

in order to accommodate critics. It is common knowledge that the economic stimulus package we passed in December has enough support to become law. It has enough votes to pass not just in the House but in both Chambers of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we in the House have done our part. We have passed a good bill, a bill that will help the unemployed, the underemployed, and those who would create jobs in the first place. We have shown that we care. We have done more than just talk.

Now the bill is out of our hands. I understand that it is against House rules to comment on the other body's inaction, so I will not. But I will say that the American people need this economic stimulus. I will say that the media reports that the stimulus has the votes to pass into law, and people are waiting for a vote.

A BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, in this past year and future year of war and politics and recession, I rise today to urge my colleagues to respond to that higher calling of Members of the United States House of Representatives under the Constitution of the United States and commit ourselves on this first day of this second session of the 107th Congress to be a Congress that balances the Federal budget.

The headlines, Mr. Speaker, are filled with an American corporation which through either mismanagement or criminality has done a disservice to millions of middle-class shareholders and to thousands of its employees, even some from my own family who live in Texas.

It is fundamentally a failure of that corporation to manage its budget. Let us not likewise fail in this Congress to give the American people, even in these recessionary times, a balanced Federal budget. Let us begin this day to live out that proverb that if you owe debts, pay debts. And let us live out our commitment in this Republican-dominated Congress to provide a balanced Federal budget for the American people.

TREATMENT OF DETAINEES

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, now comes the usual liberal cadre of bleeding hearts in America lead by the former Attorney General, Ramsey Clark, saying we are mistreating the prisoners in Guantanamo Bay.

I just returned from Quetta, Pakistan. Quetta is an interesting city, population around 200,000; and yet, it has been swelled by refugees from Afghanis-

stan by 500,000 people, kids who are illiterate; kids who do not have any opportunity to have education; people who do not have work; 7 percent who have running water. And yet these victims of wars because of the Taliban and these wicked criminals who are in Guantanamo Bay must suffer.

What about the victims in America, those who lost loved ones and the families, who had their first bitter Christmas alone this year? What about them?

What does Attorney General Clark think in the morning? His passion goes out to the prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, yet never a thought about all the refugees, over 3 million refugees in Iran and Pakistan, out of Afghanistan, never a thought about the victims in the United States of America.

What is more important? Getting the headline one more time and showing the world what you are all about. Well, I am glad most of America has common sense and are wisely ignoring such allegations as the unfair treatment of prisoners. We have better things to do. We have a war to fight. We have to move on.

ASSISTING RETIREES AND UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I represent the 18th Congressional District in Texas, Houston, Texas, where we have found an enormous corporate and human tragedy. But the human tragedy is what I speak to today, the greatest tragedy, and that we in Congress have to fix the problem. We must help the retirees and employees who have been so negatively impacted by this debacle.

So I hope as we proceed in these hearings, we lay upon the minds and hearts of our fellow colleagues in this Congress, help the retirees across the Nation who have lost millions of dollars, let us put these unemployed workers and their families back on their feet.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to file legislation today to make sure that we prioritize our responsibilities, helping the retirees and helping the unemployed workers. I tell you that those in Texas are crying out for help and I hope that we will help them.

□ 1245

REMEMBERING JACK SHEA

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it saddens me to report to the House the tragic loss of a great patriot, a wonderful American, who on the eve of the Olympics was killed. I am referring to Jack Shea, a 91-year-old individual who was

the first American to win two gold medals in the Olympics in 1928. His son was in the Olympics in 1964, and his grandson Jimmy Shea is poised to participate for the first time in an Olympic event, which I personally participated in when our late departed colleague Mr. Solomon took me to Lake Placid; that is, the skeleton run, and we were going to have the opportunity for the first time ever to have third generation Americans participate in the Olympics.

We just got the news yesterday that Mr. Shea was killed in a horrible accident, and so I would like to at this moment extend my condolences to all of the family members and the friends of the Sheas and all of those participating in our very important team, and I know that his grandfather would want me to wish Jimmy Shea well as he prepares with his skeleton sled that is painted with the red, white and blue colors to have great success in Salt Lake City.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR SOLDIERS TRANSPORTING DETAINEES TO GUANTANAMO, CUBA

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our fighting men and women who have done so valiant and done so well in Afghanistan and in support of the measures that they have taken to secure and safely transport the detainees from Afghanistan, a cold and inhospitable climate and one in which medical support is not properly available, to Guantanamo, Cuba.

Additionally, I pledge to ensure that the safety of our men and women is maintained and the safety of the detainees by personally going to Cuba, by looking and seeing the conditions under which they are held to ensure that they are humanitarian, but as a military veteran to also ensure that the precautions are taken so that never again will either a detainee or our men and women guarding those detainees be killed because of the kind of uprisings that have occurred not once but twice in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this body should commit itself to understanding that problem and supporting our fighting men and women and their ability to maintain the safety of the detainees and themselves.

CONSIDERING MEMBER AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 548

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I might hereafter be considered as first sponsor of H.R. 548, a bill originally introduced by the gentleman from Florida, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprints pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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