

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this is supposed to be the people's House, but for 428 days of Republican leadership, the American people have been stuck on the outside looking in. House Tea Party Republicans have locked millions of Americans out of this economy and thrown away the key.

Republicans have gambled on tax cuts for millionaires, oil companies, and special interests and fought to lay off droves of teachers, cops, and firefighters, all in an effort to see President Obama and our recovery fail.

Now, after 2 years of private sector job growth under President Obama, Republicans claim that they now have a jobs plan. Well, I'm going to tell you, rooting against the President, hoping that he will fail, is not a jobs plan. That's called sabotage.

Republicans have defaulted on their promises to the American people that they would work to create jobs. Instead, they have started a war against women's health.

How much longer will Americans with no jobs, no hope, and no money have to wait before the Republicans pass a jobs bill?

THE BENEFITS OF CONTRACEPTION

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, at a speak-out on women's right to birth control, I solicited comments from the huge audience that attended, and here are a few.

Reverend Luke Pepper writes:

As a Christian and as a minister, I believe that it is important and necessary that we promote the quality of health care and livelihood of the families in this country. Providing access and availability of quality contraception to women is the right and moral thing to do.

A young anonymous woman wrote:

I'm a virgin. I take birth control because I have polycystic ovary syndrome, and it will reduce my risk of uterine cancer.

Diane writes:

My oldest son is on the autism spectrum. Nearly 6 years after he was born, my husband and I judged our family ready to support and nurture a second child. If, through the lack of access to birth control, we had been forced to risk an unplanned pregnancy before we were ready, we would not have had the resources—financial or emotional—to give our older son the care and support he needed that enabled him to become the fine young man he is. Nor would we have been able to devote full care and attention to his beloved young brother.

TRIBUTE TO JAN DOMENE

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay

tribute to a true champion for education, Jan Harp Domene, who passed away this past Monday.

Jan was a fervent advocate for children. She was serving our community for more than 35 years with the Parent Teacher Association, and she eventually became the head of the PTA in 2007, the National PTA.

During her time with the PTA, Jan facilitated collaborative partnerships with many education, health, safety, and child advocacy groups to benefit children and provide valuable resources to PTA members. As President, she raised the level of parent involvement nationwide by increasing PTA membership and also by accessing very diverse communities.

Jan Harp Domene was the product of public schools in Orange County, and she knew firsthand the intricate needs of our community and children. After serving as the national president of the PTA, she returned to Anaheim and became a trustee on our Anaheim Union High School board.

She was a role model. She actually was a family friend. I remember, as a young child, my mother would get calls from Jan if I was out of line.

Both locally and nationally, we are better off because of Jan, and I am honored, and I hope that my colleagues will honor her, also.

□ 1220

THE ROAD TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, we need a multiyear, adequately funded transportation authorization before it expires at the end of this month.

There is no question but gas prices are too high, but when the speculation subsidies and when the world's oil price starts to decline, the price at the pump won't go down proportionately because it will be seized by the big oil companies as an opportunity to further pad their profits. That's when we need to implement a substantially but gradually funded Federal gas tax. That's what we need to fund our Nation's infrastructure that has deteriorated for the last 20 years while the gas tax has not been increased.

That's what we need to do, Mr. Speaker, because the fact is that the big oil companies have been taking us for a ride on a pothole-filled highway. It's time to get into an energy-efficient vehicle and on the road to economic prosperity and energy independence.

SUPPORT THE DISCLOSE ACT

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

Ms. HAHN. I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman TED POE, for

giving a shout-out to the PORTS Caucus, showing this country that we can work together on issues that matter to the people of America.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday was Super Tuesday, but this year's campaign has been anything but super. Thanks to the Supreme Court's misguided decision in the Citizens United case, a handful of Super PACs, funded by billionaires and special interest groups, have dominated this year's elections. But it doesn't have to be this way. Four years ago, the Republican nominee for President, JOHN MCCAIN, was a leading voice in reforming how we pay for campaigns. In this body, Republican Chris Shays fought to clean up elections.

That's why I've come to the floor today, to ask my Republican friends to join with me and with people like JOHN MCCAIN and Chris Shays in supporting the DISCLOSE Act, a law that would shine a very bright light on these Super PACs. This law would let us know who is paying for these ads, and it would require these invisible power brokers to appear in their ads just like the candidates do. If we came together to change this, it really would be super.

NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY

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

Mr. CHANDLER. I rise today to honor the third annual celebration of National Teach Ag Day, on March 15, which is a day designed to raise awareness of the need for more agriculture teachers. It encourages people to consider a career as an agriculture teacher, and it celebrates the positive contributions these teachers make in their schools and communities.

