

road to an economic recovery. Yes, everyone who lost a job has not yet found one, but the good news is the fastest growth in 20 years, over a million jobs created within a year, we are on record pace to earn back and build back the jobs that we lost and that is good news for America.

#### THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IS STRONG

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

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I have noted with interest that some prominent Democrats have decided that part of their election strategy is apparently to scare the American people into believing that the economy is weak.

I hate to rain on their parade, but here are some numbers: Inflation is at record lows; interest rates have been at record lows; real GDP has grown 5 percent during the last four quarters, the fastest annual rate in almost 20 years; the unemployment rate is 5.6 percent, which is lower than the 30 year historical average. Real disposal personal income increased at 4.9 percent annual rate in the first quarter of 2004.

Mr. Speaker, it sounds to me like some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, including the presumptive nominee for President, have apparently failed to do their homework. I, for one, do not think the voters are going to be impressed by this nonsense.

#### THE REAL RECORD ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight on the economic outlook in America and in my home State of Michigan. Let us look at the facts. Real GDP has grown 5 percent during the last four quarters, the fastest annual growth in almost 20 years. Inflation remains low, productivity has grown at the fastest 3-year rate in 40 years. Business investment surged 12½ percent in the last four quarters. Industrial production saw its largest quarterly increase in nearly 4 years during the first quarter of 2004 and increased further in April. Yes, even in Michigan we added 8,300 jobs just last month.

But more important than all of these statistics is that real disposable income is on the rise. That is more money in the hands of moms and dads all across the country who can invest in their family and buy the things they need. More jobs for our workers and more prosperity for our families. Now, that is a record we can be proud of.

#### JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

(Mr. PORTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here also to talk about our economy. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) just talked about all the positive economic indicators. I guess one could say the only economic indicator that is not positive are the statements from the presumptive Democrat nominee for President. And I do not know why he is doing it because it hurts the economy to badmouth the economy, to talk it down. It reduces consumer confidence at a time when we need to be sure that consumers are confident about where we are.

Before me, others talked about the fact that our unemployment numbers have gone from 6.3 percent down to 5.6 percent. That is lower than the average in the 1970s, 1980s, or 1990s. 1.4 million jobs have been created in the last 9 months.

Let me talk about those jobs. These are good-paying jobs. After tax income increased at a strong 4.9 percent annual rate in the first quarter of this year. Think about that. Hourly compensation in the last year has gone up 2.7 percent. That is faster than the 1.5 percent in the 1990s and people talk about its great growth. Average weekly earnings increased 2.5 percent from the same period a year ago.

So this notion that somehow we are creating jobs but they are not the right jobs or not increasing income are just wrong. Income is up. Productivity is up. Jobs are up.

Mr. Speaker, some politicians who are serving their own special interests are bad-mouthing this economy, but it is strong and good. It can get stronger if we take the right steps here in Congress.

#### UNFAIR ALLOCATION OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDS

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

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protest the unfair practice by the City of Miami, Florida, in allocating Federal urban area security money to Broward, Palm Beach, and Monroe Counties. Under the current definition, Broward and Palm Beach and Monroe are integral partners with Miami and Miami-Dade County in protecting south Florida's over 5 million residents.

However, in the over \$30 million allocated to the south Florida urban area, only 10 percent was assigned to Broward County and zero dollars to Palm Beach and Monroe Counties, and, in fact, the other municipalities in Dade County.

Mr. Speaker, to neglect the necessary funding these other three counties deserve is simply outrageous. Both Palm Beach and Broward Counties have an international airport, seaport, and critical petroleum reserves. Let us not for-

get, Mr. Speaker, that this area was the home to al-Qaeda operatives prior to 9/11.

So I am here today to voice my unwavering support for the Department of Homeland Security, to create a new urban area for Palm Beach and Broward Counties. I am speaking for my constituents and will continue to do so until this outrageous offense is resolved.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4548, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 686 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 686

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4548) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.