

Nation's proudest achievements have developed with a bipartisan, solutions-oriented consensus.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, my friends are asking, Where are the jobs? It's a good question because we were told in February, when the stimulus package was passed, that four or five million jobs would be created. Since then we've lost 1,963,000 jobs.

It's not bad enough that we're not doing anything to create jobs from the administration's side. But we're actually doing things to kill more jobs.

I just left a markup for the Education Committee where the majority is killing a program that has been very successful since 1965, has helped millions of students go to college and provided an education for them, and now they're eliminating that program, along with it, 40,000 jobs.

I have constituents at home that are really suffering. They're asking, Where are the jobs? It's about time you started doing something to produce them.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, people are asking, Where are the jobs? And I think it's an appropriate question to ask.

I myself get a little leery when any administration, any administration, says that they're going to create jobs. They do so for a while, but government jobs don't last very long, or they shouldn't last very long.

What the administration should do, and this Congress, is create an environment in which private sector jobs can be created. And that's what we're not doing with this health care bill. This health care bill will kill jobs, not create them. It doesn't create an environment where jobs can be created.

Now, the administration and this Congress say we've got to get to work. But last week, last Friday we spent an entire day on a welfare-for-wild-horses bill. There's an old Garth Brooks song that says, wild horses keep dragging me away. And, apparently, wild horses keep dragging this Congress away from actually creating an environment where jobs can be created. And this health care bill goes the wrong direction.

□ 1430

GOVERNMENT IN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FARR. I hear from the other side that government takes over health care. I'm just wondering which one of you Members is going to give up your Navy doctors downstairs to take care of you. Which one of you is going to give up your Federal health care plan which insures all the members of your family? Which one of you is going to give up Medicare for all of your constituents? Which one of you is going to give up the veterans' care in the veterans' clinics that are in your districts? Which one of you who loves the military that is doing such a great job of defending our country in Iraq and in Afghanistan is going to take away the military TRICARE program?

Yes, government is involved in health care. It sure is. That's what our country is surviving and living on. Let's make this work and stop attacking each other.

A LOT OF TALK ON THE SECOND STIMULUS

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, there has been some talk recently about the potential of a second stimulus package. Why would we need such a second stimulus? Because the first one didn't work. It's not rocket science, and the American people know it.

What the American people don't want to hear is that prior Congresses or that prior administrations used to do this, or that prior Congressmen were engaged in this, that or the other. What Americans want now is leadership and solutions moving forward, not how things used to be.

I'm new here. I came here because the American people were sick and tired of the way things used to work. Unemployment will soon reach double digits, and it already has in my district, the 16th District of Florida.

The first stimulus didn't work because the Federal Government is not capable of taking taxpayer money and properly redistributing it. So let's have a second stimulus package. Let's give tax breaks to small businesses and to small business owners. Let them hire and keep the people that they want to work for them. That's the American way. America works when people make it work, not when the government takes over.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members—and this is not directed at the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY), who just spoke—that Members should address their remarks to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, California unemployment is at 11.6 percent, and State Democrats in California destroyed the job market and the manufacturing base there through bureaucratic overregulation, unrealistic mandates and punitive fees and taxes. Congressional Democrats here in Washington are following California's lead with the national energy tax that's going to cost every American family \$3,000 a year and with the job-killing health care plan projected to cost over 4 million jobs.

I've simply come to the easy conclusion that Democrats don't like small business. I've come to the conclusion that Democrats don't like jobs. Those of us in California have seen this movie before, and it ends like "Thelma and Louise"—with the economy driving off a cliff in the Grand Canyon. And it's being driven by congressional Democrats.

GOVERNMENT DOES NOT KNOW BEST WITH REGARD TO HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, only in Washington, D.C., does government know best. My friends on the other side of the aisle think they know how to create jobs: stimulus I and possibly II, cap-and-trade, health care reform, higher taxes, more regulation, more government intervention. The Democrats think this is going to create wealth and jobs in our economy.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be about the business of overhauling taxes, of bringing commonsense regulation reform to the people, of giving people real choice to make decisions for their health care between them and their doctors. It is about empowering people, not government. What I'm talking about, Mr. Speaker, is not socialism. It's freedom. With all that our colleagues on the other side have done, and with all that they propose to spend, I ask a simple question, Mr. Speaker: Where are the jobs?

THE DEMOCRAT SPAGHETTI DINNER OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this chart is not a spaghetti dinner. It may look like it, but it's the Democrats' health care plan. If you were a person out in the hinterlands, looking at this, you would think, How in the world am I going to get health care coverage for me and for my family if I have to go through all of that? It's going to cost trillions of dollars—trillions.

In addition to that, there are going to be jobs created, 4.7 million jobs in China and in India, and their energy bill, cap-and-trade, is going to create 2.5 million new jobs in India and in China because it's going to drive jobs offshore because the small businesspeople will not be able to afford to pay all of these bills and taxes that the government is creating right now.