Every day, agriculture teachers help students develop the skills necessary to become leaders and contributing members of society. These educators teach by doing, not just by telling. And by sharing their passion with young people, they prepare students for successful careers, whether they choose to go into the field of agriculture or not. There are currently over 10,000 agriculture teachers serving almost 1 million students in all 50 States and in Puerto Rico, but it is estimated that there will be hundreds of unfilled positions across the United States this year.

National Teach Ag Day is a nationwide effort to bring attention to the need for more agriculture educators in the U.S. and to raise awareness of the valuable role these teachers fill in our schools and communities.

GAS PRICES

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. I want to talk today about gas prices.

I represent a poor, rural congressional district where, unlike in the big

cities, you have to have an automobile to get around. In the 10 years I've been in Congress, I have not had any issue that has upset my constituents more, including the wars, than the gas prices we had 3 years ago. Yet here we are back in the same situation, with the prices of \$105 for a barrel and \$3.75 for a gallon of gas, and nothing has been done over the last 3 years by this administration to deal with this issue. More recently, the Keystone pipeline, which would have helped bring a lot more oil into the marketplace by bringing it down from Canada to our refineries on the coast, has been denied by the President.

He needs to be doing some things to help us. He says that people say, Drill, drill, drill, and that that won't solve our problem. Well, the fact is it might have if we'd started 3 years ago when we had the last burst of high gas prices. He's right, it won't help deal with the current problem, but this is going to continue to be a perpetual problem if he doesn't make some changes. He needs to authorize the drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf and in ANWR, and he needs to pass the Keystone pipeline.

GAS PRICES ARE RISING

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Gas prices are rising. We'll see an average, some predict, of \$5 per gallon by this summer. Some places are already there.

Voices are rising, asking us, What are we doing to bring gas prices down?

Mr. Speaker, we can agree that we must go beyond short-term fixes and that we must cure ourselves of this Nation's petroleum addiction. Yes, it is an addiction.

Our constituents are asking, What's causing it? What's causing these gas prices?

We know, when Iran threatens to close the Strait of Hormuz, prices soar. This is because one-fifth of the world's oil supply goes through those straits.

Mr. Speaker, America's vision of our energy future must go beyond the next gas pump. We must look at the fundamentals of a new policy. Yes, diplomacy is part of that, but more importantly, it's us. We must join hands to self-sufficiency and truly be committed to renewable resources. The President proudly pointed out to the marines and Navy in the State of the Union: 50 percent sustainability. Let's adopt that policy.

WE MUST PUT FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on an international issue that merits our attention here in Congress. This month,

hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens, 140,000 and counting, have signed a petition to the White House. The petition calls on the administration to stop expanding trade with Vietnam at the expense of human rights.

I know it's hard for all of us here in this Chamber to imagine, but in Vietnam, the mere act of composing songs can be sufficient grounds for the Communist government to put someone in jail. In fact, that's exactly what happened to Viet Khang, a Vietnamese citizen who was arrested and who is currently being detained for merely composing and singing two protest songs about his own country. This arrest and many others in recent years are issues that have to be at the forefront of our trade negotiations with the Vietnamese Government.

I urge my colleagues to join me in urging the President to put freedom and human rights first.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S COMMITMENT TO AMERICAN ENERGY

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, President Obama recently announced \$30 million in new funding as part of his energy research strategy to reduce our reliance on foreign oil and to provide Americans with new choices for vehicles that do not rely on gasoline. This crucial investment in advanced energy research will promote American innovation to diversify our Nation's energy resources and create new jobs.

Under President Obama's leadership, America is now producing more oil than at any time in the last 8 years, and our dependence on foreign oil is at a 16-year low. Over the last 3 years, the Obama administration has approved dozens of new pipelines and has opened millions of acres for oil and gas exploration. The Obama administration has also implemented the toughest fuel economy standards in history, which will cut oil consumption by 12 billion barrels and save American families \$1.7 trillion over the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, I commend President Obama for taking these important steps to promote and to enhance our Nation's energy needs.

□ 1230

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3606, JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS STARTUPS ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 572 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 572

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pur-

suant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3606) to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the Rules Committee Print 112-17 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of this rule and obviously the underlying bill. House Resolution 572 provides a structured rule for H.R. 3606, that Jumpstart Our Business Startups, or what we also call the JOBS Act. The bill was introduced on December 8, 2011, by my friend, a bright young man who is one of the