

Mr. FATTAH. Let me thank the gentleman for yielding. And in this Christmas season, let me wish all of my colleagues a merry Christmas and a happy Chanukah. And for our country, there is good news. It has just been reported that unemployment has dropped in 43 States. This is the most States that we've seen unemployment drop in 8 years. The policies that have been put in place by President Obama are working. Car sales are up, home starts are up, and the stock market is above 12,000. How better off would we have been if we would just get the majority here in the House to agree to work with the President?

We have three caucuses out of four that have agreed to move forward on keeping in place the Obama tax cuts that make work pay. That is a tax cut on their payroll taxes. And we have one caucus that's decided they want to go their own way, that somehow they know better and they want to go their own way. But the other three caucuses have agreed, let's put in place a continuation of this tax cut, and let's work toward a 1-year extension.

I hear my colleagues complaining that they didn't get everything they want. Well, there are going to be Christmas trees all over our country, and there are going to be presents under those trees; but we can't always get everything that we want. We need to have common sense and an ability to cooperate.

I would ask my colleagues, my friends, in the holiday spirit, can't we come together and help this President who is lifting this economy through policies that are working? In 43 States, unemployment has dropped—the most we've seen since 2003. These policies work. Let's keep them in place, and let's ask our Republican friends to come on, let's put partisanship aside and put America first because counting against this country is a bet that you really shouldn't place. America is coming back, and it's coming back stronger than ever.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON).

Mr. TIPTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Our colleague on the Democrat side is citing the amount of tax increase that Americans will have inflicted on them. That's what we're talking about, as well.

We have an opportunity here, Mr. Speaker, to stand up today for the American people in a very clear choice: 2 months or 12 months. Easy math. We talked about waiting until February. It will be followed by March. The same challenges affecting the American people right now will be present then. This is our opportunity as a legislative body to stand up for the American people for a change rather than politics as usual. We can't afford to let them down. The American people, American businesses, and American seniors deserve some certainty, certainty that we can provide.

Out of this House we passed bipartisan legislation. The Senate passed their version, and it now needs to go to conference so the American people can be better served. This issue is not one that we should be debating, but one we should be standing together as Republicans and Democrats, because this isn't a political issue. This is about standing up for the American people. This is our opportunity to do just that.

Mr. CROWLEY. Might I inquire as to how much time remains, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 10½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CROWLEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just remind Mr. TIPTON that his constituents in Pueblo, Colorado, will potentially see an increase in taxes of \$780 next year if this bill is not enacted.

With that, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the political games that the Republicans continue to play. We know that an extension of unemployment insurance is one of the most effective ways to get our economy going again, and it's the right thing to do, especially because people are just living on

the edge right now. Yet the GOP is ready to cut unemployment benefits for 2.2 million Americans.

They're ready to raise taxes on 160 million Americans by \$1,000. Yet they want to lower taxes for those in the 1 percent. The GOP is ready to tell 48 million seniors that they will no longer have access to their doctors. This is really outrageous. It's un-American, and it's wrong. This jobs crisis is a national emergency, and long-term unemployment is at unprecedented levels. We need an up-or-down vote on this Senate compromise.

□ 1340

This recession—and yes, for many it is still a depression—it's still hurting so many, many people. Half of all Americans are either in poverty, near poor, or low income. And it's really so sad that during this holiday season Republicans are playing with the lives of millions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CROWLEY. I yield the gentlelady an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. LEE of California of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

What I want to know is, why in the world won't you just bring the Senate bill to the floor and let the country see whose side you are on?

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Which bill, the House bill, or the House bill as amended, has a bigger tax cut? Which bill? My friends on the other side seem to be confused.

Ms. LEE of California of California. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CAMP. I will not yield.

