

would prevent 8,000 premature deaths a year and save up to \$67 billion, the sweetener that was needed to try to get these tax breaks for 160 million Americans.

I urge my colleagues to see the folly of their ways and pull these harmful riders out of the bill, to stop their effort to just defeat President Obama, and do what's right for the American public—to create jobs and to help people on unemployment, which will stimulate our economy.

In their Pledge to America, they describe what they called “circumventing the will of the American people.” That's what they're doing today. The will of the American people is not to have deaths and injuries, health and environmental policies destroyed, but to create jobs and to help people through this difficult recession.

I would ask that we defeat this bill, come back, work together, and do what's right for the American people.

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 16 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.

On this day we ask Your blessing on the men and women, citizens all, whose votes have populated this people's House. Each Member of this House has been given the sacred duty of representing them.

This is a season of hope for many in our Nation—for some religious hope, for some celebratory hope, and for others hope for greater blessings in their lives. We ask that You might listen to the hopes of our Nation.

We ask Your blessing as well on the Members of this House, whose responsibilities are heavy as the first session of this 112th Congress nears its completion. Give each Member the wisdom to represent both local and national interests, a responsibility calling for the wisdom of Solomon. Grant them, if You will, a double portion of such wisdom.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HAHN 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SOUTH CAROLINA WINS THE FIGHT AGAINST THE NLRB

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday the National Labor Relations Board announced that they had approved the requests by the International Association of Machinists to withdraw its complaint against Boeing. For the past year, the President's National Labor Relations Board has played the role of a Big Labor bully by threatening the jobs of hardworking South Carolinians by stalling the second line of the 787 Dreamliner production in Charleston.

Boeing chose to locate in South Carolina due to its welcoming business climate due in large part to its right-to-work laws. Instead of rewarding unions for their political investments, I urge the current administration to enact policies protecting the rights of workers and allowing for growth of small businesses creating jobs. The lesson of this NLRB intrusion is clear: do not locate your facilities in union States because if you enter, like a roach motel, you cannot leave.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENSION

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

Ms. CHU. Over 13 million Americans are looking for work. That means for every one job opening in the United States, there are four Americans actively seeking employment. Another 10 million people have given up looking for a full-time job altogether because companies just aren't hiring.

These are real people. They are more than just numbers. Ellen Andrews lost her job last year. She's been supporting herself and her 1-year-old son Henry with her unemployment benefits. They help her keep the lights on and keep food in the house until she can get a job.

But the Republican plan will change all that. It will cut 40 weeks of Federal benefits out from under people like Ellen; and it will force partisan policies, like the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, on to a bill that should be all about helping American families.

With the holidays around the corner, Congress should be about giving America hope and security, not playing partisan politics.

JOB CREATION

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

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on December 10 Pamela from Greenwood Lake, New York, in our beautiful 19th District, sent the following letter to me: “Stop any more Federal spending. Less is better. Europe is a lesson for us. We live in the greatest Nation on Earth.”

And, Pamela, you're absolutely right. If we are going to spread the blessings of the greatest opportunity society in history, then as we enter this holiday season, we need the promise of growth.

Your House of Representatives, Republicans and Democrats alike, have as of today passed 27 bills, job-growing, growth-promoting bills that protect American workers and job creators from tax increases, roll back burdensome regulations, and end the Federal spending that suffocates the economic engine of enterprise. And we keep them listed on a card so everybody knows.

I urge the Senate to act now to put those bills to work and put our people back to work and give every American good reason to look forward to a happy new year in this land of liberty.

PAYROLL TAX CUT

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today the House will debate extending the payroll tax cut. I strongly urge extending this tax cut. If we don't, tens of millions of New York families will see an average tax increase of \$1,000 next year, and as many as 400,000 jobs could be lost nationwide.

But, frankly, it is ridiculous that we are considering this legislation on the floor today. With so many unrelated riders attached to the bill, we know it is dead on arrival in the Senate. This charade will create anxiety among middle class Americans that their taxes are about to go up, and it will create economic uncertainty during the holiday season when so much of

our economy is based on consumer confidence and spending.

The same Congress that took us to the edge of a government shutdown and defaulting on our debt is again choosing brinksmanship over leadership, regardless of the impact on our economy and the middle class.

I urge the House to reject this bill and pass a clean extension of the payroll tax cut that we know will pass the Senate and become law immediately.

STAND WITH ISRAEL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the U.N. agency UNESCO sent a message to Israel loud and clear that the U.N. accepts the creation of a Palestinian state whether Israel likes it or not. UNESCO intervened in the peace process and formally recognized the Palestinian state by raising the flag in front of the whole world. No surprise there, just another day in the U.N.'s position of bigotry against all things Israel. Yet another reason to cut U.N. funding.

