

Yucca program altogether, its funding, licensing and design."

Senator WYDEN has said: "I don't see that (Yucca Mountain will reopen). I think that there'll be an effort to look at new technologies and on-site storage and a whole host of approaches, but I don't think that's going to happen."

So Senator WYDEN is accepting this in Hanford, a mile from the Columbia River.

Senator MERKLEY has been quiet, as far as we could find from the Google search pairing his name and any Yucca Mountain comments.

Now, lest people think I'm picking on the Northwest, let me go to my home State of Illinois. So one facility, Zion Nuclear Power Station, it's a decommissioned plant but there's still 65 casks containing 1,135 metric tons of nuclear waste, versus Yucca Mountain, which has zero.

The waste at Zion is stored above the ground; the waste at Yucca Mountain would be a thousand feet below the surface. The waste at Zion is 5 feet above the water table; the waste at Yucca Mountain would be a thousand feet. The waste at Yucca Mountain is 100 miles from the Colorado River; the waste from Zion is 1,300 feet from Lake Michigan.

I mean, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that Yucca Mountain is safer than storing high-level nuclear waste next to Lake Michigan.

So what have our Senators said?

Well, let's start with Senator DURBIN. He's quoted as saying: "There are a lot of options out there. But I have supported Yucca in the past, and I am not walking away from that. I just think we need to consider other options as well."

I want him to obviously continue to consider Yucca Mountain.

Senator KIRK has said: "I think in the end Congress needs to fight and win the battle to build the Yucca Mountain facility so that we can store nuclear waste 1,000 feet below the surface."

I agree.

Senator KOHL is quoted as saying: "This site, on the Nevada nuclear test site"—that's what people don't know is that Yucca Mountain is also the Nevada nuclear test site. That's where we tested the nuclear bombs during the nuclear arms race and the nuclear age. So Senator KOHL is correct in saying: "This site, on the Nevada nuclear test site, is certainly safer than leaving the waste at 132 sites nationwide, sites scattered around the country that were never designed to be a permanent solution."

Senator JOHNSON is silent.

CURRENCY MANIPULATORS

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

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the bipartisan majority in the Senate for passing legislation to take on currency

manipulators, and to urge our House of Representatives and our House Republican leadership to do the same—to allow a stand-alone, up-or-down vote on currency manipulation legislation—here in the House of Representatives. In a period of congressional gridlock, we must seize every bipartisan opportunity available to us not only to create jobs, but also to protect the good-paying jobs we already have.

As the Senate demonstrated this week by passing the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act, the time is now to take advantage of bipartisan cooperation. Sixteen Republican Senators joined 47 Democratic Senators in voting for this legislation to counter an unfair trade practice that is hampering our economic recovery.

In February, Congressman SANDER LEVIN, TIM RYAN, and TIM MURPHY introduced the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act. H.R. 639 has garnered 225 bipartisan cosponsors, more than enough secure House passage. This would allow the Department of Commerce to counter imports made cheaper by currency manipulation with a corresponding tariff. A nearly identical bill passed the House of Representatives last year by a strong, overwhelming bipartisan vote of 348-79, both Republicans and Democrats.

When countries are allowed to keep the value of their currencies artificially low and, in turn, the prices of their exports into the United States, American companies and American workers face an unfair disadvantage. Forced to compete on an unlevel playing field where competitors are able to maintain a permanent 30 to 40 percent-off sale on their products, American jobs are lost and our trade deficit grows with countries like China.

The Economic Policy Institute recently released the study, and it showed that in the last 10 years the U.S. lost 2.8 million jobs, including nearly 62,000 jobs in my home State of Indiana as a result directly of the expanding trade deficit with China. Many experts agree: Countries like China that manipulate their currencies are damaging the U.S. economy.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke recently expressed concern "that the Chinese currency policy is blocking what might be a more normal recovery process in the global economy," and he stated that "it is to some extent hurting the recovery."

Chairman Bernanke is tasked directly with the responsibilities of serving and protecting America's economic interests. He recognizes the impact that Chinese currency manipulation is having on our economy. It is long past time for this House of Representatives to do the same.

