

We were all inspired by the call for freedom and democracy in Egypt this winter, but for some in Egypt, the transition has led to more threats, more fear, and more violence. While Mubarak is gone, extremist groups in Egypt are using the newly opened political space to escalate their war against Christians. Churches are burning and people are being murdered in the streets over their religious beliefs. If these groups get their way, the opportunity for a democratic and free Egypt would be lost.

As the United States partners with Egyptian communities to support democracy in this time of transition, it is imperative that human rights violations are not pushed aside. The United States must demand that any Egyptian Government protect the rights and lives of its citizens before any U.S. dollars are given to that government.

The respect of human rights, including religious freedoms, is imperative for the future and stability of Egypt and the region.

MR. PRESIDENT, DON'T PLAY POLITICS: SUPPORT AMERICAN ENERGY

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

Mr. HULTGREN. The cost of gasoline is devastating American family budgets, destroying jobs, and debilitating our economy. Gas prices in my home State of Illinois are among the highest in the Nation.

It's clear that America needs an energy policy that will take advantage of America's vast supplies of oil, gas, and other resources. But instead of choosing to boost domestic energy production, which would create jobs and help get our economy moving again, the President has chosen the shortsighted, politically expedient, and financially expensive route of tapping our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. I urge him to reconsider his decision and embrace the legislation we have passed to increase domestic energy production.

I have been proud to support the bills we've passed because they will not only reduce our reliance on unstable and unfriendly regions of the world, they will also create good-paying jobs here at home. So instead of tapping the SPR to help his reelection campaign, the President should do what is truly best for America and support our efforts to increase domestic energy production and create the jobs hardworking Americans are looking for.

□ 1210

SUPPORTING THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Yesterday, I was proud to join 158 of my House colleagues—women and men—in cosponsoring this simple constitutional guarantee that “equality of rights” shall not be denied or abridged on account of one's gender. The ERA was passed by Congress in 1972, and won approval from 35 States before falling just three short of ratification. Since then, women have gained significant protections in society, in the workplace and at home; but it is clear that much more must be done.

Earlier this year, a sitting member of the U.S. Supreme Court stated his view that the Constitution does not prohibit “discrimination on the basis of sex.” While many legal scholars were quick to disagree, his words illustrate clearly the need for explicit constitutional protections. Without them, Congress has—and has already attempted to—roll back these gains.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the ERA and in standing up for the constitutional protection for women and families.

REDUCING THE CORPORATE TAX RATE

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

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise to support my colleague DONNA EDWARDS and her bill to reduce the corporate tax in order to create more jobs in this country.

The corporate tax is, perhaps, the most regressive tax we have because, in reality, you cannot tax a corporation. It simply becomes a part of the cost of doing business, and they pass it on to the consumer, who pays the tax, which makes everything cost more that the consumer buys, so the consumer will be benefited in several ways when we reduce the corporate tax rate.

Corporations will grow, and there will be more jobs. More corporations will move to this country, creating more jobs. By the way, the revenue stream from this increase in the size of corporations and in the number of corporations may actually increase as a result of reducing the tax rate. There will be more jobs for our consumers, and the things they buy will cost less. This is a win-win-win for everybody.

Thank you, Congresswoman EDWARDS, for your leadership.

WASTEFUL SPENDING WITHIN THE FHA'S INTERNATIONAL SCAN PROGRAM

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, this week, I cosigned a letter to Transportation Secretary LaHood expressing concern about the waste of taxpayer dollars at the Federal Highway Administration's International Scan Program. This program has likely wasted

millions of dollars over the past 10 years, sending government officials abroad most recently to study billboards in five different countries, over 17 days, at a cost of \$300,000 to the taxpayers.

Rightly, Secretary LaHood responded to our letter by immediately suspending the program, but the question remains: Why did it exist in the first place, and how many others like it exist throughout the Federal bureaucracy?

We must continue to scrutinize the budgets at all Federal agencies so we can put an end to this type of wasteful spending once and for all. Hopefully, the suspension of this billboard program is just a sign of things to come.

ENCOURAGING JOB CREATION AND THE AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud Representative of Indiana's hardworking Third District and as an original member of the Job Creators Caucus. I have come to the floor today to talk about what makes America great and what we can do to encourage job creation and America's entrepreneurial spirit.

America's curiosity, passion for excellence and drive for efficiency moves every small business owner and entrepreneur in our Nation. Mom-and-pop grocery stores, local mechanics, independent insurance agents, farmers, and countless others make our Nation great. Make no mistake. Our greatness is not attributed to our prosperity. Rather, America is prosperous because she is great, and she is great because she is free.

As a small business owner and a farmer, I have firsthand knowledge of our Nation's unique and wonderful design. Business owners are free to make the countless decisions that they face each and every day. Unfortunately, that entrepreneurial spirit is under attack. Individual Americans are still restless for opportunity, but a threat comes from an excessive government that limits opportunities and stifles job growth.

In 1913, the Ford Motor Company reduced its production time from 14 hours to 1½ hours. Today, a massive bureaucratic machine produces job-killing regulations at a speed that would make Henry Ford shudder. Every year, unelected bureaucrats issue more than 3,000 final rules, close to 10 rules a day.

