

MAJORITY REJECTS SPENDING FREEZE

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

Mr. REHBERG. In the last month alone, I've hosted 11 listening sessions around Montana, promising to bring their message back to Washington with me. The message is Montanans are fed up with the reckless spending that every man, woman, and child is on the hook for more than \$40,000 in Federal debt.

I heard them, which is why I joined the House Republicans in their earmark moratorium, but not everyone is listening. In three appropriations subcommittee meetings, I have offered amendments to freeze spending at fiscal year 2010 levels. My amendments would have saved the taxpayers more than \$18 billion.

But each time, they were rejected on a party-line vote. See, the President has even promised a spending freeze next year. So this year they're increasing spending to compensate. It's a sneaky shell game that only ensures that the taxpayers lose.

But Montanans told me loud and clear they want spending reform, and that's what I'm going to do, and I'm going to keep fighting for it every day I'm here.

□ 1240

SUPPORTING OUR NATION'S SENIORS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support our Nation's seniors. The government programs upon which they most depend, Medicare and Social Security, are being threatened by congressional Republicans.

Recently those on the other side of the aisle have been championing drastic changes to both programs. They want to cut Social Security benefits, raise the retirement age to 70, and turn Social Security benefits over to the stock market. They want to convert Medicare to a voucher program so that seniors would get a coupon to go out of their own way to buy a regular, individual insurance policy.

And what do congressional Republicans propose to do with these savings? Certainly, they want to pay for the war. I will not stand for stripping senior benefits down. I will not stand for balancing the budget on the backs of hardworking retirees.

Social Security and Medicare benefits belong to our Nation's seniors, and congressional Democrats will not stand for whittling them down or stealing them away. Social Security represents a promise, and that is if you work hard and pay into the system, you will have financial security in your retirement years.

It's been that way for 75 years. Now is not the time to change it.

JOBS MORATORIUM

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, while the unemployment rate is 9.5 percent and while the gulf coast continues to recover from a devastating oil spill, the people of Louisiana are wondering what they did to deserve President Obama's moratorium on jobs.

According to a recent report by LSU Professor Jim Richardson, the Obama administration's 6-month moratorium on offshore drilling will result in the loss of over 17,400 good-paying jobs in Louisiana alone, just another piece of the Democrat job-killing machine.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in State and local revenue will also be lost as well, all in the name of a moratorium that Federal courts and the administration's own expert advisers have rejected completely. The people of Louisiana would much prefer to have jobs than unemployment benefits.

It's truly unbelievable that when Washington should be focused on helping the gulf coast recover from a catastrophic tragedy, the White House is putting forth policies that do more economic damage than the spill itself.

HONORING SOCIAL SECURITY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, next month we celebrate the 75th anniversary of Social Security. As we mark this important anniversary, I believe it's important to reflect on the millions of seniors that have been helped by Social Security over the years.

I have met with hundreds of Ohioans recently, and they are concerned about Social Security's future. The message to me has always been clear. They don't want to undermine any part of Social Security, and certainly not with privatization. They oppose any measure that would jeopardize the safety net that Social Security provides them in retirement, and I agree.

It's true that Social Security is facing some real challenges. However, I strongly believe that Congress can focus on keeping these promises to our seniors instead of putting the entire Social Security at risk, leaving it to the whims of Wall Street.

TIME TO ACT ON TRADE IS NOW

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, the approval of pending trade agreements with coun-

tries such as Colombia, South Korea, and Panama have languished, awaiting approval by Congress.

According to research conducted by our colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee, the inaction of these trade agreements is costing America jobs and market access. In fact, implementing the Colombia trade agreement alone could create an estimated 8 million U.S. jobs. Every day we delay, the more ground our Nation and our economy lose to our international competitors.

Earlier this month, the Canadian Parliament ratified a trade agreement with Colombia, improving their access to this market and putting our producers at even more of a disadvantage. Trade is an indispensable part of American prosperity, and Congress needs to take immediate, decisive action on these trade agreements.

NEVER FORGET HOW WE GOT INTO THIS ECONOMIC MESS

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, let us never forget, never forget how we got into this economic mess. It was the losing Republican ideas that brought forward an economic policy that drove our economy into the ditch, and now they want the keys to the car back. But after driving our economy into the ditch, we cannot allow that to happen.

What did they deliver? Two wars at the same time without paying a dime, a \$400 billion handout to big drug companies, helping to ship our jobs overseas, an \$8 trillion loss of wealth in our housing bubble as we crashed into a deep recession.

We cannot allow them to have the keys to this car again. We are beginning to turn this economy around. We are rebuilding America, job by job, block by block and city by city.

We need to work together in this, but we can't go back to those failed and losing policies of the past.

DISCOURAGING PRIVATE-SECTOR JOB GROWTH AND DRIVING JOBS OUT OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, just last week the Haldex brake plant in Iola, Kansas, announced it was shutting down and taking 160 good jobs from American workers and sending those jobs to Mexico, where they won't have to deal with a government intent on hitting them with stifling tax increases and job-killing regulations. This administration is discouraging private-sector job growth and driving jobs out of my district and out of the United States.

