

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO JACK HENNING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and career of John F. "Jack" Henning.

On Tuesday, July 30, 1996, yesterday, the California labor movement bid a fond farewell to their top leader for the past 26 years. Mr. Henning, at the age of 80 years, retired as executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Born in San Francisco, where he was raised in a blue collar family, Jack earned a college degree in English literature at St. Mary's College. Mr. Henning's rise in labor unions began in the 1940's, when he held jobs in a pipe and steel plant; and in 1949, he began working at the California Labor Federation, initially as a senior staffer. Mr. Henning has also served as Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations in the early 1960's, where I worked closely with him in my role as a member of the State Assembly Committee on Industrial Relations.

He also worked as Under Secretary of Labor in both the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, where again I worked closely with him as a Member of Congress and a member of the Committee on Education and Labor. In addition to his already distinguished career, Mr. Henning was also the Ambassador to New Zealand from 1967 to 1969, where again I visited with him on my first trip to Anarctica, and a Regent of the University of California from 1977 to 1989.

After Mr. Henning returned home from New Zealand, he took the helm of the California Labor Federation, and for the past 26 years never faced an opponent for the post.

Throughout his career in the labor union movement, which he began as a young man in 1938, he was heralded as a master orator, "thundering from the political left against what he regards as the scourge of unbridled capitalism." Mr. Henning has been a champion of the working poor and underclass, fighting to increase their

standard of living. Mr. Henning was instrumental in the passage of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, which gave farm workers the right to organize and bargain collectively, as he was in sponsoring an initiative in 1988 which regulated workplace health and safety for the state's workers.

During his farewell address, he called upon those to his political right to visit any major U.S. city and "see what capital has done to the poor, see the centers of wealth and the mansions and the corporate wealth, and then see the impoverished . . . homeless, beggars at the table of wealth." One of his many accomplishments has been preventing restaurant owners from counting tips as part of the minimum wage.

Jack Henning has left behind a career in the labor union movement in which his contributions will not be forgotten. His tough negotiating skills along with his ability to sway people with his orations, have provided labor employees with better working conditions. He has truly been an inspiration to me and to others who are fighting to protect the jobs and lives of the citizens of California.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Jack Henning on his dedicated service to the California Labor Federation and to the workers of the State of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ECONOMIC GROWTH UNDER CLINTON ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN ANEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to comment on a statement that was made throughout the debate on this historic welfare reform measure that was passed. I am pleased to see

that we did it in a bipartisan way, but both sides of the aisle, very appropriately, accurately stated that as we look at reducing welfare we are going to be faced with an economy that will not have enough jobs for those people out there who are going to be moving off of welfare.

That is a very legitimate concern because economic growth under this administration has been anemic. In fact, it has been lower than 21 of the last 30 years.

Now, I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is very important for us to follow up the very historic welfare reform legislation which we passed today with an economic growth plan that increases savings and investment, which will lead to higher rates of productivity, increase worker wages and the creation of more private sector jobs.

The reason for the anemic growth that we have seen is that productivity growth is too low. Productivity is too low because we are not investing enough in both physical capital and human capital. Unfortunately, this administration is responsible for low productivity growth because the tax and regulatory burden has been way too great.

Every year since Bill Clinton took office, taxes have been higher and family income has been lower than when he got elected. In fact, as we all have come to find out, the average family has a tax burden which is in excess of 38 percent.

Under the Clinton administration the cost of complying with Federal regulations has also been very high. It averages \$1,000 per household. Obviously, we all know that regulation increases the cost of employing workers, and thus acts as a tax on job creation and employment.

Now, this administration is responsible for low productivity growth because the President has fought our efforts to reform the education system that we have. Unfortunately, this administration, due to it, government spending on education, as we all know, has gone way up, while the performance, the school performance and student achievement have remained static and are leaving young Americans ill equipped to function in today's increasingly competitive global economy.

What Congress can do to increase productivity and long-term capital economic growth is very, very key, and there are more than a few items that we can do to address them. Obviously, the first that comes to mind for virtually everyone is balance the budget.

We have been very committed to a balance budget, and we know what that will create. It obviously increases domestic savings, it lowers interest rates, and increases overall investment, and we know that that would be a very, very key and beneficial item as we look towards addressing this concern of anemic economic growth and slow productivity.

Another one that is very key is to decrease the tax burden on investment.

Now, so often these things are mislabeled as a tax cut on the rich, but every shred of empirical evidence, Mr. Speaker, has demonstrated that it will in fact be beneficial in job creation and economic growth.

A capital gains tax cut will make more venture capital available for emerging technologies as we charge toward the millennium. We know how important that is. We know that job creation is emanating from the private sector and the small business sector of our economy.

□ 2045

We also need, in looking at the technological changes that are made, we need to make the research and development tax credit permanent so that this incentive that we need for encouraging innovation in new technologies is there.

