

In any event, some of these pseudoeconomic forecasters say we need to increase taxes to stimulate the economy. Well, that makes no sense. In fact, we ought to do just the opposite. We need to make the tax cuts permanent because tax cuts historically prove they work. They work to stimulate the economy. They did so under Presidents Kennedy, Reagan, and Bush. Americans need to keep more of their own money, and the economy will prosper. And who benefits from tax cuts? Anybody that pays taxes benefits from tax cuts. Americans who don't pay taxes are not affected.

Cut the fraud and abuse in the Federal bureaucracies, cut wasteful spending, and cut taxes to bring a sunny forecast to our economy.

And that's just the way it is.

SOLAR TAX INCENTIVES: "MUST PASS" LEGISLATION IN 2008

(Ms. GIFFORDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, in the week before we adjourned for the holidays, Congress, in a bipartisan effort, passed, and the President signed, the Energy Independence and Security Act. This bill, which is now law, represents a major stride forward towards a clean energy future. I applaud my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for moving this historic and very important legislation.

It was a good first step, but we are not there yet. The real meat of an effective energy package, which was not included in the legislation, must be the extension of critical tax incentives. These are essential for the solar industry to really take root and flourish. This is one of the reasons why I introduced H.R. 3807, the Renewable Energy Assistance Act, to improve and extend vital tax incentives for solar energy. These incentives will spur innovation, decrease our carbon emissions, and reduce our dependency on foreign energy.

In this time of economic uncertainty, it is important that we provide this critical stimulus so that we can move forward on these renewable energy efforts. We have to act this year, before the end of 2008. Doing so will get America back on track and working toward a better and brighter future.

JEANNETTE HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, congratulations to Coach Ray Reitz and the Jeannette Jayhawks football team, who are the Class AA football champions, beating every team they played this year by more than 20 points. Senior quarterback Terrell Pryor, who is also USA Today's Offensive Player of the Year, scored five of the seven touchdowns in

their 49-21 win. He is the first player in State history to eclipse both 4,000 yards rushing and 4,000 yards passing.

But Jeannette is champions in the classroom as well, with McKee Elementary being a Blue Ribbon school, and all their schools receiving the Keystone Achievement Recognition this year, and the school district getting the bronze medal. Great accomplishment for a small school district.

Congrats to the Jayhawks for excellence in the classroom and on the field.

SUPPORT HOPE VI

(Mr. CUELLAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3524, the HOPE VI Improvement Reauthorization Act of 2007. I commend Representative WATERS and the members of the Financial Services Committee for supporting a bill with such valuable enhancement and improvement to the HOPE VI grant program.

This legislation reauthorizes a program that represents one of our government's best efforts to provide quality housing for low-income families. Again, I am particularly pleased with one provision of this legislation that will help communities rebuild in the wake of severe natural disasters and emergencies.

For example, in my congressional district there is one particular county public housing unit in Starr County that has been destroyed by flood waters when it rose to dangerous levels. This was not the first time the Housing Authority of Starr County has had to manage severe flooding damage and subsequent resident displacement. In fact, since 1981, this public housing unit has experienced major unit-destroying flooding seven different times.

This legislation gives the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development the latitude to waive the public housing authority's fund-matching requirements in cases of extreme distress and emergency.

This is a good piece of legislation. I ask for support of this legislation.

KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Korean American Day, which was held this past Sunday to honor the achievements, to honor the contributions of Korean Americans to our country. Back on January 13 of 1903, the first Korean immigrants came here to the United States; and since that time, Korean Americans have taken root and thrived in this country through their strong ties, their hard work, their commitment to their rich heritage and values, education, and entrepreneurship.

But, Madam Speaker, we have an ally and friend in South Korea, and they

have been a friend for the decades. Over this time, South Korea has emerged as a major economic power, our seventh largest trading partner. It is vital that Congress take up and pass the Korean-U.S. trade agreement.

Let me tell you why: this particular agreement, the U.S. International Trade Commission, just released its report. They say this agreement can benefit the economy of the United States of America to the tune of over \$10 billion, between \$10 billion and \$11.9 billion.

We stand to gain if this passes. It's vital that we continue to open up new markets for our goods and services. This agreement accomplishes that.

TRIBUTE TO JACQUELINE MONTEIRO DACOSTA

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sympathies to a wonderful Rhode Island family who has lost a devoted loved one named Jacqueline Monteiro Dacosta, and to briefly share with you the impact that she has had on so many lives here in Rhode Island.

