

This might be good news for oil companies, but it is bad news for my constituents; and it is bad energy policy.

Perhaps most ominously, Mr. Speaker, this proposal is bad news for the prospect of a new transportation bill. These new oil-drilling provisions are poison pills and could doom passage of this desperately needed jobs legislation.

This is very reminiscent of the manufactured crisis we saw last year to keep the government funded, pay our bad debts, and continue the payroll tax. We all saw the chaos and gridlock those fights produced. We need to put aside this effort to use the transportation bill as a means to push forward the favored policies for an already-pampered industry.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, through Whom we see what we could be and what we can become, thank You for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House to encourage them in their official tasks. Be with them and all who labor here to serve this great Nation and its people.

Assure them that whatever their responsibilities, You provide the grace to enable them to be faithful to their duties and the wisdom to be conscious of their obligations and fulfill them with integrity.

Remind us all of the dignity of work, and teach us to use our talents and abilities in ways that are honorable and just and are of benefit to those we serve.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS ACTUALLY MUCH HIGHER

(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. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the National Bureau of Labor Statistics released its jobs report for the month of January and revealed that our Nation's unemployment rate continues to be above 8 percent, marking the 36th consecutive month of record high unemployment.

Dr. Peter Morici, a business school professor at the University of Maryland, recently stated on Fox News that, if you factor in part-time workers who would prefer full-time positions, that unemployment rate becomes 15.6 percent. Factoring in college graduates in low skill positions, like counter work at Starbucks, the unemployment rate is, sadly, closer to 20 percent.

These statistics provide further evidence that the President's policies are failing to provide job creation. I hope the President and the liberal-controlled Senate will work with the House Republicans on the 30 bills that we've already passed for job creation through private sector growth which are currently held in the Senate.

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

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, 101 years ago today, the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Wilson Reagan, was born. It's a tribute to the man that there is bipartisan agreement to the greatness of Ronald Reagan as President. We hear from both sides of the aisle about his fortitude, his encouraging smile, his positive attitude. He handled the weight of the Presidency with such ease.

I remember, as a young physician in north Texas, watching as this individual led our country from the travails that were Vietnam, Watergate, stagflation, and not only gave us a reason to believe in ourselves, he said it was okay to believe in yourselves as Americans again, and we did. And, as a consequence, we reestablished America as a force in the world and we reestablished our prosperity.

Everyone has their favorite Ronald Reagan quotes. Mine is, as we watch

some of the difficulties and arguments between conservatives during this Presidential year: Remember that if we agree with each other 80 percent of the time, we're on the same side; and if it's a 100 percent, one of us is suddenly unnecessary.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all Members of the House today will acknowledge the 101st anniversary of the birth of Ronald Reagan. The Nation is forever in his debt.

LABOR NUMBERS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I think it is becoming increasingly clear to anybody that's paying attention that this President's policies have failed and are making the economy worse.

More Americans are out of work than when he took office. At that point, unemployment was 7.8 percent. America has witnessed the longest period of sustained high unemployment since the Great Depression, more than 8 percent for every month that he has been in office.

When the President talks about the latest unemployment statistics, I think it's important that we look at more pressing issues, which is labor force participation. For the past 31 months, discouraged workers have been dropping out of the labor force in unprecedented numbers.

In June 2009, which they like to say was the end of the recession—it was 6 months into his term—the labor force participation rate was 65.7 percent. Today, it is down to 63.7 percent. The difference between those two numbers represents 4.8 million people who have given up looking for work. If the labor force participation rate had remained where it was when he took office, at 65.7 percent, the unemployment rate for January 2012 would have been 11 percent, rather than 8.3.

It is time for us to change policies. It is time for us to get America back to work. The American people continue to say, "Where are the jobs?"

PASS THE PAYROLL TAX EXTENSION

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last Friday the Department of Labor came out with job statistics which no one expected. The U.S. economy added 243,000 new jobs, and there was a revision upward for December and November across the board: manufacturing, service, leisure, service industries, health care.

