

With that, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 2½ minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my friend from Michigan as well for this debate.

I listened very closely and very intently to the words of Speaker BOEHNER, a man whom I have tremendous respect for, and I know that he's having some difficult times with his side of the aisle. I know he'd like to be able to wrap up business for the end of the year and be able to move on into next year to do good things for the American people.

But the rejection by his caucus of the compromise bill that was passed in the Senate is preventing him, and I think preventing some of the like-minded Members on the Republican side of the aisle, to pass the Senate bill and go home for the holidays.

I also listened very intently to the Speaker when he said that the passage of this bill today would only be a 2-month extender, that somehow by just passing this it would only mean about 160-some-odd dollars for the average American worker in tax savings.

I would just suggest the absence of doing anything is a thousand dollar increase on average to the average working middle class American today. A thousand dollar increase, the absence of doing nothing.

Now, we all know the Senate can't get 60 votes to even say that December 25 is Christmas. We understand that. They've gone home for the holidays already. They're not coming back. So we either pass this bill today or we see that no bill will pass and an increase in the middle class taxes will take place.

Now, you will argue, how did we get here? I don't know. I'm in the minority. You're in the majority. The President suggested extending this payroll tax cut back in September. In fact, he wanted to enhance it back in September, but we didn't take it up then with the jobs bill. Quite frankly, we haven't taken up a jobs bill yet in this House. A full year has almost expired and not a jobs bill on the floor to put Americans back to the work.

I listened again to my colleague Mr. FATTAH from Pennsylvania when he reeled off a number of positive things that are happening today—that homebuilders' numbers are up, that the economy is improving, that we've seen jobs increase in this country, people who are on unemployment insurance decreasing. That's happening right now.

I ask, why is it when something good happens to the American people and to our economy, somehow it's perceived as being bad for the Republican majority? Isn't that sad that somehow that's the sense that people have?

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can pass this bill and send the American people a message that we can work together on their behalf, pass this bill, come

back, and work together in January and February.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. CAMP. The minority seems fixated on this notion that since the Senate passed their version of the House bill by a vote of 89-10 that somehow the House just needs to take their work product, no changes, just accept it, just vote for it.

Well, less than 3 weeks ago, the Senate passed the Defense authorization bill by a vote of 93-7. Did the House just accept that and send it to the President? No. We requested a conference on December 7, and a week later, that conference report was approved by the House. So there's no reason other than the Senate's insistence on a monthlong vacation that we can't do the same here to provide a yearlong solution to the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance for a year, and a 2-year fix on the physician payments in Medicare, what's known as the SGR, the sustainable growth rate formula.

Vote "no" on this motion to instruct. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 502, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion to instruct.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a) paragraph 1 of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention to offer a resolution to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas an article on December 15, 2011, on the "Politico Pro" newspaper website quoted the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, as saying, "If Joseph Goebbels was around, he'd be very proud of the Democrat Party because they have an incredible propaganda machine. I think that you have, and let's be honest, you know, some of the people in the media are complicit in this, in enabling them to get that type of message out.";

Whereas Joseph Goebbels served as the Third Reich's Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda in Nazi Germany from 1933-1945;

Whereas Joseph Goebbels openly used xenophobia and racism in his quest to dehumanize European Jewry;

Whereas Joseph Goebbels made Jews the scapegoat of German economic insecurity, fostering flagrant anti-Semitism;

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum reports "that Joseph Goebbels delivered a passionate anti-Semitic speech to the Nazi party faithful in Munich on November 9, 1938 . . . After the speech, Nazi officials order the Storm Troopers (SA) and other party formations to attack Jews and to destroy their homes, businesses, and houses of worship. The violence against Jews lasts into the morning hours of November 10th, and becomes known as Kristallnacht—the 'Night of Broken Glass'. Several dozen Jews lose their lives and tens of thousands are arrested and sent to concentration camps.";

Whereas Nazi Germany and their collaborators killed six million European Jews and millions of others as part of their "Final Solution";

