ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a viewing audience.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. And as this month comes to a close, I want to draw attention to H.R. 1897, the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act.

With over 5 million Americans suffering from this degenerative disease of the brain, Alzheimer's is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States, and it's important that we find a cure, and work to find a cure, to ease the suffering of those who are affected as well as their families.

Mr. Speaker, the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act would encourage the development of public-private partnerships with universities, pharmaceutical companies, biotech firms, and help them pursue the development of Alzheimer's treatments.

As a cosponsor of this legislation, the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act, I do ask my colleagues, whether you have a loved one affected by this disease or not, to sign on as a cosponsor of this legislation so we can find a cure to this terrible disease.

AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

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

Mr. WOODALL. We have just gotten back from Thanksgiving, a uniquely American holiday. We're grateful for all of the blessings that we have, blessings that come from God the Father and blessings that come from having won the birth lottery and being born an American.

As I watch the challenges that are going on around the globe, Mr. Speaker—I look at the challenges in Europe, I look at the challenges in Asia—we need to be proud of American exceptionalism. We need to focus on those things that exist here and here alone. Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks with the challenges that we are going to face, let us not look to nations around the world and see how they are doing it. Let's look to those values and principles that have made this country great for over 200 years, and let's double down on those.

JOBS FOR AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Janu-ary 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it's good to be back, and I hope all of my colleagues here have had a thanksgiving as I did with my family and with our constituents back in our districts.

We have much to be thankful for. After all, this is America, and this has always been the place of dreams. This is America. It's always been the place, where people have found opportunity; where, whatever they wanted to do, they could achieve it; and it's still that America today.

But it's up to us, in the third year of this recession, to restore the American Dream, and there are ways that we can do it. And tonight, together with my colleagues who will soon be joining me, we will talk about various ways in which the Democrats in this House will and have made numerous proposals to restore the American Dream.

I was out in the district for five of the days that we were gone, talking to people. In fact, one fellow who has a book binding company—a man who's 85 years old and is about to retire and for that company his employ-ees—was talking about the enormous strength of this Nation, and he was sharing the story of himself and his employees and the way in which they came here. And many struggled from very bad situations in other countries, but they came here with optimism. They came here with a true belief that in America you can make it, that if you follow the rules, if you work hard, you can make it. You can have a good life. You can take care of your family.

Unfortunately, for all too many Americans, that's not the case today. So restoring the American Dream is our task, and we can do it.

The President, more than 2 months ago, proposed the American Jobs Act, a portion of it that is a very, very significant tax cut for men and women that are working. Their Social Security payments would be reduced by 50 percent. No longer would they pay 6.2 percent of their wages into the Social Security fund. They would pay 1.1 percent—and for their employers, the same reduction—providing a very powerful incentive for individuals to have money in their pockets, about $1,500 a year, money in their pockets so that they could participate in buying gifts for their children. As we look to Christmas, we know there are many, many Americans that are not going to be able to do that.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for us in this House to follow the lead of the President and to give every American worker, 98 percent of Americans, a very significant tax reduction, $1,500, by reducing that Social Security tax. And for their employers, the same. If their employers are up to $50 million of payroll, they can reduce, by 50 percent, their Social Security tax so that that employer has more money to hire people.

That debate is going on in the U.S. Senate today. Unfortunately, in this House, we've not been able to even take up that issue. We should, because it's part of what we must do to put Americans back to work, to give them a break.

Join me in this discussion tonight as we talk about restoring the American Dream and about the things that we can do to make that happen is my colleague from the great State of New York (Mr. Tonko). We have often been here. We call ourselves the East-West Team.

It is good to see you back. I hope you had as good a Thanksgiving as I did, and I'm sure you worked as hard in your district as I did during those days. Please share with us, and welcome back.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative Garamendi, and thank you for leading us in an hour of discussion, of dialogue, that is most critical to the economic viability, to the economic comeback of America's middle class.

You talk about some of these incentives that would be addressed through a payroll tax deduction. It's all about empowering our middle class, enhanc-ing their purchasing power, enabling us to enhance that demand out there for products that then obviously translates into job growth; because with more demand out there in this country, with more consumer confidence, with absolute increase in purchasing power, there will be a positive outcome.

There's no denying that unemployment is driving the deficit; and if we can turn that around, if we can invest in ways that enhance the middle class, that's good for all strata, all income strata in this Nation. And what's been lost in the logic here for the majority of the American middle class stands to produce gains for everybody, and we saw what happened in the buildup before our entry here into the House.

