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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who with Your grace can use misfortune or prosperity to bless us, thank You for Your loving purposes that crown our years with goodness.

Thank You, also, for disasters averted and advancements made.

Help us to see, with faith's eyes, each blessing that comes disguised as adversity and every temptation that hides beneath the mask of prosperity.

Let Your love reach others through us, as we seek to be Your ambassadors in a hurting world.

Bless our Senators. May they grow to fear, honor, love and serve You in all ways. Be their protector and teach them Your paths. May their plans prosper as they stay within the circle of Your will.

Help each of us to choose between faith and fear, courage and cynicism, integrity and dishonesty, that we would choose the better way.

We pray this in Your loving Name.
Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will conduct a period of

morning business for up to 1 hour, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the minority leader or his designee and the second 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1072, the highway bill. It is my expectation that following the final remarks of several Senators, Chairman INHOFE will move to table the Warner amendment on seatbelts. Therefore, Senators should expect the first vote to occur prior to noon today.

As a reminder, two cloture motions were filed yesterday in relation to the highway bill. Those cloture votes are scheduled to occur tomorrow. I also remind all Senators that under cloture rules, all first-degree amendments must be filed by 1 p.m. today.

If cloture is invoked on the substitute to the highway bill on Thursday, we will remain on that until disposed of. Members may have germane and timely filed amendments considered but the Senate will act on this measure this week. Members may use some postcloture debate. However, we will remain and complete action on this measure before the weekend.

ECONOMIC GOOD NEWS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will take a moment to comment on the economic good news that does continue to roll in. After weeks of positive indicators, the latest economic reports show that the economy is steadily expanding. Specifically, new jobs are coming online and unemployment continues to fall. According to the latest payroll survey, 112,000 new jobs were created in January, the largest monthly increase since December of the year 2000. Fully 366,000 new jobs were added over the last 5 months.

The national unemployment rate continues to decline. In general, the unemployment rate reached a level of

5.6 percent. That is the fastest 7-month decline in over a decade. In fact, unemployment is now lower than it was, on average, during the 1970s, during the 1980s, or the 1990s. It is still too high and we will continue to work aggressively to lower that unemployment rate. However, with the fastest 7-month decline in a decade, the trends are moving in the right direction.

The Council of Economic Advisers has other good news. On Monday, the Council released the latest economic report of the President. They anticipate the economy will create millions of new payroll jobs by the end of the year. They also emphasize that America is on a path to higher sustained output for years to come.

A survey released in January by the U.S. Institute for Supply Management found, for December, new orders booked by industry increased at their best rate in 50 years. The bottom line is the economy is growing, America is moving in the right direction. Contrary to its critics, President Bush's tax cuts are working.

By passing the tax cuts, we were able to reduce the unemployment rate by nearly 1 extra percentage point. We have increased the number of jobs available by as much as 2 million. And we have increased real GDP by as much as 3 percent. But there is still much to be done.

As we consider these positive numbers, we must also work to enact policies that help every American who needs a job to find a job. We must use the tools at our disposal to create the conditions which lead to job growth. That is one reason passing this highway bill is so crucial.

Every \$1 billion we invest in transportation infrastructure generates more than \$2 billion in economic activity. It also creates an additional 47,500 new jobs. Our roads, our ports, and our railroads are vital to America's economic success. Indeed, it is estimated that the highway bill will add a whopping 2 million jobs to the economy.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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That is 2 million reasons to pass this bill this week.

Today and Thursday, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan is scheduled to deliver his monetary report to the Congress. Chairman Greenspan has expressed confidence that the economy will continue to grow and to grow more jobs. While he does his important work at the Fed, we must continue to do our work in this Chamber to bolster the economy and help create jobs. Lowering health costs, reducing the downward drag of frivolous lawsuits, ensuring affordable energy, cutting redtape, and opening new markets, all of these progrowth policies will help keep America moving forward.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

EXPORTING U.S. JOBS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, 2 days ago President Bush sent to Congress his annual report on the State of America's economy. Contained in that report is a statement that was quite remarkable. After presiding over the loss of 2.6 million jobs, after claiming for 3 years that stopping the job hemorrhage was one of their top priorities, the Bush administration now says that exporting American jobs to China and India and other low-wage nations is good for the American economy.

I read that, and I must have read it two or three times thinking there had to be a catch, thinking there had to be some caveat, there had to be some condition. But there is no condition. The statement from the report could not be more clear. This administration believes that exporting jobs to China and India and other low-wage nations is good for America's economy. They seem to want to turn a jobless recovery into a hopeless recovery.

The President's report is proof that there are those in this administration who simply do not understand what is happening to this economy and how deeply concerned people are about their economic future.

