

professionalism of the staff will enable the Office to continue its successes and progress.

Over this period, the Office also has prepared and submitted to the Committee on the Judiciary bills to enact two titles of the Code into positive law. In addition, a bill to enact a third title should be transmitted to the Committee shortly. Also, nearing completion is a bill to complete the enactment of Title 46, Shipping.

None of this could have been accomplished without the support and expertise of the dedicated staff of the Office. I am deeply grateful for their assistance and wish them every success. Finally, I gratefully acknowledge the assistance and support that I, and the Office, have received from the many House Officers and Offices, especially the Speaker, the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the Parliamentarian, and the fine staffs of those Offices and the Committee.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN R. MILLER,  
Law Revision Counsel.

APPOINTMENT OF LAW REVISION COUNSEL, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 285c, and the order of the House of December 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of Mr. Peter LeFevre as Law Revision Counsel for the House of Representatives, effective May 4, 2004.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF HON. TOM LATHAM, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from James D. Carstensen, Communications Director for the Honorable TOM LATHAM, Member of Congress:

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal trial subpoena for testimony issued by the District of Columai Superior Court.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JAMES D. CARSTENSEN,  
Communications Director.

QUESTIONS TO ADMINISTRATION IN WAKE OF LATEST IRAQI ATROCITIES

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe any of us who believe in a civilized world and the respect for human life, respect for the rule of law and just an outright commitment, appreciation and connection to our fellow Americans could imagine the heinousness of the act yesterday in

Iraq that took the lives of five of our soldiers and four civilians. We now have lost more young men and women in the United States military in post-war Iraq than we did during the declaration or the call for war by this administration.

My sympathy goes out to those families who mourn, those who mourn for their loved ones that died before yesterday and, of course, the heinous act of yesterday.

It is time now for the Bush administration to tell the American people the truth. How long and what efforts will they take to stop this reckless violence against both our troops and as well civilians, to begin to put together a collaborative effort, Mr. Speaker, so that this kind of violence is stopped and that our work is unanimous with our allies and that we can truly provide for democracy in Iraq.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3108, PENSION FUNDING EQUITY ACT OF 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider a conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3108) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily replace the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements, and for other purposes, that the conference report be considered as read, and that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

OHIO COMPANIES CLOSE DOORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Secretary John Snow, the President's second top economic adviser, was in Ohio this week trying to defend the administration's economic and budget policies. Secretary Snow said outsourcing is a good thing. Outsourcing creates more efficiencies in the economy.

I wish that Secretary Snow, when trying to justify the President's economic policies, had been with me in

Akron, Ohio, a couple of weeks ago. I spoke to a group of business owners, small manufacturers, the Akron machine shop, group of machine shop owners and operators. They are concerned that Ohio has lost one out of six manufacturing jobs, probably permanently. They are concerned that Ohio has lost 236,000 jobs overall. That is about 1,500 jobs a week since President Bush took office. That is about 205 jobs every day since President Bush took the oath of office on January 20, 2001.

When I was talking to these machine shop operators, one gentleman presented me with a pile of brochures about twice this size. Actually, I do not have all of them with me. These are going-out-of-business sale notices, auction notices from companies all over the country, small manufacturing companies. He receives a stack of about that many every month, he said, at his place of business, companies going out of business, selling their equipment.

Let me just share some of these. A company in Cleveland, Ohio, selling all its assets; a company in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, absolute auction; company in Waterville, Ohio, near Toledo, live one site, selling everything; company in Springfield, Ohio, going out of business; company in Mansfield, Ohio, where I grew up, that is going out of business, selling its real estate and all its production capacity; a company in Sydney, Ohio, major equipment manufacturer, public auction; company in Dayton, Ohio, facility closing; company in Cleveland, Ohio, assets no longer required in the continuing operations of this tube mill facility; a company in Akron, Ohio, in my district going out of business; another company in Cincinnati, Ohio, I believe, public auction, going out, precision machining facility; a company in Toledo, Ohio, going out of business, don't miss this sale, everything sold; a company in Youngstown, Ohio, going out of business; a company in Painesville, Ohio, going out of business; a company in Medina, Ohio, facility closed, all must go; Marion, Ohio, complete shop close-out auction; Tipp City, Ohio, machine tool auction, selling everything; Cleveland, Ohio.

That is just the Ohio companies here that are going out of business.

I bring this up partly because the administration does not get it. They keep talking about the economy is coming back. We are not seeing jobs created, and we are not seeing jobs created because the administration's answer to this kind of bad news is more tax cuts for the most privileged people in our country with the hope that some of those tax cuts will trickle down and maybe provide some jobs and more trade agreements that hemorrhage jobs, that ship jobs overseas.