I will enter into the RECORD the Joint Committee on Taxation, the non-partisan experts who analyze our legislation, their analysis of both proposals. They will show that the House bill that extends the payroll tax for a year provides \$120 billion in tax relief to the American worker, while the House bill, as amended by the Senate, only provides \$20 billion of tax relief to the American worker because they only extend it for 2 months.

TABLE 1.—BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF H.R. 3630, THE MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011, AS INTRODUCED ON DECEMBER 9, 2011

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2012–2016	2012–2021
(Millions of dollars, by fiscal year)												
CHANGES IN REVENUES												
Total Changes in Revenues ^a	-130,060	-46,650	-11,275	13,292	40,564	13,696	9,302	3,497	11,916	7,373	-134,129	-88,346
On-budget revenues	-39,143	-16,344	-11,270	13,302	40,582	13,717	9,325	3,522	11,942	7,401	-12,873	-33,034
Off-budget revenues ^b	-90,917	-30,306	-5	-11	-18	-21	-23	-25	-26	-28	-121,257	-121,380
CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING												
Total Changes in Direct Spending:												
Estimated Budget Authority	36,839	24,915	-1,936	-12,494	-13,041	-15,491	-16,940	-17,368	-19,939	-27,481	34,283	-62,936
Estimated Outlays ^c	36,699	24,915	-1,931	-12,485	-12,991	-15,451	-16,919	-17,363	-20,043	-27,520	34,207	-63,089
On-budget outlays ^b	127,616	55,221	-1,931	-12,273	-12,586	-14,914	-16,372	-16,846	-19,547	-27,044	156,047	61,324
Off-budget outlays ^b	-90,917	-30,306	0	-212	-405	-537	-547	-517	-496	-476	-121,840	-124,413
NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (-) IN DEFICITS FROM REVENUES AND DIRECT SPENDING												
Net Changes in Deficits	166,759	71,565	9,344	-25,776	-53,555	-29,147	-26,222	-20,861	-31,958	-34,893	168,337	25,257
On-budget deficit change	166,759	71,565	9,339	-25,575	-53,167	-28,631	-25,698	-20,368	-31,488	-34,445	168,920	28,290
Off-budget deficit change ^b	0	0	5	-201	-387	-516	-524	-492	-470	-448	-583	-3,033
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION FROM CHANGES IN CAPS ON DISCRETIONARY FUNDING												
Total Changes in Discretionary Spending:												
Estimated Authorization Level	0	-2,000	-3,000	-3,000	-3,000	-3,000	-3,000	-4,000	-4,000	-4,000	-11,000	-29,000

TABLE 1.—BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF H.R. 3630, THE MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011, AS INTRODUCED ON DECEMBER 9, 2011—Continued
[Millions of dollars, by fiscal year]

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2012–2016	2012–2021
Estimated Outlays	0	-1,214	-2,279	-2,765	-2,992	-3,160	-3,276	-3,386	-3,506	-3,632	-9,250	-26,210

Sources: Congressional Budget Office and the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation.
 Note: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.
^a For revenues, positive numbers indicate a decrease in the deficit; negative numbers indicate an increase in the deficit.
^b The bill would modify and extend the payroll-tax holiday for one year, causing a reduction in off-budget revenues credited to the Social Security trust funds. The bill also would transfer from the Treasury to the Social Security trust funds an amount equal to that off-budget revenue loss. The off-budget receipt would offset the lost revenue and, thus, section 2001 would have no net off-budget effect. (Other sections in the bill would have an off-budget effect.)
^c Title III of the bill would raise premiums for certain subsidized flood insurance policies, increasing net income to the National Flood Insurance Program by \$4.9 billion. However, because many policies would continue to be subsidized and the program would continue to face significant interest costs for borrowing over the past decade, CBO expects that additional receipts collected under this legislation would be spent to cover future program shortfalls, resulting in no net effect on the budget over the 2012–2021 period.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF THE AMENDMENT IN NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 3630, THE TEMPORARY PAYROLL TAX CUT CONTINUATION ACT OF 2011, AS INTRODUCED ON DECEMBER 17, 2011

