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 Boustany
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 Buchanan
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 Buyer
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 Roskam
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WHEN WILL CONGRESS TAKE A
STAND ON GUN CONTROL?

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I had the honor of speaking with Chicago Firefighter Annette Nance-Holt and Chicago Police Officer Ronald Holt.

On May 10, 2007, their 16-year-old son Blair was shot and killed when a gang member opened fire on a crowded city bus. Blair jumped in front of another student to shield her.

When the child of two public servants gives his life to save another child from the scourge of gun violence, I have to ask, What are we prepared to do for these kids?

Over 500 Chicago public school students were involved in gun incidents over the last 2 years. That is two students for every Member of this House who signed a brief urging the Supreme Court to put even more guns in Chicago's streets and schools.

This Congress has allowed unlicensed gun dealers to sell guns at gun shows to people on terrorist watch lists and refuses to reauthorize the assault weapon ban. Congress has failed to hold the middle ground on guns.

Blair Holt was willing to take a bullet to protect a stranger. Is it too much to ask this House to take a tough vote to protect our kids?

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I am a physician. I still see uninsured patients at the public hospital where I've worked for 20 years. Now, to give uninsured patients access to private health care, we've got to lower costs. But lowering health costs is more than just access; it's also about a stronger economy.

According to the White House Council on Economic Advisers, they had a study that explained that lowering health care costs lowers unemployment, raises the standard of living, and prevents disastrous budgetary consequences. Unfortunately, neither the House nor Senate bill lowers costs. The Congressional Budget Office says that each will more than double costs over the next decade.

Yesterday, the President released a new proposal combining the House and the Senate bill. But combining two bills that don't lower costs results in a third bill which certainly doesn't lower costs. If you don't lower costs, access and quality suffer, our economy suffers, people lose their jobs.

The American people—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—want health care reform but they want reform which controls costs in reality, not just in rhetoric. They know that their health care, economy, and jobs depend upon it.

REAUTHORIZE SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BILL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a result of the Senate invoking cloture on what is being called a jobs bill. I believe we should be calling this bill what it really is. It's a cash infusion to keep the highway trust fund solvent.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate majority leader has said that a full reauthorization of surface transportation will be on the table by the end of the year. I ask, why not now? I ask, why not last February when we were debating the stimulus bill? Of the total stimulus spending in 2009, only 4 percent went to roads and bridges.

And while it is widely acknowledged that government spending does not end recessions, the money that has been otherwise squandered on portions of the stimulus that have been highly contested could have been used to promote maintaining or expanding our infrastructure. In turn, this would lead to safety enhancement, and above all, a more productive country.

The American people deserve some certainty—whether it's looming health care mandates, cap-and-trade legislation, or planners just wondering if the highway dollars are going to be there.

If we want real stimulus, Congress will do its work and reauthorize surface transportation legislation immediately.

NETWORKS BOOST SO-CALLED
STIMULUS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, network news coverage of the administration's so-called stimulus package has been overwhelmingly one-sided, according to a recent analysis by the Business and Media Institute. Since the President signed it into law a year ago, ABC, CBS, and NBC have featured supporters of the stimulus over those who oppose it by a margin of 2 to 1. Incredibly, about half of the network news reports have shown no opposing opinions about the stimulus bill.

Americans are not buying the media's spin. Three out of four say the stimulus money has been wasted, and only 6 percent think it has created jobs, according to a CBS/New York Times poll. In fact, 3.3 million jobs have been lost since the stimulus was signed.

The national media should give Americans the facts about jobs; not tell them what to think.

□ 2051

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE STIMULUS IS WORKING

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, if Americans are believing that the stimulus isn't working, then the media must be telling them that. So I am kind of curious about the previous argument.

The facts are that the stimulus in my district in California is in fact working, and without it, there would be even more layoffs. It's not that this whole thing started in January of 2009. The Great Recession started the previous 2 years, so we've been trying to catch up.

The stimulus is actually working. Thousands of teachers are working in California as a result of the stimulus. Thousands of jobs have been created. And in my own district, schools are being repaired and major transportation projects are going forward.

So I know in my district that the stimulus is working regardless of what the media may be saying. It is working. Without it, there would be even greater layoffs.