Whereas by invoking the specter of Joseph Goebbels, the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, thoroughly belittles the horrors and suffering experienced by the victims and survivors of the Holocaust;

Whereas the American Jewish Committee issued a December 15, 2011, statement saying "To make a linkage between any mainstream political party in the United States and the heinous atrocities committed by the Third Reich should be simply beyond the pale, whatever political differences may arise in a heated electoral season . . . By invoking the image of Joseph Goebbels and the Gestapo, Representative West has displayed a complete lack of understanding of the worst genocidal era in human history. Moreover, he has diminished and trivialized the unique evil perpetrated by the Third Reich through his unfortunate use of language";

Whereas the Anti-Defamation League said in a December 16, 2011, letter to the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, "We were deeply dismayed by Rep. West's remark comparing the Democratic Party's attempts to articulate views to the American people through the media to the efforts of the Nazi propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels . . . Such outrageous Holocaust analogies have no place in our political dialogue. They are offensive, they trivialize real historical events, and they diminish the memory of the six million Jews and millions of others who perished in the Holocaust";

Whereas the Representative from Michigan, Mr. Conyers, wrote in a letter to the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, that the Representative from Florida should "help raise the level of congressional discourse in a vigorous debate";

Whereas the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, responded back in a letter to the Representative from Michigan, Mr. Conyers, that "The Democrat Party does indeed have a vicious propaganda machine, it espouses lies and deceit and the Master of deceptive information would be truly proud";

Whereas in the repetition of this abhorrent and outrageous sentiment to the Representative from Michigan, Mr. Conyers, the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, demonstrates not only the willful and malicious misapplication of history, but also his disdain for the decorum of the Congress; and

Whereas the conduct of the Representative from Florida was repugnant: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives disapproves of the behavior of the Representative from Florida, Mr. West, for bringing discredit to the House by offending the memory of those who died during the Holocaust.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the

floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Maryland will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ANY FINAL MEASURE TO EXTEND CERTAIN EXPIRING PROVISIONS

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 502, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 501) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding any final measure to extend the payroll tax holiday, extend Federally funded unemployment insurance benefits, or prevent decreases in reimbursement for physicians who provide care to Medicare beneficiaries, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 502, the bill is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 501

Whereas a two-month extension of the payroll tax cut instead of a full-year extension would cause additional uncertainty and complexity for private-sector job creators already struggling in the current economy;

Whereas, on December 17, 2011, President Barack Obama said, "It would be inexcusable for Congress not to further extend this middle-class tax cut for the rest of the year.";

Whereas, on December 17, 2011, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said, "House Democrats will return to Washington to take up this legislation without delay, and we will keep up the fight to extend these provisions for a full year.";

Whereas, on December 17, 2011, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD): "I'm disappointed that Senate Republicans would not agree to a longer-term extension of critical policies.";

Whereas in 2011 working Americans received a temporary payroll tax rate reduction which allowed the average family to keep \$1,000 more of their annual wages;

Whereas, on December 31, 2011, without action by the Congress, the temporary payroll tax rate reduction will expire, leaving nearly 170 million American workers with less disposable income as the economy continues to struggle;

Whereas the imminent expiration of the temporary payroll tax rate reduction is creating further uncertainty for families as well as employers who must adjust withholding amounts from their employees' paychecks;

Whereas the Social Security Trust Fund is now running a cash deficit, and over the next 75 years will require an additional \$6.5 trillion to pay scheduled benefits;

Whereas, on January 1, 2012, without Congressional action, Medicare physician payments will be cut by 27.4 percent;

Whereas in order to preserve access to health care for the nation's seniors, two years of stable Medicare payment rates would provide the most certainty physicians have had since 2004;

Whereas a two-year period of stability would provide Congress time to develop a long-term replacement to the Sustainable Growth Rate formula;

Whereas 13 million Americans remain unemployed and the unemployment rate has been above eight percent for 34 consecutive months, the Congress should enact needed reforms to ensure a fiscally responsible unemployment insurance program;