[Millions of dollars, by fiscal year]

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2012–2016	2012–2021
CHANGES IN REVENUES												
Title I—Payroll Tax Relief:												
Extension of payroll tax reduction (on-budget)	176	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	274	274
Extension of payroll tax reduction (off-budget)	-19,794	-612	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-20,406	-20,406
Title II—Extension of Unemployment Compensation	0	-8	-25	-25	-20	-9	-7	-1	0	0	-78	-95
Total Changes in Revenue ^a	-19,618	-522	-25	-25	-20	-9	-7	-1	0	0	-20,210	-20,227
On-budget revenues	176	90	-25	-25	-20	-9	-7	-1	0	0	196	179
Off-budget revenues ^b	-19,794	-612	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-20,406	-20,406
CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING (OUTLAYS)												
Title I—Payroll Tax Relief:												
Extension of payroll tax reduction (on-budget) ^b	19,794	612	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,406	20,406
Extension of payroll tax reduction (off-budget) ^b	-19,794	-612	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-20,406	-20,406
Title II—Extension of Unemployment Compensation	8,395	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,395	8,395
Title III—Extension of Health Provisions:												
Physician payment update	2,860	-70	-90	40	120	160	160	150	140	130	2,860	3,600
Other Medicare extensions and health provisions	490	60	-20	-20	0	0	0	0	0	0	510	510
Subtotal, Title III	3,350	-10	-110	20	120	160	160	150	140	130	3,370	4,110
Title IV—Mortgage Fees and Premiums	-1,300	-4,600	-4,000	-3,500	-3,300	-3,300	-3,700	-3,900	-4,000	-4,100	-16,700	-35,700
Total Changes in Direct Spending	10,445	-4,610	-4,110	-3,480	-3,180	-3,140	-3,540	-3,750	-3,860	-3,970	-4,935	-23,195
On-budget outlays	30,239	-3,998	-4,110	-3,480	-3,180	-3,140	-3,540	-3,750	-3,860	-3,970	15,471	-2,789
Off-budget outlays	-19,794	-612	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-20,406	-20,406
NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (–) IN DEFICITS FROM REVENUES AND DIRECT SPENDING												
Net Change in the Deficits:												
On-budget deficit change	30,063	-4,088	-4,085	-3,455	-3,160	-3,131	-3,533	-3,749	-3,860	-3,970	15,275	-2,968
Off-budget deficit change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sources: Congressional Budget Office and the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation.
 Note: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.
^a For revenues, positive numbers indicate decrease in the deficit; negative numbers indicate an increase in the deficit.
^b The bill would modify and extend the payroll-tax holiday for two months, causing a reduction in off-budget revenues credited to the Social Security trust fund. The bill also would transfer from the Treasury to the Social Security trust fund an amount equal to that off-budget revenue loss. The off-budget receipt would offset the lost revenue and, thus, section 101 would have no net off-budget effect.

Now, I've heard my colleagues talk about their 2-month extension guaranteeing a \$1,000 tax cut. That's just flat wrong. The Senate amendment caps the tax cut for that taxpayer at only \$167. That's shortchanging hard-working Americans, and House Republicans won't stand for it. Let's be clear: The average American worker would have more than \$800 in their pocket next year under the House bill.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER).

Mr. GARDNER. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding time.

This argument seems a little bit confusing, I'm sure, to most people in America today. Several months ago House Republicans were accused of disagreeing with the President because, oh, gee, the idea was the President's, so we wanted to disagree with him. Well, here we are today agreeing with the President on a 1-year extension of the payroll tax holiday.

Let me read a quote from what the President said:

This Congress cannot and should not leave for vacation until they have made sure that the tax increase doesn't happen. Let me repeat that: Congress should not and cannot go on vacation before they have made sure that working families aren't seeing their taxes go up by \$1,000 and those who are out there looking for work don't see their unemployment insurance expire.