We also need to do what we can to increase the skills of the workforce in this country, improving basic education through school choice, increasing local control and reducing the bureaucracy; creating tax deferred or tax-free education savings account similar to individual retirement accounts, something that this administration admittedly has talked about, but has not acted upon. And we have tried responsibly to move ahead with that and have not gotten much support from the administration. We have not cut spending on education, nor should we continue to throw money at what is a wasteful, broken system.

We need also to enact significant regulatory reform. The explosion of new regulation we have seen since 1988 has raised the cost of labor and capital, created barriers to the formation of new companies and jobs, and raised the cost of employing Americans.

The higher cost of employment, in turn, means that in a competitive economy the return to labor in the form of wages is greatly reduced. The regulatory burden needs to be rolled back, not only to allow wages to rise, but also to decrease the cost of hiring workers. And remember, again we are trying to address the concern that many have raised that will follow on with reforming the welfare structure.

We also need to have a modest increase in the long-term growth rate, which can have a dramatic impact on the standard of living here in the United States. A 1 percent increase in long-term economic growth would mean 6 million new jobs created over an 8-year-period, \$700 billion more in tax revenue, enough to balance the budget by the year 2002 without any spending cuts, and also Social Security would remain solvent for 30 more years if we were to have just a 1 percent increase in long-term economic growth.

Also, 200,000 new small businesses would be created over a 4-year period.

With that, I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that we could go a long way towards addressing the concerns that have been raised by Members on both

sides of the aisle that will following the wake of reforming the welfare system, but it must be done, it must be done as expeditiously as possible. Unleash this economy and let us do it now.

PENSIONS MUST BE PROTECTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. TORKILDSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to discuss an issue important to every American: protecting pensions.

Pensions represent security and independence for all working Americans. As Americans have come to rely on Social Security, they also have every right to expect their pensions will be there when they retire.

This Congress has made great strides in enacting a balanced budget. Finally, Republicans and most Democrats agree that the budget must be balanced in the next 6 years. How we actually get to a balanced budget is still being debated, but at least there is bipartisan agreement to balance the budget.

The issue of pensions became a part of last year's budget battle. While I supported the balanced budget, I voted for the motion to instruct conferees that would have ensured workers' pensions throughout America. The reason we needed to instruct conferees was that the act proposed allowing some businesses to tap into so-called excess pension funds. While under this proposal, these funds would need to be used in other employee benefit accounts, cutting pension accounts for any reason could place workers' retirements at risk. The investment market is simply too volatile.

In many cases these were not "excess" pension funds at all, but were simply the value that inflation had added to the pension funds. If anything, these excess funds should only be used for cost-of-living adjustments for retirees. That is why I voted to instruct conferees to protect workers' pensions.

A study done by the Pension Guaranty Corporation reported that plans with excess funding could become underfunded with an economic downturn, such as a drop in interest rates or market shifts. While businesses must make up any shortfalls, this weakens their overall financial health. This just is not worth the risk.

It is critical that Congress protect these pensions for workers as it did when the Tax Reform Act of 1986 was passed. Congress recognized that employers have an obligation to ensure their employees' pensions. This obligation is critical in the 1990's.

When the budget was signed into law by President Clinton, it contained no changes that would allow any corporate raid on pensions. I will continue my work to protect workers' pensions.

These funds were earned by retirees and they must be there when they need them.

AMERICA IS IN NEED OF PRAYER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to put in that section of the RECORD we call the Extension of Remarks a beautiful, thoughtful, short exposition by the Reverend Joseph Wright. He is not from my State. It was given to me by one of the outside institutions around this place, the lovely Rita Warren of Massachusetts, who goes through all the hoops around here to get permission to have a Passion Play on the East Steps of our beautiful U.S. Capitol every Easter week; and I noticed she is starting to worry about what is happening to our country, vis-a-vis what Reverend Billy Graham or the Holy Father in Rome has said.

So I notice that she has her Passion Play out on the steps with a figure of Jesus and all of his beautiful sayings as the Prince of Peace that can save our world. But she asked me, since she had given me this recitation by Reverend Wright if I could not read it on the floor of the House, as well as put it in.

So for Rita Warren, I will do that, Mr. Speaker. The following is excerpted from a prayer in the Kansas house. This was delivered on the floor of the Kansas legislature, courageous Bob Dole's home State, on January 23 by Joe Wright of Central Christian Church, Wichita.

We have ridiculed the absolute truth of God's word and called it pluralism.

We have worshiped false gods and called it multiculturalism.

We have endorsed perversion and called it alternative lifestyle or diversity.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed the pre-born and called it choice.

We have neglected to discipline our children and have called it building self-esteem.

We have abused power and called it political savvy.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the airwaves with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

We have indoctrinated our children and called it education.

We have censored God from our public life and called it religious freedom.

We have prevented our citizens from defending themselves and called it gun control.