of debt this country owes. They are frightened by how much more dangerous debt is added every day. In fact, every second in America, under the Obama-Democrat budget, every second more is added to the national debt than most average Americans make all year long, every second more debt than most of us make all year long. And there is no end in sight.

Deficits are going to drag this economy down. It's going to put an anchor around the young people's necks, those

of our children and grandchildren. What I think is frustrating is it's so easy to pay for this bill. As Mr. CAMP said, a trillion-dollar stimulus bill. They spent \$3 million on a turtle crossing in Florida; \$50,000 for a hand puppet grant. They have \$390,000, this is hard to believe, they spent \$390,000 of your money at the University of New York at Buffalo to study the relationship between malt liquor beer and smoking marijuana. Those are your tax dollars. That's what we are spending this deficit on.

And what's even I think worse, as bad as the deficit is, if Democrats in Congress succeed in reinstating the moratorium on drilling in deep water, we will add 50,000 direct unemployed to these rolls. We will lose hundreds, if not thousands, of small businesses who won't be able to survive this moratorium.

The White House is determined to reinstate it, even though a Federal judge said it was completely inappropriate. Let's not turn an environmental catastrophe into an economic catastrophe. Bills like this that get ignored, try to run up deficits, moratoriums that kill more U.S. jobs, we can do better than this. I will vote "no," and I urge commonsense Americans who support a balanced budget to vote "no" as well.

Mr. LEVIN. I simply want to say to the gentleman from Texas he will have to go home, if he votes "no," and give an explanation why he voted "no" when 113,000 residents of the State of Texas will have lost unemployment benefits by the end of this week without the enactment of this bill; 113,000.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), a distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I received a phone call early this morning from one of my constituents. He said to me, Congressman DAVIS, I have had a job since I was 18 years old. I have always worked, but my unemployment benefits ran out at the end of May. My basement is flooded as a result of the heavy rains. My son is in college and can't find a summer job. Our house is almost in foreclosure. There are no jobs to be found. And now I have no unemployment benefits. What can I do? And the only thing I could say to him was, You can keep looking, you can have faith, and you can have hope.

But there is something that we can do. We can pass 5618, to extend unemployment benefits for you and your family, and for the other hundreds of thousands of families throughout America. That's the very least we can do, and we ought to do it now.

Mr. CAMP. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. It's now my privilege to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished

gentleman from New York, CHARLES RANGEL.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. I want to thank the chairman of the committee for yielding.

I guess my appeal has to deal with America. I think that our great country and its successes is really not just due to investments, but the investments that we have in people who are willing to leave their home country to come to this country because they have hopes, they have dreams, they have the energy. And I don't know how you convert that into what makes America the giant that it is, but one thing is abundantly clear: everyone is trying to come to America, and no one is anxious to leave.

This quality of believing in America and believing that you have the opportunity to succeed through hard work is one of the things that I think this recession, this setback, is costing us—something that we can never recover from—and that is the lack of faith. I think the gentleman from Chicago talked about it.

It's not just those who are unemployed now. It's those who are chronically unemployed, those that don't really believe that America's going to give them another chance, and those that are holding on now by their fingernails in the hope that somebody somewhere would allow them to exist.

Some lives cannot be restored. You can't get back that house, you can't get back your credit, you can't get back your kid in college, you can't get back your reputation of being a hard-working person that takes care of their family. And these are personal crises that most people overcome. But can our country overcome it? Can we tell a person that's worked all of his life, and his father and his grandfather, can we say that we have found billions of dollars for the bankers but somehow we are concerned about the deficit when it comes to Americans?

The one quality that we have is we believe in this country, we believe in hard work, and we believe that our country supports that type of thing. We can't talk about the other House, we can't talk about the deficit, we can't talk about Republicans and Democrats. We are talking about the heart of our country, and that is the dreams and the aspirations that we will never let workers down.

So we are not talking about welfare, unwanted children, or any of those things except what our flag is made of; and our flag is made of hope and support from this great country. So I do hope, Madam Speaker, that people try to understand everybody in this Chamber knows somebody that's not going to come back the same way that this crisis has hit them. We have an ability to ease the pain and to save the faith of those people who have not yet reached that point that they know that our country has let them down.

I just thank my colleagues for being sensitive enough to know that we do care, and we want the country to know that this could happen to them. So many people are depending on us. I hope this body will not let them down.

Mr. CAMP. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts, a distinguished Member, Mr. RICH NEAL.