This administration needs to do two or three things immediately. We need to extend unemployment benefits. Fifty thousand Ohioans in the next couple of months will have had their unemployment benefits expire. These

are people that want to have jobs, that are looking for work. It is 50,000 workers. It is 50,000 families that lose their benefits in communities all over my State, all over this country.

The second thing the administration needs to do is allow for trade adjustment assistance. They have opposed that, even though all those jobs that have gone to Mexico and China and all over the world, those workers need help.

And, third, the administration needs to pass the Crane-Rangel bill, bipartisan legislation that will give tax breaks to those corporations that hire people in the United States.

The President, on the other hand, wants to give more tax cuts to the wealthiest individuals and more tax cuts to the largest corporations and rewarding those companies that are outsourcing, that are sending their jobs overseas. We need to reward those companies and give incentives to those companies that are hiring American workers and build back our manufacturing base. My State has lost one out of six manufacturing jobs in the last 3 years. My State has lost 205 jobs every single day of the Bush administration. These pleas continue to fall on deaf ears. The President tries the same tired solutions. They have not worked for 3 years. It is time we changed course.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to assume the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

#### TRADE DEFICIT AND GAS PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak about two separate issues but both related to the economic well-being, the pocketbooks of the American people.

First, the trade deficit. The Washington Post reported on February 16 that our trade deficit reached a record \$489 billion in 2003. The story said that "while the trade report showed the robust growth in U.S. consumption, it also provided a stark reminder of problems on the economy's productive side. In particular, the lack of employment

growth which is attributable in part to the loss of jobs to foreign competition."

At a hearing before the subcommittee I chair, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, the head of the World Shipping Council said ships were coming to the U.S. full but leaving empty.

□ 1815

We cannot sustain this type of deficit for many more years. By far the largest trade imbalance is with China and will probably be around \$150 billion this year. With a tiny bit less than 4 percent of the world's population, we buy 25 percent of the world's goods. This means that every other country desperately wants into our markets. We have tremendous trade leverage that we have not used as we should have. It has been used mainly to help large multinational companies which have had great influence, too much influence, in our government.

However, our trade agreements have been detrimental to the majority of American small and medium-sized businesses and to our workers. I believe other countries are probably amazed that we have not been tougher in trade negotiations.

We should tell any nation with which we have a large trade imbalance, starting with China, that we want to be friends, that we want cultural and educational exchanges, tourism, and especially trade; but we want that trade to be both free and fair. We should tell the Chinese and others to start looking for products they can buy from us because if they do not start bringing down the trade deficits within a reasonable time, we will have to renegotiate some of our trade agreements.

William Hawkins, Senior Fellow, at the U.S. Business and Industry Council, summed it up best in a recent column in the Washington Times: "Commerce is driven by competition, making trade rivalry a part of the larger struggle of nations for independence, security, and prosperity."

Mr. Speaker, I am sick and tired of seeing so many millions of American jobs going to other countries, and there is tremendous concern about this all across this Nation.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, gas prices. Gas prices have risen to some of their highest levels ever, primarily for two reasons: one, we are being robbed by foreign oil producers; and, two, extreme environmentalists oppose any oil production in the U.S. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a 19.8 million acre site, 35 times the size of the Great Smokey Mountains. Yet some left-wing extremists oppose drilling on some 2,000 acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, about 1/100 of 1 percent of the refuge, in a part that is a frozen tundra with no trees or bushes for many, many miles. We have not opened a new oil refinery since 1975, and something like 36 have been forced to close since 1980 due to too many rules and regulations. If

we do not, Mr. Speaker, we will become even more vulnerable to foreign nations and damage both our economy and our national security.

These environmental extremists almost always come from very wealthy or upper-income families, and perhaps they do not realize how much they are hurting the poor and the lower-income and the working people of this country, but we need to produce more U.S. oil to bring down these gas prices.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

#### RECOGNIZING AUGUST WILSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to August Wilson, the leading playwright of his generation and an icon of contemporary American theatre.

For more than 20 years, August Wilson's sometimes searing, but always provocative, dramas have flung theatregoers into the lives and circumstances of black Americans. Performed throughout the country, these works have amused and disquieted us. They have deepened our understanding of our history and our society.

In recognition of the unforgettable portraits he has created, Mr. Wilson has received repeatedly every award bestowed by the literary community, including two Pulitzer Prizes, and five Tony Awards. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

August Wilson has been a resident of Seattle since 1990. So it is quite appropriate that the Seattle's Rainier Club, one of the oldest entities in the city, has named him its laureate for 2004-2005. This occasion offers all of us a most welcome opportunity to salute Mr. Wilson for his transforming contributions to American theatre.

He joins the other laureates of Seattle, Jonathan Raban; Ernestine Anderson, the jazz artist; Dave Horsey, the Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist. He has been a real tribute to our city