



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE **108th** CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2003

No. 68

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Thomas J. Rogers, Senior Pastor, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Lake Forest, California, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Your children come to You this day in the midst of war, recession, disease, and uncertainty. We ask You to comfort us in these hard days with a reminder of all the blessings You have showered upon us in the past. For our long history as a free people, for the melting pot of love You have made us, and for the most recent successes You have granted us on the field of battle we praise Your name.

Oh Lord, You have empowered us to liberate the people of Iraq. Now may the liberation of America continue even today, through the work of these good men and women. Give them Your wisdom and Your aid so that they might turn their attention, and the resources the Nation has entrusted into their care, to tasks and projects that will enable everyone You have created to receive this day and all days their daily bread.

Further, bless the work of these Your servants so that everyone in this Nation, following their example, will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with You, our maker and redeemer. I ask this all in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCHIFF led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Members are advised there will be 10 one-minute speeches per side.

DUTY FIRST

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, General Douglas MacArthur once said, "Upon the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds that, upon other fields on other days, will bear the fruits of victory."

Mike Kamon has played on those fields of friendly strife at West Chester Henderson High School and now at West Point. In high school he was a star lacrosse player and could have gone anywhere to college, but he chose West Point. Through his first 3 years at West Point, he distinguished himself as a potent offensive threat. But this year he is a defensive midfielder because that is what his team needs. He is willing to do whatever it takes to see his team succeed, even if it means less glory for himself in his senior season.

On May 31, Mike will become a second lieutenant in the 4th Infantry Division because that is what his country needs. He will train to be an artillery officer, and by February will be deployed to Iraq or some other front in our war on terror. Thank you, Mike, for defending our freedom.

VOTE AGAINST THE BUSH TAX CUT

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to understand just what the White House and the leadership of this Congress have against the poor folk in this country and the millions who have lost jobs because of the mess they have made of the economy.

Just look at the contrast between the frustrations of the people and the Republicans' proposed remedies. Over 43 million people with no insurance, yet they cut Medicaid. With unemployment high, Americans need the security of extended unemployment benefits, yet they refuse the extension Democrats have been fighting for. Those on welfare need more than a stopgap job that leads nowhere, and yet the training that can lift them out of poverty is being denied. People with disabilities, veterans, many others are also being shortchanged.

All children need a quality education, and yet education and college loans are underfunded. States are barely treading water, and all regular people are struggling under an increasing tax burden while taxes are being cut to save corporations and the rich. The Christian values this country was founded on do not reconcile with the actions of the White House and our Republican leadership. Colleagues, vote with the Democrats. Vote against the Bush tax cut, and let us get our country back on the right track.

AMERICA NEEDS TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow this House will consider an economic growth and jobs creation initiative that will provide a much needed short-term stimulus while setting the groundwork for long-term growth. I strongly urge Members to support it.

□ 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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H3765

The Jobs and Growth Tax Act will generate nearly 1 million jobs by the end of next year by putting more money in the hands of consumers and giving businesses incentives to hire and invest.

The naysayers ask how can we afford a tax relief plan at a time when our country faces so many challenges. The real question ought to be how can we expect to meet those challenges while our economy is growing too slowly.

As Rick Wagoner, the chairman of General Motors, said when he endorsed the President's plan, "Growth goes a long way toward addressing what ails you."

Let us take that advice and create economic growth by passing the Jobs and Growth Tax Act. Vote "yes" on H.R. 2.

REJECT EDUCATION FUNDING CUTS

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this House to reject the administration's education cuts. As a former superintendent of my State's public schools, I worked my entire life to improve education for our children.

Last Congress the administration promised to provide historic new funding to help our schools meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. Because of these promises, I voted with the overwhelming bipartisan majority to pass that legislation.

Now, as our schools struggle to avoid being labeled failing by the Department of Education, the administration has proposed massive cuts in educational funding. For the first 3 years of No Child Left Behind, the administration is proposing to underfund it by nearly \$20 billion. These education cuts will make it virtually impossible for our children and schools to meet the tough new standards imposed by the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, my State has led the Nation in raising performance standards in our schools, but tough requirements without real resources will amount to nothing but cruelty for our children and schools. Congress should call time out on the No Child Left Behind Act until the administration provides the funding it has promised to make it work.

□ 1015

INCREASING BONUS DEPRECIATION PROVIDES IMMEDIATE JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the jobs and growth plan developed by the

gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. He has worked hard to include the best of President George W. Bush's solutions to provide more jobs for Americans and giving our economy an immediate boost. Particularly I am appreciative that bonus depreciation will be increased from 30 to 50 percent for 3 years, an initiative similar to the Business Expensing Act of 2003, which I introduced this year. This proposal was championed by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), recognizing that when businesses can save money immediately on buying new equipment more money is put into the economy and more jobs are created.

The Heritage Foundation has estimated that this jobs and growth plan will create 1.2 million new jobs by the end of 2004 alone. Americans need jobs and the economy needs a boost right now. This plan is exactly the right plan at the right time.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

VOTE AGAINST WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND ADULT EDUCATION ACT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against H.R. 1261, the Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act. The unemployment rate in this country jumped to 6 percent last month, leaving 8.8 million Americans without a job. The Republican response to this crisis is a very weak bill that does nothing to create jobs for American workers. The bill also eliminates funding to provide job search and job training assistance to dislocated workers and to those affected by these mass layoffs. Moreover, this bill does nothing to restore the \$440 million in cuts already imposed on the job training programs of this Nation, nor does it protect against an additional \$265 million in proposed cuts for fiscal year 2004.

We need to enact legislation that creates jobs. This bill, coupled with another large tax cut, does nothing to help low-income workers who need relief from this struggling economy. What will it take for this administration to realize that their plans are not working? 7 percent unemployment? 10 percent unemployment?

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 1261 and the other legislation that leaves our Nation's unemployed workers behind.

IN SUPPORT OF THE TAX CUT PLAN

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I come from the Great Lakes

State of Michigan, the home to the big three auto industry companies who are, of course, all absolutely outstanding corporate citizens. Following the terrorist attacks on our Nation on September 11, the big three helped keep our economy moving by offering incentives, like zero interest financing. Without, I think, this very innovative idea, I believe we could have seen an even steeper downturn in our economy.

The economy needs stimulus and the President has offered a very strong jobs and economic growth package which I wholeheartedly support. During the President's recent visit to our State of Michigan, the leaders of the big three auto companies all endorsed the President's jobs package as the best idea to keep our economy rolling. They observed that by eliminating the double taxation of dividends that we would bring about a 6 to 15 percent increase in stock prices. Of course this would help employers to meet their responsibilities to retirees living on a pension and bolster the bottom line of every American with a 401(k).

The President's plan is the best way that we can help families and retirees by putting more money back in their pockets and allowing businesses to create more jobs. I support the President's plan, and I urge my colleagues to do so.

CONGRESS UNDERFUNDING NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND BILL

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago on a bipartisan basis, we voted for the so-called Leave No Child Behind bill. But in the interim period, we have failed to meet our obligations, obligations that we have under that bill. We are underfunding the No Child Left Behind bill by \$11 billion. Yet the students across this country are going to be subjected to the tests mandated under that bill, the States are going to be required to fund these unfunded mandates and it is estimated that perhaps as many as 60 to 80 percent of our schools will be called failing schools.

Mr. Speaker, our students are not failing, our teachers are not failing, our schools are not failing. I will tell you who is failing: The President and those of us who serve in this Chamber. We are failing our schools, our teachers and our students.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AND ITS NEW CENTER FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (CART)

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an institution of