

and farming—among other things—for hours.

Mr. Speaker, our country needs all the places like Snooky's that we can get, and we need to keep all of those that we can. So it's appropriate to thank Bruce Yawn, and all the other Bruce Yawns of the land, for the contribution they make to our sense of community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire). The Chair would remind Members and staff to take their conversations outside the Chamber.

VERA, VOICE OF TEXAS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, each month I receive thousands of emails from my neighbors in Texas about issues that are important to them. Vera from Humble, Texas, wrote me this:

"American manufacturers do their part to improve the environment, and United States manufacturing is the leader in developing clean technologies. Policymakers should look very cautiously at new government programs that would expand environmental rules or impose entirely new regulatory regimes. The EPA's actions, such as those on ozone standards, chemical action plans, and cement emission regulations will increase costs, destroy jobs, and undermine U.S. manufacturers' ability to compete in the global marketplace. Our position and our prosperity will not hold if American manufacturing continues to be the victim of overregulation. Congress must commit to policies that ensure America's ability to compete and to succeed."

Mr. Speaker, Vera is right. Regulators need to quit putting American businesses out of business because of unnecessary, expensive overregulation.

And that's just the way it is.

UNLESS CONGRESS ACTS IN 22 DAYS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, unless Congress acts in the next 22 days, the interest rate for the subsidized Stafford student loan program is going to increase from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. Despite this approaching deadline, with over 7 million college students waiting for an answer, what is the House GOP leadership's response? To send us home today for the ninth week of recess since last January. Despite the fact that the Senate will be in session next week, and as was reported in the press last night, a real bipartisan compromise is going to be emerging. But, of course, we won't be able to act on it

next week because we won't be here. The next time we're on the floor, this chart will be down to 11 days until the rate doubles.

Mr. Speaker, this work schedule by the Republican leadership would make Homer Simpson blush. It is time for us to go to work and find a compromise that is going to fix this issue for 7 million college students waiting for an answer all across America.

PRESIDENT'S POLICIES HURTING AMERICA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there are too many Americans out of work, and the President's policies only make things worse. There are fewer prime working-age adults in jobs than at any point in the two decades prior to the start of the recession. By combining those who are not actively seeking work, along with those who are involuntarily working part-time, the real unemployment rate checks in at 14.5 percent.

The President's policies have led to lower U.S. rankings on world indexes of economic freedom and business opportunity. The President's regulations are costing businesses billions. The EPA Utility MACT rule alone will cost \$9.6 billion per year to the American consumer, according to the Agency's own estimates.

The President has stalled energy development on public lands, leaving us subject to foreign oil imports and high gas prices.

Mr. Speaker there are 28 bipartisan bills awaiting Senate action. It is long past time for the President and the Senate to join with the House to increase American jobs, opportunity, and competitiveness.

AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, last night we debated the future of our national transportation system. There are two competing views. There are those of us who want to rebuild and build upon the Eisenhower legacy with a national transportation system. And then there are those on the ultra-right who say the Federal Government should not invest in the national transportation system. It should be devolved to the States.

Hey, we already tried that. This is 1956. This is the brand spanking new Kansas turnpike. Guess what? It ended in a farmer's field at the Oklahoma line because Oklahoma didn't build their section until the Eisenhower plan passed and the Federal Government made the investment. They want to go back to those good old days. That's going to work really well.

Those of us who believe in investing in a national transportation system, putting America back to work, being more competitive and more fuel efficient last night were accused of being Socialists. We're Socialists because we believe in that. Right, Dwight David Eisenhower was a Socialist? The U.S. Chamber of Commerce are Socialists?

The U.S. Chamber is adamantly opposed to the Broun instruction. They say the Chamber strongly opposes the Broun motion to instruct conferees and urges you to vote against this effort to slash funding for highways, transit and safety programs.

He would take it zero—no new investment on October 1.

That's bad for America.

□ 0910

FIND THE LEAK, MR. PRESIDENT

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

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, today I call on the White House to get off the campaign trail, show leadership, do the President's job, and aggressively pursue the leakers of America's state secrets. These leaks have ranged from implicating the United States in Stuxnet, a computer virus that targeted nuclear centrifuges in Iran, to revealing a detailed "kill list" for terrorists targeted for assassination. Not only do these leaks compromise America's efforts to preserve our national security, they teach our allies not to trust us. Look at the doctor who helped the United States gather DNA evidence to locate Osama bin Laden. His reward? His identity was revealed, and he faces 33 years in a Pakistan jail.

Mr. Speaker, where is the outrage from the White House about these leaks? It's time for the President to plug the holes and protect America's national security.

INVEST IN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to implore my colleagues to abandon their my-way-or-the-highway approach to the job-creating highway bill currently in conference. We cannot afford to kick the can down the road again.

During the recent recession, 1.9 million jobs were lost in the construction sector. There are still about 1.4 million unemployed construction workers. But reauthorizing a long-term highway bill, as is encouraged by the President, would begin to fix this problem.