We passed a bill. The House bill that we passed with bipartisan support would provide \$1,000 a year. I've heard it many times on the House floor as people come and say this is a \$1,000 tax relief to the middle class. Not under your plan. The plan that the Democrats have put forward in the Senate, the plan put forward in the House by our Democratic colleagues would provide \$160 worth of tax relief—\$160 worth of tax relief is what they are fighting about today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. GARDNER. So let's talk about real reform. Let's talk about real certainty that our economy needs.

We've argued for \$1,000 worth of tax relief to America's working families. You're talking about \$160 of tax relief. You're willing to risk unemployment insurance, willing to risk a payroll tax increase because you're insisting on a \$160 tax break when we're sitting here saying let's provide a \$1,000 tax holiday?

We can get our economy going again if we have the willingness to work with each other. And I would hope that after today there is willingness by our friends in the Senate to get the job done, to get our economy moving again, and to make sure that this country focuses on the real priorities: the

men and women in this country looking for work, finding ways to make ends meet, and making sure that they're doing what's right for their families.

I urge this body to do what's right—appoint conferees and get to doing the business of this country.

Mr. CROWLEY. I just want to remind Mr. GARDNER that in Larimer County, Colorado, the absence of passing this bill today will cause an average increase in taxes of \$1,126 in that county.

For the purposes of answering the gentleman from Michigan's question, I yield 10 seconds to the gentlelady from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I just wanted to say, perhaps the gentleman was confused about which bill I was talking about. I was talking about the Senate compromise, which 39 Senators voted for, which the President supported, which came over to the House as a bipartisan bill. That's the bill I'm talking about.

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank the gentlewoman from California.

With that, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me just address one point that our friends on the other side keep making about this 1 year. All of a sudden they want 1 year. All of a sudden they

want to do what President Obama wants to do.

You talk about certainty. You talk about uncertainty. Nothing could be more uncertain than not giving the American people the secure knowledge and the confidence at the end of the day that their taxes are not going up the first of January, that 2.2 million Americans will get their unemployment. We can do that today.

The Senate has already given us that certainty. We're not talking about just a 2-month extension. We're simply talking about putting into place a compromise that we could get that would get us into next year when we come back to finish the job and continue to get a 1-year extension.

So this facade of you using this 1 year is nothing but a charade. You know it. It doesn't matter what the time is. You don't want anything—2 months, 1 year, 10 years.

Mr. CAMP. I yield myself such time as I may consume, Mr. Speaker.

Let's get back to the facts. The facts are that the House bill, as amended by the Senate, is a 2-month bill. The tax relief under that bill for the average American worker is \$167. The House bill extends unemployment insurance for a full year. The tax relief under that bill is \$1,000. But don't listen to me—look at the Joint Committee on Taxation, the nonpartisan body that analyzes our legislation for the impact of tax policy on taxpayers. That's what they say. That's what's in the record.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Thank you, Chairman CAMP, I appreciate that.

I'm a little confused myself. I saw one of our Senate colleagues from New York on television this morning talking about how we needed to pass this 2-month extension, and he would be the first one on an airplane back to Washington, DC., so that we could negotiate a yearlong deal. I'm confused. Why don't we just do that right now. That's what the American people expect. The American people expect us to get this deal done right now and to provide them some certainty for an entire year versus 2 months.

Now, this Monday morning I had a breakfast with my joint Chambers of Commerce in Holland and Zeeland, and we had almost 500 people there. And when I asked the question, who here thinks this 2-month extension is a good idea? Not a single hand went up. I said, okay, maybe I need to ask this a little differently. Who here thinks that this is a dumb idea to do a 2-month extension? Virtually every single hand in that breakfast went up.