The Democrats need to do something. They need to cut taxes and help the small businessman make a profit and create new jobs. If they do that, we will have jobs, but right now, we don't know where the jobs are. Unemployment was supposed to cap at 8 percent. In Indiana, it's close to 10 percent. It's going to go to 12, 14, 15 percent if they don't change and change now.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, if we're all real quiet and if we turn down the rhetoric and if we listen very attentively, I think we can hear the voices of our constituents back home—the people who pay the taxes of this country. What are they saying? What question are they asking? Where are the jobs? Where are the jobs, Mr. President? Well, we're not hearing them, are we?

They've seen the \$800 billion stimulus package that was passed through this House, that was rammed down our throats and that had no effect. In fact, we've gone the other direction. Instead of increasing employment, we've gone the other way. We're now at 9.5 percent, headed towards double digits. What is the solution? A second stimulus is being talked about. Is that really what we need to do? In this last stimulus, there was a little bitty piece for small businesses. They're the ones that generate the jobs. They're the ones that can turn this economy around. They're the ones that can hire the people. Yet we ignore them. We turn our backs on them.

Oh, there are those voices again. I think I can hear them. Yes, they're louder this time. They say, Where are the jobs, Mr. President? Where are the jobs?

OBAMA MISERY INDEX

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

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, the chart next to me shows the Obama Misery Index, OMI, which reveals a stunning rise in debt and in unemployment. "Oh, my," I think, is the right title for the index of current and future burdens that Americans face.

Despite campaign pledges of fiscal responsibility and of job creation, since Inauguration Day, we've seen an \$800

billion stimulus bill, massive energy taxes and a legislative agenda that has resulted in a rapidly growing debt alongside rising unemployment. Taken together, these figures define the effect of the President's policies to date, not only revealing their failure to deliver jobs for today's workers but an even larger government tab for our children and grandchildren to pay. Already the unemployment and debt on President Obama's watch is a stunning 40.6 percent—the current Obama Misery Index actually felt by the American people.

After the Vice President's recent claim that the government needs to spend more money to keep from going bankrupt and after the CBO, Congressional Budget Office, Director suggests that the \$1 trillion Democrat health care bill will add to the country's budget problems, this measure may only worsen in months ahead.

Mr. Speaker, where are the jobs?

FUTURE JOB LOSSES AT RURAL HOSPITALS

(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, I rise today to address the issue of job loss at rural hospitals if the current health proposal were to become law. The Democrats' public plan assumes reimbursement rates based on Medicare.

In the July letter from the Blue Dog Coalition to Speaker PELOSI, the coalition reported that Medicare reimbursement pays, on average, 20-30 percent lower than private plans. Actual costs are made up through private insurance reimbursement, which will be gone if the Democratic plan plays out. This will have a severe negative impact on rural hospitals, and it will leave us asking: Where are the jobs?

Many providers suffer financial losses as a result of treating Medicare patients. The lower rates make it more difficult for rural providers, who serve higher percentages of elderly and low-income patients. A new public plan with rates similar to Medicare's will create a financial result that will be unsustainable for even the Nation's most efficient, high-quality providers. The result is a loss of good jobs in rural America.

During this time of economic downturn, we need to be focused on the retention of existing jobs and on encouraging and not discouraging our rural hospitals.

FREEDOM OF AMERICANS TO CREATE JOBS

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

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, last week, the President visited Michigan. With an unemployment rate of 15.2 percent, we were hoping that the Presi-

dent would answer the question: Mr. President, where are the jobs? When will the jobs come back to Michigan?

We had hoped that the President would have come to Michigan and would have recognized that raising taxes, that excessive spending and that more regulation wouldn't work, because that is what we've done in Michigan. We now have the highest unemployment rate in the country.

Mr. President, take a look at Michigan. Recognize that we need to reduce taxes, that we need to control spending and that we need to reduce regulation to get this economy moving.

America and Michigan will begin moving forward again when we empower its people, not when we empower the bureaucracy and the governments in Washington or in Lansing. It's about freedom. Give our constituents the freedom to spend their money to create their jobs.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue this question of: Where are the jobs?

The gentleman who spoke just before me is from Michigan, where their unemployment is upwards of 14 percent. Oregon's unemployment rate is now over 12.2 percent and is second only to Michigan.

Our basic industries have been shut down. My part of the State, by Federal policy, prevents us from even harvesting burned dead trees in a timely manner from our Federal forest lands and accessing our resources. Now along comes legislation that says if you take woody biomass off Federal land and use it to make new, clean, efficient energy, if it comes up as certain types of stands, it doesn't count. It's not renewable. So the jobs that would go with the creation of that were really diminished or were taken away fully by the cap-and-tax legislation, which we know is going to cost 1 million or 2 million jobs in this great State of ours.

I was out in John Day and Nyssa and Burns this weekend and Baker City. Everywhere I went at town meetings, the rooms were full, and people were asking, What are they doing to us in Washington? Where are the jobs?

CUT TAXES, CONTROL SPENDING, CREATE A COMMONSENSE ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the reason our economy is not creating jobs is that small business owners are asking themselves, What's coming next out of this place? Always remember this, Mr. Speaker: The American people are smart. Small business owners