Whereas H.R. 3630 as passed by the House provided a fully offset extension of unemployment insurance benefits in line with previous periods of economic duress and integrated common-sense reforms into the program, including a requirement that benefit recipients search for work and participate in reemployment services to help them get back to work;

Whereas construction of the Keystone XL pipeline from Hardisty, Alberta, to Steele City, Nebraska, and to the United States Gulf Coast through Cushing, Oklahoma, is a \$7 billion energy project that will enhance the energy security and economy of the United States;

Whereas the Keystone XL pipeline will create 20,000 direct jobs and 118,000 indirect jobs;

Whereas the Keystone XL pipeline has been subjected to three years of intensive environmental review, and was deemed environmentally sound by the U.S. Department of State in its August 26, 2011, Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS);

Whereas Keystone XL pipeline legislation passed by the House and Senate would allow the state of Nebraska to continue its environmental review of a new pipeline route to avoid the Sand Hills region and the Ogallala Aquifer;

Whereas H.R. 3630 as passed by the House will reduce the cost for employers to purchase and place in service new equipment next year, and continued expensing will serve as an incentive to make investments and foster greater business investment and job creation;

Whereas EPA's new proposed rules for boilers would cost manufacturers, colleges and universities, municipalities, and small businesses \$15 billion and put up to 240,000 jobs at risk;

Whereas significant concerns with EPA's new proposed rules cannot be adequately addressed or remedied unless Congress passes legislation; and

Whereas the House of Representatives passed on October 13, 2011, by a vote of 275 to 142, with the support of 41 Democrats, legislation that would overturn EPA's Boiler MACT rules and require the agency to repropose new rules in 15 months after date of enactment, with achievable standards, and an extension of the compliance period from three years to five years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the Sense of the House of Representatives that any final measure to extend the payroll tax holiday, extend Federally funded unemployment insurance benefits, or prevent decreases in reimbursement for physicians who provide care to Medicare beneficiaries—

(1) extend the payroll tax holiday through December 31, 2012;

(2) extend and reform Federally funded unemployment insurance benefits;

(3) eliminate for two years the dramatic cut in reimbursement for physicians who provide care to Medicare beneficiaries;

(4) reduce spending from areas throughout the Federal Government, including a freeze on congressional salaries, in order to protect the Social Security Trust Fund, whose solvency would otherwise be diminished as result of the payroll tax holiday; and

(5) provide immediate job creation through—

(A) final approval of the Keystone XL pipeline;

(B) expensing for capital assets placed in service in 2012; and

(C) drafting new regulations for boilers that are achievable and cost-effective.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) and a Member to be recognized later each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Clearly, the economy and jobs is the number one issue for the American people all across this land; and if you were to ask the folks who create jobs what is the greatest impediment to job creation, they would say it's uncertainty.

Businesses don't know what taxes are going to be. Job creators don't know what the rules and regulations are going to be. Employees and workers don't know if their jobs will be lost. Doctors don't know whether or not they're going to be able to see Medicare patients. Patients don't know whether or not they're going to be able to see their doctors.

Therefore, the House believes what the American people already know: that more certainty, greater certainty, is imperative if we're going to get this economy rolling again. Consequently, we, the House, passed a bill that provides that certainty.

Our bill provides for a 1-year extension of the payroll contribution to Social Security, offset so that Social Security resources are not depleted;

Our bill provides for a 13-month extension of Federal unemployment benefits with real reform, including job training and helping folks get GEDs and allowing drug screening by States for those receiving benefits should they so desire;

Our bill provides a 2-year extension of payments to doctors caring for seniors—for Medicare patients—so that our parents and our grandparents can continue to see their doctors.

So the House passed a 1-year extension of the payroll tax reduction and paid for it with reduced spending elsewhere. Yet the Senate, Mr. Speaker, wants 60 days and more uncertainty. The House passed a 13-month extension of Federal unemployment benefits. The Senate wants 60 days and more uncertainty. The House passed a 2-year continuation of funding for doctors to see Medicare patients. The Senate—that's right, Mr. Speaker—wants 60 days and more uncertainty.

Republicans and Democrats in both the House and the Senate agree that we ought to extend these items. There