□ 2100

FRITZ CUBIN

(Mrs. LUMMIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of my friend, Dr. Frederick "Fritz" Cubin, husband of former Wyoming Congresswoman Barbara Cubin who served the Cowboy State for 14 years in this U.S. House.

After a lengthy illness, Fritz passed away this past Monday. Our condolences go out to Barbara, sons Bill and Eric, and their family and friends.

Fritz had many passions: his family always first, hunting and politics taking the silver and bronze.

Dr. Cubin served his country in the United States Air Force. He served his family as a confidante to his wife, a devoted father to his sons. A family doctor for many, he also served his community, making his appointed rounds to Casper's retirement homes to the very end.

Fritz Cubin was a fierce patriot, with apologies to no one. He will be missed.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS LARRY ALLEN STONE AND PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS MARIO MAESTAS FOR THEIR SERVICE

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished careers of Navy SEALs Petty Officer Second Class Larry Allen Stone and Petty Officer Second Class Mario Maestas. These officers were accomplished

SEALs who selflessly dedicated themselves to serving our country and gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Stone was a member of the United States Navy SEAL Team Two, Little Creek Amphibious Base, where he was a lead communications instructor for the team. His superior skill with communications and equipment earned him a job instructing new SEALs, and his athletic prowess earned him the title of Outstanding Athlete in his unit.

Maestas served 5 years in the Navy before becoming a Navy SEAL in 2000. As a SEAL, he participated in combat missions in Kosovo, including deployments in support of Task Force Falcon, Kosovo, from which he earned the Navy Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and a Flag Letter of Commendation.

We are honoring these fallen SEALs during a memorial and building dedication for the Naval Special Warfare facilities at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, Saturday, February 27, 2010.

Stone and Maestas devoted their lives to our country. They are truly American heroes who will be remembered for their service and sacrifice.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERRIELLO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MEMBERS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO DEAL WITH OUR ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SPACE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss our economy. I do not rise, however, to cast blame, engage in political posturing, or cast aspersions against my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I rise to speak to what I believe all of us who have been blessed with the right of representation for our constituents have an obligation to do; that is, to deal with our economy.

Our constituents don't really care how we got here; they don't care who is to blame; they, frankly, don't care who

comes up with the solutions, but they deserve and need resolution to these economic problems that we are facing right now. What our constituents on both sides of the aisle deserve is vision: vision of the future, vision of a new economy.

Back in Ohio's 18th Congressional District, Mr. Speaker, things are especially difficult. It is the area known as Appalachian Ohio, consisting of 16 of the poorest counties in the State of Ohio with the highest unemployment rates, the highest poverty rates. And with those high poverty rates come the manifestations of poverty, including hunger, homelessness, the breakdown of the traditional family unit, a lack of access to health care, a lack of access to education. The list goes on and on.

What I have been attempting to do in southeastern Ohio and what I urge my colleagues to consider doing around the country is to look forward to a future of economic prosperity, one where we know that things will be better.

For example, in the area of energy, I have organized an effort called Renew Ohio that is designed to focus on the jobs of the future. One of those fields that we know is an emerging sector is the field of energy. Not only will developments in technology and investments in energy sectors ultimately bring down the cost of energy, ridding ourselves of this dangerous and cancerous dependence on foreign oil, it will also create millions of jobs. It is obvious and it is promising.

Another sector, health care. Because of the aging nature of our society, we know that there will be future prospects for employment in the field of health care.

Another sector, technology. By bringing broadband, for example, to unserved and underserved areas of America, we are going to be advancing opportunities for economic growth and bridging the divide that exists right now in rural America when it comes to access to health care and education.

And, finally, agriculture. Agricultural jobs of tomorrow are quite different from the ones we know of today and the jobs of yesterday. It is a field that shows promise when it comes to trade, a field that shows promise with its relationship to energy, and one that, if we position ourselves correctly in, will create jobs for tomorrow.

This crisis that we are dealing with in this country, which has become very personal to every American, is one that we must address without regard to partisan politics. Our constituents clearly are ahead of Congress on that issue. They don't want blame. They don't want aspersions. They don't want excuses. They want answers and they want vision and they want leadership.

I urge Members on both sides of the aisle in this hallowed Hall to work together to find consensus and to move forward for a brighter tomorrow.