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No. 32

## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 19, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) for 5 minutes.

### THE ECONOMY

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today, we are a Nation at war, we are working to build our homeland security, and we are suffering an economic recession. I am proud to say that our commander-in-Chief, President Bush, has shown strong, resolute leadership in the war against terrorism and has been working to build our homeland security as well as giving Americans the opportunity to go back to work.

One thing we must not forget in this war against terrorism is that it is not

going to begin or end in Afghanistan. The war against terrorism could last years, not just months. But also, if we are going to win the war against terrorism, we have to recognize that we must get our economy moving again.

As we look back, over 1 year ago when President Bush became President, he inherited a weakening economy, an economy that was getting weaker by the day; and the President said that we need to give Americans more spending money, we need to cut taxes, we need to take 20 cents out of every dollar of our budget surplus and give that back to the American workers to help the economy. Well, that tax cut was signed into law in June of this past year, eliminating the marriage tax penalty, eliminating the death tax, and lowering taxes for every American.

Economists were telling us by Labor Day that it was working, the economy was beginning to be on the rebound. Then, of course, the tragedy of September 11 occurred. That terrorist attack on American soil cost thousands of Americans their lives; and since September 11, the psychological blow on the economy of that terrorist attack has cost almost a million Americans their jobs. So we need to get the economy moving again. We need to give Americans the opportunity to go back to work.

Now, I am proud to say that House Republicans have fought hard and led the way to give Americans the opportunity to go back to work. Four times this House of Representatives passed an economic stimulus package and economic security legislation, helping those laid off with extended unemployment benefits and providing incentives for investment and the creation of jobs. We want American workers to be able to go back to work. That is our goal. We recognize that in the past decade it was investment in jobs that created economic growth.

I am proud to say that the fourth time was a charm. After this House

fought month after month, October, November, December, January, and just a few weeks ago we passed for the fourth time legislation to give Americans help, as well as the opportunity to go back to work. Our Democratic friends relented and worked with us in a bipartisan way, and we were able to put on the President's desk legislation to help American workers, and the President signed it into law.

With the economic stimulus and security package we have helped American workers who have been laid off with extended unemployment benefits, and we have also provided incentives for investment and the creation of jobs. This legislation will provide an opportunity to give businesses who purchase assets an opportunity to write that off quicker with something we call 30 percent expensing, or some call bonus depreciation. It essentially provides a way to recover the cost of that pickup truck or that computer or that piece of telecommunications equipment much more quickly.

The benefit of that is felt when a business buys a pickup truck. There is, of course, an auto worker who makes that pickup truck, as well as the parts that go in it, and there is a worker who services and installs equipment in that pickup truck. There is also a worker who is going to operate that pickup truck for that business. That creates jobs and rewards investment. And I am proud to say that the 30 percent expensing was the centerpiece of our economic stimulus plan in rewarding investment.

The legislation will also help homeland security. Many businesses in America felt it was important after September 11 that they make their businesses, their plants, their stores, their offices, their places of business safer and more secure for their workers, their customers, and their visitors; and so their purchase of extra security equipment, safety equipment, software

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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