In the period of the recession, it was all about borrowing, totally, the money that was necessary to spend on a tax cut for millionaires and billion-aires. And some would suggest those are the job creators. But what happened was we realized $2 million jobs lost, and so that didn't work.

We ought not go back and revisit that formula, because it was not a formula for success. What we need here is to bring about the long overdue em-powerment of the middle class and it is working families across this country that need that assistance today; and, by the way, it works in everybody's favor.

So that's what we're promoting, and it's good to start off with that discussion; because as we move forward, investments are what it's about: investing our way to prosperity, investing...
our way to opportunity, investing our way to a stronger tomorrow for all Americans. It’s not going to come by cutting into situations that relieve the liability, the responsibility of those who have been most profitible here. That didn’t work, and that is not going to be the formula for a comeback for most Americans.

What we need is to be sensitive to the investments in education, higher education, in sounder tax policy, reforms of tax policy, and certainly investment in research because, as we invest in research, that equals jobs, and that’s still the highest priority of America’s general public out there. We need jobs, and the dignity of work is what ought to be front and center for the work that we do here in public policy format or in resource advocacy so as to go forward and herald the need of the middle class.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you so much.

The experiences that we have as we return to our districts and talk to our constituents and share with our families, these are the stories of life. These are the stories of real Americans that are out there. Not that we’re not real. We’re not a very special task as their Representatives to represent them here, and they do want jobs. They want to go back to work. We know that many of them are unable to find jobs.

In American Jobs Act, in addition to the tax issues I just talked about—and I must say we actually got something done just before the Thanksgiving recess—there was another provision, and that was for the veterans. This was part of the President’s proposal that actually did become law. What he wanted to do—and we agreed with him—was to give veterans, those men and women that are out there fighting for this country in Iraq and in Afghanistan and even back way into the Vietnam War and the first Gulf War, a chance to do what’s a very special tax provision that’s totally paid for, not borrowed, that we actually voted out of here so that employers got a tax credit, which is a reduction in their taxes, for every veteran they hired—$5,600 for an unemployed veteran or $9,600 for a disabled veteran. I’m very, very pleased that we were able to do that for the veterans.

That’s one very important slice of the American public that is facing unemployment; but there are many, many more. And if I can just pick up for a second on a couple of words you said; you talked about investment. In the American Jobs Act, there is a very, very important investment, and you mentioned it. It’s the education investment. The President proposed that we spend about $30 billion to keep teachers in the classroom now so that our kids wouldn’t lose that education investment. That’s the future; and if they miss a year of learning, they’re going to be behind the rest of their lives. And so he proposed that. It’s still out there. It’s open, and it hasn’t had a chance to come forward yet. We’ll see, maybe we can get that one done. That’s a critical investment in our children. What’s more important than our children.

Mr. GARAMENDI. As you talk about the loss in any given year where a student may lose the opportunity in the classroom because of these cuts that are significant to education, that is one measurement; but let me suggest another. We’re talking about the world going on around the world in emerging powers out there, nations competing with us in that global marketplace on clean energy, innovation, an ideas economy. An ideas economy is a robust opportunity for a sophisticated Nation like ours; but it requires commitment, commitment to investment, investment in education. We take that intellectual capacity, and we make it work.

We did that in the space race of the 1960s. Our youthful President in his time, offered a challenge to America, offered a challenge in a way that enabled us to invest in research, that enabled us to win the global race in space. That was an unparalleled task, as all told sectors of the economy and from every perspective of quality of life that was enhanced by the investments that were made.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Tonko, you were talking about the need for investment; and, indeed, in the area of education and research, critical functions, I do want to stay with that subject for a while.

Our colleague from the great State of Ohio, Ms. BETTY SUTTON, has joined us. Thank you very much for being with us this evening. I know you, too, had a family and a constituency to work with this last week, so please share with us your thoughts.

Ms. SUTTON. Thank you, the gentleman.

Representative GARAMENDI, you have done a tremendous job in leading the way and showing the American people, because we all know that things don’t have to be the way that they are. We all know that we can invest in the things that have always made our country strong, things like education, that we know not only strengthens the individual but is key to the success of our future, investing in policies that will enable us to make it in America.