Mr. NEAL. Thank you for yielding, Mr. Chairman.

Some of the best speeches that I have ever listened to and/or read come from the legendary mayor of Boston, James Michael Curley. And Curley spoke with great empathy about the forgotten man, those individuals who for whatever reason have found themselves outside of the mainstream of economic life. He also would suggest that, in simplicity, that the great ally of civilization was a full stomach. And we need to be reminded of that with the grim economic statistics that America is currently witnessing.

Now, also another very pertinent reminder here that I think that we all ought to recall: in October of 2008, in record time this House voted to come to the aid of Wall Street. It didn't take us long, with the Troubled Asset Relief Program, to keep standing many of those institutions that helped create the problem that we find ourselves currently in.

Now, why is that relevant? There are millions of people across this country who have simply found themselves without work. What does that do to an individual who has spent a career, and after 30 years finds the job is gone? And we treat them as though they are simply a statistic after perhaps they served us in an honorable manner in Vietnam, or currently in Iraq, or Afghanistan, or other theaters around the world?

America's about building community, Madam Speaker. America's about a place where nobody's to be abandoned and nobody's to be left behind. The great bounty of God's work has been to ensure that most people in America have shelter and food. This opportunity to extend unemployment benefits for the American people ought to meet this moment.

Mr. CAMP. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

□ 1300

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was listening to the tribute to Senator BYRD yesterday on the floor of the Senate, the other body, and I was struck by one comment on his integrity. It was that if Senator BYRD gave you his word you could go to the bank on it.

I rise today to support this legislation because I want the American people to know that this Congress who has

taken their vote really needs to stand by its word. That word is to be there for America during a rainy day. This unemployment insurance extension is not a handout; it's a hand up. Democrats have voted to create thousands of jobs in America but it is not enough.

All the economists will tell you that Americans are not at work because they don't want to work. They are not at work because jobs have not been created, and one of the downfalls of the bailout, for those of us who did vote against it but because of the outpouring of our own constituents who asked us to vote "yes," we voted "yes" for small businesses and businesses in general to create jobs, but if the too-big-to-fail banks refuse to give them loans to create jobs then we are stuck with no job creation at the level we would like.

We need to be able to provide for those who need us now, provide for those without jobs or losing jobs, and get off this high horse of breaking your word to the American people.

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

As I said in my opening comments, there are many people on this side who have and do support helping the long-term unemployed. I voted for these benefits. This will represent the eighth extension of unemployment benefits since July of 2008. Of those eight bills, one has been paid for.

I heard my friend on the other side so eloquently speak of the forgotten man. What about the future of this country? What about the children and grandchildren who are going to be left paying this debt?

The issue isn't should we extend benefits to the unemployed. The issue is should they be paid for or should they simply add to the deficit and further compound our problems.

I happen to serve on the debt commission, the fiscal responsibility commission. We had testimony there from an expert who analyzed 200 years of world history and every country in the world and said that when your national debt gets to 90 percent of your GDP, which we're at now, you end up hurting the economic growth of the country by about 1 percent, and in America, that means 1 million jobs. That means by adding to the debt and deficit, we're costing jobs.

Now, what we need to do is help grow this economy, and let me just say that these unemployment insurance benefits are not paid for in this bill. Of the \$34 billion that would be spent on UI, not a penny is paid for. This bill is declared an emergency, and therefore, this \$34 billion will be added to our already record \$13 trillion debt, but it doesn't have to be that way.

The House actually passed, as I mentioned, one extension bill last fall that was fully paid for, and here's what a colleague of mine on the Ways and Means Committee, a senior Democrat, said in a press release, and this is also found on his Web site: "In passing the

legislation . . . the bill does not increase the deficit . . . the extension is fully paid for."

And here is what the Statement of Administration Policy said about that bill: "Fiscal responsibility is central to the medium-term recovery of the economy and the creation of jobs. The administration therefore supports the fiscally responsible approach to expanding unemployment benefits embodied in the bill."

So, by the administration's logic, the fiscally irresponsible bill before us undermines the medium-term recovery of the economy and the creation of jobs.

Let's vote "no" on this bill today so that we can come back tomorrow and pass a bill that extends unemployment benefits that is fully paid for and does not jeopardize the future of this country and the need for economic growth that is so important to getting us out of this recession.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEVIN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5618.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself the balance of my time.

I have listened to my colleague from Michigan who comes here almost alone, and I think those who vote "no" when they go back home are really going to find themselves basically alone, because those who vote "no" have no place to hide.

