

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TAXING BANK BONUSES

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Yesterday, I introduced H.R. 4414, a bill that imposes a 75 percent tax on the outside bonuses bankers are paying themselves from windfall profits earned from massive Federal Government support.

This bill is necessary because bankers are about to pay out some of the largest bonuses in history. All banking corporations, whether they received direct assistance or not, received substantial benefits from government bailouts. Bankers' failures to self-regulate, let us remember, were the direct result of the crisis we're in today. They need to be told that the money they're making is a public trust, not something they've earned for good behavior.

Bank profits are the result of a deliberate Federal Government policy to restore banking capital and ultimately investment in American prosperity. Banking bonuses have nothing to do with these objectives, and payouts to bankers are a form of appropriation of public wealth.

Banks could be using their profits to do many things to improve the prospects of economic recovery, including strengthening their capital base, recognizing and writing off their real estate losses, reducing fees charged to customers, especially for seniors and struggling consumers, and increasing lending to small and medium-sized companies.

Support H.R. 1414.

PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(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. In South Carolina last week, I met with people making a difference promoting jobs by visiting the OneStop employment centers across the district. I visited the directors and staff, desk to desk, in Columbia, Lexington, Aiken, Barnwell, Orangeburg, Hampton, Ridgeland, and Beaufort. I want to thank the energetic, optimistic, and talented employees and commissioners of the Employment Security Commission for their dedication to helping put people back to work.

Another economic development is being announced for South Carolina today. The Estill Correctional Facility is adding 50 more jobs with a biomass contract with Ameresco. We welcome the recent economic commitments to our State from Four Star Industries,

Boeing, DHL, Scotsman Ice, Dixie Narco, Ameresco at SRS, and now Estill Correctional Facility. The combination of low taxes, worker training, right-to-work protections, and less regulatory redtape is a sound recipe to attract business. This commonsense approach should be applied at the national level.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HONORING BOBBY SALCEDO

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

Ms. CHU. I rise today to speak of a shocking murder and a tragic loss to my California district. On New Year's eve, Bobby Salcedo was in a restaurant with family and friends in Durango, Mexico when gunmen burst in, took six of the men away, and shot each one to death execution style. Bobby was only 33 years old.

With Bobby, they murdered an exemplary U.S. citizen. He was an elected member of the El Monte City School District Board. He returned to his alma mater, Mountain View High School, to become its assistant principal. He was studying for his doctorate in education at UCLA. He dedicated his life to helping youth and was a rising star in our community.

Bobby's death shows that the violence done by Mexican drug cartels is not in some faraway land; its tentacles affect us in the U.S. all too closely. For the sake of Bobby Salcedo, we must end the violence of the Mexican drug cartels. My heart goes out to the family.

THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

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

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, the New Orleans Saints are having a historic season. This success has benefited our city tremendously. And with their first playoff game kicking off this Saturday, I wanted to give constituents a chance to honor them. Today's statement is from Jewelyn Wellborn.

Jewelyn writes: "The reason we are proud of the Saints, the reason we rally behind them, has less to do with the scoreboard and more to do with the heart, soul, and fire of the city. Your average New Orleanian is characterized by different concepts that seem so opposite of one another. There are those who have always called New Orleans home and some who came for only a few years and fell in love.

"Watching the Saints helps us escape from rebuilding, yet reminds us of why we came home. The Saints are an exact reflection of us, our city, our home, and that's why the Saints are my home team."

HEALTH CARE AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, the American people continue to struggle in this difficult economy. One of the counties in my North Carolina district is now suffering with the State's highest unemployment rate. Yes, people are hurting and need to be put back to work. The transformation of our Nation's health care system represents an enormous opportunity to create jobs and fuel economic growth.

Each year, our health care reform plan will create 250,000 to 400,000 jobs. These reforms will also allow small business to add an estimated 80,000 jobs. Without these reforms, the health care premiums paid by businesses in coming years will more than double. Money needlessly spent on health care premiums by small businesses is really needed to hire workers, increase salaries, and refuel the economy.

Madam Speaker, Americans cannot afford the status quo. Doing nothing is not an option. I urge my colleagues to join us in improving the health care delivery system.

AMERICAN CONSERVATION AND  
CLEAN ENERGY ACT

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

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the U.S. is \$800 billion in debt to China, and yet Congress continues to spend, having to raise the debt limit time and time again.

We do not grow America's jobs by borrowing hundreds of billions from China, sending hundreds of billions of dollars to OPEC for oil, or taking hundreds of billions more from Americans in new taxes.

What we can do, however, is by using some of our oil off our coast, we can use it to create jobs, restore our environment, use conservation and new technologies to cut waste and improve energy efficiency, develop innovative, efficient, and clean energy generation in all sectors, and rebuild America's inefficient transportation and energy infrastructure.

By putting our resources to work, we put millions of Americans to work here at home, and all this can be done without raising taxes. I encourage my colleagues to join the effort by supporting and being cosponsors of H.R. 2227, the American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act. It's about new jobs for a new, clean America.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. The House is back in session this week, and at the top of the agenda is health care. I am here to