The American people are looking for long-term solutions. Employers are looking for long-term solutions. It's called quarterly reports. I'm a small business owner. Oftentimes people have to file quarterly reports. We're not even doing them the service of giving them a full quarter to change their pa-

perwork; we're doing 2 out of 3 months. Now, you want to talk about a burden on small business, I can tell you it is.

It's time for this House to go to work, which we have done. It's time for our Senate colleagues to do the exact same thing. Because guess what? My three employees—Irv, Dirk, and Larry—they're all at work today. Why isn't that good enough for the Senate?

There are two things that fundamentally need to be included in this. First and furthermore is 12 months of certainty. Let's get through that debate of how we are going to offset the costs and how we are going to make sure that this works for the employee, the employer, those with a job and those without a job.

We also need to make sure that we don't lose sight of the Keystone pipeline in here; an immediate 20,000 jobs that can be provided here in the United States, 20,000 jobs that could come to this country and help alleviate the need for these systems, the need for unemployment insurance. And it's the right thing to do.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

I get it. You guys were against it. I appreciate that. Now you're for the middle class tax cut. You were against it, but now you're for it. But what I don't understand is why can't we just get through these next 2 months and we'll come back.

You mentioned we're running out of time. Well, we're not in charge, you all are. You could have done this back in September, or October, or November. Now it's December. I get that you were against it, now you're for it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. CROWLEY. I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I will do that through the Chair. Would you like me to repeat that?

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

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Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Let me thank the gentleman for yielding this brief time for me to respond.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join my friend from Georgia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT, in trying to expose some of the hypocrisy that we are seeing playing out here on the House floor today. I'm just so terribly disappointed that House Republicans want to ignore the overwhelming bipartisan Senate vote a few days ago, and you are failing to realize the devastation that millions of Americans will experience. They are going to lose their unemployment benefits. The average family is going to realize a \$1,000 tax increase on January 1.

And let's not forget our doctors. There are some medical doctors sitting on that side of the Chamber. Medical doctors in this country who treat Medicare patients will see a 27.3 percent decrease in their reimbursement rates.

We can do better than this, Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues to reconsider their position. Let's go ahead and vote for the 2-month fix, and let's get on into February and let's have this debate that you've been talking about over the last 2 hours.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, can we just inquire as to time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 6 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. CROWLEY. I would just ask the gentleman from Michigan if he might like to use some of his time and maybe balance it out a little more.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. FLEMING.

Mr. FLEMING. I thank my friend, the gentleman, Mr. CAMP, for giving me time to speak.

I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, that this boils down to one of two choices here today. We're going to be either voting for a 2-month extension of the payroll tax or a 1-year extension of the payroll tax. We'll either be voting for a 2-month fix for reimbursement for physicians, health care providers in general, or we'll be voting for a 1-year fix. Now, for my money, it should be 1 year versus 2 months. I don't understand really what the problem is.

But having said that, let me also mention to you that this affects me and many of my friends back home in this way, and that is: I'm a physician myself, have many friends in the health profession. They're asking me: John, why in the world do you keep us upset like this all of the time? Why is it that we can't predict what our reimbursement rates are going to be from one month to another?

They're desperately begging for us not only to extend that for a year, but for 2 years and even beyond that. They're desperately asking for a fix. And we've been promising them that we would try. So that's a lot behind what we're here today about, and that is to have a long-term solution to physicians.

I also come from the small business sector, and I can tell you that when you do your tax deferrals or the income tax for your employees, that's usually done on a quarterly basis. In fact, it's always done on a quarterly basis. Well, how do you do it on quarterly basis when you only have an extension for 2 months?

So we have the Associated Builders and Contractors and many, Mr. Speaker, that say that this is just absolutely, flatly untenable.

So I encourage that both Chambers vote today to be in favor of sending this back to the Senate, have the conferees get together. Let's do it the way the Constitution asks us to do it.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. I thank you, my friend from Michigan, chairman of Ways and Means.

Let's face it, Mr. Speaker, people across the country are not very happy, and they are, frankly, so tired of Washington games. They know that we have a divided government. They don't want a deal; they want a solution.