And when we make it in America, Representative GARAMENDI and Representative TONKO, I know that we are often talking about manufacturing. And coming from Ohio, manufacturing is not just a part of our past and our history. It is a strong part of what is going to make us successful in the future.

I will tell you, I’m excited because in the coming days I’ll be introducing a number of bills that are all related to the America agenda, using our tax money, in this case to build the sanitation systems, the water systems, and requiring that that money be used to buy American-made equipment.

I have a bill that would do the same thing for solar and wind programs—wind turbines and solar, as well as for trains, buses and the like. It’s our tax money; use it to buy American-made equipment. That’s part of the Democratic agenda. And it works. I can give some examples a little later. I do want to thank you because you’re working harder in this entire Capitol building—Democrat, Republican, or the Senate—you are in rebuilding the
manufacturing center of America, the great State of Ohio. Now, Texas is a little far from Ohio, but you’ve got a few things going for you in Texas. Let me introduce SHEILA JACKSON LEE. Thank you for joining us once again, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. It is a delight to have been here with the gentlelady from Ohio. We have worked together closely, as I have with the gentlelady from New York. I always want to ask him how his fair constituents are dealing. They have some serious mountains to climb, if you will, with their recent hurricane, a very unusual set of circumstances. We joined together to allow those communities to come back. Wouldn’t that be a perfect investment of rebuilding infrastructure.

Mr. GARAMENDI, let me thank you for your long-standing history of putting things that that season is eating people. I call you the Humpty-Dumpty man, but recognizing that we can put America back together and make it in America. Let me share some anecdotal uniqueness to this whole question of making it in America. I know everybody had a wonderful Thanksgiving. It’s a special holiday where we find time to say thanks. I heard that the gentleman from New York might have been giving away a ham, made in America. And I know the people who received the ham were grateful for it.

I had the opportunity to work with those, we had over 800 turkeys—made in America—to be able to give to seniors. The joy was, of course, that it was in the giving. But more importantly, it was a product that we made from start to finish. Yes, it’s food. As we went down the aisles of many grocery stores, since the high-lighted Thanksgiving, people were buying goods in most instances that were made in America. And they bought them.

And then, of course, that famous Friday that we can now tout to be the best Friday of any number of years, certainly 2010; $52 billion was spent by Americans in many instances on the electronic goods that were made in America. Steve Jobs is no longer with us, but he created that infrastructure of technology and software and the sophistication of pretty things that many Americans went to buy, some $7 billion over 2010. And the studies indicated that—and that’s all right to my good friends out there—that Americans were buying goods for themselves those electronic items that they wanted to have for this holiday season.

As I begin to look at legislation to talk about jobs, I’m going to try to make the energy industry a little bit more friendly. And we’ll be introducing legislation that talks about creating jobs in that industry, but working in the environmental aspect of it—fixing the coastline, for example.

As well know, we have suffered through Hurricanes Rita, Katrina, Ike and the deterioration of the coastline, so if somebody wants to stop us from going down the drain, I want to stop us from a disappearing coastline. I want you to have the beautiful beaches, whether it is in Alabama and Louisiana and Texas, Florida. Those coastlines we have been able to find work. Individuals can have work in fixing the beautiful coastlines. Even in South Carolina, I know that the gentleman wants the coastline to be fixed. So there is not a lack of opportunity to fix work. I just heard my good friend from Massachusetts in the Rules Committee indicate that there are bridges in the State of Massachusetts—my good friend, Mr. McGovern—that are older than some States and that they need to be fixed. And that would be a sharing of the wealth to many, many different districts and States if we were to engage, as the President wanted us to do, to look at how we do the infrastructure.

But making it in America is happening. Right now, in the Carolinas, a young lady is bringing her company back from Sri Lanka, and she is using the textile industries—I don’t have its name, but it begins with “M” using the textile industry to now make her product.

So I came today to say that I have hope. I’m an optimist, and many of the economists that we’ve been listening to Jeffrey Sachs, for example, and Mr. Spence, who I think I heard in the last couple of days, has indicated that we worry too much about the deficit and the debt, not to ignore it but we really should be worrying about investing in America, rebuilding, make it in America, investing in infrastructure, creating jobs. And Americans will do what they did on last Friday, November 25, and they went out and they bought goods, by and large, made in America. Let’s stop and we have the incentives that they need. And, by the way, let’s add the small business component to it. We had the buy from a small business on Saturday. These small businesses are in America. And if you support a small business, you support one or two or three or four employees.