□ 1030

After the Senate expressed interest in considering S. 1619, China immediately went on the offensive, issuing threats and saying such legislation could spark a trade war. Though Chi-

na's comments are disappointing, they are not unexpected, and Congress should not shy away from doing what is in America's best interests. That is our job. China's unfair currency policies have cost millions of Americans their jobs, and I believe inaction on this issue is dangerous to our economic recovery and continues to put at risk hundreds of thousands of additional American jobs.

When I travel around my district, I hear from small businesses and manufacturers on this issue. And they never ask for Congress to guarantee their success. All they want is a fair fight, for the rules to be the same. And I believe given a level playing field, American businesses will win every single time.

Once again, to our House leadership, please allow bipartisan legislation addressing currency manipulation to come before the full House of Representatives for a standalone, up-or-down vote. Who are you going to stand with, the Chinese government or American businesses and American workers? The American people want a vote now and deserve a vote now.

REPUBLICAN ANTI-CHOICE LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, we are now more than 275 days into this 112th Congress, and the GOP leadership has put forward zero American jobs bills and outright rejected consideration of President Obama's jobs proposal. So if jobs aren't at the heart of the Republican Tea Party's agenda, what is?

Passage of anti-labor legislation to weaken the rights of middle class workers and encourage the shipping of jobs overseas. Check.

Passage of anti-middle class legislation to raise taxes on hardworking families. Check.

Passage of anti-environment legislation to roll back clean air standards. Check.

Passage of anti-education legislation to slash Pell Grants for middle-income students to afford college. Check.

And later today, passage of its seventh anti-women's health measure. Today's bill will put the government in the middle of American's health choices and allow hospitals to refuse life-saving treatment to women.

Every day it feels more and more like the movie "Groundhog Day." I wake up hoping it will be something different, but it's the same scene played over and over and over. The Republican Tea Party agenda stuck on repeat might satisfy the extreme right wing, but it neither satisfies nor helps hardworking Americans.

It is time for the GOP leadership to learn a lesson from "Groundhog Day"—the only way out of it is to do better.

The American people don't want token legislation, extreme partisanship, or sideshow politics. They want

real solutions, real jobs, and a real vision. They want a vision for America. A vision for America. And like the movie, they are desperate for a new day.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 65th National Preservation Conference, which will be held in my community of western New York next week.

Over 2,000 people from across the country and around the world will converge in Buffalo to be immersed in our considerable and remarkable architecture. What makes this conference unique is that our community's historic preservation assets are the very reason the conference is being held there.

The centerpiece will be the numerous buildings, homes, parks, and neighborhoods that were remarkable upon their construction and will help grow us in the future. This conference will provide international validation to what many in western New York have long known and understood: that our ability to thrive lies in recapturing the potential of what we have built in the past. And we are doing just that.

Buffalo is home to the Nation's first park and parkway system, designed in the 19th century by the famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. The 1,200-acre parklands are some of the very best in the world. The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy is leading a multimillion dollar effort to restore the parks so western New Yorkers can visit and appreciate and enjoy them for decades to come.

Meanwhile, we are meticulously restoring buildings integral to our architectural legacy. These include the Darwin Martin House and Graycliff Estate by Frank Lloyd Wright; the Guaranty Building by Louis Sullivan; the Buffalo Psychiatric Center by Henry Hobson Richardson; and the Hotel Lafayette by one of America's first female architects, Louise Blanchard Bethune.

These efforts are not just examples of historic preservation. They represent a new confidence that we can take charge of our own future by reclaiming our past.

Mr. Speaker, historic preservation efforts in Buffalo and western New York also demonstrate the importance of partnerships between the Federal Government and the private sector. Without these partnerships, many preservation projects would never get off the ground.

Federal tools like the historic preservation tax credit and the new markets tax credit bring builders, investors, and development professionals together, and they have the capacity to turn around entire communities.

