

ECONOMIC REPORT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-2)

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 Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Economic growth in the United States has been above the historic average and faster than any other major industrialized economy in the world. January was the 41st month of uninterrupted job growth produced by this economy, in an expansion that has thus far added more than 7.4 million new jobs. Unemployment is low, inflation is moderate, and real wages are rising. Our economy is on the move and we can keep it that way by continuing to pursue sound economic policy based on free-market principles.

Sound economic policy begins with low taxes. We should work together to spend the taxpayers' money wisely and to tackle unfunded liabilities inherent in entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. I have laid out a detailed plan in my budget to restrain spending, cut earmarks in half by the end of this session, and balance the budget by 2012 without raising taxes. The tax relief of the past few years has been a key ingredient in growing our economy, and it should be made permanent.

Our growing economy is dynamic. The rise of new technologies, new competition, and new markets abroad is changing how we do business. We need to take action in four key areas to keep America's economy flexible and dynamic.

First, we must break down barriers to trade so our workers can sell more goods and services to the 95 percent of the world's customers who live outside of our borders. Global trade talks like the Doha Round at the World Trade Organization have the potential to level the playing field so that we can compete on fair terms in foreign markets, while helping lift millions of people out of poverty around the world.

The only way we can complete the Doha Round and make headway on other trade agreements is to extend Trade Promotion Authority, which is set to expire on July 1st. This authority is essential to completing good trade agreements. The Congress must renew it if we are to improve our competitiveness in the global economy.

Second, we must work to make private health insurance more affordable and to give patients more choices and control over their health care. One of the most promising ways to do this is by reforming the tax code. We must end the unfair bias against individuals who buy insurance on their own. I propose creating a standard deduction for

every American who buys health insurance, whether they get it through their jobs or on their own. In a changing economy, we need a health care system that is flexible and consumer-oriented. With this reform, more than 100 million Americans who are now covered by employer-provided insurance will benefit from lower tax bills. Those who now purchase health insurance on their own would save money on their taxes. Millions of others who now have no health insurance at all would find basic private coverage within their reach. My proposal also taps the innovation of States in making basic, affordable insurance available to all by creating Affordable Choices grants to help ensure the poor and the sick have access to private health insurance.

Third, we must continue to diversify our energy supply to benefit our economy, national security, and environment. In my State of the Union Message, I set an ambitious goal of reducing gasoline usage in the United States by 20 percent over the next 10 years. Meeting this goal will require significant changes in supply and demand, but we should let the market decide the best mix of technologies and fuels to most efficiently attain it. On the supply side, I propose a higher and reformed fuel standard that would include renewable and other alternative fuels. We should also allow environmentally friendly exploration of oil and natural gas. On the demand side, I propose enhancing Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards for cars and extending the current rule for light trucks, so that we can reduce the amount of gasoline that our passenger vehicles consume, and do so in a more efficient way.

Fourth, a strong and vibrant education system is vital to maintaining our Nation's competitive edge in the world and extending economic opportunity to every citizen here at home. Five years ago, we rose above partisan differences to enact the No Child Left Behind Act, preserving local control, raising standards, holding schools accountable for results, and providing more choice. This year, we must reauthorize and strengthen this good law while preserving its core principles.

Strong productivity growth underlies much of the good economic news from the past few years and the policies discussed above. Productivity growth helps to increase our standards of living and improve our international competitiveness. To maintain this progress, we must pursue a variety of pro-growth policies, including those contained in the American Competitiveness Initiative and comprehensive immigration reform.

These and other issues are discussed in the 2007 Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers. The Council has prepared this Report to put into broader context the economic issues that underlie my Administration's policy decisions. I commend it to you.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 2007.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- H. Res. 134, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Con. Res 44, by the yeas and nays.