She worked in my office for 11 years, and during that time she touched countless lives who sought her advice and help on a multitude of issues. At the end of it, she always made them feel at ease. She worked in my office and filed many claims and issues; but in the midst of all of it, she made people feel good about themselves, and always did her work. The number of letters I have for her are extensive, and the testament of her good works were in the wake that she had, where thousands of people showed up to pay tribute to her life and celebrate it. Next month, I will take a trip with her family to the islands of Cape Verde, her ancestral homeland, where we will plant a tree in her memory.

I just want to extend my condolences to her family: Jackie's parents, Jose and Adelisa Monteiro; her children, Stephanie and Justin; her siblings, Filomena, Osvaldo, and Jose, Jr., in continuing to honor Jackie's memory and her joyous spirit. We will miss you, Jackie, we love you, and we will never forget you.

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY MEDIA FAIRNESS POLL

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, a Sacred Heart University poll released this month found that less than 20 percent of those surveyed believed news media reporting. Almost nine out of 10 Americans believe that the news media attempt to influence public opinion, and about the same number

think the media attempt to influence public policies.

Fewer than one in three Americans give the media positive rating for “keeping any personal bias out of stories, fairness, presenting and even balance of views, and presenting negative and positive views equally.” By four-to-one margins, Americans see the New York Times and National Public Radio as having a liberal bias, and by a three-to-one margin, Americans see journalists and broadcasters as having a liberal bias.

We need to encourage the media to adhere to the highest standards of their profession. Only then can we restore Americans’ faith in news reporting.

A METRICS APPROACH

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, when Congress considers competing proposals to stimulate the economy, why not take a businesslike approach and consider the “metrics” of previous efforts? When the current administration took office, the Dow Jones Industrial Average stood at 10,587. Yesterday, it was 12,472, representing a gain of 18 percent over 7 years. Unemployment and poverty rates are higher. Our debt is staggering. Our trade deficit is the highest in history.

During the previous Democratic administration, the Dow Jones Industrials rose 328 percent over an 8-year period. Unemployment fell every year, millions were lifted out of poverty, and we achieved a budget surplus.

So this time around, ask yourself, which model works for me? Which model was better? I think the facts speak for themselves.

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WORKING IN A BIPARTISAN MANNER TO STAVE OFF IMPENDING ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, one year into a liberal Democratic majority in Congress, the economy is struggling. The big government policies of the new majority are taking their toll. High gasoline prices, the subprime market crisis in housing and news that inflation is at a 17-year high all demand a bipartisan stimulus package in the next 30 days. Congress must act, and must act swiftly.

But there will be choices to make. Democrats want an extension of unemployment insurance benefits and tax rebates. Republicans will accept rebates, but they also want incentives for businesses, while avoiding tax increases to offset the package.

I submit that Congress must focus stimulus on the kind of economic stim-

ulus that will create jobs and growth for small business and family farmers. The real antidote to the impending recession is more money in the hands of the wage earner and the wage payer. This is and always has been the pathway to prosperity in the American economy.

I urge my colleagues to work in a bipartisan manner to stave off this impending economic downturn in the best interests of all of the American people.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3524, HOPE VI IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 922 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 922

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. 3524) to reauthorize the HOPE VI program for revitalization of severely distressed public housing, 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 except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. 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 Committee on Financial Services. 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 Committee on Financial Services 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 except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, 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 except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. 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 recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration in the House of H.R. 3524 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

SEC. 3. House Resolution 894 is laid upon the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my colleague from the Rules Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS). All time yielded is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 922.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 922 provides for consideration of H.R. 3524, the HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007, under a structured rule. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate, controlled by the Committee on Financial Services, and the rule also makes in order seven of the eight amendments submitted to the Rules Committee.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support today of the HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act and this rule. HOPE VI is a partnership between the Feds and local communities that started in the 1990s that revitalizes our communities across this country by replacing old, distressed public housing projects with modern housing and new communities that are healthy, safe and affordable.

Our renewed effort could not come at a more important time, because so many families across America are in the grips of a housing crisis. Foreclosures are way up, and options for safe, clean and affordable housing are down. Just last month in my home county, Hillsborough County, in Florida, there were over 1,000 foreclosures filed, a huge jump from last year. And affordable apartments and housing are few and far between.

The House of Representatives over the past months has been doing a great deal to throw lifelines to our families, our seniors and veterans when it comes to housing. We have passed bills in this House that help homeowners avoid foreclosure, that provide resources to local communities, to build safe and clean affordable housing, and that cracks down on predatory lending.

Families across America also should be aware that the Congress passed a helpful new law that is now in effect for 3 years that relieves homeowners