

UNCERTAINTY—THE ENEMY OF JOB CREATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

With the United States unemployment rate steadily hovering around 10 percent, Americans are continuing to ask, "Where are the jobs?" The response to this jobless crisis from congressional Democrats and the Obama administration seems to be focused on higher taxes, increased government spending, and more government mandates and regulation. All of this has led to great uncertainty in the business community, especially among small businesses which employ over half of all private sector employees.

In a recently released letter, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce explains how the current policies of the administration and congressional Democrats are not working. The high spending and high tax agenda has created an atmosphere of uncertainty. As the Chamber's letter correctly states, "Uncertainty is the enemy of growth, investment, and job creation. Through their legislative and regulatory proposals—some passed, some pending, and others simply talked about—the congressional majority and the administration have injected tremendous uncertainty into the economic decision-making process and business planning. This is why banks are reluctant to lend and why American corporations are sitting on well over a trillion dollars. It is why America's small businesses and entrepreneurs, the engines of innovation and job creation, are starving for capital and are either struggling to survive or simply unable to expand. In the process, we are also eroding our competitive position globally, as other nations take steps to cut taxes, reduce regulations, and restrain the appetites of big government. For all of these reasons, the known and unknown costs that come with expanding operations and adding to payrolls in the United States are simply perceived to be too high."

As the Chamber's letter highlights, the continued expansion of the Federal Government into all areas of our economy is stunting economic growth and prohibiting private sector job creation. The Democrats' congressional agenda includes one piece of job-killing legislation after another. The new health care law includes thousands of expensive and burdensome mandates and hundreds of billions of dollars in business taxes and penalties. It contains thousands of pages of new regulations to be followed by individuals, employers, health care providers and States.

The House passed climate change bill, the cap and trade bill, would create nearly 1,500 new regulations and mandates and carry a price tag of well over a trillion dollars, according to the Chamber. Furthermore, the Environmental Protection Agency is engaging in an unprecedented level of regulatory

action by moving forward with 29 major economic rules and 173 major policy rules.

The list keeps going. The recently passed financial regulatory reform legislation creates 243 new formal rule-makings by 11 different Federal agencies, 47 studies and 74 reports. It is really no wonder American businesses are hesitant to expand and hire.

In addition to the regulatory uncertainty, the Federal Government's appetite for spending needs to be controlled. American families and small businesses are simply making tough choices in this economic climate but Federal spending continues to soar. The Federal Government is spending \$31,000 per household, the highest ever, and running up a \$1.5 trillion deficit in 2010, the largest deficit since the end of World War II.

Recent yearly budget deficits have reached unprecedented levels, accounting for 11 percent of the GDP. By comparison, the historical average budget deficit is only 2.9 percent of the GDP. In 2008, publicly held debt as a percentage of the GDP was about 21 percent, nearly five points below the post-war average. Under President Obama's budget, this figure would more than double to 90 percent of the GDP by the year 2020. This continued structural debt poses serious economic risks to this country. As the Chamber's letter notes, "By crowding out available capital for business expansion and eventually triggering increases in interest rates and inflation, rising deficits and debt add to uncertainty, inhibit growth, and smother job creation."

The way out of this recession and toward job creation is to get Federal spending under control and enact policies that free up capital and encourage businesses to grow. We need to reduce uncertainty and restore confidence in our economy. We cannot do this if the administration and congressional Democrats continue to impose more and more burdensome mandates and increase taxes on job creators. It's time to reduce the unnecessary meddling of the Federal Government and let the American entrepreneurial spirit flourish.

THE 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, for too long the heroes and survivors of the 9/11 attacks have struggled to receive the health care and compensation that they need and deserve. They came to Ground Zero to aid in America's recovery. Now we must aid in their recovery.

After 8½ years of hard work, we are closer than ever to passing H.R. 847, the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. The bill, which would provide health care and compensation, is nearing consideration on the House floor next week.

But another tragedy threatens the health of cleanup workers. The warnings from 9/11 must be heeded as crews restore the gulf after the BP oil spill.

I urge my colleagues to remember and support those who aid our country in time of need. They were there for us; we must be there for them, with their health care and with support.

STOP THE DROP HOUSES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. MITCHELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of bipartisan legislation I introduced yesterday with my colleague Congressman Brian Bilbray: the Stop the Drop Houses Act.

The Federal Government's failure to secure the border and fix our broken immigration system has allowed smugglers and Mexican cartels to set up vast networks of drop houses, which operate as way stations for criminal enterprises. In Phoenix we have as many as 1,000 drop houses. They are dangerous magnets for violent crime.

Even more alarming is the fact that a loophole in Federal law prevents authorities from using civil forfeitures to seize these houses. Authorities can seize vehicles or even airplanes, but they can't use civil forfeiture against the actual drop house itself. The Stop Drop Houses Act would close the loophole and allow authorities to use civil forfeitures to seize these drop houses.