Votes on motions to suspend the rules with respect to H. Res 122 and H.R. 437 will be taken on a later date.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 134.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 134, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 0, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 93]

YEAS—412

Abercrombie	Berman	Brady (TX)
Ackerman	Berry	Braley (IA)
Aderholt	Biggert	Brown (SC)
Akin	Bilbray	Brown, Corrine
Alexander	Bilirakis	Brown-Waite,
Allen	Bishop (GA)	Ginny
Altmire	Bishop (NY)	Buchanan
Andrews	Bishop (UT)	Burgess
Arcuri	Blackburn	Burton (IN)
Baca	Blumenauer	Butterfield
Bachmann	Blunt	Buyer
Bachus	Boehner	Calvert
Baird	Bonner	Camp (MI)
Baker	Bono	Campbell (CA)
Baldwin	Boozman	Cannon
Barrett (SC)	Boren	Cantor
Barrow	Boswell	Capito
Bartlett (MD)	Boucher	Capps
Barton (TX)	Boustany	Capuano
Bean	Boyd (FL)	Cardoza
Becerra	Boyd (KS)	Carnahan
Berkley	Brady (PA)	Carney

Carson	Hill	Miller (NC)	Souder	Towns	Weiner	Castor	Hodes	Mollohan
Carter	Hinojosa	Miller, Gary	Space	Turner	Welch (VT)	Chabot	Holden	Moore (KS)
Castle	Hirono	Miller, George	Spratt	Udall (CO)	Weldon (FL)	Chandler	Holt	Moore (WI)
Castor	Hobson	Mitchell	Stark	Udall (NM)	Weller	Clarke	Honda	Moran (KS)
Chabot	Hodes	Mollohan	Stearns	Upton	Westmoreland	Clay	Hookey	Moran (VA)
Chandler	Holden	Moore (KS)	Stupak	Van Hollen	Wexler	Cleaver	Hoyer	Murphy (CT)
Clarke	Holt	Moore (WI)	Sullivan	Velázquez	Whitfield	Clyburn	Hulshof	Murphy, Patrick
Clay	Honda	Moran (KS)	Sutton	Visclosky	Wicker	Coble	Hunter	Murphy, Tim
Cleaver	Hookey	Moran (VA)	Tancredo	Walberg	Wilson (NM)	Cohen	Inglis (SC)	Musgrave
Clyburn	Hoyer	Murphy (CT)	Tanner	Walden (OR)	Wilson (OH)	Cole (OK)	Inslee	Myrick
Coble	Hulshof	Murphy, Patrick	Tauscher	Walsh (NY)	Wilson (SC)	Conaway	Israel	Nadler
Cohen	Hunter	Murphy, Tim	Taylor	Walz (MN)	Wolf	Conyers	Issa	Napolitano
Cole (OK)	Inglis (SC)	Murtha	Terry	Wamp	Woolsey	Cooper	Jackson (IL)	Neugebauer
Conaway	Inslee	Musgrave	Thompson (CA)	Wasserman	Wu	Costa	Jackson-Lee	Nunes
Conyers	Israel	Myrick	Thompson (MS)	Schultz	Wynn	Costello	(TX)	Oberstar
Cooper	Issa	Nadler	Thornberry	Waters	Yarmuth	Courtney	Jefferson	Obey
Costa	Jackson (IL)	Napolitano	Tiahrt	Watson	Young (AK)	Crenshaw	Jindal	Olver
Costello	Jackson-Lee	Neugebauer	Tiberi	Watt	Young (FL)	Crowley	Johnson (GA)	Ortiz
Courtney	(TX)	Nunes	Tierney	Waxman		Cubin	Johnson, Sam	Pallone
Crenshaw	Jefferson	Oberstar				Cuellar	Jones (NC)	Pascarell
Crowley	Jindal	Obey				Culberson	Jones (OH)	Pastor
Cubin	Johnson (GA)	Olver	Cramer	Herger	Neal (MA)	Cummings	Jordan	Paul
Cuellar	Johnson, Sam	Ortiz	Davis, Jo Ann	Hinchee	Norwood	Davis (AL)	Kanjorski	Payne
Culberson	Jones (NC)	Pallone	Doolittle	Hoekstra	Peterson (PA)	Davis (CA)	Kaptur	Pearce
Cummings	Jones (OH)	Pascarell	Edwards	Johnson (IL)	Rush	Davis (IL)	Keller	Pence
Davis (AL)	Jordan	Pastor	Ellison	Johnson, E. B.	Scott (GA)	Davis (KY)	Kennedy	Perlmutter