So I am grateful, as I said. I’m going to do this coastline bill. I can see just persons for eons being put to work. I can see see us reaching the deficit. We’ll join that with the drain, if you will, or the infrastructure for our sewage and wastewater. It comes under homeland security, by the way. We have to protect that. The infrastructure of security provides jobs as well. I want to close on this note, which sound as if it’s not tied in, but it is. It really is tied in. We have, in the Thanksgiving backdrop, was the acknowledgment—I’m not going to call it a failure—by the supercommittee that they could not complete their task. Let me, on the record—I have said it in public settings—thank the colleagues that accepted the challenge. But I want to say to my colleagues, let us not be nonoptimistic. Let us not be unhappy or disappointed or sad. Frankly, the job of the Congress is to formulate the vision going forward on behalf of the American people.

I want to tell you why I see we have been given an opportunity. Some people only talk about defense. I talk about 36 billion Americans that are on SNAP. Here’s our chance. We can take the works of a Jeffrey Sachs. We can take the works of Mr. Spence, who talks about infrastructure investment. We can find these long-term cuts of a trillion dollars, leaving out Medicare and Social Security and Medicaid, and we can find them in a way that talks about Bush tax cuts but has a thoughtful, proper way of looking at tax reform, and then we can put our vision forward that includes making it in America.

My friends, we make defense products in America. I don’t want to be a warmonger—I want our troops home—but I believe in military preparedness. Those are jobs. We have a year to do it. We can throw off the shackles of partisanship and thoughtfully put forward a legislative initiative to which the President will not veto if there is a plan that includes deficit reduction. Don’t be afraid of doing it on jobs.

So I’m willing to say we have been given an opportunity, just like my friends are saying. We can take this opportunity because for a championship this coming weekend at the University of Houston, which will, by the way, create a lot of revenue with folks coming in from all over.

But we have been given an opportunity. And I am glad that we’re here on the floor to point out that it is not the end, but it is the beginning. I simply ask there be friends on the other side of the aisle that will join us in revenue creation, deficit reduction, revenue, job creation. We can pass these bills. We can join the Senate. We can do the payroll tax relief for a little bit and the unemployment, but we can create jobs.

I thank the gentleman for allowing me to participate with you. I’m excited about the legislation that my colleagues have. I know I have worked with Mr. Tonko for all that he has done in the legislative initiative and, also, you thank you so much.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you very much. You are always on top of the issues and you’re always so very, very correct. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, thank you for the enormous amount of work you have done for your constituents in the city of Houston.

You mentioned the supercommittee. We ought to spend at least a few moments on that. Everybody says it was a failure and they did not achieve the goal that was set out, however, the public needs to know that the legislation that set up the supercommittee actually reduced the deficit of the United States by $2.1 trillion. A $2.1...
trillion reduction in the deficit in the legislation that established the supercommittee. One trillion of that is already going into place. The other $1.1 trillion, it was the specific task of the supercommittee to try to find out if there was a better way to make the cuts, I specifically remember. They were able to put the revenue together, but the cuts remain, and those are going to go forward.

You’re quite correct, Ms. JACKSON LEE, that we do have the next 13 months almost 14 months, to figure out a better way. Maybe it’s revenue or less cuts. Maybe it’s different cuts that are currently across the board in the Defense Department as well as in the discretionary funding. But we have a chance to do that. We have time to do that. It’s not all lost. The deficit has been reduced. Now we need to do it in a smarter way, one that actually promotes American jobs, puts people to work, and creates more jobs and manufacturing.

Mr. TONKO, you come from a State that really started the great American Industrial Revolution and an area in which it actually began, the Hudson River Valley, so why don’t we carry on which it actually began, the Hudson River Valley, to the traditional roads and bridges, to the interstate, the traditional roads and bridges, to the electric grid, to the state of these networks in the fifties, post-World War II, to the rotary phone that’s now moved all the way through.

Sometimes we will sit around and try to tout the effect of infrastructure for our economy. What we need to do is now to bring the focus back to manufacturing and agriculture, if we allow that to continue, we will sink as an economy. What we need to do is now to bring the focus back to manufacturing and agriculture. The focus was totally on the service economy, and there more narrowly to the financial services, to research equals opportunities. The intellectual capacity that was developed here, I’m told by the most recent former energy minister of Denmark, influenced the turnaround of thinking in Denmark where they transitioned from a manufacturing economy to innovative outcomes, all inspired by patents coming from the United States of America. So we have that intellect.

