

that's that we were going to have endless surpluses. They used that prediction of endless surpluses to justify cutting taxes for the wealthiest people in the United States.

Well, those people had a great decade. On average, \$100,000 savings on taxes during that time. Did they create more jobs because they cut their taxes? No. In fact, we had actually the most stagnant period of private sector job growth in modern history.

So now, when we don't have an endless surplus, in fact, a very large deficit, and we need job creation, they say, Oh, let's cut their taxes again. It wasn't good enough that the average millionaire had his or her net worth increased by 16 percent in 2009 while every other American stagnated. No. They want to make it a little bit better for the wealthiest people in America.

We want to cut taxes for middle class America and not millionaires.

DEMOCRATS CONTINUE FIGHT FOR MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS AND DEFICIT REDUCTION; REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO HOLD MIDDLE CLASS HOSTAGE TO TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, in this time of debate around taxes and taxation, it's hard to figure out what's really true. Republicans say this; Democrats say that. Let me tell you what's actually the fact.

The fact is that the Republicans want to give the top 2 percent of the wealthiest Americans tax breaks that would add \$700 billion to the deficit over the next 10 years. They're saying they're going to stop tax cuts for middle class people unless the top 2 percent get their tax cut that would add \$700 billion to the deficit. Now, that's not fair given that middle class people have faced foreclosure, have faced a drop in home value, have faced unemployment, have faced so many difficult economic hurdles.

Why do they insist on giving the top 2 percent a huge tax break that they don't need, only giving the top 2 percent that tax break? Middle class people need relief. Middle class people need it now.

SUBMINIMUM WAGE FOR DISABLED

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

Mr. CLEAVER. There are a number of issues that fail to make it to the floor, but there's one issue that I absolutely feel strongly about and believe that the people of this Congress and the people of the Nation need to know, and that is the subminimum wage for people with disabilities.

Inclusion is a birthright. This is a civil right. And there is a rule in the

Department of Labor called 14(c). It's a certificate from the United States Department of Labor which says that people with disabilities can get paid less than subminimum wage. But it is not subminimum wage for all of them—it is hardly a wage at all. Some of these people who are on disability are making 45 cents an hour or less in sheltered workshops.

So I am suggesting that this issue is so important that it needs to be brought to the floor of the United States Congress. This is a civil right, and we need to make it something that is a priority of this Congress as soon as possible.

AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

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

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA, Chapter 78, of Merrillville, Indiana, for being named Chapter of the Year during the association's national convention that was held in July of this year.

AHEPA Chapter 78 is to be commended for its outstanding service. AHEPA Chapter 78 was established on July 25, 1925. It currently consists of 130 members, with 13 being life members of over 50 years. In accordance with the AHEPA mission of community service, the members of Chapter 78 represent the best in all of us through their selfless giving, kindness, and generosity.

Most recently, the chapter has distinguished itself by donating significant funds to organizations throughout northwest Indiana, including Christian Haven House and Saints Monica and Luke Soup Kitchen.

For nearly two decades, the chapter has also worked tirelessly to provide safe, exceptionally well-maintained, and affordable housing for senior citizens who otherwise might today find themselves in very abject circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the other distinguished colleagues join me in again congratulating the AHEPA Chapter 78 of Merrillville, Indiana.

JEFFERSON THOMAS OF THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, sophomores in high school are not often called on to lead a nation. Under the leadership of nine black students in Little Rock in 1957, including high school sophomore Jefferson Thomas, the Federal Government enforced the rights of all students to have equality of education.

Losing one of the Little Rock Nine is an event no one looked forward to. Losing one of the Little Rock Nine, sadly, is what happened on September 5, 2010, when Jefferson Allison Thomas passed away in Columbus, Ohio.

Yesterday's heroes, with death, become legends and such is the case with Jefferson Thomas. Perhaps no group of young people is as well known as Jefferson Thomas and the others we know as the Little Rock Nine. Every American, for all time, must honor and remember the heroism of these youngsters in 1957, as we have done in 1999 with the Congressional Gold Medal and also with a commemorative coin and a postage stamp.

None of us can imagine the daily torment and fear these students faced. No young person today can imagine what segregation meant for teens like Jefferson Thomas in 1957. But Jefferson Thomas knew; Jefferson Thomas acted. And Jefferson Thomas is an American hero who will be missed and honored.

□ 1020

THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. We are currently in the midst of the Jewish High Holidays, a holy time when we reflect on the past year and welcome a new one. To everyone who celebrated Rosh Hashanah last week, I wish you and your family a healthy and happy 5771.

During the Rosh Hashanah service at my synagogue, I was honored to offer the Jewish prayer for the United States. This prayer hopes for the day when "Peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst." And I can think of no more laudable and important goal than to work towards that day with all of our heart and energy.

As we pray for and work towards peace and security for the United States, we also extend those prayers to the State of Israel. The threats against the Jewish homeland are real, and we cannot allow them to go unchecked. The American people stand with our brothers and sisters in Israel, and the alliance and friendship between our two Nations remains unbreakable.