In Buffalo, \$64 million of new market tax credit investments have occurred

since 2005. This investment has leveraged projects totaling over \$141 million in our community. The new markets program has encouraged the redevelopment of the Oak School Lofts, Ellicott Commons, the Electric Tower, the Webb Lofts, Ashbury Hall, AM&A's Warehouse Lofts, 567 Exchange Street, the Larkin at Exchange complex, the Erie Lackawanna Train Station in Jamestown, and the Innovation Center at the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. All of these projects involved either a restoration of a historic, vacant building, or new construction in an economically distressed area.

I support legislation that would extend the new markets program and authorize it at \$5 billion or more a year. And I support extending the historic preservation tax credit because I have seen in Buffalo how cost effective and successful these programs can be.

Older industrial areas like Buffalo will be able to compete and succeed in a globalized economy if their leaders develop a culture of innovation and create new economic opportunities while taking advantage of the unique aspects of the past. Buffalo and western New York are ready to meet that challenge.

I congratulate those who have led the effort to host this important conference, especially Bob Skerker and Catherine Schweitzer, and the hundreds of western New Yorkers who will make this conference a success.

To the conference attendees and visitors from all around the world, I would say our community is honored to host you and proud to show off our unique architecture and historic assets. I promise you will not be disappointed.

INVESTING IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for yielding to me this morning.

I wanted to share with my colleagues an important challenge that we have. And I think some would say how obvious with 9 percent unemployment, which I think we should be honest with ourselves and realize that it has been an accident that has been long in coming. Almost as if one slowed down on a rainy day and looked as if one was following the prudent rules of the road and decided to, in a moment's notice, not only speed but speed through a stop sign, an accident waiting to happen. We have of course, had spending without accountability in two wars, Iraq and Afghanistan, preceding this administration; and, of course, tax cuts for the top 1 percent of the population, many of whom acknowledge that where there is opportunity and benefit, there must be sacrifice and contribution.

And if we were to engage them in a reasoned discussion, we would find out, of course, that they would be willing to invest in America. I don't call it tax-

ation. None of us enjoy getting that bill that deals with taxes, but we do understand the value of investing in America.

□ 1040

Yesterday, we debated three trade bills. All of them are my friends. I have had the opportunity to engage with the communities represented by South Korea, Panama, and Colombia. Let me say in particular on Panama, my grandfather worked on the Panama Canal. The evidence is not his words to me, since he died before I was born, but it is the evidence of his name being printed in the annals of the Panamanian history of the canal right there at the canal site that I have visited on many occasions. What an emotional moment to see his name arise as one who helped construct and build in the 1900s amongst all the devastation, the mosquitoes, and disease. He survived and helped build the Panama Canal. So we have a longstanding relationship with them. We have a longstanding relationship with the canal.

But the trade bills, for me, should answer one question—and I respect those who voted for it: Will it have an infusion of opportunity for those who have lost their jobs? Unlike some comments by Presidential candidates running for this job, I don't believe if you're unemployed and if you are not rich, it is your fault. There are college graduates who are unemployed today. There are skilled artisans and those who are in the trades who are unemployed today. There are returning veterans—young men and women—who led almost multinational companies in terms of the jobs that they had in the military in Iraq and Afghanistan. How do I know? Because I have visited them and seen them in operation. If you are over the logistics of moving equipment and moving men and women, and you're 25 years old, I can assure you that you know how to work in a large corporation.

There's no evidence that these bills being passed at this time will in fact bring down the unemployment. I believe our chief responsibility is to find work for the American people.

One of the challenges of the language of the trade bill is the question of protecting our intellectual property. Intellectual property creates jobs. It protects the genius of America. Of course, all of us through our history books have known about the origins of the telephone and we know the origins of the lightbulb and some of the geniuses that we've known in our early history. Many of us have heard of George Washington Carver, who did a lot with the peanut.

America knows how to invent. We know how to do research. I have the privilege of having in my jurisdiction and surrounding areas the Texas Medical Center, where some of the most outstanding research is being done on cancer, which seems to be an epidemic in this country.