We talk about manufacturing as a base. We saw the exodus of manufacturing to the millions to the millions. We’re still perched highest on the list for manufacturing jobs; but if we allow that trend where we were disinterested, paid no attention to manufacturing and agriculture, if we allow that to continue, we will sink as an economy. It’s time now to do is to bring the focus back to manufacturing and agriculture. The focus was totally on the service economy, and there more narrowly to the financial services, the research, the intellectual capacity that we want to develop, and then to research equals opportunities. The intellectual capacity that was developed here, I’m told by the most recent former energy minister of Denmark, influenced the turnaround of thinking in Denmark where they transitioned from a manufacturing economy to innovative outcomes, all inspired by patents coming from the United States of America. So we have that intellect.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Would the gentleman pause for just a moment.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. You’re saying some things that so inspirational, and I just want to add these two points: one, we are still the greatest and largest economic engine in the world in spite of China, in spite of Russia and in spite of India, our good friends. We’re the largest, still percolating along.

Second, when we’ve had our difficulties in the past, there have been recessions in the fifties, post-World War II, on into our good friends both former president Bush and President Reagan. You well know for those who read the history books we had some moments, but the reason why we are in troubling waters that people can’t seem to comprehend, they just need to read, we never had a euro.

We never had Europe in the state that it is presently in. And when the markets were troubled on Monday—it was Monday, even post—I think Monday they percolated, but when they were troubled, they were looking at Europe. And so if we get obsessed with other than what you’re saying about how we can get back in the game at the peak that we want to be, we don’t take

with the space race of the sixties: we unleashed untold amounts of investment in technology that enabled us to stretch opportunity here. Think of the rotary phone that’s now moved all the way up to what is a changing telephone by the week. And that all happened because of investment in the intellect of this Nation.

So the intellectual capacity of this Nation has been an inspiration to not only this country but to nations around the world where the quality of life was raised as the quality of the qualities of American workers. And so that’s what we’re calling for here. The Democrats of the House of Representatives believe in investing in the worker and in research. Research equals jobs, and research equals opportunities. The intellectual capacity that was developed here, I’m told by the most recent former energy minister of Denmark, influenced the turnaround of thinking in Denmark where they transitioned from a manufacturing economy to innovative outcomes, all inspired by patents coming from the United States of America. So we have that intellect.

We talk about manufacturing as a base. We saw the exodus of manufacturing to the millions to the millions. We’re still perched highest on the list for manufacturing jobs; but if we allow that trend where we were disinterested, paid no attention to manufacturing and agriculture, if we allow that to continue, we will sink as an economy. It’s time now to do is to bring the focus back to manufacturing and agriculture. The focus was totally on the service economy, and there more narrowly to the financial services, the industrial capacity that we want to develop, and then to research equals opportunities. The intellectual capacity that was developed here, I’m told by the most recent former energy minister of Denmark, influenced the turnaround of thinking in Denmark where they transitioned from a manufacturing economy to innovative outcomes, all inspired by patents coming from the United States of America. So we have that intellect.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Would the gentleman pause for just a moment.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. You’re saying some things that so inspirational, and I just want to add these two points: one, we are still the greatest and largest economic engine in the world in spite of China, in spite of Russia and in spite of India, our good friends. We’re the largest, still percolating along.

Second, when we’ve had our difficulties in the past, there have been recessions in the fifties, post-World War II, on into our good friends both former presidents Bush and President Reagan. You well know for those who read the history books we had some moments, but the reason why we are in troubling waters that people can’t seem to comprehend, they just need to read, we never had a euro.

We never had Europe in the state that it is presently in. And when the markets were troubled on Monday—it was Monday, even post—I think Monday they percolated, but when they were troubled, they were looking at Europe. And so if we get obsessed with other than what you’re saying about how we can get back in the game at the peak that we want to be, we don’t take

in the great picture. And that great picture is our markets are not necessarily troubled about how we’re percolating on.

We need to do better. We need to create jobs. But they’re international markets, and they’re outside the euro, which I never agreed with. I would just say, let’s understand that so we can do our business here in the United States and focus on the American people, tend to the markets, but read and invest and realize that the markets are interrelated. We can overcome that by doing exactly what the gentleman from New York has said, make it in America.

