

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, during this last week, I traveled all across north-east Wisconsin listening to people in their kitchens, in their living rooms, and at the plants, shaking hands with people that had come out of work, people who are happy to have a job, because today no job is a bad job.

But lest we forget, we should never forget how we got into this mess. We got into this mess because we had an administration that didn't live within its means. And without spending a single dime for it, we had two wars at the same time, two tax cuts to the rich, a gigantic handout to the drug companies, and then at the tail end of their administration, a bailout of Wall Street, nearly a trillion dollars, again without paying a single dime.

It's time to live within our means. Moreover, it's time to pass a very simple piece of legislation that's three pages long, that guarantees transparency in all health care pricing so that any individual or business that offers health care products and services for sale to the public must at all times openly disclose all of their prices.

JOBS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, with employment close to 10 percent nationwide, it's time to promote stable private sector jobs.

The people of my home State of New Jersey have long depended on international trade to drive economic growth and put people to work. The United States is the world's largest exporter with \$1.29 trillion in revenue last year, a symbol of America's global leadership. As the world becomes more integrated, our economy and employment are increasingly driven by trade.

Unfortunately, the House majority leadership has chosen to indefinitely postpone consideration of all major trade agreements with Colombia, South Korea, and Panama. American businesses, large and small, are deprived of more and more economic opportunities each and every day Congress delays their implementation. Countries in Europe and Asia have already completed or are poised to complete trade agreements with these nations. This will put our American exporters at a distinct disadvantage.

Mr. Speaker, we need these trade agreements. Our international competitors are eating our economic lunch.

HOPE AND PROMISE

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

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, when President Barack Obama came to town, he brought hope and promise: hope that our best days were still ahead of us and that we would work together;

promise that if we invested in our country and in our people, we could overcome any challenge in our country.

However, my friends on the other side have come with hope and promise as well. They hoped that the President would fail and they promised to vote against every piece of legislation that he offered and that we offered in this House.

My friends, when President Clinton left office, there was a \$5.6 trillion projected surplus. What we have been left with is a \$13 trillion debt. Our economy was in free-fall: two undeclared, unfunded wars; a banking system in chaos and greed on Wall Street.

Now, if you don't stand with the stimulus that's going to invest in our country, in our people, and you voted against us, what did you stand for?

Well, we don't know what they are standing for but we certainly know what they are against: a cost of living adjustment for seniors on Social Security, extensions of unemployment for out-of-place workers, extensions of COBRA insurance so that folks who lost their jobs can have insurance, and the largest tax cut in America's history.

The world is changed not by critics but by leaders, Mr. Speaker.

WE NEED JOBS FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, where are the jobs?

I am reading verbatim from portions in an article printed in one of our local papers:

"NASA plans more outreach to Muslim countries," by Mark Matthews, February 16.

"NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden said Tuesday that President Barack Obama has asked him to 'find ways to reach out to dominantly Muslim countries' as the White House pushes the space agency to become a tool of international diplomacy now.

"Specifically, he talked about connecting with countries that do not have an established space program and helping them conduct science missions. He mentioned new opportunities with Indonesia, including an educational program that examines global climate change. 'We really like Indonesia because the State Department, the Department of Education, and other agencies in the U.S. are reaching out to Indonesia as the largest Muslim nation in the world. We would love to establish partners there,' Bolden said."

It looks to me like the administration is looking out for everyone except our own space workers. Am I the only one who thinks there's something wrong with this picture?

We need jobs for Americans.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side have been asking where are the jobs?

Well, I just came back from 2 weeks in Pennsylvania in my district, the Third District of Pennsylvania, and I can tell you there are jobs coming to my district, and I'm excited. I'm excited for the reinvestment part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: \$130 million in broadband Internet expansion in Pennsylvania, which will bring hundreds and hundreds of jobs to my State. But beyond that, reinvestment for the future for our businesses, for our students, and for our residents of Pennsylvania.

I also went to Meadville and saw a biomass project that's going to go forward which will create great energy savings for the school district, for the recreational facility, and for the career and technical institute there. That will create 25 jobs this summer, but reinvestment so that energy costs for those three facilities will be much decreased over the year and they can reinvest in our students. Shriners Hospital for Children, \$250,000 for energy savings; \$63,000 a year they're going to save on their energy bills, money that can be used for children's care, free children's care.

The jobs are out there.

AMERICAN AUTO SUPPLIERS DESERVE BETTER FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, as the administration begins to finally focus on job creation, they should look to the auto industry. Last year, the Federal Government, at the insistence of the administration, provided a \$30 billion bailout to General Motors to create, according to administration officials, "a leaner and more efficient company."

Recently, in House hearings, I questioned Assistant Treasury Secretary Allison about taxpayer dollars subsidizing GM expansion and investment overseas. This taxpayer bailout appears to have cost additional U.S. jobs and is jeopardizing automotive supplier companies. Harco Manufacturing, from my congressional district, is an example of a supplier being impacted by the bailout of General Motors. After receiving bailout funds, General Motors has selected suppliers from overseas, making it nearly impossible for domestic companies to fairly compete for business.