In my district alone, 25 years ago, on April 5, 1987, the Thruway bridge collapsed at 10:50 a.m. on a Sunday morning near Fort Hunter, New York. Ten people died. They included three men

returning from a bowling tournament, a mother and a daughter heading to a baby shower, two Shriners, a married couple driving to Texas, and a truck driver heading to Wisconsin. The cause was failure to properly maintain the bridge.

No price can be put on the lives that were suddenly ended that very tragic day, but their memory should serve as a stark reminder that our failure here has real, painful, life-taking consequences.

Let's move forward and invest in America's infrastructure—to put construction workers back on the job, to help businesses grow, and to keep our drivers and truckers safe.

REMEMBERING JOSEPH WILLIAM AUBIN AND THOSE WHO HAVE SACRIFICED FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note that this week U.S. Navy Technician Joseph William Aubin, a young man of Bridgeport, Connecticut, had his name added to the Vietnam Memorial Wall just down the way here 46 years after he died on a flight from the Philippines to Vietnam. This was a solemn and happy occasion as we recognized one in a long line of millions of men and women who have sacrificed for us and for our country.

But there's a lesson in this event. There will come a moment, undoubtedly, when the young men and women that are returning from Afghanistan and Iraq seem as lost in the midst of time as Joseph William Aubin does today. So this is really about us, and it's always been about us.

It's about them working for our safety, our liberty, and our values. And it is about us to make sure that we, as people, don't succumb to the fact that we drift, that memory fades, and that urgency is unsharpened. It is about us to make sure that 20 years from now we remember Joseph William Aubin and those like him who sacrificed.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include tabular and extraneous material on H.R. 5882.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 679 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5882.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5882) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes, with Mr. BASS of New Hampshire in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, we bring before the House today the 2013 appropriations bill for the Legislative Subcommittee. This is a bill that spends \$3.3 billion, which is approximately 1 percent less than last year. That's a \$33.4 million reduction from last year.

I think all of us know that we are living in difficult economic times in this country. Taxpayers want to know that when they send their money to Washington it's being spent wisely. We also know that government needs money to provide services, but right now government needs something more. The government needs a sense of discipline to rein in spending. The government needs a commitment to make sure that every task of government is accomplished and completed in a most efficient and most effective manner, more so than ever before.

Our subcommittee took this philosophy to heart, and we had a series of hearings. We listened to the Agency heads as they came before us and talked about their needs, their wants, their priorities. We considered all of that and made some very difficult, some tough, but I think workable, decisions that allow us to move forward.

I would remind the Members that over the last two cycles we have reduced spending on the Legislative Branch Subcommittee funding bill by almost 8 percent, and after we finish this bill, we will have decreased spending by nearly 9 percent.

So let me just give you all a summary of the highlights of this bill.

First and foremost, we fund the House of Representatives at \$1.2 billion. That's the same level as last year. It's the same level that was requested by the House of Representatives. When people say, "Well, why didn't you reduce the House any further?" I would remind Members that over the last two cycles we have reduced funding for our own House by 10.5 percent. The Mem-

bers' office accounts—the so-called Members' Representational Accounts—are funded at last year's level. Once again, when people say, "Why didn't you cut those again?" I would remind Members that we have cut those. The appropriations have been reduced by 13.5 percent for the office accounts. That takes us back to 2008 levels, which is a substantial cut.

We have certainly led by example. We have tightened our belts. We have reined in spending, and I think we can be proud of that. We also have language that allows Members, if they don't spend all of their office account, they can reduce the national debt with their leftover funds.

The Capitol Police receive about a \$20 million increase. That will allow them to reduce the backlog in training that they have. It will also alleviate some of the salary shortfalls, because this is a year where we have the two national conventions and we also have the inauguration.

The Congressional Budget Office receives a very slight increase to acquire some much-needed equipment.

The Architect of the Capitol, which we fund, actually receives the largest reduction, about a 10 percent reduction. The Architect brings to us a series of projects that he would like to see funded. We can't fund them all, but we give priority to those that deal with health and safety issues because so many people work in the Capitol complex, so many visitors come here every year.

This subcommittee was concerned about the fact that we don't have the money right now to continue the rehabilitation of the Capitol dome, that great symbol of freedom that we see every day. We have spent \$19 million to begin that rehabilitation project, and it's about \$100 million to finish that. I'm confident we'll find the money very shortly and complete that project.

If you look at the Library of Congress, they receive a very modest increase.

The Government Accountability Office, the so-called watchdog of this Congress, they receive a slight increase to allow them to add 21 new full-time equivalent personnel. That will allow them to continue to write the reports that they write that tell us whether we're spending the money wisely or not.

□ 0920

And I think it will allow them to continue to meet the ever-increasing demands that we, as Members, place on them.

The Government Printing Office receives a cut, again, for the third straight year. They're doing a much better job of dealing with binding and printing of the information that they provide for us.

So, in a nutshell, Mr. Chairman, that summarizes the bill. I want to be sure and say thank you to all the members of the subcommittee, both the Democrats and Republicans, for the work