

the minimum wage in our country. For 10 years the minimum wage has been stuck at \$5.15 an hour. In my State of Ohio, if we would raise the minimum wage to \$6.85 an hour, as many people want to through a ballot initiative, 500,000 individual Ohioans with 200,000 children in those households would get a raise. It would help their standard of living. It would put more money into our economy. It would be good for our State and good for all of us.

This Congress, instead of passing a minimum wage increase, continues to give tax breaks to people who make more than \$1 million a year. They get hundreds of millions of dollars. The CEO of Exxon makes \$18,000 an hour. A woman in Girard, Ohio, who fills her tank with gasoline from ExxonMobil that lives on the minimum wage makes \$11,000 a year.

IT IS UP TO CONGRESS TO BE FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE

(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, today the House took several measures that I believe it is important for the American people to understand. Of course, it sounds like the estate tax potential has great merit for many who believe that they are either engaged in family farming or small businesses. Might I say that the existing relief under estate tax actually gives those whose estates are \$7 million absolute relief.

So at this time when we are at war, to give another \$800 billion giveaway really is unreasonable. And, therefore, even though I have in the past supported the estate tax, this is not the time. And the reason is because, of course, the minimum wage has not been raised for the past 6 years. In fact, it is at a rate that shows that it is as low as it was 50 years ago in today's dollars. When are we going to see relief for those single parents and hard-working families who can barely make ends meet on \$5.15?

Then we want to give the President a line item veto, which has already proven to be unconstitutional.

It is up to this Congress to be fiscally conservative, not rely on an unconstitutional law such as line item veto.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—MES- SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-117)

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, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To The Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2006. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on June 24, 2005, 70 FR 36803.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, in Executive Order 13219 has not been resolved. Subsequent to the declaration of the national emergency, I amended Executive Order 13219 in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, to address acts obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 in the Republic of Macedonia, which have also become a concern. The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity outlined in Executive Order 13219, as amended, are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 22, 2006.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE ESTATE TAX AND MINIMUM WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, so today the United States House of Representatives voted in the next decade, the coming decade with the retirement of the baby boomers looming before us, to borrow, borrow \$762 billion so the wealthiest among us can escape taxation and helping to carry the burden

of the United States. On the same day the Republican leaders refused to allow any vote on an increase in the minimum wage, \$5.15 an hour, the Federal minimum wage. Fairly extraordinary, but it says a lot about priorities.

On my side of the aisle there was near unanimity on increasing the minimum wage, and a large majority voted against borrowing \$762 billion so we can give massive tax cuts to estates, for the most part, worth more than \$25 million.

It is not about small business, family farms, tree farmers. There will be in 2009 an exemption of \$7 million per family. That will take care of most small businesses, family farms, and tree farms that I am aware of. No. This is about the massive accumulation of wealth, some of it unearned.

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For instance, let's take Lee Raymond, a wonderful gentleman, recently the CEO of ExxonMobil. We all know them well. They made \$100 million a day last year. ExxonMobil made \$100 million a day last year extorting the American public, the driving public, through price gouging and extraordinary profiteering.

Now, Mr. Raymond, who held the helm until recently, was rewarded fairly handsomely for doing that, a \$400 million retirement payout. So this one gentleman, one gentleman, of course, he really worked hard to earn that \$400 million, and he is going to have to limp through his retirement on \$400 million, although I think he still gets to use the corporate jet, and they still would have to provide him some other emoluments suitable to his status.

But, in any case, this one change in the Tax Code is going to be worth an approximately \$160 million tax break to Mr. Raymond. So while ExxonMobil is fleecing the consumers over here, Mr. Raymond gets a \$400 million windfall pension, and then he gets from the Republican leadership a \$160 million tax break.

Now, that might be kind of okay, except they are going to borrow the money to give him the tax break. We are borrowing right now \$1.3 billion a day to run the Government of the United States, and with this new tax break for the richest among us, estates worth more than \$25 million, we are going to borrow another \$210 million a day. Our credit is good. Isn't that great? That is the good news, they would say, our credit is good.

Unfortunately, the bill isn't going to go to Mr. Raymond. The bill is going to go to people who work for wages and salaries. Under the bill that passed here today, a schoolteacher will pay a higher rate of taxation on their salary than Mr. Raymond will on his windfall from ExxonMobil. Now, that is fair in their world. It is not fair in my world, and it is not fair to the people I represent.

You can look at it another way. The next decade, as the Social Security annual surplus diminishes down toward

zero toward the end of the decade, roughly the surplus during that decade will be about \$780 billion. So we are going to borrow the entire surplus collected to pay the benefits of retired Americans; of course, not Mr. Raymond, he is not too worried about it, but other Americans, and we are going to give that as a tax break to people who have estates worth more than \$25 million.

Isn't that great? And they say this is about small business and family farms. No, it is about feeding those who have given so generously to you. This is the contributor class that we are talking about here, and the contributor class is awfully generous and has been incredibly generous to George Bush over his political career and extraordinarily generous to the Republican majority here in Congress.

So, it is not too much to ask that they should pass a bill that gives them a \$762 billion windfall, hands the bill to working Americans, and they hope to stay in power. A very sad day for the United States House of Representatives.