Harco has requested that auto czar Ed Montgomery visit their facility to talk about these issues during his trip

to Ohio tomorrow. It is my hope that Mr. Montgomery will work with them to help grow jobs here and not overseas.

Mr. Speaker, American auto suppliers deserve better from their government.

SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE HIGH COST OF HEALTH INSURANCE

(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, in the last few weeks, I have been going around my district visiting main streets and talking to small businesses, and they have been appreciative of the efforts we have made with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

But they recognize something else, and that is, even if the economy begins to come back, and we hope that that's happening, they understand that as small businesses, they're still grappling with the high cost of purchasing health insurance coverage. In fact, if you look at the 45 million Americans who currently lack insurance coverage in this country, about 28 million of them are employed by small businesses or are the proprietors of small businesses.

That's why I'm glad that the President's health care proposal building on the ideas in this Chamber addresses this important grievance that small businesses have and is designed to give them more access to an affordable health insurance market. That is absolutely critical for their long-term economic stability.

TESTIMONY ON THE UNITED WE FISH RALLY

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fishermen from South Carolina who are traveling to Washington to participate in the United We Fish rally tomorrow. They will join thousands of fishermen from across the east coast to protest against the recent red snapper and shallow-water grouper ban and the proposed closing of nearly 10,000 square miles in the South Atlantic.

The current ban not only threatens the jobs of recreation and commercial fishermen, but also small business owners that rely on the recreational fishing industry in coastal communities. Extending the ban would create further economic hardships in South Carolina as we currently suffer from one of the top five unemployment rates in the Nation.

As a representative of 75 percent of the coastline of South Carolina, I will join my constituents at the United We Fish rally and push Congress to pass

the Transparency in Job Loss from Fishery Closures Act of 2010, a comprehensive bill that instructs NOAA to reverse the harmful fisheries closures.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. This Thursday, something exciting is going to happen right down the street, Pennsylvania Avenue. The White House door is open. The leadership of both the Senate and the House, Democrat and Republican leadership, come together to talk about what Americans want to have happen: reform to health care.

Now, everyone knows that our health care system is failing, and it's failing for Democrats and Republicans and Independents and children and young and old and for people all across this country. And I'm excited that we're going to sit down and try to work things out in a compromise, because people need to have access to health care.

There are some principles that I've heard from the people that I represent back home. We must cover as many people as possible with affordable coverage. We must do away with discriminatory practices such as preexisting conditions and unfair practices such as caps and rescission. But most of all, people in Minnesota want a system that rewards quality and value. That's the best thing for taxpayers, the best thing for patients, and the best thing for America.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Black History Month and to recognize three leaders who have advanced the Nation's Historically Black Colleges, bringing opportunity and hope to many students, especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

First, Xavier University president, Dr. Norman Francis. Dr. Francis is known for his effective leadership and his commitment to community. He has led the regeneration of the university and the surrounding neighborhood after Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Francis continues to be a voice in our recovery and an example of hope.

Dillard University president, Dr. Marvalene Hughes. In 2005, Dr. Hughes took the helm as Hurricane Katrina came ashore and nearly destroyed the school. Many would have left, but she took on the challenge of rebuilding and recovery, living in a hotel with her students for nearly a year. Under her leadership, Dillard's campus and the neighborhood have been revived and are thriving, and hope for a generation of students has been restored.

Finally, interim president of the Southern University System, Dr. Kassie Freeman. Dr. Freeman is an internationally recognized scholar in her own right. At the helm of the Nation's only Historically Black University System, she made Southern University's transition out of FEMA trailers and into permanent facilities a priority, insisting upon those students' continued education.

It is my honor to recognize these individuals' contributions to our Nation's history and to support them in their efforts in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

(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, during the State of the Union message last month, the President reminded us that he inherited a true economic mess and that job losses have been reduced dramatically due to actions by the Democrats in this Congress and his administration.

At the end of the Bush years in January 2009, 800,000 Americans lost their jobs. But by contrast, after just 1 year of economic recovery policies from Democrats in this Congress and President Obama, 20,000 people lost their jobs in January 2010.

Make no mistake, any jobs lost are important to the people who have lost them. But we're on the road to recovery.

The philosophy that "a rising tide lifts all boats," though, does have its limitations. So we need an economic and industrial policy in this country that creates jobs for the future for the long term and to put those who are newly unemployed and the chronically unemployed back to work. In short, we need to embrace our clean energy future for sustained job creation, economic growth and innovation, and let's use our taxpayer dollars to buy American, to build American.

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JOBS AND PRODUCTIVITY

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. You know, sometimes, Mr. Speaker, those of us in government in our erudite debate forget that all economy is effectively productivity. That is what it is about. And the foundation of productivity in this country is jobs.

Since Democrats took control of this Chamber, almost 7 million jobs have been lost. A year ago, Mr. Obama and the Democrats passed a trillion-dollar stimulus which was supposed to solve the problem, but instead has left us with nearly a 10 percent unemployment rate.