People who think shipping American jobs overseas is good for the economy need to talk to people such as Myra Bronstein. She is not a statistic. She is not an abstract concept on computer models.

Sometimes we focus so much on corporate stock earnings or the Dow Jones Industrial Average, we lose sight of the challenges that real Americans are actually facing. Myra Bronstein knows all about outsourcing. She has a degree in electronic engineering and 15 years of experience in the information technology industry.

Four years ago, she left a good job with AT&T in New Jersey to take a new job with a software development company called Watchmark Corpora-

tion in Bellevue, WA. She was one of about 20 software testers at Watchmark.

One Friday last April, Myra came to work. She and other software testers were called into a meeting. They were told that they were being replaced by workers in India, that their jobs would be gone as they finished training their replacements, and that if they refused to train the new workers they would be ineligible for severance pay, unemployment insurance, or health insurance through COBRA.

Then they were told that the new workers were flying in over the weekend and would be there on Monday. Most of her coworkers just had to train one new person. Because Myra Bronstein was working on the highest priority projects, she actually had to train two replacements. The whole while she was trying frantically to figure out where she was going to find a new job in the midst of the "dot-com" bust and a jobless recovery.

Myra Bronstein is not alone. According to a new national survey that is just being released today, nearly one in four information technology workers said his or her company has offshored jobs. Incredibly, almost one in five reported they themselves had lost a job after training a foreign worker. Ninety-three percent—nearly all—expressed concerns about the impact of offshoring jobs on the IT industry and how it would impact their communities, the economy, and this country. One-third of the workers surveyed said the trend toward outsourcing and offshoring jobs is contributing to layoffs. And more than half said it was pushing down wages and benefits.

When textile manufacturing jobs started to move offshore in the 1980s, workers in those industries were told that the change was good for America's economy. They were told that all they had to do was to learn some new skills, train for some "new economy," and they could get better paying jobs in the technology and service industries.

Workers held up their end of the deal. They got the training. Many did get jobs in the computer and IT industries, in health care and financial services, and other so-called new industries. Now these new jobs are being shipped overseas.

We are offshoring America's future. We are exporting some of our Nation's most promising research and development jobs. These are the jobs that support middle-class families. They are the jobs that enable people to own their own homes and put their kids through college.

Sixty-eight percent of IT workers have a college degree or higher. Half have annual salaries between \$75,000 and \$125,000. Their jobs are being offshored to people who will earn less than \$10,000.

This is not just happening in Seattle or Silicon Valley. It is happening in Sioux Falls and St. Louis and cities and towns all across America. Now the

Bush administration tells us that exporting American jobs is actually good for the economy.

Shipping good jobs overseas may boost the quarterly earnings of some companies. It may make some CEOs look smart and make some quick profit for some investors. But how can it be good for the economy to export America's best jobs? How can it be good for the economy to offshore the jobs that support middle-class families and sustain strong communities? How can exporting jobs create opportunities for Americans?

It is not just the jobs that get outsourced. When American companies ship jobs offshore, they also send tax returns, medical records, credit card numbers, financial statements, and all kinds of other sensitive and confidential consumer information.

America has lost 2.6 million jobs on this administration's watch. That is more jobs than the last 11 administrations put together. Nine million Americans are now out of work. Long-term unemployment is at a 20-year high.

Eighty-thousand workers are exhausting their unemployment benefits every week because Republican leaders refuse to support extending the Federal emergency unemployment benefits.

The Economic Policy Institute recently found that in 48 States jobs are shifting from higher paying to lower paying industries.

In his State of the Union Message, President Bush said he understood, finally, that we have a jobs problem in America. He promised his administration would do more to help people find and train for jobs of the future.

A few days later, a professor from the University of Texas wrote an op-ed in the Washington Post about what she said was a model job training program in Austin. Many of the students at the center do not have the advantages that Myra Bronstein and many other IT workers have. They do not have graduate degrees. What they do have is a fierce desire to make a better life for themselves and their children. Many of them have two jobs. They catch a bus to their classes, where they learn about computer programming and spreadsheets and other supposedly marketable skills.

The professor wrote that one woman who showed her proudly how she "uses MapQuest.com to get directions to the houses that she cleans on her hands and knees, 7 days a week, 12 hours a day, for a pittance," was just lucky to have a job at all.

She wrote:

Before they learned these skills, the trainees thought that it was their lack of computer skills that prevented them from getting good information-age jobs. They thought something was wrong with them. Now they know something is wrong with our job market.

There is something wrong with the job market, and the Bush administration's cavalier endorsement of shipping American jobs overseas can only make