Yes, they want to reform unemployment; yes, they want to extend the payroll tax deduction; and, yes, they want a doc fix. Without the doc fix, we put, literally, millions of Americans in jeopardy of decent health care because their physicians are not going to have the proper reimbursement from Medicare.

But coming from the State of Michigan, I know that what Americans want most are jobs. This bill, the Republican alternative, provides jobs for Keystone, 20,000 shovel-ready jobs in a \$7 billion private investment right away; boiler MACT regs, something that will protect as many as 200,000 businesses across the country; and spectrum, the sale of the spectrum will create literally perhaps as many as 50,000 to 100,000 jobs as well.

The last Congress didn't deal with the budget, and we spent the first couple of months of this year dealing with what we thought was Lucy and the football: bringing up a continuing resolution, watching it be extended for a week or 2, and then coming back with another one. If we don't deal with these issues today, we're going to have the same trouble in the next year, in the next couple of months.

So let's stop playing Lucy and the football. Let's get a real solution to a problem that Americans want us to solve. Please support the Republican alternative on this and respect the wishes of the House.

Mr. CROWLEY. I appreciate the gentleman's comments about the only game the American people want to see this holiday season is football, but the reindeer games that are going on in this House are something the American people do not want to see any more of.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are doing what the American people have asked us to do. I thank the gentleman from New York for championing the cause of the American people, and I thank our whip, Mr. HOYER, for understanding that we need an up-or-down vote on the Senate compromise and a motion for this conference that will not occur to do what is right for the American people.

I've already said that the holiday season for so many has just gone up in smoke. The lights on the Christmas tree have just burst and the tree is burning. The candles throughout the house are now down and smoldering, and people are bemoaning the condition that Washington Republicans have put them in.

Mothers, single mothers, families without are now begging for a lifeline;

and the gigantic ship, the cruise ship, is cruising on by and allowing them to drown in the dusty and dark waters of this land. I don't understand where there is no mercy, where there is no understanding.

My good friend from Michigan will see that his constituents, 70,000 of them, will lose unemployment benefits; the Speaker from Ohio, 58,000 will lose unemployment benefits; Texas, 134,000. They understand that this is smoke and mirrors.

I said in the Rules Committee, at 7:05 last night, we had a right to vote on the Senate bill that was put before us. That rule was changed midstream.

The American people need to understand, we had in line, through the Rules Committee, controlled by the Republicans, to put on the agenda for us to vote up or down on the Senate bill. We were not allowed to do that because they thought the Senate bill, for reasonable people, might pass. They thought that Senator LUGAR's words might prevail, in the ears of the Washington Republicans, that said, do what is right for the American people. They thought Senator SNOWE's words might prevail, which is to say, we all have disagreement, but let us not hold up unemployment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CROWLEY. I yield the gentlelady an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Thank you.

Let us not hold up the unemployment; let us not hold up the payroll tax, because those individuals said they didn't want it in the first place.

Mr. President, if you have Executive order powers, let's just pass it; let's just rule on it; let us come back and deal with it for a year, because they know they're not serious, and I'm not going to see the holiday season go up in smoke for the American people. That is a disgrace.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close if the gentleman from New York is prepared to close.

Mr. CROWLEY. I have two additional speakers, including myself.

With that, I will yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this is a very sad day for the American people. There was an opportunity with the Democrats in the Senate and the Republicans in the Senate. Eighty-nine of them, including my senior Senator, LAMAR ALEXANDER, Senator HELLER, a former colleague, a classmate in this class, Senator LUGAR, Senators COLLINS, SNOWE, and others came together. They said, We need to protect the American people, protect the opportunity to see doctors when you're on Medicare, get unemployment insurance and keep the tax breaks. They came together and said, Let's do it for 60 days. We can come back later and then we can work on it for the rest of the year.