This is an emergency for 1.7 million people and their families right now; therefore, it's an emergency for the community of the United States of America. And that 1.7 million will grow and grow under this banner that is floated by the minority.

Look, the excuses fall of their own lack of weight. You say we did nothing on the Democratic side. Yes, we passed a bill that extended unemployment insurance. They could not find a single Republican in the Senate to vote for that bill. And so you finger point at those who acted and excuse those who refused to act?

And you bring up the deficit, a deficit that grew under the previous administration. You can't hide behind that. This is an emergency.

You can't hide behind the Republican bill either because, as I understand it, it was for 1 month paid for and that month is gone. You have not come up with any responsible, feasible way to excuse inaction.

Unemployment insurance was extended many times under Republican Presidents, so you don't even have that excuse.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Members will address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. LEVIN. There's no excuse, and so what was done under previous administrations, Republican and Democratic, should be done right today. I'm afraid you don't see that there's an emergency for the families, soon to be 2 million.

And also, let me say in terms of economic growth, when you provide unemployment insurance to people, they spend it. So, if you're worried about growth and consumer demand, put money in the pockets of people who are desperate, who are out of work, who are looking for work. Instead, you turn your back on them.

I want to read a story. I met this person in Hazel Park, Michigan, last weekend. He served 3 years and 9 months in the U.S. Army, including a year tour in Iraq. He has an associate's degree from a community college and a bachelor's degree. He was employed by a loan company, a mortgage company, as a broker, and then the mortgage crisis came and he was laid off. He was unemployed for 3 years, and then he was hired by Kmart as an assistant store manager. He was laid off in 2009, August, due to store closings.

□ 1310

He has currently, approximately, 4 weeks left on his Tier 1 extension, due to expire on July 14. There are 1.7 million people like this gentleman already in this country.

I don't know how you look them in the face. I don't know how you explain a "no" vote. I think the flimsy arguments that are used won't work in this hall and won't work back home.

This is an emergency. I really can't believe that people from the minority are going to come here and vote "no." They are voting "no" for millions. I think they are voting "no" for what is best in the United States of America. We are a community of people. When people lose their jobs and can't find them, we don't simply stand idly by. This is the time for you to stand up, and the only way to stand up is to vote "yes."

I plead on behalf of the millions of people in this country who are out of work, who are looking for jobs, that you provide the unemployment insurance that they have worked for and that should be provided. Don't turn your backs on them. In the end, there will be no excuse, no excuse, no excuse.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this much-needed legislation to extend unemployment insurance benefits through November 2010.

Though we are showing signs of economic recovery, millions of Americans remain out of work through no fault of their own. Without this extension, an estimated 1.7 million individuals will lose their unemployment benefits by July 3, 2010. This legislation would help these individuals and their families by retroactively restoring the benefits that they began losing as early as the end of May. We need to help those families who are struggling to make ends meet.

Protecting the middle class, rebuilding our economy, and providing job growth remains

our top priority. While there has been five consecutive months of job growth, much more work needs to be done to make up for the 8 million jobs lost while we continue to rebuild the economy. We inherited an economic mess that favored corporate special interests at the expense of the middle class. And we are still cleaning up that mess. Extending these benefits is not only the right thing to do for these families, but at the same time it will help the economy as a whole. If individuals are unable to buy food and pay their mortgages or rent, the economy could slide back into recession.

Mr. Speaker, we wouldn't be here if our Republican colleagues in the Senate had blocked previous legislation to extend unemployment benefits. I urge all my colleagues not turn our backs on those Americans who are out of a job and continue to struggle to find work.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5618, Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act. If there is a single federal program that is absolutely critical to people in communities all across this Nation at this time, it would be unemployment compensation benefits. People cannot function without some means to subsist, while continuing to look for work that in many places in the country is just not there. Families have to feed children. Unemployed workers, many of whom rely on public transportation, need to be able to get to potential employers' places of work. Utility payments must be paid.

Most people use their unemployment benefits to pay for the basics. No one is getting rich from unemployment benefits, because the weekly benefit checks are solely providing for basic food, medicine, gasoline and other necessary things many individuals with no other means of income are not able to afford.

Personal and family savings have been exhausted and 401(k)s have been tapped, leaving many individuals and families desperate for some type of assistance until the economy improves and additional jobs are created. The extension of unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed is an emergency. You do not play with people's lives when there is an emergency. Unemployment is an emergency. Just ask someone who has been unemployed and looking for work, and they will tell you the same.

