

Here we can demonstrate to the American people that we're concerned about creating jobs, and that we're going to make sure that we take advantage of that opportunity by bringing PNTR for Russia immediately, getting involved, and trading with them to create jobs right here in the good old United States of America.

TAX CLIFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Madam Speaker, it has been 41 months of unemployment above 8 percent, and the President is calling for higher taxes on small businesses. That is the devastating reality currently facing 13 million unemployed Americans.

America's in the midst of a jobs crisis unlike anything this country has seen since the Great Depression. And the President's most recent answer to this crisis? A tax hike on small businesses to feed Democrats' insatiable appetite for more wasteful, ever-expanding government spending.

This past week, the President followed up his recent call for higher taxes by scolding entrepreneurs. And I quote: "If you've got a business, you didn't build it. Somebody else built that."

His disdain for American enterprise truly underscores that he not only doesn't know what it takes to start and run a business, but he is clueless about how jobs are created.

If the President gets his way, instead of small businesses creating more paychecks for more workers, they will be paying more taxes to the Federal Government. I wonder if the President has considered the fact that small businesses create two out of every three new jobs in America? And that means, for the majority of the nearly 13 million unemployed Americans, their best hope of being able to provide for their family hinges on small businesses' ability to hire more people.

The administration's onslaught of new regulations and ObamaCare's costly taxes and mandates have already placed a huge burden on our Nation's small businesses. The President now wants to add insult to injury and siphon away 201 billion more dollars from the American job creators.

Now, a new study released yesterday from Ernst & Young confirms what many Americans already know: the President's latest tax hike plan would destroy 700,000 jobs and further weaken our struggling economy.

The House is scheduled to vote in a couple of weeks on legislation to extend all of the current Federal income tax rates while, at the same time, laying the groundwork for making our Tax Code simpler and fairer by lowering rates and closing loopholes. Pro-growth tax reform is needed to help create the climate for job creation and to ensure more jobs stay right here in the United States.

The most recent unemployment report shows that the number of people leaving the job market to go into Social Security disability outnumbers the number of people who are going back to work. Let me repeat that. The most recent unemployment report shows that the number of people leaving the job market to go on Social Security disability outnumbers the number of people who are going back to work.

So, regardless of one's political ideology, it's truly unconscionable for the President or any Member of Congress to be calling for tax hikes on Americans when millions are out of work and the economy is still treading water.

But, to make matters worse, this week many Democrat leaders in the Senate have said that they are willing to allow these taxes to increase for all Americans if they aren't able to get their way and raise taxes on 1.2 million small businesses. Now, every day the President and the Senate Democrats continue with this political posturing and class warfare nonsense while the economy suffers and small businesses suffer, and ultimately, the American people suffer.

The question is, will the President and the Senate Democrats who run Washington work with the House Republicans to stop this huge, job-killing tax increase from hitting small businesses and every American who pays an income tax? Or will they continue to insist on higher taxes to pay for wasteful government spending and bailouts for political allies?

□ 1030

INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. This Sunday, the International AIDS Conference is going to be held in our Nation's Capital. It was some 30 years ago that this serious disease became known in our great country and spread from other parts of the world. Since that time, we've lost over a half a million people, yet we have not found a cure for this deadly disease.

I have introduced legislation, H.R. 1462, with Senator GILLIBRAND, to see whether or not we can have more national attention focused on the fact that we can do a lot more than we are doing.

The major thrust, of course, of what we have to do is to educate people that, although it used to have great stigma, there are so many different ways to come in contact with the disease. Education is one way that we can help people. Prevention, of course, is another, but I would like to emphasize the need for testing. So many people are walking around with the virus and have no idea that they have it. Even though there have been efforts made by com-

munity organizations for free testing, this is one of the exciting things about the President's Affordable Care Act.

There is no question that after we get finished with the political circus that we are forced to go through because of the coming election that more and more Americans will understand the benefits they are receiving even now from this universal coverage, which so many people need, and the dramatic decrease in cost when people are able to get preventative care. Preventative care is one of the major parts of the President's Affordable Care Act. What it means is that people can now go to doctors for regular checkups and can find out things in time to prevent them from becoming more serious.

My mom had three kids. When I was a kid, someone told her that she was going to the doctor with us, and we were not sick. Well, that was something that we didn't think was a luxury we could afford. Now, in seeing how important it is to contain serious illnesses and to reduce the costs of health care, it is so important that preventative care be a part of our national health system, and the quicker we get on with the implementation of this great bill, the more lives and the more dollars we will be able to save.

So, remember, if you have any interest at all, take a look at what is going to be happening in September. The Congressional Black Caucus, during our legislative weekend that month, will have professionals come in to talk with us, to teach us, to tell us what we can do to extend this education process throughout our great country.

GRANT PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for 5 minutes.

Mr. REED. I rise this morning to express my support for the Russian accession to the WTO and for our need here in this Chamber and in Washington, D.C., to grant Russia PNTR status so that we can establish a strong, forward-looking trade relationship with Russia.

Madam Speaker, it's simple. American trade opportunity, as represented by the Russian market, equals American job opportunity here on our soil, and I am proud to support this need to get PNTR trade status for Russia.

I am also joined this morning by a good friend from North Dakota to whom I would like to yield, Mr. BERG.