They knew what was possible within the time allotted to it.

Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side don't realize what time makes available. There is no possibility of the Senate coming back and having a conference committee. They are saying "Bah, humbug" to the compromise and the bipartisanship that we saw in the Senate.

It's an unfortunate day for the American people, and I'm sorry for my folks who will not be able to get doctors to treat them, unemployment compensation, or a tax break.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I do have an additional speaker.

I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in opposition to this Democratic motion to instruct the conferees, assuming that they're going to instruct the conferees to adopt the Senate amendment.

□ 1400

Clearly, this House has spoken in a bipartisan way with H.R. 3630. In fact, we will follow this debate with a resolution, H. Res. 501, restating the provisions of H.R. 3630, which basically gives that tax break to 160 million middle-income Americans for a full year. It extends the unemployment insurance to 99 weeks for those who have been out of work for more than 6 months for an additional year.

Last, but certainly not least, Mr. Speaker, it gives the assurance of the physicians in this country that provide care for our blessed senior citizens under the Medicare program that their reimbursement will not be cut 27 percent. No. Indeed, it not only mitigates that cut, but it pluses it up by 1 percent for 2 full years. This gives the doctors the assurance that they know they can continue to treat Medicare patients.

I can't help but believe, Mr. Speaker, that the other side of the aisle agrees with all three of these provisions. It's beyond me that they would disagree with the job-creating Keystone XL pipeline, 120,000-plus jobs. It's hard for me to understand how they could oppose any of that.

No. I think really this is all about how we pay for it.

What the Democrats want to do, Mr. Speaker, is they want to charge increased taxation on the job creators in this country. What we want to do is pay for it by freezing the pay of all these Federal employees—yes, including ourselves—for 3 additional years in a very responsible way and other provisions on this side that makes sense for the American people.

Reject this motion to instruct.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would remind Mr. GINGREY that his constituents in Cobb County, Georgia, will see a potential increase of \$1,258 in their taxes in the absence of passing this bill today.

With that, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 2½ minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my friend from Michigan as well for this debate.

I listened very closely and very intently to the words of Speaker BOEHNER, a man whom I have tremendous respect for, and I know that he's having some difficult times with his side of the aisle. I know he'd like to be able to wrap up business for the end of the year and be able to move on into next year to do good things for the American people.

But the rejection by his caucus of the compromise bill that was passed in the Senate is preventing him, and I think preventing some of the like-minded Members on the Republican side of the aisle, to pass the Senate bill and go home for the holidays.

I also listened very intently to the Speaker when he said that the passage of this bill today would only be a 2-month extender, that somehow by just passing this it would only mean about 160-some-odd dollars for the average American worker in tax savings.

I would just suggest the absence of doing anything is a thousand dollar increase on average to the average working middle class American today. A thousand dollar increase, the absence of doing nothing.

Now, we all know the Senate can't get 60 votes to even say that December 25 is Christmas. We understand that. They've gone home for the holidays already. They're not coming back. So we either pass this bill today or we see that no bill will pass and an increase in the middle class taxes will take place.

Now, you will argue, how did we get here? I don't know. I'm in the minority. You're in the majority. The President suggested extending this payroll tax cut back in September. In fact, he wanted to enhance it back in September, but we didn't take it up then with the jobs bill. Quite frankly, we haven't taken up a jobs bill yet in this House. A full year has almost expired and not a jobs bill on the floor to put Americans back to the work.

I listened again to my colleague Mr. FATTAH from Pennsylvania when he reeled off a number of positive things that are happening today—that homebuilders' numbers are up, that the economy is improving, that we've seen jobs increase in this country, people who are on unemployment insurance decreasing. That's happening right now.

I ask, why is it when something good happens to the American people and to our economy, somehow it's perceived as being bad for the Republican majority? Isn't that sad that somehow that's the sense that people have?

