

THE NUMBERS THAT ARE DRIVING OUR ECONOMY RIGHT NOW

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the American people are hurting. We all know that. There are some specific numbers to which we can point that underscore that pain: First, 9.5, the current percentage of unemployment; 14, the number of consecutive months that the unemployment rate has been in excess of 9.4 percent; 125,000, the number of jobs that were lost last month; \$13 trillion, the level of our national debt; \$1 trillion, the annual deficit as we head towards the end of the fiscal year; 0, the number of times before this year that the House has ever failed to debate and pass a budget; 0, the number of proposals by the Democratic majority to cut wasteful spending and provide accountability for their out of control spending practices; 0, the number of pro-growth proposals that the Democratic majority has offered.

The American people want nothing more, Mr. Speaker, than to create jobs and get our economy back on track. Unfortunately, the refusal to pass a budget, the refusal to rein in wasteful spending, the refusal to allow proven pro-growth economic policies to be put into place is impinging our opportunity to do that.

Republicans stand ready to put into place the kinds of policies that will ensure that the pain the American people are feeling will be diminished.

SOCIAL SECURITY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 75th anniversary of the founding of Social Security, it's a time to reflect on the generations and the hundreds of millions of Americans who through good times and bad counted on Social Security to be there to have dignity in retirement, to provide quality of life.

There is millions of stories out there very similar to the one in my family. As a young man watching my father die of a lengthy illness, and a 9-year old brother at home, and a stay-at-home mother, watching Social Security survivor benefits be there to allow my little brother to go on and go to college and my mother to retrain as a nurse and go back into the workforce. Many people will say, and they're absolutely right, pull yourself up by your bootstraps. They are right about that. We just didn't have any boots. They were loaned to us by Social Security. And for that we have paid that back 10 times over.

A family is stronger, a community is stronger, our country is stronger. In

August we should celebrate the 75th anniversary and many more to come.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I love these debates about Social Security and this conversation about Social Security. But if you don't have a job, who's going to pay the Social Security? So it's really about jobs.

I had an interview today with some radio folks back in my district, and they asked a question, Have we created any jobs but government jobs? And how come we are creating government jobs that get paid more than the private-sector jobs? When did we get confused about that? They wanted me to answer the question, Where are the jobs for the folks in Texas? Where are the jobs for the folks in the other States? Why are all the jobs just in Washington, DC, growing the government?

This administration has destroyed thousands of private-sector jobs by taking over and Federalizing the student loan program and making loans harder to get and taking longer to be processed. Now President Obama and this administration have unilaterally killed tens of thousands of jobs in the gulf, in direct violation of a Federal court order.

Now, is this a way we create jobs for America? The question they want to know, Where are the jobs, so, with a job, we can pay our share of Social Security?

SOCIAL SECURITY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the upcoming 75th anniversary of Social Security and express my support for the financial security of millions of retired Americans.

Representing Maryland's Fourth Congressional District, I serve many who oversee and administer the Social Security Administration. One of my constituents I had the honor of meeting out at Collington retirement community in Mitchellville, Maryland.

Robert M. Ball was one of the chief architects of Social Security, the program we know today. Mr. Ball was Social Security's chief administrator from 1962 to 1973. He was described once as "the undisputed spiritual leader, and its chief advocate and defender." He served three presidents, Republicans and Democrats, to make sure it remained strong for all of us. He passed away in January 2008, but he left a legacy barely known outside Washington, but a program that's the backbone of America's social safety net.

At a time when Republicans are threatening the privatization of Social Security, Mr. Ball would say not now. Can you imagine what would have happened just a year ago when our Nation suffered its worst financial crisis since the Great Depression? Our seniors would have lost everything, and our young people would be starting from scratch. The American people deserve better. Democrats are going to give them better. And we need to get our economy back on track, put people back to work, contribute to Social Security, and strengthen our most successful program of the 21st century.

□ 1220

PAT BOONE: AMERICAN ICON

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in addition to being a legendary actor, writer, and singer, American actor Pat Boone serves as spokesman for 60 Plus, an advocacy group led by Jim Martin for senior citizens. Pat is an advocate for liberty and a defender of the Constitution. His contributions for our military servicemembers are inspiring. Pat developed the documentary "For My Country" to promote the significance of the National Guard.

Pat Boone is ahead of his times. Back in 2004, at a commencement speech at Pepperdine University, Boone stressed the need for citizen involvement and called for a new Boston Tea Party movement. Today, as the Tea Party is a household term, we should note Boston was not the only city with the tea rebellion during the Revolutionary War. Before the famous Boston Tea Party, patriots in Charleston, South Carolina, impounded tea in 1773 to protest taxes and in 1776 sold the tea to finance the Revolution.

Concerned citizens still feel T-E-A, Taxed Enough Already. It's time to give Americans tax relief and create jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENSION

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the millions of Americans caught in the crosshairs of Republican political calculations. Today, a partisan minority blocks relief to those laid off during this recession.

This obstruction doesn't just keep food off American tables; it keeps Americans out of work. People like Annette Tornberg. Last month, she lost her benefits. Now she can't afford the gas she needs to drive to job interviews. Like the vast majority of those

on unemployment, Annette uses the funds as a bridge to her next job—not to replace it.

