

There was no objection.

BUSH JOBS AND GROWTH PACKAGE PROMISES RECOVERY FOR ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I am amazed by the revisionist history that continues to accompany these arguments against the jobs and growth package. We continue to hear the accusations that the President's 2001 economic plan has not worked. Against what benchmark are we evaluating the success of this policy?

President Bush inherited a speculative bubble that had burst into the Clinton-Gore recession when this body first passed that plan. September 11, of course, worsened our economic outlook even more dramatically. What was the result, then, of the President's 2001 economic plan? A potential depression became one of the shortest recessions on record.

Now the economy is growing again, but the American people continue to fear for their own economic security and for the dreams they nurture for their children and their grandchildren. The recovery remains sluggish because the temporary nature of the 2001 tax cuts has restrained businesses from fully returning to an investment and growth mode. An unpredictable and ever-changing Federal tax policy is inimical to the long-term, predictable model that businesses require. Thus, this year's jobs and growth package finishes the job that President Bush and Congress started in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush's plan to revitalize our economy is rooted in values instead of expediency. It reflects the belief and the genius of the American people instead of the power of government. It follows the principle that the American people are better than Washington bureaucrats when it comes to creating jobs and wealth.

John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan understood the power of this idea. They featured tax cuts as the centerpiece of their economic agenda, launching two of the longest economic booms in American history. When Ronald Reagan inherited a shattered economy wracked by double-digit inflation, 20 percent interest rates, long gas lines, and stagnant productivity, he turned the conventional economic wisdom on its head. At the time, the so-called experts told us that high inflation was a necessary evil of a growing economy. They also said that the Reagan tax cut plan would not fix the economy; it would only worsen inflation. They were wrong.

President Reagan once quipped that when a friend of his was asked to a costume ball, he slapped some egg on his face and went as a liberal economist.

President Bush's plan will rescue us from the economic morass the last ad-

ministration left behind, just as Ronald Reagan's visionary leadership accomplished more than 20 years ago.

The jobs and growth package the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) has proposed includes all of the President's priorities, including the acceleration of individual rate cuts, marriage penalty relief, an increase in the child care tax credit, and a dividend cut. It also includes a capital gains tax cut that our economy desperately needs. Balancing the budget remains a very important objective, and growing the economy while controlling spending is the best way I know how to achieve that goal. I am concerned about deficits, but I am much more concerned about making certain that Americans have jobs.

The Federal Government's tax revenues increased after the 1981 Reagan tax cuts. The deficits of the 1980s occurred because spending increased at a more rapid pace than revenue. Thus, we must keep spending in check.

This legislation will provide immediate stimulus to the economy and to the stock market, creating more jobs and opportunity. Moreover, this bill will produce the prosperity over the long term, providing desperately needed tax relief for every American who pays our bills.

HEAVY-HANDED GOP PARTISANSHIP CAUSES SHUT-DOWN IN TEXAS LEGISLATURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, there is a very important event occurring in the State of Oklahoma right now. Fifty-one very brave, patriotic Texans are in Ardmore, Oklahoma, and they are there for a reason. They are there to protest the heavy-handed actions by Washington political leaders in trying to impose a new set of congressional districts on the State of Texas.

Now, redistricting is done every 10 years. It was done 2 years ago in Texas. That is not good enough for some people here in Washington. They want to require the State of Texas to do it again, even though the plan that was implemented 2 years ago was specifically approved by the U.S. Supreme Court.

So these 51 brave Texans have traveled to Ardmore, Oklahoma, to deny a quorum to the Texas Legislature. They are prepared to return immediately if the Speaker of the State House will simply say, we are not going to do redistricting. We did that. It was done 2 years ago. We do not need to do it again. They are prepared to come back and vote on all of the important pending measures before the State House that are important for the State of Texas. They will vote to change procedural rules to permit important bills to come up; everything except redistricting.

So the business of the State of Texas can go forward if the Speaker will simply say, yes, we do not have to do redistricting again. We are not going to be forced to do redistricting by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and the people from Washington. It was done 2 years ago; it does not need to be done again right now, simply for political reasons.

I would like to read to the House, Mr. Speaker, a number of editorials around the State. Almost every leading newspaper in the State, almost every newspaper has sided with these brave, patriotic Texans and against the power grab by Washington Republicans. Let me start with the Waco Tribune: "Speaker Craddick has no one to blame but himself. He helped write history when he was one of 30 members of the Texas House who disappeared during the 1971 legislative session. Craddick and his 'Dirty Thirty' colleagues were protesting the heavy-handed actions of then House Speaker Gus Mutscher and his cronies who were involved in the Sharpstown bribery-conspiracy scandal. What Craddick has done is put his friendship with U.S. House Majority Leader TOM DELAY over the lessons of history and his own promises to run a bipartisan house."

The Dallas Morning News: "House Speaker Tom Craddick can halt the work stoppage in Austin. Mr. Craddick should resist pressure from Congress to contaminate a generations-old, census-based exercise by converting it into an ill-considered, purely partisan power grab. He should commit to leave Texas' political boundaries alone, and protesting Democrats should promptly return to the hive."

The Houston Chronicle: ". . . if they believe their principles are worth fighting for, and they have only one means to fight for them, it's difficult to fault them for it. Particularly in a fight that was thrust upon them by Washington-driven partisan politics. At the very least, Republicans pushing the redistricting effort bear a large share of the responsibility for this legislative standstill. We and many others have been saying since before the session began that Texas has too many important pieces of business to conduct to get bogged down in a needlessly partisan and divisive political and legal catfight over redistricting."

The Austin American-Statesman: "It's sad that it came to this, but the Speaker has been tested and found wanting on a number of issues. The one that sent the quorum-busters towards the exits was the grossly partisan congressional redistricting bill and how Craddick let it advance in the hasty, backroom way that it did. . . . The villain in the Democrats' statement is not Craddick, but U.S. House Majority Leader TOM DELAY of Sugar Land, an extremely partisan Republican who wants more members of his party elected to the U.S. House from Texas. . . . Refusing to show up for a legislative session is a desperate measure, and the