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can pass this bill and send the American people a message that we can work together on their behalf, pass this bill, come

back, and work together in January and February.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. CAMP. The minority seems fixated on this notion that since the Senate passed their version of the House bill by a vote of 89-10 that somehow the House just needs to take their work product, no changes, just accept it, just vote for it.

Well, less than 3 weeks ago, the Senate passed the Defense authorization bill by a vote of 93-7. Did the House just accept that and send it to the President? No. We requested a conference on December 7, and a week later, that conference report was approved by the House. So there's no reason other than the Senate's insistence on a monthlong vacation that we can't do the same here to provide a yearlong solution to the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance for a year, and a 2-year fix on the physician payments in Medicare, what's known as the SGR, the sustainable growth rate formula.

Vote "no" on this motion to instruct. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 502, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion to instruct.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a) paragraph 1 of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention to offer a resolution to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas an article on December 15, 2011, on the "Politico Pro" newspaper website quoted the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, as saying, "If Joseph Goebbels was around, he'd be very proud of the Democrat Party because they have an incredible propaganda machine. I think that you have, and let's be honest, you know, some of the people in the media are complicit in this, in enabling them to get that type of message out.";

Whereas Joseph Goebbels served as the Third Reich's Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda in Nazi Germany from 1933-1945;

Whereas Joseph Goebbels openly used xenophobia and racism in his quest to dehumanize European Jewry;

Whereas Joseph Goebbels made Jews the scapegoat of German economic insecurity, fostering flagrant anti-Semitism;

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum reports "that Joseph Goebbels delivered a passionate anti-Semitic speech to the Nazi party faithful in Munich on November 9, 1938 . . . After the speech, Nazi officials order the Storm Troopers (SA) and other party formations to attack Jews and to destroy their homes, businesses, and houses of worship. The violence against Jews lasts into the morning hours of November 10th, and becomes known as Kristallnacht—the 'Night of Broken Glass'. Several dozen Jews lose their lives and tens of thousands are arrested and sent to concentration camps.";

Whereas Nazi Germany and their collaborators killed six million European Jews and millions of others as part of their "Final Solution";

Whereas by invoking the specter of Joseph Goebbels, the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, thoroughly belittles the horrors and suffering experienced by the victims and survivors of the Holocaust;

Whereas the American Jewish Committee issued a December 15, 2011, statement saying "To make a linkage between any mainstream political party in the United States and the heinous atrocities committed by the Third Reich should be simply beyond the pale, whatever political differences may arise in a heated electoral season . . . By invoking the image of Joseph Goebbels and the Gestapo, Representative West has displayed a complete lack of understanding of the worst genocidal era in human history. Moreover, he has diminished and trivialized the unique evil perpetrated by the Third Reich through his unfortunate use of language";

Whereas the Anti-Defamation League said in a December 16, 2011, letter to the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, "We were deeply dismayed by Rep. West's remark comparing the Democratic Party's attempts to articulate views to the American people through the media to the efforts of the Nazi propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels . . . Such outrageous Holocaust analogies have no place in our political dialogue. They are offensive, they trivialize real historical events, and they diminish the memory of the six million Jews and millions of others who perished in the Holocaust";

Whereas the Representative from Michigan, Mr. Conyers, wrote in a letter to the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, that the Representative from Florida should "help raise the level of congressional discourse in a vigorous debate";

Whereas the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, responded back in a letter to the Representative from Michigan, Mr. Conyers, that "The Democrat Party does indeed have a vicious propaganda machine, it espouses lies and deceit and the Master of deceptive information would be truly proud";

Whereas in the repetition of this abhorrent and outrageous sentiment to the Representative from Michigan, Mr. Conyers, the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, demonstrates not only the willful and malicious misapplication of history, but also his disdain for the decorum of the Congress; and

Whereas the conduct of the Representative from Florida was repugnant: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives disapproves of the behavior of the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, for bringing discredit to the House by offending the memory of those who died during the Holocaust.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the