

BIPARTISANSHIP

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that, on occasion, we do work in a bipartisan fashion and that the President works with members of both parties.

In fact, I was a cosponsor of a bill that took effect as law yesterday—the Credit Card Bill of Rights, as it is commonly called. There was an accountability act, which was originally sponsored by Congresswoman MALONEY of New York. It passed this House by 357 “aye” votes, if I remember correctly, and it passed the Senate with 90 “aye” votes. That’s a pretty strong statement of bipartisanship to protect the American consumer from the same banks, the same financial institutions that were bailed out by the taxpayers, which then turned around and jacked up interest rates for people with credit cards, interest rates as high as 29.9 percent.

I know. I was one of those people who got a notice. I read the fine print, and I said, I pay on time. I’ve paid more than the minimum payment. How can this be done especially when money/credit is so cheap from the Fed?

So I am proud of the fact that we worked to keep children from being exploited and students from being sent credit card offers, that we worked to protect families against these unexplained increases in interest rates, and that we worked together across the aisle.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, as we mark the anniversary of the so-called “stimulus plan,” Americans want to know: Where are the jobs?

In my home State of West Virginia, the White House predicted that their \$800 billion stimulus package would create 20,000 jobs. Sadly, we have actually lost over 10,000 jobs. That’s bad news for many families. If that’s not bad enough that the so-called “stimulus” isn’t living up to its promises of new jobs, it’s even worse that the policies of this administration are actually contributing to job loss in States like mine. Cap-and-trade puts an economic target on the backs of States like mine, which results in job loss.

Meanwhile, the President’s EPA has continued to hold up mining permits across Appalachia, creating an unprecedented sense of uncertainty that is already costing mining jobs and is threatening thousands more. Further, the EPA is threatening to or is pushing to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, which will undoubtedly cost more thousands of jobs in our State.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents may have thought their tax dollars were

going to be used to fund the stimulus to result in jobs, but I join them in asking: Where are the jobs?

PUT ASIDE THE PARTISAN AGENDA

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the masters of information, which I call my colleagues on the other side of the aisle here, can’t disagree with the fact that jobs, homes and insurance have been lost by Americans due to the failed Bush policies of trickle-down economics.

I want to talk about health care. A few people came up to me during our last district work period, and said, I’ve lost my job. I’ve lost my home to foreclosure, but take care of health care.

We can do it together if we stop the obstruction on the other side of the aisle. This is very important for the American people. Instead of being masters of misinformation, I think my colleagues on the other side should put aside their partisan agenda and work towards what is best for the American people.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the same question which Americans are asking all over our great country, which is: Where are the jobs?

We still face almost 10 percent unemployment at the national level and a totally unacceptable 11.8 percent unemployment rate in my home State of Florida. It is truly astounding that even the administration’s latest budget estimates project that the national unemployment rate will still be near 10 percent for yet another year.

It is time that Americans of all backgrounds and parties say, yes, we can do better than this. It is time for the President and Congress to take a proven approach for tax relief for working families and small businesses while doing everything that we can to reduce the growing Federal debt, which is holding up further economic growth. We must do better so we no longer have to ask “Where are the jobs?” for yet another year.

A NEW DIRECTION

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. To hear our Republican colleagues, you’d think they have an idea or a plan on how to put people back to work.

Remember, it was the failed deregulatory policies of the Bush administra-

tion and of the Republican majority that ultimately led to the collapse of Wall Street, to the emptying out of people’s savings accounts and to the destroying of businesses across America. It was also their failed free trade policies that exported 3 million manufacturing jobs during the Bush-Republican era.

But, yeah, they always say tax cuts will cure everything. I would say that the worst part of the stimulus bill they are criticizing—and I voted against that bill—was the \$340 billion in tax cuts insisted upon by three Republican Senators. How many jobs have they produced?

What did you do with your tax cuts? last week I asked my constituents.

They said, I didn’t get a tax cut.

I said, Oh, yeah, you did. You got \$8 less withholding.

They said, Well, that’s not going to do anything. That’s not going to put my neighbor back to work. That’s not going to create any jobs.

Their nostrum is more tax cuts, more deficits, more debt, more deregulation, more failed free trade. We need a new direction. Yes, this administration hasn’t done everything I’ve wanted, but it’s a heck of a lot better than the disasters they’ve visited upon us.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, last week, I spent a lot of time back in the district, talking to my constituents, and they asked one simple question:

Where are the jobs?

Folks in Macon, Kirksville, Kahoka, and throughout the district remember all too well the promises of the so-called “stimulus plan.” They realize now they were empty promises. People back home were eager to hear about Republican plans to reduce taxes and to cut spending. Folks are mad at this Congress for spending more than they take in and for proposing more job-killing taxes and regulations. The small business people I talk to understand you can’t spend more than you can afford, and you can’t exist with increased tax burdens and more harmful regulations and expect the economy to turn around.

I’ve heard the voices of the people of the Ninth District, and I am going to work hard to try and find a way to provide more jobs, more jobs, more jobs. The people of the “show me” State are waiting for us to show them the jobs.

