December 7, 2011

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H8245

Constution, laws, and jurisdiction of the United States to installations and devices attached to the seabed of the Outer Continental Shelf for the production and support of production of energy from sources other than oil and gas, and for other purposes.

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Hastings) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX FISH STOCKING ACT

The Speaker pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2351) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Hastings) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALLOWING YSLETA DEL SUR PUEBLO TRIBE TO DETERMINE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

The Speaker pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 1560) to amend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe to determine blood quantum requirement for membership in that tribe.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Hastings) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 470, HOOVER POWER ALLOCATION ACT OF 2011

The Speaker pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and concurring in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 32) to authorize the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make technical corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 470, an Act to further allocate and expand the availability of hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Hastings) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The Speaker pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Levin) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The Speaker pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today we’re here to talk about the need to extend unemployment insurance. The numbers are staggering. If we do not act by the end of this month, in January we'll see a million people lose their unemployment insurance, by mid-February the total will be well over 2 million, and by the end of next year, if we do not act, over 6 million people. As I said, these numbers are staggering. But the people behind these numbers are overwhelming.

We’re here today to talk about the numbers and also talk about the people who are involved. My colleagues and I have had emergencies like this, we have never failed to act. Today, we face an emergency beyond any we’ve seen since the Great Depression, and it’s absolutely vital as a result that we act.

I’m joined by some positive colleagues. I want to call on them. As I do so, I want to read stories. I’ll start by reading just one story and then call on one or more of my colleagues.

Let me start by reading what came in from a person in Amherst, New Hampshire, Jackie: “Unemployment benefits helped me make ends meet while I was using my savings and 401(k) to keep up with everything. Now they are gone. My savings are long gone. My 401(k) is almost gone. I’m watching everything I worked so hard for my entire adult life slip away from me. I am 50. I will never recover from this.”

I would now like to yield to the gentleman from Texas, if he would like to join me.

Mr. REYES. I want to thank my colleague for yielding and some time to speak on this very important issue here.

Mr. Speaker, recently, the Department of Labor reported that the unemployment rate fell to 8.6 percent in November, its lowest point in nearly 3 years. Coincidentally, in El Paso in the 16th District of Texas, the unemployment rate has also declined.

This is very good news and very positive news for not just our respective districts but for our country.

We have been told by economists that once our economy gets going and operating at full strength, it can literally drive the economies of the rest of the world. These positive signs make it evident that, in fact, our economy is moving forward and that we are on the road to recovery. However, as our economy continues to heal, we cannot afford to become complacent. Instead, we need to immediately pass legislation that will help create jobs and put more people back to work.

First, I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we must pass the American Jobs Act. My district, as well as the districts of my colleagues, in talking to them here, would greatly benefit from the President’s Jobs Act. For instance, El Paso would receive over $66 million to upgrade and modernize our schools to meet 21st-century needs. In addition, school districts in the El Paso region would receive funding to keep teachers from being laid off.

For example, our largest school district, the El Paso Independent School District, would receive an estimated $45 million to keep teachers from being laid off and to continue to hire desperately needed teachers in our classrooms. These are smart investments on our part for the future