PUERTO RICO'S BORDER WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, more news from the front. The border war continues, and today this dispatch comes from the weakest 272 miles on the second border of our Nation.

This could be a postcard from that front, snapshots of illegals all across the beaches here running ashore, coming from this boat called a yola. We see here a Blackhawk helicopter.

This invasion started in one Caribbean island and lands on another Caribbean island. This boat is packed with hundreds of illegals. They ride the waves that carry them to a new existence in these primitive boats. They wash ashore on the most advanced country in the world, a superpower.

Mr. Speaker, this looks like a naval invasion from World War II in one the Pacific islands.

This boat was spotted by the Border Patrol, and even though there may be 100 or 150 individuals that are illegally entering Puerto Rico, only 10 to 12 of them will actually be arrested. Sometimes the Border Patrol is not this lucky and doesn't find any of these individuals.

I have spoken to border agents who patrol Puerto Rico, and they have arrested individuals. Recently they arrested an individual of Middle Eastern descent. He was actually swimming ashore. And when he was questioned about what he was doing on American soil, he replied with answers like, "Allah is great," and, "Bush is the devil," and that is all he would say.

Stories like this prove the same warfare that let us conquer the Japanese

islands in World War II is in play on our shores. It was called island hopping back in World War II, when the American marines would go from island to island getting ever closer to the Japanese homeland. Island hopping.

But after marines were sent to capture an island in the Pacific, they would move on to the next island, getting closer, and it worked, and it worked in the Pacific. But now this strategy is being used against the United States, and the invasion of Puerto Rico poses a national security issue, 272 miles of a border that needs to be protected.

But another island is being targeted first by these island-hopping invaders. It is called Mona Island. That is also a part of the United States, part of Puerto Rico. It is right here, Mr. Speaker, next to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and then you see this little island called the Mona Island, very close to Puerto Rico.

This island is inhabited basically by a bunch of botanists, for lack of a better phrase, and they are investigating whatever nature resources there are there. It is a 25-mile nature preserve. And the biologists and naturalists that are there aren't the only people there. It is a breeding ground for illegals.

You see, what happens, Mr. Speaker, illegals stop off at Mona Island. They are Cubans, Chinese, Dominicans, Middle Easterners, South Americans and any other illegals from around the world.

They land on Mona Island, the first island-hopping stop in their Caribbean trip, and then they move over to the mainland of Puerto Rico. They make their way to Puerto Rico, where, at any given time, there are only four Border Patrol agents on patrol for 272 miles of border or coastline.

Then when illegals get to Puerto Rico, once they land, what they do is they find someone to sell them a fake American driver's license, pretend to be a U.S. citizen, and then catch an airplane to the heartland of America.

Mr. Speaker, we are being invaded by land and by sea. The obligation of the U.S. Government is to protect its citizens. That is the number one obligation of this government. We must protect our citizens from invasion from all foreign nations by any means. The border war includes the American held island of Puerto Rico and Mona Island.

Mr. Speaker, while we are sending more Border Patrol and National Guard to our southern border, we are losing ground in Puerto Rico. This island hopping must stop.

Why aren't we using the resources of the Coast Guard to protect our coasts from this unlawful invasion into Puerto Rico? There is a concentrated effort by other nations to infiltrate our national borders. It also happens to be illegal.

The government must have the will to protect our borders like we protect the borders of other nations throughout the world. Meanwhile, the battle

for the border continues on the homeland, the second front.

That's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUPPORT THE DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS AND FAIR COMPETITION ACT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to replace Mr. PALLONE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, if you live in Toledo or Dayton or Youngstown, or if you live in Mansfield, Ohio, or Hamilton, Ohio, or Lima, Ohio, you know that the Federal Government's trade policies are undermining American manufacturers. And if you live in Marion or Portsmouth or Springfield, Ohio, you know that our trade policies are encouraging the spread of abusive sweatshop practices.

China is the world's sweatshop leader, with repressive labor policies resulting in wage suppression of as much as 85 percent. We all know that American workers can compete in a global economy on a level playing field, but no one can compete with prison labor, child labor or sweatshop labor. The result, a U.S. trade deficit with China that breaks records year after year, an increasing loss of U.S. manufacturing jobs to China. In my State alone, in Ohio, 42,000 jobs have been lost to China since the year 2001. Much of that job loss has been as a result of China's unfair trade practices. Yet America's trade agreements are actually encouraging the development of new sweatshops.

All of us in this body supported the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement because Jordan's labor protections were seen as meeting international standards. But the New York Times reported just last month that in the few years since the Jordan Free Trade Agreement took effect, lax enforcement and an abusive guest worker system have made Jordan the new haven for some of the world's most brutal sweatshops.

Senator BYRON DORGAN and I have introduced the Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act to end sweatshop profiteering. The bill bars the importation, the exportation or the sale of goods made with prisoner sweatshop labor. In other words, if a product is made by child labor or by forced prison camp labor, you can't import it into the United States, you can't sell it in the United States.

The bill charges the Federal Trade Commission with enforcement, and