

of the President's small business agenda that he announced this week that were part of that bill: crowd funding, many offerings to help small business access financing; a bill to provide for 100 percent depreciation; the provisions that will allow for more ability for small business to see money go to the bottom line so they can grow; and a bill that we passed out of this House to eliminate country caps for immigration for highly skilled workers. All these are part of the President's proposals. All these the House has passed, and they sit, and they sit on the other side of the Capitol.

So I would say to the gentleman, he knows, as well as I do, that more stimulus spending as a part of that, the President's proposal, is something we don't accept, but there's plenty in there that we can agree on.

Back to the notion of bipartisanship. Let's set aside differences and find where we can agree. These are areas that we can agree on. So I would say to the gentleman, please work with us. Please point the ire to the majority leader on the other side of the Capitol and say, bring these bills up. These are jobs bills. The President said so this week.

Mr. HOYER. The gentleman knows that a number of those proposals had bipartisan support in this House, I think have bipartisan support over in the Senate. But they need to be paid for, and that's where the contention comes, as the gentleman knows.

Let me ask you, on another subject, if I might, the STOCK Act.

Yet, before I do that, I appreciate the gentleman's observation with respect to those bills that the President has suggested we do that we have done.

Mr. CANTOR. If the gentleman could yield just for a correction. There's no need for pay-fors on these bills. These bills are something that were cleared out of the House in a revenue neutral way.

Mr. HOYER. The individual bills. You're right.

Mr. CANTOR. Right. So, again, the gentleman is correct in saying there is bipartisan support for these bills. The President supports them. Where's the problem? It's across the hallway here, and if we could actually get the majority there to help move these bills, we could make some progress.

Mr. HOYER. We could make some progress if, frankly, the majority leader could get 60 votes to enact the legislation and transact business on the floor of the Senate. Unfortunately, as the gentleman very well knows, the majority leader, HARRY REID, has had very great difficulty getting 60 votes to proceed with business on the floor of the House of the United States Senate. I think that's unfortunate.

But let me move on because the gentleman went from an infrastructure bill, which, as Secretary LaHood said, was the most partisan bill he's seen in 35 years, and shifted to the jobs, on which we agree. The fact of the matter

is that I want to talk about another piece of legislation that the Senate has worked on. We have a bill here. We've asked that it be taken from the floor, from the desk and put on the floor, and that's the STOCK Act. The gentleman has expressed support for the STOCK Act. I'm hopeful that we can pass a House bill and then go to conference with the Senate on a bill in the near future.

Would the gentleman comment on that.

□ 1220

Mr. CANTOR. It has always been my intention to try and act with dispatch on this very important issue and to get the President a bill that he can sign as quickly as possible.

Again, the underlying notion is, as the gentleman believes, we need to make sure that the people that send us here know that we are acting and abiding by the trust that they place in us. That's what the STOCK Act is about. So what we're going to do next week, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, is we are going to act with dispatch. We are going to take up the Senate bill. We are currently reviewing the actions the Senate took on that bill, and we intend to strengthen that bill, again, to do so in a way that can get a bill to the President's desk as quickly as possible so that there is no misunderstanding on the part of the people that sent us here that they can have trust in this institution and the Members, and there is no perception whatsoever that anyone here misuses information that they gain in the performance of their duties for their own personal benefit.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his response, and he says the earliest day possible. I tell my friend that TIM WALZ of Minnesota has had a bill, as the gentleman probably knows, of the STOCK Act—also, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, ranking member of the Rules Committee, has worked on for literally a decade or more—so we have legislation which is available to take, frankly, from the desk, pass that, and go immediately to conference with the Senate.

The gentleman indicates he wants to change the Senate bill. I think that that may be appropriate; but if he does, we're going to have to go to conference in any event. So my suggestion is you take TIM WALZ's bill, act on that, a House bill, and we go to conference on that bill. That seems to me that's the most expeditious way to accomplish what the gentleman says he wants to accomplish in a very quick fashion.

I think TIM WALZ of Minnesota would be happy to hear that and available to work towards that end, along with LOUISE SLAUGHTER.

Mr. CANTOR. I say to the gentleman, first of all, I know the gentleman likes to talk about past Congresses. When he was House majority leader, he did not bring this STOCK Act to the floor, and it was a submitted bill. So let's set the record straight. This majority leader is

going to bring a STOCK Act bill to the floor next week.

I would also say, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. WALZ's bill actually would weaken the Senate bill; and it is our intention to pass and get to the President a workable, strong bill that makes sure that we're delivering on the promise that we made to the people that sent us here. I hope the gentleman—I know he wants to join me in the effort to re-instill the confidence of the public that we are abiding by that trust.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I think that all of us, hopefully, agree with what the leader has just said. We clearly want to make sure the American public has confidence and trust in the actions we take in that they are not driven by personal interests but by public interests, by a concern for the welfare of the people we represent in our country.

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian E. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### HOURLY OF MEETING

Mr. CANTOR. I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

#### ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Iran is rapidly building a nuclear weapon. Recent reports reveal that Israel may be preparing to attack Iran. Some critics, including the United States, say that Israel should not attack because it would derail the sanctions process; but sanctions are not fully accomplishing their objective. Russia, China, India, and even Japan all continue to buy Iranian oil.