Obviously it will take much more to fix our broken system, but this is one obvious and important step that Congress can take right now to make our communities safer.

I urge my colleagues to pass the Stop the Drop Houses Act.

EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is critical to our economic recovery to extend unemployment benefits for several more months and assist struggling States and local governments so that they can avoid layoffs of teachers, police officers, firefighters, and others.

Right now there are 15 million out-of-work Americans who are waiting on the Senate to extend unemployment benefits, which contribute to paying mortgages, health care, utility bills, and the cost of food. The Democratic unemployment bill would provide unemployment checks averaging about \$300 to people whose 26 weeks of State-paid benefits have run out. The benefits would be extended through the end of November.

We know these benefits not only are a much-needed lifeline for jobless Americans and their families. They also provide a proven boost to our struggling economy.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are fighting to help middle class Americans while the majority of the Republicans are blocking a commonsense bill at a time of great economic challenge.

I urge the Senate to pass the unemployment extension to those Americans who are seeking employment every day as they go and look at the Web sites and visit companies and are told there is no work. How could the Republicans then say that extending unemployment is going to keep people from looking for work? They want work. We know that the jobs have gone. We need to recreate jobs.

So let's save middle America so that they will be able to provide for the needs of their families.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because women's reproductive rights are under attack.

Four months ago we passed a health care bill to ensure that every man, woman and child in this country has access to the medical care they need. But yesterday, a rule was announced that restricts choice coverage in the new high-risk insurance pools—even if the woman pays for that coverage with her own money.

This rule means women with pre-existing conditions such as cancer, AIDS, diabetes, who have been denied coverage and are counting on the high-risk pools, won't be able to get reproductive health coverage; not even if they pay for it with their own money.

This incomplete and conditional care is not what our mothers, daughters, sisters and wives need. This is not the status quo.

We must remember the health care bill we passed, protect a woman's right to choose, and stop this harmful provision before it takes effect.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 53 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God faithful through the ages, You take delight in Your people, even when we are distracted from lasting

purpose or impatient because there is no immediate results from our determined actions.

Give us the wisdom to accomplish great deeds because we are drawn closer to Your designs for this Nation and our place in the globalized world.

Strengthen us lest we become tired. Further us in our search to deepen the commitment of serious study and hard work until we find security and justice for Your people, especially those in most need.

May Your kingdom come, Your will be done through our humble efforts, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA DECIO

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

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Patricia Decio of Elkhart, Indiana. Mrs. Decio made everyone she touched a better person through her caring, loving ways.

She was born in 1930, graduated from Mundelein College, and married Art, the love of her life, in 1951. Art always said how lucky he felt to be married to Pat, and their devotion to one another is an example for everybody.

Pat was the proud mom of five children, 14 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. She devoted her life to her family, her church and her community. Her work with the Women's Care Center was summed up by the plaque that stated "we would not be serving so many women and babies today if it were not for the vision and faith of this wonderful woman." Her dedication to our community, St. Mary's, Notre Dame, Elkhart, the NAACP, is legendary.

We know she is surrounded by God's grace, a loving family, and we know we will see her again.

Pat, thank you for all the kindness you showed and the lives you touched. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the American people are asking, "Where are the jobs?"

And just this morning we found out that housing starts fell in the month of June to the lowest level in 8 months. Consumer confidence has fallen to its lowest level in the last 11 months.

We need to get Americans back to work, and we need to get American businesses back open again. But we're not going to get there if the President continues to take money and freedom away from American employers, whether it's through the stimulus bill, ObamaCare, the national energy tax, or this financial regulatory bill.

With 3 million jobs lost, unemployment at 9½ percent, and with trillion-dollar deficits, it's clear to everyone except the President that his big government agenda is not working.

We need to cut spending now in order to help create jobs in America. But we have no budget to clean up the mess. We have no plan to move free trade agreements that could create millions of American jobs. And we have no plan to stop the largest tax increase in history for American families and small businesses.

Republicans are listening, through America Speaking Out, and offering better solutions that will limit the size of this government and empower small businesses across our country.

COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 36th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cypress. Turkey's invasion and continued occupation of this tiny island republic is a symptom of Turkey's indifference to human rights, religious tolerance, and democratic values.

Today, Turkey continues to illegally resettle some 180,000 Anatolian Turks into the homes and possessions of the 200,000 Greek Cypriots evicted from the occupied territories. The Turkish military is also systematically eradicating Hellenic and Christian heritage, with all but five of the 500 Greek Orthodox Churches located there having been looted, desecrated or destroyed.

On this, the 36th anniversary of the invasion and occupation of Cypress, the United States should demand an immediate withdrawal of the 45,000 Turkish soldiers now occupying northern Cypress, and should continue to press this issue in every interaction with Turkish officials. This will promote a values-based alliance with Turkey that will serve to bring justice to the people of