Davis (CA)	Kanjorski	Paul	Ferguson	Kagen	Shimkus	Davis, Lincoln	Kildee	Peterson (MN)
Davis (IL)	Kaptur	Payne	Gutierrez	McKeon		Davis, Tom	Kilpatrick	Petri
Davis (KY)	Keller	Pearce	Hastert	Meeks (NY)		Deal (GA)	Kind	Pickering
Davis, David	Kennedy	Pence				DeFazio	King (IA)	Pitts
Davis, Lincoln	Kildee	Perlmutter				DeGette	King (NY)	Platts
Davis, Tom	Kilpatrick	Peterson (MN)				Delahunt	Kingston	Poe
Deal (GA)	Kind	Petri				DeLauro	Kirk	Pomeroy
DeFazio	King (IA)	Pickering				Dent	Klein (FL)	Porter
DeGette	King (NY)	Pitts				Diaz-Balart, L.	Kline (MN)	Price (GA)
Delahunt	Kingston	Platts				Diaz-Balart, M.	Knollenberg	Price (NC)
DeLauro	Kirk	Poe				Dicks	Kucinich	Pryce (OH)
Dent	Klein (FL)	Pomeroy				Dingell	Kuhl (NY)	Putnam
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kline (MN)	Porter				Doggett	LaHood	Radanovich
Diaz-Balart, M.	Knollenberg	Price (GA)				Donnelly	Lamborn	Rahall
Dicks	Kucinich	Price (NC)				Doyle	Lampson	Ramstad
Dingell	Kuhl (NY)	Pryce (OH)				Drake	Langevin	Rangel
Doggett	LaHood	Putnam				Dreier	Lantos	Regula
Donnelly	Lamborn	Radanovich				Duncan	Larsen (WA)	Rehberg
Doyle	Lampson	Rahall				Ehlers	Larson (CT)	Reichert
Drake	Langevin	Ramstad				Ellsworth	Latham	Renzi
Dreier	Lantos	Rangel				Emanuel	LaTourette	Reyes
Duncan	Larsen (WA)	Regula				Emerson	Lee	Reynolds
Ehlers	Larson (CT)	Rehberg				Engel	Levin	Rodriguez
Ellsworth	Latham	Reichert				English (PA)	Lewis (CA)	Rogers (AL)
Emanuel	LaTourette	Renzi				Eshoo	Lewis (GA)	Rogers (KY)
Emerson	Lee	Reyes				Etheridge	Lewis (KY)	Rogers (MI)
Engel	Levin	Reynolds				Everett	Linder	Rohrabacher
English (PA)	Lewis (CA)	Rodriguez				Fallin	Lipinski	Ros-Lehtinen
Eshoo	Lewis (GA)	Rogers (AL)				Farr	LoBiondo	Roskam
Etheridge	Lewis (KY)	Rogers (KY)				Fattah	Loeb sack	Ross
Everett	Linder	Rogers (MI)				Feeney	Lofgren, Zoe	Rothman
Fallin	Lipinski	Rohrabacher				Filner	Lowey	Roybal-Allard
Farr	LoBiondo	Ros-Lehtinen				Flake	Lucas	Royce
Fattah	Loeb sack	Roskam				Forbes	Lungren, Daniel	Ruppersberger
Feeney	Lofgren, Zoe	Ross				Fortenberry	E.	Ryan (OH)
Filner	Lowey	Rothman				Fossella	Lynch	Ryan (WI)
Flake	Lucas	Roybal-Allard				Fox	Mack	Salazar
Forbes	Lungren, Daniel	Royce				Frank (MA)	Mahoney (FL)	Sali
Fortenberry	E.	Ruppersberger				Franks (AZ)	Maloney (NY)	Sánchez, Linda
Fossella	Lynch	Ryan (OH)				Frelinghuysen	Manzullo	T.
Fox	Mack	Ryan (WI)				Galgely	Marchant	Sanchez, Loretta
Frank (MA)	Mahoney (FL)	Salazar				Garrett (NJ)	Markey	Sarbanes
Franks (AZ)	Maloney (NY)	Sali				Gerlach	Marshall	Saxton
Frelinghuysen	Manzullo	Sánchez, Linda				Giffords	Matheson	Schakowsky
Galgely	Marchant	T.				Gilchrest	Matsui	Schiff
Garrett (NJ)	Markey	Sanchez, Loretta				Gillibrand	McCarthy (CA)	Schmidt
Gerlach	Marshall	Sarbanes				Gillmor	McCarthy (NY)	Schwartz
Giffords	Matheson	Saxton				Gingrey	McCaul (TX)	Scott (VA)
Gilchrest	Matsui	Schakowsky				Gohmert	McCollum (MN)	Sensenbrenner
Gillibrand	McCarthy (CA)	Schiff				Gonzalez	McCotter	Serrano