I have proudly cosponsored the REINS Act, which would reverse the harmful onslaught of regulation that cripples businesses and thwarts job creation. I know that when government gets out of the way it allows Americans to realize their full potential.

The American entrepreneurial spirit is not dead. Men and women across the

Nation are ready. They want to know if Washington is, too.

WE MUST SUSTAIN AND PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in these times of great difficulty and uncertainty, our senior citizens want to know where we stand, and I want the senior citizens to know that I stand with them. I will not vote to voucherize Medicare, and I will not vote to socialize to the extent that we privatize Social Security.

Medicare has been there for millions of our senior citizens. It is a program on which they can depend. In their minds, Medicare is better care. We have 40 million seniors depending on Medicare. We cannot take that from them. Many of the seniors in my district depend on Social Security to the extent that, if they don't have Social Security, they do not "have."

These two programs mean a lot to the people that I represent. No privatization of Social Security and no voucherizing of Medicare. I will vote to sustain them and protect them.

CREATING A SOUND ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, President Obama announced today that he is releasing 30 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to alleviate supply disruptions that he claims are as a result of the conflict in Libya. The irony here is obvious: Who attacked Libya and created the disruptions in the first place?

Furthermore, this is the same President whose policies and regulations over the past 2 years have systematically choked our domestic energy production, stifled job creation and resulted in record energy prices for the American public. Releasing oil from the SPR is an obvious political move to cover up the high gasoline prices created by the President's policies.

Mr. President, if you were truly serious about increasing the supply of oil and lowering prices, you would stop being the candidate-in-chief and begin taking leadership on a sound energy policy, parts of which the House has already passed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Members are advised to address the Chair and not the administration.

THE 375TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROVIDENCE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 375th anniversary of the founding of the city of Providence, Rhode Island's magnificent capital city.

Providence, fondly known as the creative capital, the Renaissance city and the beehive of industry, has embodied American values since its founding in 1636. When Roger Williams founded the city of Providence, he could not have known what it would become: the city, built upon Roger Williams' tradition of diversity, welcoming immigrants from around the world into vibrant urban neighborhoods.

Having served for 8 years as mayor of this great city, I am aware of its well-earned reputation as the arts and culture center of New England. Providence has been recognized as one of the coolest cities in America, one of the 25 best cities for arts and culture and one of the 100 best cities for young people—to name just a few accolades. It has also been recognized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors for its innovative after-school programs, its world-class arts and entertainment and its restoration of city rivers, the creation of downtown warfront parks and spectacular historic preservation.

Three hundred seventy-five years after its founding, Providence is, without question, one of America's greatest cities, and it is a true honor to commemorate its founding.

YORK RIVER WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY ACT

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, last month, when I was standing on the banks of the York River in Maine, I learned that the river serves as a home for species like the New England Cottontail, the Eastern Box Turtle and the threatened Harlequin Duck; but the York River is also a place where people are making their livings.

Fishermen depend on the good quality of the water and access to the waterfront, and farmers in the York River Watershed grow pumpkins, potatoes and other produce that keep Maine communities healthy. The natural beauty of the river draws visitors to the area from around the State and around the country.

Mr. Speaker, later today, I am introducing the York River Wild and Scenic River Study Act, which would commission a feasibility study to find out if the river qualifies as a "Wild and Scenic Partnership River"—a designation that would help preserve the river as an economic and natural resource for generations to come.

□ 1220

IT'S TIME TO GET AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it's time to talk turkey about jobs. Too many Americans are unemployed, and it's time to get Americans back to work. As we enter this new decade in the 21st century, research and development is critical to rebuilding American manufacturing and to creating jobs. In today's global economy, manufacturing here in the United States and innovation remains a linchpin for economic growth that is being challenged rigorously by our competitors around the world.

Today, I rise to highlight legislation I introduced with my colleague from Maryland, ROSCOE BARTLETT, to spur innovation and economic development. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 682, the 21st Century Investment Act, would encourage companies to co-locate their research and development activities with job creation here in the United States. We'd make permanent the research and development tax credit and increase the domestic manufacturing tax credit to 15 percent. Those are jobs here in the United States.

The time was that we were the global leader and the architect of research and development, but not true today. We can and we must do better because of whatever that is we're down to, about number 17 or 21. We can do better; and so by joining Mr. BARTLETT and me, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 689 will reclaim the mantle of innovation and create jobs.

LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, in June the Global Conference on Drug Policy, a 19-member group that included former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State George Schultz and Paul Volcker said that the drug war was a failure, that it needed to be readdressed with new priorities, and suggested that this country get out of the Federal marijuana possession business.

It is for that reason and others that I will be joining today with Congresspeople RON PAUL, JOHN CONYERS, BARNEY FRANK, JARED POLIS and others to introduce a bill to get the Federal Government out of possession of marijuana and into interstate and international shipments of marijuana and allowing the States to decide, like they do with alcohol, how they should deal with marijuana. Better they should deal with it as a health policy and not a criminal policy and not stigmatize young people for life with marks on their record that might deny