Israel is America's loyal ally and the lone free and democratic country in the Middle East. Its people are constantly under attack from the jihadists who wish to remove them from the Earth all in the name of religion. The same radicals who wish to kill innocent Israelis are also sworn enemies of America. Intimidation, terror, and murder are not acceptable and must be rejected by the entire international community, especially the U.N. The United States must make it clear that we stand with Israel in their fight against hate and extremism, whether the U.N. likes it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I held a forum for small businesses and teamed them up with experts from the U.S. Government on how to discuss strategies in getting them into the global marketplace. It's also a reminder to me of the vast, untapped potential that lies before us as we address the critical needs for more jobs in this country.

With nearly 96 percent of the world's consumers living outside the U.S. and two-thirds of the world's purchasing power in foreign countries, we must help our small businesses learn how to export their products and services to other nations.

Small businesses I met on Saturday, like the Kean Wind Turbines and Maram's Dress Shop in Williamsville, are looking for a shot at this marketplace; but they need our help. After all, small businesses that export their goods and services are one-third less

likely to fail than companies that do not export. Therefore, I'm urging every Member of Congress to work with their local businesses to help expose them to the amazing opportunities that await them if they are willing to leap into the global marketplace. I put our products and our businesses up against any global competitor anytime, anywhere.

□ 1210

HONORING CALHOUN YELLOW JACKETS

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the undefeated Calhoun High School football team, the Yellow Jackets, who in my district won their first-ever Georgia High School Association Class AA State championship with a 27-24 win against the Buford High School Wolves last Friday, and give a special shout-out to Superintendent Dr. Michele Taylor and Principal Greg Green.

For the past 4 years, Calhoun has played Buford in the State championship, and this year, in truly nail-biting fashion, Calhoun prevailed in overtime on a 32-yard field goal by Adam Griffith.

Mr. Speaker, Buford is one of the best teams in the country, led by my friends Coach Jess Simpson and Athletic Director Dexter Wood. And it would have set a record had it won its fifth straight State championship, but Calhoun was finally able to stop them.

My congratulations to head Coach Hal Lamb and his staff, the outstanding young athletes and their families, and the whole high school community on this great victory. You've made us all proud. Go Yellow Jackets.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider the Iran Threat Reduction Act to bolster sanctions on the Iranian regime. It is time.

As the International Atomic Energy Agency recently reported, Iran could have a bomb within a year and is pursuing the means to trigger and deliver a nuclear weapon. We are out of time and have no choice but to enact the severest of sanctions in order to protect our ally Israel, our troops, and the entire region. And as the Israeli Prime Minister warned, there is nothing to stop Iran from exporting the bomb.

This bill will put in place debilitating sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran, which finances the nuclear program. The sanctions would deny those who do business with Iran Central Bank access to American markets. We are out of time, and we are running out of options. This bill gives us more of both.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 1905, cut off the Central Bank of Iran, and send a message that a nuclear Iran is unacceptable.

BLOCK THE IMF FROM BAILING OUT EUROPE

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, America is drowning in a sea of debt. But instead of addressing our own financial problems here at home, there is talk of another bailout—not for America, but for Europe.

Recent reports indicate that the International Monetary Fund, of which the U.S. is the leading contributor, may intervene to bail out failing European countries.

Washington needs to be focusing on policies that grow the U.S. economy and create jobs here, not shipping hard-earned tax dollars overseas. For this reason, I have cosponsored legislation to block the IMF from sending \$108 billion in U.S. funds for a European bailout. I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in this effort. Taxpayer dollars should not be used to bail out Europe. We need to take care of America first.

LET'S VOTE ON A CLEAN UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BILL

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, we're running out of time. Just in California, where I come from, 356,000 Californians are at risk of losing critical unemployment benefits because this Congress has failed to act. These aren't just 356,000 strangers; these are our friends, these are our neighbors, these are our families. These are proud Americans who through no fault of their own have lost their jobs. They want to work, but because this Congress has failed to act, jobs are hard to find. And instead of just voting on extending these unemployment benefits, my Republican friends have asked us to approve other unrelated controversial items in this bill.

What I'm saying to my Republican friends is, can't we just vote on the unemployment benefits by themselves? Can't we debate the oil pipeline later? Do we have to gut clean air laws to extend benefits? Let's vote on this on its own and give Americans some hope.

NATIONAL GUARD'S 375TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to wish a very happy birthday to our National Guard. As the only active