GARAMENDI. Ms. JACKSON LEE, you’ve talked about the investments; you’ve talked about the international aspects of our economy. Mr. TONKO, you were so correct when you talk about what happens when those infrastructures are not there.

Now, in the American Jobs Act, which we ought to be working on and passing, there is $50 billion over and above the ongoing money. This is new money, additional money, that would be immediately available to the coastal areas of the United States, to rebuild the infrastructure and those areas that have been hard hit by the floods of this year, to improve the 100-year-old-plus bridges in America. That’s all things that we need to move our economy.

Ms. SUTTON from Ohio talked earlier about the sanitation and water systems. Each and every one of these should be framed in such a way as to create American jobs, not just the construction jobs but the rest of the story, which is the concrete, the steel, the bolts, the pumps. All of those things that go into the infrastructure can and should be American made if we have a policy.

Now, on the floor here 3 weeks ago, we were talking about this; and our colleague from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) brought something to the floor that just interested me. She brought a document that was prepared in 1788 by George Washington, and it was a manufacturing policy for America. He told Hamilton, who was then the Secretary of the Treasury, to go out and develop eight steps for an American manufacturing policy.

So this is not new in America, folks. We need a manufacturing policy in America. We call it Make It in America. It’s a tax policy, an educational policy, an infrastructure policy, and it is an international trade policy where we don’t give it away, but we require fair trade—not free trade—fair trade. These are American manufacturing policies of today and tomorrow.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. I hear in your statement the wisdom of sound planning. We need the federal government to be smart and efficient, which is the call by the general public. We want smart investment from our government. Ask any competitor out there
in the global economy. They are competing against industries that are being co-invested in by their native lands. There are co-investments with governments and their private sector, and we’re moving in the other direction.

So a couple of things come to mind here. I participated this past weekend in Small Business Saturday. And the spirit I detected was a leap of faith, a sound leap of faith, by many small business leaders who said, I want to offer you my ink by putting my creative genius to work. I’m going to make my commitment to community a response here that’s tangible.

I saw a lot of belief in the American public, a belief in the American system; and it offers a warm and fuzzy, cozy personalized relationship. People come in; they’re known when they walk into the shop; they see the creative flair that’s been introduced into that small business. I also see more technically savvy realities that are engaged in the district I represent with a lot of start-ups, incubators, again, another leap of good faith but needing an investment, a co-partnering with government, especially in a very tenuous economy where there’s still a lot of guesswork. We need to be there to remove some of that risk. That is so critically important.

Representative GARAMENDI, you mentioned earlier the fact that my district is that donor district to the Erie Canal/Barge Canal, which was the westward movement that triggered an industrial revolution. These mill towns that were given birth to by the canal became the epicenters of invention and innovation—manufacturing towns and mill towns that had blue collar workers coming up with tremendously clever ideas.

And for people to throw up their arms and say manufacturing then is what it was, it was our greatness, it’s gone. The truth could be far from the truth. What is the challenge today to a sophisticated society like the American society is that while we have a number of product lines that we developed through our decades of manufacturing, the challenge to a sophisticated society is to build the products that are in demand today.

And if we believe that every product that’s ever required by society has been conceived, engineered, designed and manufactured, then the story is over. But if we believe, as so many of us do believe, that we can be the wizards of those new products and we develop it by investing in ideas and investing in research, then we build those products that are now the step up, if you will.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. Let me just, if you’ll suffer an interruption, or yield, please. Representative GARAMENDI, I absolutely endorse what you just said. They are devoted. They are an essential part of this body to introduce all of the statements into the annals of history, making certain that statements that might inspire the sort of progress that is required by this Nation on rich soil that provide an awesome, taskful task.

Mr. GARAMENDI. If I might take up, after interrupting you, some of the things that you were talking about. Down through the years, from the very first words in the history of industry, there has been a joining of the government and the private sector to accomplish, really, the building of America. And it’s been done in many, many ways.

I was startled and surprised and frankly in many, when Mrs. SCHAKOWSKY brought that document in from George Washington’s administration about the establishment of industrial policy that placed the American government in synchronization with the then-new manufacturing program industries in America.

You talked about the mill towns. They didn’t just happen. They happened because there was a government policy working with them, those entrepreneurs, those businesses, those new jobs. And down through the centuries, more than 2½, almost 2½ now, we have been able to use this synergy, this government working with the American public, the private sector, to create this incredible country, we call America and really, to create the American Dream that all of us possess or have participated in.

