

JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's always an honor and privilege to speak in this body. There has just been so much information about the American Jobs Act that the President has touted that he demanded that we pass here in this room, and at the time he had no American Jobs Act.

The next day, Friday, he had spent millions of dollars, taxpayer dollars, running around the country demanding that people pass his bill. On Saturday, the same thing, all weekend, running around telling people to pass his American Jobs Act when there was no such bill.

Monday afternoon, very late, there became a bill. It's hard to believe that this is what came out of the White House because it does not represent what the President said he wanted to do, said he believed in. I'm sure he doesn't have time to go through and actually read and see that the things he's saying in his speech are completely opposite of what he's doing in his so-called American Jobs Act, but that's why, after 6 days of being beat up verbally by the President for not passing his American Jobs Act and finding that there was no such American Jobs Act on file here in the House, I felt like I needed to help the President by creating an American Jobs Act that really will create jobs. So I filed a two-page American Jobs Act that will do more than anything the President has talked about or put in writing to create jobs in America.

But just since the President is obviously not aware of what's actually in his bill based on what he's saying, in the limited time we have here, I wanted to touch on some of these things.

For example, the President said over and over and over that he wants to go after these greedy, big oil companies like British Petroleum, Exxon, Shell, those big companies, and that his American Jobs Act, his bill, actually will do that. It will go after their profits. He probably has no clue that the fact is the three pages of deductions that are eliminated for oil companies, they're basically for oil companies that produce less than a thousand barrels of oil a day. They don't even apply to the people that the President says he's going after for these unseemly profits they're making.

I'm sure he's also not aware, but the fact is that over 94 percent of all oil and gas wells drilled on the continental U.S. are done by independent oil producers who these three pages will devastate and put most out of business. And so the President, by these three pages, that I'm sure he doesn't really understand what they do, but the fact is they'll put the independent oil producers out of business.

They will affect the major oil companies because once over 94 percent of all

oil and gas wells in America and the continental U.S. are stopped, then the major oil companies that he's demonized will actually make more money than they've ever made in their history, and it will be the middle hard-working Americans that will pay the biggest price. They're the least able to afford dramatically higher gasoline prices, but that's what will happen.

We are also told that we're going to go after the millionaires and billionaires that have all this money and not paying their fair share. Now, to me, if we're going to make sure everybody pays their fair share, and you've got somebody like Warren Buffett that pays a 15 percent capital gains tax, why don't we make everybody's tax 15 percent? Everybody in America ought to have some financial interest in seeing this government is accountable. That's what should happen.

Instead, at pages 134 and 135 of his bill—and, again, it has to be filed in the House because it's a revenue-raising bill and under the Constitution he'll have to start here—it's not on file. There hasn't been one Democrat willing to file this disaster of a bill that the President is out there beating us up over. Actually, he's just saying pass the American Jobs Act, which is my two-page bill that really will create jobs.

□ 1110

But people need to know, Madam Speaker, that the definition in here apparently of a millionaire and billionaire is anybody who's married and makes over \$125,000 a year. For some of us, \$125,000 a year is not a millionaire or billionaire or gazillionaire. This is somebody who is paying taxes. They're paying their fair share. They're paying over 30 percent of their income in taxes. Well, why shouldn't we just say, all right, ultra-rich like Warren Buffett, quit fighting not to pay the billions of dollars you already owe in taxes, just write the check.

I think if people will go read the President's bill, they will find out we need to pass the American Jobs Act that's on file with the House. That's my bill.

REPEAL 3 PERCENT WITHHOLDING PROVISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, the 3 percent withholding provision, which will come into effect if Congress does not act, essentially forces businesses that have contracts with the government to forgo 3 percent of their payments as a downpayment on their tax bill. This represents yet another burden on our Nation's small businesses and job creators, the lifeblood of our economy.

As a small businessman, I know firsthand about the negative impact of burdensome taxes and cumbersome regula-

tions. Many small businesses that contract with the government operate on very slim profit margins, so a 3 percent tax would create serious cash flow problems for them at a time when so many are struggling. Aside from that, this provision will actually cost the government money. Federal, State, and local governments are already facing unprecedented deficits, and yet agencies will have to create new collection systems and may face higher costs for goods and services if this is not repealed. The Department of Defense has said that for the DOD alone, the provision will cost \$17 billion to implement. Madam Speaker, that is \$7 billion more than the total revenue the tax is expected to raise. In another example of Washington math, the provision will force the government to spend more money and end up eliminating jobs and hurting small businesses.

Congress can certainly do better. We must do better. Twenty million Americans are out of work, and our small businesses must have the certainty they need to create more jobs. We cannot punish law-abiding businesses because a few contractors do not pay their taxes. Instead, the government should stop awarding government contracts to businesses that do not pay. To that point, the OMB and the Treasury Department have announced several initiatives to prevent contracts from going to companies that are delinquent on their taxes.