I hope that all who celebrate these meaningful High Holidays have the opportunity to do so amongst loved ones. Reflection with our friends and family is the hallmark of this time of year. From my family to yours, warmest wishes during this special season.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, if we don't act soon, middle class income families across the country will see

their taxes go up. I have spent the past 6 weeks crisscrossing the Hawaiian island chain, meeting with small business owners, workers, educators, and farmers. I've asked them how they feel about extending the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. And we agreed that the most important thing we can do now is extend the tax cuts for the middle class.

I will oppose those who hold the middle class tax cuts hostage so that people earning more than \$1 million will receive average tax cuts of \$100,000 annually. The top 2 percent of these income earners in our country can afford to pay their fair share. Extending the Bush tax cuts for this group will pile on a whopping \$700 billion to our deficit over the next 10 years.

We must pass legislation now that ensures that 98 percent of Americans and 97 percent of small businesses do not pay higher taxes next year. And let's remember that the 111th Congress and the Obama administration have already enacted eight tax cuts for small businesses. We can no longer afford to continue the tax cuts for the wealthiest among us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CONGRESSIONAL MADE IN AMERICA PROMISE ACT

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2039) to clarify the applicability of the Buy American Act to products purchased for the use of the legislative branch, to prohibit the application of any of the exceptions to the requirements of such act to products bearing a Congressional seal, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2039

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 "Congressional Made in America Promise Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. APPLICABILITY OF BUY AMERICAN ACT TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH; NO EXCEPTIONS FOR PRODUCTS BEARING OFFICIAL CONGRESSIONAL INSIGNIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 10a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(b) CLARIFICATION OF APPLICABILITY TO ARTICLES, MATERIALS, AND SUPPLIES FOR USE OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.—

“(1) APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), subsection (a) applies with respect to articles, materials, and supplies acquired for the use of any office in the legislative branch, including the House of Representatives and the Senate, in the same manner as such subsection applies with respect to articles, materials, and supplies acquired for the use of a department or independent establishment.

“(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR PRODUCTS BEARING OFFICIAL CONGRESSIONAL INSIGNIA.—In the case of any product which bears an official insignia (including a mark resembling an official seal) of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate, or the United States Congress and which is acquired for the use of an office of the legislative branch, the following shall apply:

“(A) The head of the office may not make a determination under subsection (a) that it is inconsistent with the public interest to enter into a contract in accordance with this Act.

“(B) The head of the office may not make a determination under subsection (a) that an article, material, or supply is not mined, produced, or manufactured, as the case may be, in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available commercial quantities and of satisfactory quality.

“(C) The last sentence of subsection (a) shall not apply.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 69 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 109) is repealed.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect upon the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) and a Member opposed each may control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous matters on the measure now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of my committee, I am pleased to bring this bill to the House. This is a very important bill designed to help create more jobs in America. Offered by our colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, H.R. 2039 extends the requirements of the Buy American Act to the legislative branch of government, including the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Several legislative branch agencies already abide by the Buy American Act, including the Government Printing Office, the Library of Congress, and the Architect of the Capitol. But the

House and Senate are exempt from the Buy American Act, and it's time for that to change.

The House and the Senate buy things, many things: Pencils, pens, paper, envelopes, furniture, furnishings, office machines, and equipment of every kind. You name it. There are no reasons that Buy American requirements should not apply to the Congress as to any other Federal agency. That's what the gentlelady's legislation will accomplish.

From my perspective as chairman of the House Administration Committee, H.R. 2039 will provide us with one more tool we can use to prevent the purchase of foreign-made goods when suitable American-made goods are available.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. I commend the gentlelady for introducing it, and I urge the House to pass it.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield 5 minutes to the sponsor of the bill, the distinguished gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

□ 1030

Ms. KAPTUR. I want to thank Chairman BRADY for his leadership and the expeditious manner in which his committee dealt with this bill. I thank him for his leadership on jobs in America all the time.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2039 when it comes to a vote later today, the Made in America Promise Act, which applies the provisions of the Buy America Act that already apply to the executive branch to the legislative branch, the Congress. It is apparent to all America that we are facing a daunting job deficit.

Over 14.9 million people still are out of work. Moreover, in 2009, our Nation racked up a trade deficit of \$375 billion, and this year it's likely to be double that, with more imports coming into our Nation than exports going out. For every billion dollars of trade deficit, we lose a minimum of 10,000 more jobs.

Without this mammoth trade deficit, our economy this year would have grown 5 percent. Instead, growth was readjusted downward to 1.5 percent, a huge 3-point drop, and the worst growth rate since 1947, because trade deficits matter.

For America to address this job gap, our unconscious Nation must develop a consciousness to make it in America again, because production here equals jobs in America. That consciousness must begin here in Congress in the highest law-making branch of our Nation.

This bill applies the Buy America provisions to the legislative branch. To illustrate, just in perusing the gift shops that tourists come through in the House and Senate—and even the new congressional visitors center—look what we found, Chinese calculators, it says here on the lower United States Senate, but then look where it's made—China. There are umbrellas from China, a children's briefcase, even