Today, we’re in a discussion, if you will, with the American public about those new jobs. We have the American vision of coordination of the public governments—State, local, Federal governments—working to achieve a goal in the private sector.

There’s a different vision out there that basically says, get out of the way. Get government away and things will go well. Eliminate any regulation, eliminate all of the programs, and let the free market do it.

It’s never worked, and the proof of it is found in the first decade of this century. In the first decade of this century, that philosophy of push government aside, deregulate, reduce taxes, and get government out of the way actually created a situation of the Great Recession and no jobs; in fact, 8 million American jobs lost.

We need to go back to the policies that actually created growth in America, the policies of Franklin Roosevelt, carried out by Truman and Eisen- hower. From Ronald Lyndon Johnson carried out the very basic policies that, working together, we can build a great country.

Mr. TONKO. You’re absolutely right. And I believe, as you just indicated, over the years, our country is replete with the soundness of government planning and policies that incorporated investments from the public sector. And it made us strong. It retained our strength. It was a sustainable outcome. And the way of the world today is other nations are doing that with their private sector co-investing with them.

And when you look at the scenario of threats to cut some very valuable programs, you know you’re going to place all your businesses at risk. I wonder if there’s anything I hear from my middle class that is disgruntled with Washington is that they’re not against people making money. They’re not against that.

They’re concerned, and they’re deeply concerned over the undue influence that a few, a growing few, most powerful have on the process. They see it as insatiable greed. They see it as a rejection of what worked in the past, where people shared the wealth, shared by investing in America’s middle class, which is that intellectual capacity, is that innovative spirit, is that potential for the next generation of jobs. And that’s where our strength lies, and that’s why they’re upset. The undue influence has caused this insatiable greed that produces a drain on the middle class of this country and, therefore, reduces the number of jobs that we could possibly have in this Nation.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Before I turn to my colleague from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) who has just joined us, I want to pull up this chart. If only you had had this next to you while you just made this statement about the change in the nature of America’s wealth. This chart shows the growth in the wealth, the income of the top 1 percent of Americans. And down here is what the rest of us have had, which is last 20 years or so. What we’ve seen is basically a flat-lining for the middle class, and certainly for the poor—no improvement, very, very little improvement, in their situation. This is the 99 percent here. This is the 1 percent. This is the other percent. This is the one percent.

This is the number that you now see on the streets of America, and it’s exactly what you were talking about, Mr. TONKO, with a few, 1 percent of the American public, getting an ever increasing share of the American income and wealth. It’s created a society, one with very few that are extremely wealthy, and the rest that are actually growing poorer.
With that, I’d like to turn to a woman from the great Midwest, the State of Ohio that is enduring this exact hollowing out of the American middle class.

MARCY KAPTUR, thank you so much for joining us, and thank you for years of work by your party of what was once the great industrial strength of America. I know that you want to share with us tonight some thoughts that you shared with me earlier this day, as you went home, as you talked to the men and women in Cleveland. Please.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you very much.

Mr. GARAMENDI. For your leadership in bringing us together so often. You are absolutely unrelenting, and that’s the spirit that is America, so we thank you for your time tonight.

And Congressman TONKO of New York, your steadfast service here in representing a State that has some similar situations to Ohio’s in the industrial and agricultural heartland of our country. It’s really a special privilege to be here tonight with both of you.

This morning, one of my first visits was with a company in Avon Lake, Ohio, PolyOne. This is a company that makes products in America. Yes, it’s a global player, but its innovation center is in Ohio. Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of jobs are associated with its plastic products, made both out of traditional petroleum-based ones as well as the new carbohydrate economy that you can see developing, and it was really quite exciting.

We know that real wealth is created in our country when we make goods in America, when we make it in America. We know that real wealth is created in our country when we make goods in America.

I visited a company that was with a company in Avon Lake, Ohio, PolyOne. This is a company that makes products in America. Yes, it’s a global player, but its innovation center is in Ohio. Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of jobs are associated with its plastic products, made both out of traditional petroleum-based ones as well as the new carbohydrate economy that you can see developing, and it was really quite exciting.

We know that real wealth is created in our country when we make goods in America, when we make it in America. We know that real wealth is created in our country when we make goods in America.

I visited a company that was with a company in Avon Lake, Ohio, PolyOne. This is a company that makes products in America. Yes, it’s a global player, but its innovation center is in Ohio. Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of jobs are associated with its plastic products, made both out of traditional petroleum-based ones as well as the new carbohydrate economy that you can see developing, and it was really quite exciting.

