

and February. That is 760,000 workers whose unemployment has expired who cannot find jobs. That is 760,000 families, many of whom have children, who have lost their unemployment compensation, have no income, cannot find jobs.

My friend on the other side of the aisle, the President and the Republican leadership, even though a lot of Republicans want to support it but the President and the Republican leadership will not bring it up, have said no to extending unemployment compensation for those 760,000 workers, those 760,000 families.

Last week, I visited a group of about 50 or 60 machine-shop operators in Akron in my district, in the city of Akron, Ohio. Right before I spoke, a man walked forward and put just a plastic bag full of brochures like this in front of me, and what they are is a bag of about five times this size.

□ 1245

He had gotten several hundred of these every month. These are auction notices he receives in his company, his machine shop, where he employs 10, 15 workers, something like that. Most of the companies represented there last week when I talked to them, were small manufacturers, 10, 20, 50, 100, maybe one company was 150. Most of them were very small manufacturers. But they said they were getting these auction notices from companies all over the United States, and they are basically fire sales, get out of business sales.

This is an auction notice from Houston, Texas. Large capacity fabricating and machine shop closing. They are selling their capital equipment to anyone who will buy it. This is from a company in Springfield, Ohio. Surplus to the ongoing operation of this small manufacturing company. They are selling their surplus equipment. They do not have customers so they are laying off workers. This is another one. Plant closed, everything sells. This is another one. This one is from Cincinnati, Ohio, another company which says excess equipment due to corporate outsourcing.

This one is from Medina, Ohio, just south of my district. Fax facility closed. All must go. This is from Anderson, Indiana. Assets no longer required in the continuing operations because of foreign competition and outsourcing. This is one from Portland, Maine. This is from Newfoundland, New Jersey. This is one from Warrenton, Pennsylvania, a company going out of business. Willoughby, Ohio, Kent, Ohio.

Companies all over this country, Mr. Speaker, are going out of business, laying off 10 and 20 and 50 and 100 workers. Manufacturing jobs. One out of six manufacturing jobs in my State has been lost since George Bush became president. His answer to every single bad piece of economic news is more tax

cuts for the richest people in our country and more trade agreements like NAFTA that will ship jobs overseas; that will hemorrhage jobs to Mexico and China.

Here is the result of the President's economic policy. It is plant closing after machine shop closing after downscaling and downsizing because of outsourcing, because of foreign competition, because of the fact that this President has no manufacturing policy whatsoever. One out of six manufacturing jobs in my State of Ohio has simply gone away in the last 3 years.

As the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) said, George Bush will be the first President since Herbert Hoover to have lost jobs during his time in office to the tune of about 3 million jobs, it looks like.

Going back to those 760,000 workers who have seen their unemployment expire. While Members of Congress get paid \$3,000 a week, \$3,000 a week, this body has absolutely failed, just failed, just ignored, just brazenly, callously been disdainful of those workers who have lost their jobs, cannot find work, and had their unemployment benefits expire.

This is not welfare, this is unemployment. It is called unemployment insurance. It is insurance in case you are laid off. These are 760,000 workers whose unemployment has expired. This Congress is too callous and too hard-hearted to help those 760,000 families while our economic policies continue to fail.

TRIBUTE TO THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA AND THE GIRL SCOUTS OF GUAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURNS). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, as the Girl Scouts of America celebrate their 92nd anniversary this Friday, March 12, and the Guam Girl Scouts celebrate their 69th anniversary, I would like to take this time to commend the organization for its continuing commitment to improving the lives of young girls in America and abroad.

The Girl Scouts have fostered the individual talents of the young girls they serve through learning activities focusing on education, health, physical fitness, community service, and cultural exchange. The Girl Scouts have helped instill strong leadership and decision-making skills in millions of young girls.

Through its U.S.A. Girl Scouts Overseas, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. serves approximately 16,000 girls in more than 81 countries. Guam Girl Scouts is one of the longest-serving community organizations on Guam. They have served thousands of young girls, including myself, since 1935.

Last week, representatives from our local Girl Scouts organization, along

with Girl Scouts from across the Nation, journeyed to Washington, D.C. to speak to Members of Congress about issues affecting the program and our society today.

I was visited by Monica Pido, President of the Board of Directors of the Guam Girl Scouts, and Vickie Fish, Executive Director of Guam Girl Scouts. I was impressed by the range of programs that they are undertaking to increase girls' safety, promote math and science education, and improve girls' health and fitness. Preventing youth violence in communities and ensuring girls feel emotionally and physically safe is one of the latest proactive efforts of our Girl Scouts.

Their P.A.V.E. the Way youth violence prevention initiative is an innovative way to improve the safety of girls and communities throughout our Nation.