The notion that relief discourages people from seeking jobs is not only wrong but outrageous. So today, I call on Republicans to stop hurting American workers. Stop playing politics with their lives and start letting the Senate and millions of Americans get back to work.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, last week the State of Ohio announced that its unemployment rate for June was 10.5 percent. Every county in my district saw an increase, and in some areas it's higher than 14 percent. And that's before taking into account those people that have given up looking for work and the underemployed. No wonder my constituents continually ask, "Where are the jobs?"

Business leaders in my district and around the country continue to say the same thing. We need to stop this reckless spending in Washington and stop pursuing job-killing policies. When businesses are faced with new taxes to cover the government takeover of health care, the uncertainty of cap-and-trade tax legislation, and the litany of other taxes, how are they expected to hire new workers and reinvest in their business?

I am gravely concerned about the direction this Congress is taking with our economy. The reckless spending has to stop, and the massive debt which we are saddling our children and grandchildren with is unconscionable. It is time to put sound fiscal policies in place. Let's spend less, keep taxes low, and help create an environment in which small businesses can thrive. Only then in Ohio can we finally say, "Here come the jobs."

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Speaker, over the last 75 years, Social Security has been secure and reliable for Americans approaching retirement. For some Americans, it's the backbone of their retirement; for others, it's all they have. Six out of 10 senior citizens in our country receive the majority of their income from Social Security and four out of 10 widows do. As a matter of fact, after our country's most recent economic disaster, even more seniors were left with only Social Security to rely on because they saw their retirement accounts dwindle at the hands of Wall Street.

We've already seen what can happen when we let Wall Street CEOs gamble with our life savings—we lose. We can-

not afford to gamble with our Nation's golden years, and privatization is just that—gambling.

We must work together to strengthen the promise of Social Security for our children and for our grandchildren and still meet the needs of those who depend on it now for income.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, everyone is asking, "Where are the jobs?" When will the liberal leadership in the House take action to get us out of this perpetual economic slump and have a plan to provide the jobs that American families need?

Unemployment nationally remains high at 9.5 percent for June, with the U.S. economy losing 125,000 jobs in that month alone. South Florida's unemployment rate has steadily increased to 12.8 percent. To add insult to injury, in my congressional district, we're still reeling from the perception of the gulf oil spill in our area. BP might have temporarily sealed the leak, but the damage has been done to south Florida's tourism economy. Commercial fishermen, charter boat captains, mom-and-pop restaurants, they're all feeling the economic pinch.

It is time to take a proven approach of providing tax relief, regulatory relief for families and small businesses, while reducing the debt, which is delaying future economic growth.

NATIONAL OCEANS POLICY

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, the United States Congress enacted legislation to create an Oceans Commission to look at how we can prevent the oceans from dying. Yesterday, the President of the United States enacted, by Executive order, the first national oceans policy and governance for the oceans and Great Lakes of the United States—our greatest national heritage and our greatest national trust.

We, the people, are going to be taking care of the oceans like they've never been taken care of before. We're not going to allow the conflicts of the sea of overfishing, of overmining, of overdrilling, of overeverything and dumping all of our waste and garbage and sewage into the oceans. We're now going to have a policy that's like the clean air policy, where we cleaned up the air in America, cleaned up the water in America with the Clean Water Act.

Thank you, Mr. President, for being the best steward our oceans have ever had and implementing the recommendations of the National Oceans Commission, which Congress enacted

but could not enact legislation. Hopefully, we'll move out from here and the world will see and the children will appreciate the actions that the President took yesterday.

IN SUPPORT OF SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, over the Fourth of July district work period, I met with small business leaders in central New Jersey. We discussed the state of the economy and how New Jersey's job creators are in dire need of free market solutions that will help them create jobs. Instead, Congress has put forth job-killing policies that include higher taxes, unchecked spending, and new health care mandates that continue to put a drag on small businesses across the Nation.

That's why I have joined a number of my colleagues from the Northeast in authoring a small business assistance plan that provides important tax relief, reduces paperwork requirements, and boosts small business lending. Our proposed measure focuses on letting small business owners keep more of what they earn to hire workers, buy new equipment, expand their companies, and spend less time filling out paperwork created by Federal mandates.

I urge my colleagues to help small businesses across the Nation and co-sponsor H.R. 5554.

□ 1230

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, next month we will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of Social Security. Before 1935, half of America's seniors lived in poverty. Since FDR signed Social Security into law, we have upheld a sacred trust to our parents and grandparents that after decades of hard work, raising their children, and defending the U.S. against foreign enemies, that they would be able to retire with dignity and respect.

Three weeks ago, my colleague from Ohio, the House Republican leader, implied that we should raise the retirement age to 70 for everyone, office workers and construction workers alike, and cut Social Security benefits to help reduce the deficit and pay for the war in Afghanistan. Raiding Social Security in this way is both irresponsible, and it is a breach of trust.

We should not be gutting Social Security and breaching our sacred trust to America's seniors. It's amazing that Republicans are willing to gut Social Security and refuse unemployment compensation during these challenging times while at the same time arguing that we must preserve the tax cuts for the superwealthy.