But as for the 160 workers losing their jobs, they won't give up. In fact,

Iola's mayor, Bill Mannes, is an employee at Haldex. Even though he is losing his job, he and the Iola City Commission and the Iola Chamber are initiating a plan to recruit a new manufacturer to town.

So if any business is out there looking to grow who needs a strong and ready workforce in a great Midwest community, Iola, Kansas, could be the place for you.

PROTECT THE PROMISE OF SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protect the promise made to more than 50 million Americans who depend on Social Security to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table.

Seventy-five years ago, in the wake of our country's worst economic crisis, we introduced Social Security as a pledge to stand by hardworking Americans, despite old age, disability, or the death of a loved one. And, as we emerge from hard financial times, we are still keeping this promise to our mothers and our fathers, to our grandparents and to our children.

Unfortunately, there are those who would like to break this promise. By privatizing Social Security, we would be gambling with this important safety net that many of our seniors rely on, subjecting people's entire life savings to the whim of the stock market and threatening our own financial stability.

We cannot allow America's retirement to be gambled away. I stand by this commitment I made to southern New Mexico, and I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting Social Security.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to urge Democrats to hear the voice of the American people as they ask, where are the jobs? There is no budget, there is still no plan to create jobs to get this economy rolling again.

The Democrats have got to stop their crazy out-of-control spending and get serious about job creation. This will happen through the expansion of the private sector and not through the expansion of government.

We have got to encourage small businesses, not penalize them with more taxes and regulations. House Republicans have offered commonsense solutions to get our economy back on track. Rolling back taxes, cutting spending, cutting the deficit and the debt, removing regulations and balancing the budget, these crucial ac-

tions must happen to get this House in order and get Americans back to work.

So, Mr. Speaker, the American people want to know, where are the jobs? I want to know where are your solutions? We have offered ours.

□ 1250

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. ELLISON. Where are the jobs? Well, my friends in the party opposite should know; they're the ones who lost them. The fact is that, in Bush's last month in August, he lost 741,000 jobs, an amazing feat.

My friends in the party opposite talk about debt. Is this the same party that had two unpaid-for wars, \$700 billion in cuts for the wealthy unpaid for, a \$400 billion handout to big PhRMA? Do they speak of debt? My friends of the party opposite sat by and did nothing while foreclosures, predatory lending, and explosions in executive pay brought us the largest number of foreclosures since the Great Depression, refused to regulate in any particular way, and now they say, "Where are the jobs?" and they talk of debt. This is an amazing amount of audacity.

I wonder, where are the jobs? They should know; they're the ones who lost them. We're trying to find them, and we're being successful.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a new USA Today poll reported that three-fourths of those 18 to 34 don't expect to get a Social Security check when they retire. They deserve much better. In '35—1935, that is—workers were told that the payroll tax would never exceed 2 percent of the first \$3,000 of earnings. Sadly, since then, Congress has raised the payroll tax 14 times, now at 12.4 percent, and the taxable wage base 10 times.

Time and history prove Congress cannot resist the temptation to raise taxes on Social Security. We've got to find a better way forward without raising taxes, without any changes to those in or near retirement.

Americans want action, not scare tactics. Let's start working together on fair, commonsense solutions so we can ensure Social Security will be there for those who need it most without raising taxes.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OF SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, this year we celebrate the 75th birthday of Social Security.

Since Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act in 1935, Americans have known that they can rely on Social Security benefits when they retire.

Today, over 160,000 Hawaii seniors and millions of seniors in every other State receive monthly Social Security benefits, but Republican leaders in Congress have a new plan to privatize Social Security, balancing the budget on the backs of our seniors. Does this sound familiar?

George Bush and congressional Republicans fought to privatize Social Security in 2005. Seniors all across the country rose up in angry protest. If Republicans had succeeded then, seniors would have lost trillions in the stock market meltdown of the Bush recession.

Unbelievably, the Republicans still have not given up on their idea to privatize Social Security. You have to ask, what is it that makes them so deaf to what seniors in our country tell me loud and clear—preserve Social Security.

WE MUST PASS A CLEAN SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, we are hearing welcome news that House leaders may accept a clean supplemental appropriations bill if it is sent back from the Senate. I introduced a House version of that bill last week. If we had voted it out then, it would be on the President's desk right now.

The Army and Marine Corps operating accounts are about to run into the red. Without these supplemental funds, the Pentagon will begin cutbacks—reduced training, delayed equipment purchases, possibly even delayed pay for our soldiers and marines.

By passing this clean supplemental, we can avert that dangerous situation. We can provide disaster relief funds to the areas that need it. We can avoid adding tens of billions of dollars to the Federal deficit that would have come from add-ons passed by this House 2 weeks ago.

I urge my colleagues, please pass a clean supplemental bill now.

KEEP SOCIAL SECURITY THE WAY IT IS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the supplemental that this leadership passed was to create jobs, and I hope that the bill that comes from the Senate will embrace the need for American jobs.

In Ohio, the home of our minority leader, there is a 10.5 percent unemployment. Can anyone explain to me why the Republicans continue to obstruct the extension of unemployment