Girl Scouts provide a structure and stability to girls between the ages of 5 and 17 years old, teaching them lessons and building character that will last a lifetime. Girl Scouts really make a difference, one girl at a time.

Today, with more than 50 million women across the Nation having been involved in girl scouting as a child, the difference Girl Scouts make is enormous. As a former girl scout, I can attest to the quality and success of these programs.

I congratulate Girl Scouts as they celebrate their anniversary and hope that they will continue to be a part of many girls' lives in the years to come.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

We will praise You, Lord, with open hearts. We will recount all Your wonders. We will rejoice in You and be glad, just judge of heaven and Earth.

You are enthroned on high overseeing every nation and all peoples. You hold the just in Your balance and destroy the wicked. You take up the cause and interests of this government as all others. You will guide the course of events here in Congress. In the end, its accomplishments will be measured and its failures will not be overlooked. For You are a stronghold for the oppressed and will judge everyone with truth.

Those who know Your name will place their trust in You always, because You never forsake those who seek You and seek Your ways. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia 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.

THANKING INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCING THE MARCH OF FREEDOM

(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, one of my life goals in public service has been to promote democracy and freedom throughout the world. A leading proponent of this goal is the International Republican Institute, widely revered as IRI. Founded in 1983, this visionary nonprofit organization responded to President Ronald Reagan's call in 1982 that "we must be staunch in our conviction that freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few, but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings."

IRI has advanced the march of freedom by teaching nations recovering from Communist and authoritarian totalitarian regimes how to self-govern through the rule of law. IRI adheres to the fundamental American principles of individual freedom, equal opportunity, and entrepreneurial spirit that foster economic development.

I have seen IRI's success firsthand in Bulgaria, as I joined a delegation to observe their first free elections since victory in the Cold War. They have democracy efforts in 56 countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan, China, Slovakia, and Russia.

I want to personally thank IRI's president, George A. Folsom, for his commitment to bringing the hope of freedom to people all over the world.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS OUTSOURCING RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to jobs and the economy, this administration has outsourced its responsibility.

The Department of Labor has just given us proof. February unemployment figures are grim and include a stunning revelation: the private sector actually lost jobs last month. The meager 21,000 jobs, new jobs, all came from local and State government. This is not economic recovery; it is an economic crisis. Long-term unemployment is at its highest level in 20 years. The unemployment rate among teens is a staggering 37 percent. The Community Service Society says in some cities the unemployment rate among black men is 50 percent.

The administration has turned its back on average Americans. We must pass extended unemployment benefits. An administration that does not care about the average American is an administration that has outsourced its leadership. It has gone somewhere. We need to get it back.

ECONOMIC JOBS AND GROWTH PLAN IS WORKING FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, we have some great challenges before our country in today's world; and one of them, of course, is moving our economy forward.

I am pleased to report to the House that the Economic Jobs and Growth Plan that was signed into law by President Bush in May of last year is working. We have seen some real benefits as a result of that Jobs and Economic Growth Plan, plans that cut taxes for every American, eliminated the marriage tax penalty, doubled the child tax credit, and also provided incentives for investment.

As a result of the President's plan that was passed into law by this Congress, we have seen a generation of well over 300,000 new jobs just in the last few months. I would also report that as a result of the bonus depreciation, the extra 50 percent that businesses can use for deducting the cost of buying a company car or an office computer or telecommunications equipment, a machine tool that, as a result of that bonus depreciation, we have now seen the highest level ever of investment by the private sector, by business, and capital assets, cars and trucks, machine tools, computers. When we encourage a business to buy a new com-

pany car, to buy a machine tool, to buy telecommunications equipment, to buy other types of equipment, that creates jobs.

The President's plan is working.

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WEEK

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am wearing a Liz Claiborne, very attractive, very glamorous scarf which is being used and is being handed out to Members of Congress, especially women Members of Congress this week, as we call attention to Violence Against Women and Stop Violence Against Women Week. The bipartisan Women's Caucus and the Hispanic Caucus are kicking off this event this week with a reception later on.

The point is to wear something beautiful in order to draw attention to a very ugly phenomenon in our country and around the world, and that is violence against women, very closely related to child abuse. One way to stop child abuse is to focus more on violence against women themselves. We have a bill, the Violence Against Women Act, of course, which means that Congress itself regards this as a major phenomenon in our society.

Mr. Speaker, let us use this entire week to call attention to it and to eliminate it once and for all from the United States of America and from the world.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 8, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 8, 2004 at 3:15 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits a report on implementation of PL 107-228 concerning Russian Debt Reduction for Nonproliferation.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON AUTHORITY FOR RUSSIAN FEDERATION DEBT REDUCTION FOR NONPROLIFERATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-171)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message