Mr. BERG. Today, I rise to urge Congress to grant permanent normal trade relations, also known as PNTR, with Russia. Russia will soon join the World Trade Organization. This will increase trade with Russia, and it will create significant export opportunities. However, before we can take advantage of these trade benefits, we must grant permanent normal trade relations with Russia.

This is a great opportunity for our State of North Dakota to increase

trade with the ninth largest economy in the world. In 2011, last year, North Dakota had over \$46 million worth of exports to Russia. This impacted 160 jobs in our State directly. That number will grow significantly if we grant PNTR to Russia. On the other hand, failing to grant them PNTR will significantly impact North Dakota businesses as well as all American businesses. It will put us at a competitive disadvantage.

This is why it is important for Congress to grant permanent normal trade relations with Russia and to do it as quickly as possible.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

I also thank the folks who came to the Chamber this morning, Madam Speaker, in a bipartisan fashion to recognize the need to grant PNTR status to Russia in order for us—American manufacturers, American job creators—to take advantage of that trade opportunity that is represented by the Russian accession to the WTO.

If we go forward and grant PNTR status to Russia, United States exports could double or, perhaps, even triple as a result of the trade opportunity that Russia represents to our American job creators; and in the great State of New York, that means tremendous numbers of jobs will be created.

As we all know, the number one issue facing us in this Chamber, in this city, is: How are we going to grow jobs across America? As I said in the beginning and as I will say again, American trade opportunity, such as represented by Russia, equals American job opportunity.

STOP SPENDING ON WEAPONS AND WARFARE; START INVESTING IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, this week, the House is debating the Defense appropriations bill, which provides an excellent opportunity to point out something quite ironic about my colleagues in the majority because, Madam Speaker, for all of their talk about getting spending under control, that same rhetoric is surprisingly absent when we are talking about the Pentagon budget, which we are talking about this week.

You see, they're eager to slash and burn when it comes to programs that invest and support middle class working families, but somehow, when it is time for sacrifice to be shared, the military industrial complex is nowhere to be found. While we have to fight for every penny of domestic spending, the Pentagon simply fills in its amount on a blank check, it appears. So I think we ought to have a dollar-for-dollar match in spending cuts.

I will be offering a series of amendments to the DOD appropriations bill

that call for defense cuts in the exact amounts by which other important programs are being reduced.

For example, the proposed Labor-HHS-Education spending bill eliminates the title X program. Title X, the family planning program that historically has been passed with bipartisan support, has provided contraceptive and preventive health services to low-income women for more than 40 years. The Republicans want the title X \$294 million investment gone. So let's cut the defense budget by an identical \$294 million;

The Ag appropriations bill provides \$119 million less than the President requested for WIC—the Women, Infants, and Children's program—which provides badly needed nutrition assistance for poor pregnant women, new mothers, and children up to the age of 5. So, if we are going to shortchange a pillar of our safety net by \$119 million, then I believe the Department of Defense can do without that same \$119 million.

□ 1040

Here's the big ticket item: the Republican budget. The budget that passed this body in March zeroed out all funding for the Social Services Block Grant, including \$1.7 billion in cuts for next year. If my Republican friends believe that we can't afford \$1.7 billion next year to provide daycare, housing, home health care, home meal delivery, and other social services, then I say we can also eliminate a corresponding \$1.7 billion in defense spending.

The fact is, Madam Speaker, defense cuts are not only fiscally responsible and morally defensible; they're widely popular. USA Today reported yesterday on a new survey that shows that two-thirds of those living in Republican congressional districts believe that the defense budget is too large.

It is no secret that military spending is widely out of control. Let's remember that none of this takes into account the war in Afghanistan, which isn't funded through the appropriations process. On top of the bloated defense budget, American taxpayers are shell-ing out another \$10 billion a month—not a year—for a decade-long war that is failing to advance our national security objective.

It's time to reverse this course. It's time to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. It's time for the Pentagon to assume its share of the shared sacrifice. It's time to do the right and the sensible thing: stop spending on weapons and warfare and start investing in the American people.

EXTENDING TAX RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, coming from a small business background, I originally ran for public office not because of what government was doing

for me, but rather what it was doing to me.

Many small business owners in my northern California district feel the same way, but apparently the President isn't getting that message. The other day he said:

If you've got a business, you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen.

Madam Speaker, perhaps that is why he's so determined to raise taxes on small businesses on January 1. Now Senate Democrats are saying that if they can't get their small business tax hike, they'll let taxes go up for everyone. That's just wrong. Let's stop the tax hike for all Americans.

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 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Stan Ballard, Nettleton Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas, offered the following prayer:

Father in Heaven, thank You for this unique privilege You have given me today to pray and to ask Your blessings on the Congress of the United States. I pray for Your wisdom and guidance to be given to each Member of Congress. I pray for Your protection for them and their families.

Please reveal to each of them that they have a great responsibility to vote and conduct themselves according to Your divine will and purpose. Show them that they are accountable not only to the voters, but to You, Almighty God.

Thank You for the United States and the freedom and opportunities we enjoy as Americans. Thank You for allowing us to be blessed by Your omnipotent hand for over 236 years. Your purpose is for us to share Your blessings of love and grace to all people. We pray for a strong economy and for national unity. We are blessed because You are our God.

In Jesus' name, 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.