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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 18, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

LEGISLATION FOR IMPROVING THE 21ST CENTURY

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate what I believe to be the most significant legislation of the 21st century. Of course, I am referring to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Mr. Speaker, as I travel my State of Kansas and across the country, people invariably share with me what they feel their priorities should be for this Federal Government.

Number one, almost everyone will say within 5 or 10 minutes that they think national security is very, very important.

Next, people typically talk to me about how important they feel education is.

Thirdly, people will talk about how important they feel infrastructure is: roads, bridges, railroads, high speed internet, and those types of things.

Mr. Speaker, no matter what your priorities are as an American, none of those will happen unless we have a strong, healthy economy; and that is what I believe the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act does. It helps to continue the strong economy that we have created.

Mr. Speaker, we are so fortunate this year. We are about to celebrate our third quarter in a row of GDP growth over 3 percent. It seems like just January and I was coming here as a rookie Congressman. All the experts and all the press said this country will never see GDP growth again, yet we are about to have our third quarter in a row of it. It just amazes me to hear people continually tell me what we can and cannot do.

I took a second to look at that. Why do we have this strong economy? Why is GDP growth going so well?

I think it is very simple. We have rolled back regulations and slowed that down.

So many people I have talked to have been sitting on the sidelines for the last 8 years, waiting for some certainty. This new President has given them the certainty to invest in this economy. Now it is time to pass this tax reform bill and make this economy even stronger.

From day one, from the first day we got here, we talked about common visions and goals for what tax reform would look like.

Number one, we wanted to make sure that we gave relief to hardworking Americans so that they would be able

to keep more of the money they have earned through their labors.

Number two, we wanted a simpler process.

Number three, we wanted to grow a healthier economy that would create more jobs and pay higher wages.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be here this week and say that we have delivered for the American people.

Let's take a look at this bill.

Number one, it gives relief to hardworking Americans. In Kansas, with the House bill, the average hardworking couple with two children is going to keep \$1,400 more of their money.

But as we continue this process, we tried to make each rendition of this bill better and better. Now, the average Kansas family will be able to keep up to \$2,000 more of their hard-earned money.

But more than that, there are another 5 million Americans who will get another \$2,000 bonus this next year. Those are the people who paid for the ObamaCare health insurance penalty that they refused to take because the insurance was not worth anything.

Many hardworking Americans will keep up to \$4,000 more of their money.

Next, it is simpler. Ninety percent of Americans will be able to do their taxes on the back of a postcard.

Is that not simpler?

Of course, it is. I don't think anybody can argue those first two points.

Thirdly, the goal was to figure out how we grow the economy, how we grow jobs, how we increase wages for people. That is what we have done. We have lowered taxes on small businesses, which will be the main job creators of this economy. By lowering those taxes, they are going to invest more in their people, in labor, and in capital items. Those will all lead to growing this economy.

This is a very easy bill to support, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a Ph.D. in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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