

flawed they believe the Senate plan to be, they didn't allow a vote on the Senate plan because they would have lost their position. That bill would have passed. We would be done with it today.

So when you hear Members of the majority talking about how flawed the Senate bill is and how the American people don't support it, their own Members would have voted for it, and we would have passed the bill if they would have allowed it.

STOP TRADING ON CONGRESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE

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

Mr. WALZ OF MINNESOTA. Mr. Speaker, again, this august body displayed the worst of what we can do. The opportunity to try and compromise was there. I have to say, last week I supported a bill put forward by my Republican friends, sent it to the Senate. It came back. And as the previous speaker said, I didn't even get a chance to vote on it. The real tragedy here is that there is another piece of legislation that is being held up that the American public knows needs to happen.

We can have a difference of political opinions across the aisle. The one that needs to get done is to believe people here are playing by the rules. The Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge, the insider-trading bill that's 18 pages long, it's been sitting around for 6 years. It now has 240 bipartisan cosponsors. It is now suddenly buried and gone. The American people demand us to do one thing: be honest and work for them. That bill can ensure that happens.

MIDDLE CLASS AMERICA, TAKE NOTICE

(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, at the expense of the taxpayer, Members of the House of Representatives were called back to Washington to conclude business on a payroll tax extension. The truth of the matter is we never even voted on the bill. Why, perish the thought! The bill would have probably passed. Who loses? 160 million Americans who won't realize a payroll tax extender; 48 million Americans, seniors who won't have access to their Medicare health provider; 2.2 million unemployed Americans who through no fault of their own lost a job, won't have their unemployment insurance extended.

You know, when it came to providing tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires, there were no bells and whistles. There were no pipelines attached to the legislation. There were no pay-fors.

But when it comes to a tax cut for middle class Americans, all kinds of bells and whistles are attached, all kinds of demands. This is a facade that is seen through clearly. When they had a chance to address this issue, they called it "a gimmick"; it wasn't worth their attention. So don't let them fool you. This is just a way to keep moving the goal post and not do the right thing. Middle class America, take notice. We regret not taking a vote in this House.

ANOTHER DAY IN CONGRESS

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, there are some funny things that go on here. We watched the supercommittee operate for about 10 weeks and produce absolutely nothing. So today the Speaker comes out here and says, we want a conference committee. Now, the supercommittee was 12 members, three from each caucus; a conference committee, three members from each caucus. We're going to create another one, and we think that somehow it will solve this problem.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing again and again and expecting a different result, and clearly we're not going to get a different result. The Senate sent us a compromise between two people that can't agree on the time of day, HARRY REID and MITCH MCCONNELL, and they got 90 votes for it. That is America. Ninety percent of America agreed on that; and the Speaker wouldn't even allow it to come to a vote. He said, Let's create a committee.

Don't forget it in 2012.

GED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, we often talk about poison pills, and I don't know that all of the American people really understand what we're talking about. I want the American people to know that this 1-year bill that the House Republicans seemed to be in love with had some poison pills in it. One of them cut 40 weeks off of unemployment insurance. That's what they want us to agree to.

But another one, and the one I think is most egregious, said to those people applying for unemployment insurance that you must pass the GED in order to get unemployment insurance. We would say to a Vietnam veteran who is a master electrician, who went off to fight a war, never finished high school, but now that you are unemployed with all your skills, because you don't have a high school diploma or a GED, you must take a GED in order to get your

unemployment insurance. That is not only a poison pill; that is insulting and egregious.

ONE OF THESE THINGS IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate incidents of today remind me of that song I learned from Sesame Street which is, One of these kids is doing his own thing. The truth of the matter is we need adults today. If you look at the Republican Senators, they stood up and reached a compromise with the Democrats in the Senate. The House Democrats came along. The President came along. There was only one outlier, and that was our House Republicans.

Over the holidays, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you remind and encourage my House Republican colleagues to go see the wizard, go get a brain so we can talk about the intelligence needed to spur this economy. Go get the courage to stand up to the private interests, the Koch brothers, and the lobbyists so that you can do the right thing for the country. And after all, go get a heart so you can help the 2.2 million people that are unemployed have a merry Christmas, so that you can help the 160 million people who will face a tax hike on January 1 and, more than anything, the 48 million seniors who will have less access to health care.

Mr. Speaker, I will close with one thing, and it's just a bit of advice: be careful because the unemployment benefits you save may be your own.

WARREN HELLMAN

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to the passing of a man whose legacy to San Francisco is a great one. I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Warren Hellman, a community leader, a San Francisco legend, and an American success story. Sadly, Warren passed away on December 18, surrounded by his loving family. That was the way he lived, surrounded by his loving family.

Warren was a tremendously successful businessman. And it was his business acumen that allowed him to pursue his true fashion, philanthropy. He was a Renaissance man. That's how his daughter described him, and that's how we all saw him. With his deep generosity, intellectual curiosity, and his visionary dynamism, he changed the face of San Francisco. His legacy will live on through his contributions to education, to music, to civic life, and to the memory we all happily have of him being such a modest athlete, something he took great pride in.

□ 1650

When Warren Hellman saw an opportunity to enrich our city, he acted upon it. He strengthened and beautified Golden Gate Park. He worked to end homelessness. He supported the San Francisco Free Clinic, many of those people availing themselves of the services there being homeless. Concerned about dwindling local news coverage in the Internet age, he helped form the Bay Citizen online journalism site. Warren served on the board of Mills College and the University of California at Berkeley's Haas School of Business. He was in a leadership role in everything that he did.