The U.S. economy, which has suffered its biggest blow since the Depression because of the financial meltdown

in 2008, is picking up strength. But as the President said, Congress must not muck it up.

We need to pass the payroll tax cut extension, which expires at the end of February, fix the doctors' fees, and do an unemployment compensation. If we don't do that, the markets are going to head south on us again, just like they did last December.

This Congress wasted the entire month of January with no conference committee to resolve this issue. It is time that we fix this and get it done right away, and we shouldn't go home this weekend until we pass a payroll tax cut extension.

PASS H.R. 1734

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot that tends to divide this House. Tonight, in a rule, and tomorrow morning, in debate, we will address a bill, H.R. 1734, which can pull both parties together, something that can address the waste in government, getting rid of a lot of the expenses that we have in the ongoing maintenance of properties that we just don't need, getting rid of a waste of properties that we can sell off, and actually bringing in new revenue, not by raising taxes, but new revenue by selling off the properties that are underutilized or excess or have yet to be declared excess properties. We can also bring in local tax revenue by putting private development back in these properties.

And most of all, if you really want to create jobs, not only do we have 30 jobs bills sitting over in the Senate right now, but here's yet one more, with bipartisan support, to sell off properties we don't need, reinvest in properties that we can redevelop, rein in the abuse by leasing authority from other agencies, and get government accountable again.

H.R. 1734 will be on the House floor, and we'll be looking forward to bipartisan support.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 6, 2012 at 9:47 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2038.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

BLOCKING PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN AND IRANIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-85)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995.

In Executive Order 12957, the President found that the actions and policies of the Government of Iran threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. To deal with that threat, the President in Executive Order 12957 declared a national emergency and imposed prohibitions on certain transactions with respect to the development of Iranian petroleum resources. To further respond to that threat, Executive Order 12959 of May 6, 1995, imposed comprehensive trade and financial sanctions on Iran. Executive Order 13059 of August 19, 1997, consolidated and clarified the previous orders. To take additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12957 and to implement section 105(a) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-195) (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.) (CISADA), I issued Executive Order 13553 on September 28, 2010, to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other persons acting on behalf of the Government of Iran determined to be responsible for or complicit in certain serious human rights abuses. To take further additional steps with respect to the threat posed by Iran and to provide implementing authority for a number of the sanctions set forth in the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172) (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) (ISA), as amended by CISADA, I issued Executive Order 13574 on May 23, 2011, to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to implement certain sanctions imposed by the Secretary of State pursuant to ISA, as amended by CISADA. Finally, to take additional steps with respect to the threat posed by Iran, I issued Executive Order 13590 on November 20, 2011,

to authorize the Secretary of State to impose sanctions on persons providing certain goods, services, technology, information, or support that contribute either to Iran's development of petroleum resources or to Iran's production of petrochemicals, and to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to implement some of those sanctions.

I have determined that additional sanctions are warranted, particularly in light of the deceptive practices of the Central Bank of Iran and other Iranian banks to conceal transactions of sanctioned parties, the deficiencies in Iran's anti-money laundering regime and the weaknesses in its implementation, and the continuing and unacceptable risk posed to the international financial system by Iran's activities.

The order also implements section 1245(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81) (NDAA) by blocking the property and interests in property of Iranian financial institutions pursuant to IEEPA.

The order blocks the property and interests in property of the following:

The Government of Iran, including the Central Bank of Iran;

Any Iranian financial institution, including the Central Bank of Iran; and

Persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order.

The prohibitions of the order do not apply to property and interests in property of the Government of Iran that were blocked pursuant to Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, and thereafter made subject to the transfer directives set forth in Executive Order 12281 of January 19, 1981, and implementing regulations thereunder. In addition, nothing in the order prohibits transactions for the conduct of the official business of the Federal Government by employees, grantees, or contractors thereof.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury the authority, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the blocking-related purposes of the order. All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I have also delegated certain functions and authorities conferred by section 1245 of the NDAA to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State in consultation with other appropriate agencies as specified in the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 5, 2012.