Gillmor	McCarthy (NY)	Schmidt	Abercrombie	Berry	Brown (SC)	Goode	McCrery	Sessions
Gingrey	McCaul (TX)	Schwartz	Ackerman	Biggart	Brown, Corrine	Goodlatte	McDermott	Sestak
Gohmert	McColum (MN)	Scott (VA)	Aderholt	Bilbray	Brown-Waite,	Gordon	McGovern	Shadegg
Gonzalez	McCotter	Sensenbrenner	Akin	Bilirakis	Ginny	Granger	McHenry	Shays
Goode	McCrery	Serrano	Alexander	Bishop (GA)	Buchanan	Graves	McHugh	Shea-Porter
Goodlatte	McDermott	Sessions	Allen	Bishop (NY)	Burgess	Green, Al	McIntyre	Sherman
Gordon	McGovern	Sestak	Altmire	Bishop (UT)	Burton (IN)	Green, Gene	McMorris	Shuler
Granger	McHenry	Shadegg	Andrews	Blackburn	Butterfield	Grijalva	Rodgers	Shuster
Graves	McHugh	Shays	Arcuri	Blumenauer	Buyer	Hall (NY)	McNerney	Simpson
Green, Al	McIntyre	Shea-Porter	Baca	Blunt	Calvert	Hall (TX)	McNulty	Sires
Green, Gene	McMorris	Sherman	Bachmann	Boehner	Camp (MI)	Hare	Meehan	Skelton
Grijalva	Rodgers	Shuler	Bachus	Bonner	Campbell (CA)	Harman	Meek (FL)	Slaughter
Hall (NY)	McNerney	Shuster	Baird	Bono	Cannon	Hastings (FL)	Melancon	Smith (NE)
Hall (TX)	McNulty	Simpson	Baker	Boozman	Cantor	Hastings (WA)	Mica	Smith (NJ)
Hare	Meehan	Sires	Baldwin	Boren	Capito	Hayes	Michaud	Smith (TX)
Harman	Meek (FL)	Skelton	Barrett (SC)	Boswell	Capps	Heller	Millender-	Smith (WA)
Hastings (FL)	Melancon	Slaughter	Barrow	Boucher	Capuano	Hensarling	McDonald	Snyder
Hastings (WA)	Mica	Smith (NE)	Barlett (MD)	Boustany	Cardoza	Herseth	Miller (FL)	Solis
Hayes	Michaud	Smith (NJ)	Bartlett (TX)	Boyd (FL)	Carnahan	Higgins	Miller (MI)	Souder
Heller	Millender-	Smith (TX)	Bean	Boyd (KS)	Carney	Hill	Miller (NC)	Space
Hensarling	McDonald	Smith (WA)	Becerra	Brady (PA)	Carson	Hinojosa	Miller, Gary	Spratt
Herseth	Miller (FL)	Snyder	Berkley	Brady (TX)	Carter	Hirono	Miller, George	Stark
Higgins	Miller (MI)	Solis	Berman	Braley (IA)	Castle	Hobson	Mitchell	Stearns

NOT VOTING—22

□ 1855

Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. BERRY changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NAACP ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 98TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 44.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 44, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 0, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 94]

YEAS—410

Abercrombie	Berry	Brown (SC)
Ackerman	Biggart	Brown, Corrine
Aderholt	Bilbray	Brown-Waite,
Akin	Bilirakis	Ginny
Alexander	Bishop (GA)	Buchanan
Allen	Bishop (NY)	Burgess
Altmire	Bishop (UT)	Burton (IN)
Andrews	Blackburn	Butterfield
Arcuri	Blumenauer	Buyer
Baca	Blunt	Calvert
Bachmann	Boehner	Camp (MI)
Bachus	Bonner	Campbell (CA)
Baird	Bono	Cannon
Baker	Boozman	Cantor
Baldwin	Boren	Capito
Barrett (SC)	Boswell	Capps
Barrow	Boucher	Capuano
Barlett (MD)	Boustany	Cardoza
Bartlett (TX)	Boyd (FL)	Carnahan
Bean	Boyd (KS)	Carney
Becerra	Brady (PA)	Carson
Berkley	Brady (TX)	Carter
Berman	Braley (IA)	Castle