I mentioned that he was an athlete. He endowed aquatic sports at U.C. Berkeley, where he had played on the water polo team as a student. Whether it was bicycling, swimming, running, skiing, you name it, Warren was the best.

He was a lover of music, a lover of family, and a lover of life. The 3-day concert he founded—well, it used to be called Strictly Bluegrass; but as the program expanded and more entertainers wanted to participate and the audience turned out for them in the hundreds of thousands, it was changed to Hardly Strictly Bluegrass. So it wasn't strictly bluegrass. It is held each year at Golden Gate Park and has allowed hundreds of thousands of fans each year to enjoy the music that he loved—mostly bluegrass. And it was all free. Warren was involved in every aspect of the festival, including personally recruiting musicians he admired; and an invitation from Warren was one that was warmly responded to by the biggest names in music. It is so fitting that Speedway Meadow, the site of the festival, was renamed Hellman Hollow just last week. Just last week. So I know this pleased him and his family immensely.

I mentioned his interest in education and the arts. He and his wife, Chris, were really such magnificent patrons of the San Francisco Ballet. It's hard to match or surpass the contributions they have made intellectually and by way of encouragement in every way and certainly philanthropically.

With the passing of Warren Hellman, San Francisco has lost a beloved champion. We honor his memory and his enthusiasm by celebrating his many contributions. I said that he was good at everything he did; and that included being a friend, a friend to so many who will miss him so much. I am proud to call Warren a friend; and I hope it is a comfort to Chris, his wife, and his family whom he cherished. And he couldn't talk enough about them. He was so very proud of them and rightfully so. I hope it is a comfort to them that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

Tomorrow there will be a public service to honor his life and legacy. It will represent an outpouring of people from every aspect of San Francisco life, every economic strata, from homeless

people to the most privileged and successful in terms of their measure of success. But it will also represent people in the public and private and non-profit sectors. This was a very special person, and I want everyone who follows the work of Congress and the pride that we all take in representing our districts and our constituents to know how proud we all were of the life and leadership of Warren Hellman.

COMMUNICATION FROM CASEWORK SUPERVISOR, THE HONORABLE XAVIER BECERRA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROOKS) laid before the House the following communication from Michael Nielsen, Casework Supervisor/Office Manager, the Honorable XAVIER BECERRA, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 12, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I was served with a subpoena, issued by Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles for witness testimony.

Prior to my required appearance, however, the defendant in the case pled no contest to a lesser charge, thereby alleviating any need for my testimony. After consultation with the Office of General Counsel and as a result of developments in the case, no determination regarding compliance with the subpoena is required.

Sincerely,
MICHAEL NIELSEN,
Casework Supervisor/Office Manager.

CONGRESS, THE ADMINISTRATION,
AND THE GIPPER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it's sometimes hard to reconcile the speeches we hear here on the floor with the legislation that we've passed. People have been speaking from the other side of the aisle here for the last 30 minutes about how the Republicans in the House apparently don't want taxpayers, working Americans, to have the 2 percent of the Social Security tax back that doesn't get paid into Social Security when actually this House has taken the responsible position not wanting to raise taxes in a down economy so workers will have the money that they currently do in their paychecks. It makes sense.

I've been saying ever since this first came up that the idea of a 2 percent tax cut is not a holiday and that actually the President corrupted the true payroll tax holiday idea that was brought forward 3 years ago. That was my idea. It was a stimulus idea that

Moody's, when they rated the different proposals, said would stimulate the 1-year GDP more than the other proposals, and it would have. The people that earned all of the money would have gotten it for 2 months in a row.

Some lazy reporters have tried to say, Well, that's just like this. Absolutely not. Unfortunately, it requires reading and not all reporters are willing to do that because it's clear my payroll tax holiday that I told the President about in January of 2009, he liked the idea and the only thing he did was take the name of it—that sounds familiar—and use that for what was not a holiday. It's not a holiday when you're avoiding 2 percent of the taxes you normally do. A holiday is when you don't pay the taxes. There are a number of differences. For one thing, the 2-month proposal by the Senate just pushes off what has to be done, and that's dealing with the rest of the year. We want to deal with the rest of the year. We want to provide certainty.

The bill I proposed did not create any uncertainty. It dealt with the issue that people could not shove bonuses into those 2 months, that it was a tax holiday for all of the income tax, Social Security, those taxes that would normally be taken out of the check. It would have averaged, we were told, between \$2,000 and \$3,000 a month for 2 months. Instead of \$80 a month, you would've had \$4,000 to \$5,000 over a 2-month period. That would have stimulated the economy.

Not only that, this proposal that the President has had, it hasn't stimulated the economy. We just don't want to raise taxes on people in a down economy.

□ 1700

But it does hurt the Social Security trust fund. This President's proposal pits working Americans against our seniors. It didn't have to be this way. Before this President ran up an extra \$4 trillion in debt back when we were at \$11 trillion instead of 15 trillion, just a few years ago, the proposal was completely paid for, and the only people that would have missed the money were the Wall Street bailout folks that wouldn't have gotten their money because it took money from TARP and left it in the pockets of those who earned it. It made sure that there would be no shortfall in the Social Security trust fund. It made sure there would be no shortage in the Medicare fund, it addressed that. And the only people that would have been hurt—and I don't think they would have been hurt—but the only ones that would have missed the money were those getting the bailouts.

Well, this President liked the name, liked the idea of leaving some money in the check. But instead of \$4,000 to \$5,000, they decided to leave \$160—2 months.

HARRY REID has been saying that he wants to give Americans \$1,000, and that's what the Senate was doing. The