With a national unemployment rate of 9.7 percent, preventing and prolonging people from receiving unemployment benefits is a national tragedy. In the city of Houston, the unemployment rate stands at 8.3 percent, with more than 241,152 individuals remaining unemployed. Indeed, I cannot tell you how difficult it has been to explain to my constituents who are unemployed that there will be no further extension of unemployment benefits until the Congress acts. Whether the justification for inaction is the size of the debt or the need for deficit reduction, it is clear that it is more prudent to act immediately to give individuals and families looking for work a means to survive the hot summer of 2010—only made more unbearable by this nonsensical approach to their plight.

H.R. 5618 is just the right measure at the right time. The legislation will send a message to the Nation's unemployed, that this Congress is dedicated to helping those trying to help themselves. Until the economy begins to create more jobs at a much faster pace, and the various stimulus programs continue to ac-

celerate project activity in the economy, we cannot sit idly and ignore the unemployed. As such, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5618.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5618.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR RECONSIDERATION AND REVISION OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 33) to provide for the reconsideration and revision of the proposed constitution of the United States Virgin Islands to correct provisions inconsistent with the Constitution and Federal law.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 33

Whereas Congress, recognizing the basic democratic principle of government by the consent of the governed, enacted Public Law 94-584 (94 Stat. 2899) authorizing the people of the United States Virgin Islands to organize a government pursuant to a constitution of their own adoption;

Whereas a proposed constitution to provide for local self-government for the people of the United States Virgin Islands was submitted by the President to Congress on March 1, 2010, pursuant to Public Law 94-584;

Whereas Congress, pursuant to Public Law 94-584, after receiving a proposed United States Virgin Islands constitution from the President may approve, amend, or modify the constitution by joint resolution, but the constitution "shall be deemed to have been approved" if Congress takes no action within "sixty legislative days (not interrupted by an adjournment sine die of the Congress) after its submission by the President";

Whereas in carrying out Public Law 94-584, the President asked the Department of Justice, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, to provide views on the proposed constitution;

Whereas the Department of Justice concluded that several features of the proposed constitution warrant analysis and comment, including—

(1) the absence of an express recognition of United States sovereignty and the supremacy of Federal law;

(2) provisions for a special election on the territorial status of the United States Virgin Islands;

(3) provisions conferring legal advantages on certain groups defined by place and timing of birth, timing of residency, or ancestry;

(4) residence requirements for certain offices;

(5) provisions guaranteeing legislative representation of certain geographic areas;

(6) provisions addressing territorial waters and marine resources;

(7) imprecise language in certain provisions of the bill of rights of the proposed constitution;

(8) the possible need to repeal certain Federal laws if the proposed constitution of the United States Virgin Islands is adopted; and

(9) the effect of congressional action or inaction on the proposed constitution; and

Whereas Congress shares the concerns expressed by the executive branch of the Federal Government on certain features of the proposed constitution of the United States Virgin Islands and shares the view that consideration should be given to revising those features: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PROPOSED CONSTITUTION FOR UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS.

It is the sense of Congress that Congress—

(1) recognizes the commitment and efforts of the Fifth Constitutional Convention of the United States Virgin Islands to develop a proposed constitution; and

(2) urges the Fifth Constitutional Convention of the United States Virgin Islands to reconvene for the purpose of reconsidering and revising the proposed constitution in response to the views of the executive branch of the Federal Government.

SEC. 2. REVISION OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTION.

Section 5 of Public Law 94-584 (90 Stat. 2900) is amended—

(1) by designating the first, second, third, and fourth sentences as subsections (a), (b), (d), and (e), respectively;

(2) in subsection (b) (as so designated)—

(A) by striking "within" and all that follows through "after" and inserting "within 60 legislative days after"; and

(B) by inserting "or has urged the constitutional convention to reconvene," after "in whole or in part,";

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) (as so designated) the following:

"(c) REVISION OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If a convention reconvenes and revises the proposed constitution, the convention shall resubmit the revised proposed constitution simultaneously to the Governor of the Virgin Islands and the President.

"(2) COMMENTS OF PRESIDENT.—Not later than 60 calendar days after the date of receipt of the revised proposed constitution, the President shall—

"(A) notify the convention, the Governor, and Congress of the comments of the President on the revised proposed constitution; and

"(B) publish the comments in the Federal Register."; and

(4) in subsection (d) (as so designated), by inserting "under subsection (b) (or, if revised pursuant to subsection (c), on publication of the comments of the President in the Federal Register)" after "or modified".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in