For Israel, a nuclear-armed Iran threatens its very existence. Ahmadinejad, the little fellow from the desert, says he wants to wipe Israel off the map. Experts agree that Iran soon will have the power to do just that.

Israel has the right to defend itself, the right to be left alone, and the right to prevent its annihilation. Iran cannot get nuclear weapons.

Mr. Speaker, the greatest hope for the world is a regime change from within by the people of Iran. The United States should verbally support

the good people of Iran in changing their dictator, but the world should be prepared for nuclear mischief by that tyrant.

And that's just the way it is.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, Wednesday, the 1st of February, begins Black History Month; and on that day I introduced a proposal to have a Congressional Gold Medal issued to civil rights workers—not to each one individually, but collectively.

Black History Month celebrates the history of African Americans in our Nation, and a Gold Medal for civil rights workers is so appropriate because the people who fought for civil rights had to fight their own government to get the rights that were embedded in the Constitution for others, which specifically said that they were three-fifths people and that slavery should exist in this country, and the Jim Crow laws that were passed and approved by this Congress and by the State legislatures continued that for another hundred years.

So the people like JOHN LEWIS and ROBERT FILNER, who serve in this House, the people who engaged in the sit-ins and the marches, that challenged our system and showed it to be wrong and forced it to change itself, not just Dr. King but the Julian Bonds and the farmers and the Ennises and the Belafontes, they deserve recognition. They should be recognized by this Congress for what they did because they took a wrong in America and they righted it, and they continued to serve and make this country greater for all people based on the principles of the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, which don't really fulfill their destinies without the efforts of the civil rights workers who've made the work of Jefferson and our Founding Fathers true.

#### JOBS BILL

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to talk about a jobs bill that just passed out of the Rules Committee and will be on the House floor next week. H.R. 1734 is a bill that will address all of our civilian properties across the Nation, things we don't need, identifying property that can be redeveloped.

Let me just give you one example of something that is happening right here in the District of Columbia. The Old Post Office, which will be redeveloped, keeping it in its historic fashion, will create 150 jobs just in the construction phase of redevelopment and another 150 ongoing jobs.

If you want to be able to get the Republicans and Democrats to come to-

gether on a jobs bill, here is a fantastic opportunity, one that will bring in billions of dollars of new revenue from the sale of properties, will cut waste and get rid of a lot of the expense that we have in ongoing properties every year and, ultimately, get Americans back to work. It is truly a bipartisan proposal, something I'm looking forward to seeing on the floor next week.

□ 1230

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN OR IN RELATION TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-84)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006, with respect to the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire is to continue in effect beyond February 7, 2012.

The situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire, which has been addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1572 of November 15, 2004, and subsequent resolutions, has resulted in the massacre of large numbers of civilians, widespread human rights abuses, significant political violence and unrest, and fatal attacks against international peacekeeping forces. Since the inauguration of President Alassane Ouattara in May 2011, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and its people have made significant advances in the promotion of democratic, social, and economic development. Although considerable progress has been made, the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures under Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006, Blocking Property of Certain Persons Contributing to the Conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 3, 2012.

#### PRESIDENT'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, well, this has been a good day legislatively in the United States House of Representatives, and there are a lot of good things to be said about what's happened today.

Yesterday, there was a wonderful event; it's called the President's Prayer Breakfast here in Washington, and the President was gracious enough—and I'm not being sarcastic. He was gracious enough to once again extend his presence with the First Lady, who is also extremely gracious and represents us well as the Nation's First Lady. It was a marvelous breakfast held north of the Capitol.

There were so many moving, touching things that were said and done, from having an 11-year-old girl that sings like an angel, bless us, and also having an amazing speaker, the author of a book "Amazing Grace," the William Wilberforce story, as well as "Bonhoeffer" from Germany. He was funny, he was inspirational, he was touching.

One of the things that's been such a blessing over the 7 years I've been in Congress has been on Thursday mornings, 8 o'clock to 9 o'clock, Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle come together for an hour of sharing breakfast, sharing our Christian faith, listening to prayer requests, praying, singing hymns of faith, and hearing on an alternating basis from Republican and Democrat.

I know people hear what goes on on the floor and assume that Members on one side of the aisle must absolutely hate Members of the other side of the aisle. Actually, there are many of us that get along quite well other than talking about politics. And that's why we protect that hour. We don't talk about politics during that time because those that gather together have something in common, our Christian faith, as well as a heart, wanting to do what's best for this country to ensure that we pass on a better country than we received as stewards.

For the first time in American history, surveys now indicate perhaps 70 percent or more of the American adults believe that we will pass on to our children a country with less opportunity, and our children will have it less well than we have it right now. I'm determined to do everything I can to try to keep that from happening.

But politics doesn't really get into the Thursday morning prayer breakfast where we have our little gathering. It doesn't get into our prayer time where voluntarily Members of Congress come together the first night votes are back. Republicans, Democrats, express personal needs for prayer, and we join hearts and minds together in prayer for