

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### ECONOMIC SECURITY AND RECOVERY ACT of 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 2002*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of legislation I have waited months to be able to support. At long last, the Republican Leadership has brought to the Floor an unemployment benefits extension package that can attract broad, bipartisan backing and finally demonstrate the commitment of this Congress to helping displaced workers weather the current economic climate.

As we all know, the repercussions from the September 11th terrorist attacks compounded the impacts of an already weakened labor market. By the end of January, 1.3 million displaced workers had exhausted their unemployment benefits, and workers continue to use up their benefits at the staggering rate of 80,000 per week nationwide. In my state of Rhode Island, almost 4,000 workers exhausted benefits between November 2001 and January 2002, a 33% increase over the same period last year.

For months, my constituents have been pleading for assistance to help them make ends meet while they search for new employment. For months, I have promised to fight for them in Washington. Yet I have been forced again and again to vote against extended unemployment benefits that the Republican Leadership insisted upon politicizing by combining them with controversial tax cuts. I am pleased to at last have the opportunity to extend a helping hand to struggling families in my district and move beyond the partisan stalemate that has thwarted our past efforts on this issue.

To be sure, this legislation, which includes a thirteen-week extension of unemployment benefits and a modest package of responsible, pro-growth tax proposals, is only a first step. We must still ensure that laid-off workers have access to affordable health insurance for themselves and their families. That is why I am pleased to join many of my Democratic colleagues in supporting a federal subsidy of 75% of COBRA premium costs for a period of 12 months for laid-off workers. We would also give states the option to add a new eligibility category to Medicaid to cover laid-off workers who are not COBRA-eligible for up to 12 months. America's workers desperately need our continued help, and I hope we can work together to address this issue expeditiously.

### TRIBUTE TO MAXINE ADLER

**HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2002*

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent retirement of an out-

standing leader in Maryland's public affairs, Maxine Adler.

I first met Maxine as a freshman delegate during the 1987 legislative session in Annapolis. I learned soon thereafter that her diminutive stature belied a tough, persuasive manner and character which loomed large on the Maryland legislative landscape for many years.

Few Marylanders may be aware of Maxine's long and distinguished career. She began her career in Annapolis as a legislative aide to the Baltimore County Delegation to the Maryland House of Delegates. After graduating cum laude from the University of Baltimore Law School, Maxine worked as a law clerk to the Honorable Richard Gilbert, Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, and as a law clerk to the Department of Economic and Community Development under the Attorney General. For two decades, Maxine served as a successful lawyer and lobbyist as a member of the Baltimore-based law firm of Semmes, Bowen, & Semmes.

In addition, Maxine is a valuable and active participant in the greater Baltimore community. She is a member of the University of Baltimore School of Law Advisory Committee, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Self-Insurance, and a Commissioner on the Baltimore County Commission for Women.

Maxine is also a member of the Women's Housing Coalition's Board of Directors, which provides transitional and permanent housing for homeless, low-income, or at-risk women. Finally, she and her husband, my good friend Robert L. McKinney, were named one of "Baltimore's Power Couples" in the June 2000 edition of Baltimore Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, Maxine will be sorely missed by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle in Annapolis. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Maxine and her husband Bob all the best in their future endeavors.

### LEHIGH VALLEY HERO—BOY SCOUT TROOP 29 OF CEDAR CHURCH IN CETRONIA

**HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2002*

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share my report from Pennsylvania for my colleagues and the American people.

All across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District there are some amazing people who do good things to make our communities a better place. These are individuals of all ages who truly make a difference and help others. I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes for their good deeds and efforts.

Today, I would like to recognize the Boy Scouts of Troop 29 in Cetronia and their Scoutmaster Bob Sperling. These boys and their Scoutmaster have truly made a difference in their community.

On Saturday, December 15, 2001, the Boy Scouts of Troop 29 went to the Cedarbrook nursing home in South Whitehall Township to sing Christmas carols to the residents. Hours later after the Scouts had left to go bowling, a fire broke out at the nursing home, forcing the residents out of the building.

The Scouts and their Scoutmaster received a call a few hours after their visit alerting them that the same nursing home was on fire and the residents were being taken to a local school. Without hesitation, the Scouts headed to the school to offer assistance in any way needed. They used their Scout skills and worked hard unloading the ambulances of patients arriving from the nursing home, keeping their cool all the while.

Thanks to the hard work of the Boy Scouts under the supervision of Scoutmaster Bob Sperling, the Cedarbrook residents were safe, sound and out of harm's way. Boy Scout Troop 29 made a huge difference that night, helping those in need and therefore they are Lehigh Valley Heroes in my book.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my report from Pennsylvania.

### THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FAIR FEDERAL COMPENSATION ACT OF 2002

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2002*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, when I introduce a bill to benefit the city, it generally is unnecessary for city officials to take the time to be present. However, Mayor Williams, Council Chair Cropp, joined me at a press conference today to emphasize the importance of the District of Columbia Fair Federal Compensation Act to the city's economic viability. The bill I am introducing today is as serious as the control board bill was when it was introduced seven years ago. The difference is that the Financial Authority bill was necessary to cure a crisis. The Fair Compensation bill must be enacted to forestall a crisis.

As in the 1990s, this also is a crisis of expenditures rising faster than revenues. However, this problem has nothing to do with the overspending that led to D.C.'s recent insolvency. This time, no matter what the city does, it cannot cut its way out. However, D.C. cannot grow its way out either. The Federal Government has the city fenced in on all sides. It is uniquely harmful to keep a local jurisdiction from raising revenue and then to turn around and foist federal costs on local taxpayers.

The Federal Government does both. First, it requires D.C. taxpayers to foot the bill for services used chiefly by federal workers and visitors: roads tortured by cars, 8 out of 10 originating from the suburbs, other shared infrastructure costs, public safety, and other services. Then the government catches the city at the revenue end—no commuter tax

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