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IT’S TIME TO LIVE WITHIN OUR MEANS

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, during this last week, I traveled all across northeast Wisconsin listening to people in their kitchens, in their living rooms, and at the plants, shaking hands with people that had come out of work, people who are happy to have a job, because today no job is a bad job.

But lest we forget, we should never forget how we got into this mess. We got into this mess because we had an administration that didn't live within its means. And without spending a single dime for it, we had two wars at the same time, two tax cuts to the rich, a gigantic handout to the drug companies, and then at the tail end of their administration, a bailout of Wall Street, nearly a trillion dollars, again without paying a single dime.

It's time to live within our means. Moreover, it's time to pass a very simple piece of legislation that's three pages long, that guarantees transparency in all health care pricing so that any individual or business that offers health care products and services for sale to the public must at all times openly disclose all of their prices.

JOBS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, with employment close to 10 percent nationwide, it's time to promote stable private sector jobs.

The people of my home State of New Jersey have long depended on international trade to drive economic growth and put people to work. The United States is the world's largest exporter with \$1.29 trillion in revenue last year, a symbol of America's global leadership. As the world becomes more integrated, our economy and employment are increasingly driven by trade.

Unfortunately, the House majority leadership has chosen to indefinitely postpone consideration of all major trade agreements with Colombia, South Korea, and Panama. American businesses, large and small, are deprived of more and more economic opportunities each and every day Congress delays their implementation. Countries in Europe and Asia have already completed or are poised to complete trade agreements with these nations. This will put our American exporters at a distinct disadvantage.

Mr. Speaker, we need these trade agreements. Our international competitors are eating our economic lunch.

HOPE AND PROMISE

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

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, when President Barack Obama came to town, he brought hope and promise: hope that our best days were still ahead of us and that we would work together;

promise that if we invested in our country and in our people, we could overcome any challenge in our country.

However, my friends on the other side have come with hope and promise as well. They hoped that the President would fail and they promised to vote against every piece of legislation that he offered and that we offered in this House.

My friends, when President Clinton left office, there was a \$5.6 trillion projected surplus. What we have been left with is a \$13 trillion debt. Our economy was in free-fall: two undeclared, unfunded wars; a banking system in chaos and greed on Wall Street.

Now, if you don't stand with the stimulus that's going to invest in our country, in our people, and you voted against us, what did you stand for?

Well, we don't know what they are standing for but we certainly know what they are against: a cost of living adjustment for seniors on Social Security, extensions of unemployment for out-of-place workers, extensions of COBRA insurance so that folks who lost their jobs can have insurance, and the largest tax cut in America's history.

The world is changed not by critics but by leaders, Mr. Speaker.

WE NEED JOBS FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, where are the jobs?

I am reading verbatim from portions in an article printed in one of our local papers:

"NASA plans more outreach to Muslim countries," by Mark Matthews, February 16.

"NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden said Tuesday that President Barack Obama has asked him to 'find ways to reach out to dominantly Muslim countries' as the White House pushes the space agency to become a tool of international diplomacy now.

"Specifically, he talked about connecting with countries that do not have an established space program and helping them conduct science missions. He mentioned new opportunities with Indonesia, including an educational program that examines global climate change. 'We really like Indonesia because the State Department, the Department of Education, and other agencies in the U.S. are reaching out to Indonesia as the largest Muslim nation in the world. We would love to establish partners there,' Bolden said."

It looks to me like the administration is looking out for everyone except our own space workers. Am I the only one who thinks there's something wrong with this picture?

We need jobs for Americans.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side have been asking where are the jobs?

Well, I just came back from 2 weeks in Pennsylvania in my district, the Third District of Pennsylvania, and I can tell you there are jobs coming to my district, and I'm excited. I'm excited for the reinvestment part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: \$130 million in broadband Internet expansion in Pennsylvania, which will bring hundreds and hundreds of jobs to my State. But beyond that, reinvestment for the future for our businesses, for our students, and for our residents of Pennsylvania.

I also went to Meadville and saw a biomass project that's going to go forward which will create great energy savings for the school district, for the recreational facility, and for the career and technical institute there. That will create 25 jobs this summer, but reinvestment so that energy costs for those three facilities will be much decreased over the year and they can reinvest in our students. Shriners Hospital for Children, \$250,000 for energy savings; \$63,000 a year they're going to save on their energy bills, money that can be used for children's care, free children's care.

The jobs are out there.

AMERICAN AUTO SUPPLIERS DESERVE BETTER FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, as the administration begins to finally focus on job creation, they should look to the auto industry. Last year, the Federal Government, at the insistence of the administration, provided a \$30 billion bailout to General Motors to create, according to administration officials, "a leaner and more efficient company."

Recently, in House hearings, I questioned Assistant Treasury Secretary Allison about taxpayer dollars subsidizing GM expansion and investment overseas. This taxpayer bailout appears to have cost additional U.S. jobs and is jeopardizing automotive supplier companies. Harco Manufacturing, from my congressional district, is an example of a supplier being impacted by the bailout of General Motors. After receiving bailout funds, General Motors has selected suppliers from overseas, making it nearly impossible for domestic companies to fairly compete for business.

Harco has requested that auto czar Ed Montgomery visit their facility to talk about these issues during his trip