Madam Speaker, we're looking for something we can do right now to help job creation in America. Well, this is it. Repealing the 3 percent withholding provision will provide a significant benefit to small businesses just by getting Washington out of their way. If we don't repeal it, we will put small businesses, jobs across America, and our efforts at economic recovery at greater risk. It's time to get this harmful job-killing provision off the books forever.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Once again we come to ask You for wisdom, patience, peace, and understanding for the Members of this people's House. At a time when once again

strong sentiments stand in opposition, we ask discernment for the Members that they might judge anew their adherence to principle, conviction, and commitment.

Protect them from a deafness toward one another, lest they slide uncharitably toward an inability to work together to solve the important issues of our day.

Give them the generosity of heart and the courage of true leadership to work toward a common solution which might call for compromise, even sacrifice, on both sides.

In the end, may we all, as Americans, be proud of the processes of elective, democratic government.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LONG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LONG led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF INTERPARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 103(c) of Public Law 108-83, the Speaker appoints Janice C. Robinson as Director of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs of the United States House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill and agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 633. An act to prevent fraud in small business contracting, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 17. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The message also announced that pursuant to provisions of Public Law 107-306, as amended by Public Law 111-259, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, and after consultation with the Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, announces the appointment of the Senator from Indi-

ana (Mr. COATS) to serve as a member of the National Commission for the Review of the Research and Development Programs of the United States Intelligence Community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 1-minute requests on each side.

NO NEW TAXES

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

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I'm new to this House. I'm new to politics, actually. I'm a small business owner. I ran my own business for 30 years. And when you have your own business, you get a lot of free, unsolicited advice, and most of that advice is telling you how to run your business.

Back home, a fellow would tell you, after his 30-minute dissertation on how to run your business, he'd stop and revise and extend his remarks by saying, "Well, I guess I can run everybody's business but my own." Because usually they've been bankrupt a couple of times and been fired, but they want to tell you how to run your business.

When I hear the United States government say, "We need to create jobs, we need to tell the job creators how to operate, what to do," I'm reminded of the fellow back home who says I can run everybody's business but my own. Because we haven't had a budget in this country in over 850 days.

We don't do much right up here, and trying to run businesses is not something we should be doing. We should be reducing taxes, reducing spending, reducing regulation. And we need to get those three free trade agreements from the White House over here. If you don't believe me, ask the European Union. Car exports up over 200 percent after they signed their free trade agreement with Korea. Their aircraft is the same. It's up over 2,300 percent.

LONG-TERM INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

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

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, last week we passed a bill to extend funding for critical highway and transit infrastructure projects for 6 months. I don't think 6 months is long enough.

We're told by businesses that they need certainty before they can invest, and the same is true for those businesses that would help us build an infrastructure that reflects the challenges of the 21st century. To give that certainty, we need to pass a long-term highway and transit funding bill now so we can create lasting jobs.

In my home city of Los Angeles, we're already pursuing innovative

measures like the 30/10, America Fast Forward initiative to get the infrastructure we need to stay competitive tomorrow built today. That initiative promises to create 160,000 jobs in my area alone. Just think of what that good program could do for our country as a whole.

A long-term bill will put us one step closer to realizing that goal.

Keeping our Nation competitive in the future requires vision and boldness in the present, and I urge my colleagues to pass a long-term surface transportation bill equal to the opportunity before us.

WE LOVE OUR CARRIE MEEK

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor one of our former colleagues, a woman who is really an institution in south Florida, in Florida, and in the Nation, and that is, of course, Congresswoman Carrie Meek.

She was the first African American elected to the Florida Senate in 1982, and then along with two other colleagues became the first African American to be elected from Florida to the U.S. Congress since Reconstruction.

But here is what I know and remember about Carrie Meek. She is the consummate stateswoman. She is a person who loves her country. She loves this institution. It doesn't matter what party you're from. Whenever you have a need, whenever you have an issue, when you want counsel, she's the person that to this day we continue to go to.

So today again, Madam Speaker, I'm here to honor a great woman, a great stateswoman, a person who in the State of Florida is revered by Republicans and Democrats alike. Her son followed her into Congress, Kendrick Meek, and he did a wonderful job, and also comes from that great tree that is Carrie Meek.

Again, I'm here to honor Carrie Meek. Carrie, we love you, we miss you, we honor you.

HONORING THE PEACE CORPS

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

Mr. FARR. I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps, and today over a thousand returned Peace Corps volunteers are here in our Capitol to bring us the attention that the Peace Corps deserves.

Congress passed legislation authorizing the Peace Corps and giving it a mandate to "promote peace and friendship."

Since then, 200,000 Americans, including myself and Congress Members TOM PETRI, MIKE HONDA, and JOHN GARAMENDI have served our great country in the name of peace and friendship.