We know that real wealth is created in our country when we make goods in America, when we make it in America. We know that real wealth is created in our country when we make goods in America.
Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Tonko, you are absolutely correct. This is where we stand. This is where we fight.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you so much. Congressman Garamendi and Congressman Tonko.

I just wanted to say on Social Security and Medicare, I’m proud to stand with my Democratic colleagues. Social Security is an earned benefit, and it’s one that belongs to the American people. We fought for its power, not just to allow seniors to live a decent life in their retirement years. But also it’s power to lift the economy because seniors spend, mainly on their grandchildren. And they move those dollars into the economy. You watch with that cost-of-living increase, which I’m very happy about, next year, and the fact that the Medicare offset will not be so great that seniors will have extra buying power and they will watch every penny.

I am just so proud to be a part of a tradition of the Democratic Party that has fought for Social Security and has fought for Medicare, not just for the few but for all. And we have made the country a better country as a result.

So I just wanted to say that, yes, it is true the Republican Party has fought Social Security. Can’t they find something else? I don’t know what the problem is when the vast majority of the American people, I think like 99.99 percent of the American people, agree with this. I don’t know what their problem is. Maybe they’re not living in reality most of the time.

I am just very proud to be a part of this tradition along with my colleagues and to say to our senior citizens that next year will be a better year than this year.

My hat’s off to Franklin Roosevelt and Frances Perkins and all of the people that fought back in the 1930s to make this program part of the American way of life.

Mr. GARAMENDI. And then carried on in the 1960s with Medicare.

We have much to be thankful for as Americans, don’t we?

Mr. TONKO. We do.

Mr. GARAMENDI. We have much to be thankful for. We are thankful for those men and women that served here in this House over the years that brought us to where we are—the world’s greatest country with the greatest opportunity. Even with all of the troubles we have today, it’s still a country with great opportunity.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely.

Mr. GARAMENDI. It’s a country in which the American Dream lives, and we have the obligation to make sure that it’s there for future generations.

Mr. TONKO. We’re going to do a rapid 30 seconds around.

Mr. TONKO. We’ve had a wonderful hour of discussion, and I give thanks for the wonderful investments that have made us this strong Nation. In conclusion, if we invest in the middle class of this Nation, our greatest days lie ahead of us. We have a chance to be continually investing in a way that allows us to make it in America and allow for our intellectual capacity to reign supreme. It’s been our history. It’s our potential. It’s our obligation to make sure that it happens. I’m optimistic about the tomorrows for this country with the appropriate investments.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Ms. KAPTUR. Ms. KAPTUR. America has always been a Nation of great promise, a Nation of great hope; and I like to quote in my speeches the last four letters of the word “American” are “I can.” It’s positive energy. It’s promise that we all work toward, and the American people know it. It’s great to be a part of a party of hope and promise for the American people.

I say what a pleasure it has been to join my colleagues here this evening.

Mr. TONKO. I yield back with great thanks to my colleagues and for the opportunity to be a Member of Congress.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1348 — TERMINATING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND AND ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 527 — REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2011; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3010 — REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2011

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules (during the Special Order of Mr. Garamendi), submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-296) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3463) to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions and by terminating the Election Assistance Commission, and for providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3010) to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. SUTTON (at the request of Ms. Pelosi) for today on account of travel delays.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o’clock and 21 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 30, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were read from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

3973. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Selected Acquisition Reports for the quarter ending June 30, to the Committee on Armed Services.

3974. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement: Fire-Resistant Fiber for Production of Military Uniforms (DFARS Case 2011-D021) (RIN: 0750-AH22) received November 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3975. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting first report on the Responsible Redeployment of U.S. Armed Forces from Iraq, to the Committee on Armed Services.


3977. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a study pursuant to the Conventional Weapons Limitation Act of 2011 (PL 112-30) (RIN: 0750-AH29) received November 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.


3979. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Labor-Management Standards, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Labor Organization Officer and Employee Reports (RIN: 1215-AB74) (RIN: 0750-AD08) received November 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3980. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Frequency Regulation Compensation in the Organized Wholesale Power Markets (Docket No. RM11-7-000 and AD10-11-000; Order No. 755) received October 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3981. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 11-36, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3982. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 11-38, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.