

COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Yvonne B. Burke, Member of the Commission of the Office of Congressional Ethics:

YVONNE B. BURKE,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
January 8, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker,
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Leader,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND MADAM MINORITY LEADER: I am serving notice today of my intention to resign from the OCE. It is with great regrets and only because I accepted a position as a member of the Board of AMTRAK that I am asking to be relieved. The additional travel to the District for two meetings has become extremely difficult particularly because of my other responsibilities.

I have really enjoyed working with the Members of the OCE and the staff. I feel very proud of the accomplishments of the OCE and its positive contribution to the House of Representatives.

I have been honored to have had this opportunity to serve.

Best wishes,

Yours truly,

YVONNE B. BURKE.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE ON THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4(d) of House Resolution 5, 113th Congress, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following individuals to serve on the Governing Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics.

Nominated by the Speaker with the concurrence of the minority leader:

Ms. Judy Biggert, Illinois, Alternate, for the remainder of the term of Mr. Bill Frenzel

Nominated by the minority leader with the concurrence of the Speaker:

Brigadier General (retired) Belinda Pinckney, Virginia, for the remainder of the term of Mrs. Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

CONGRATULATING EDEN PRAIRIE WRESTLING COACH SCOT DAVIS ON HIS 1,000TH COACHING VICTORY

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eden Prairie Wrestling Coach Scot Davis on his 1,000th coaching victory as his Eagles squad defeated Columbia Heights by a score of 58-17 last month at Eden Prairie High School. Davis' 1,000th victory

gives him the most wins of any high school wrestling coach in the United States.

While this is Davis' first year coaching at Eden Prairie, he has coached 35 different seasons of prep wrestling, including 20 years at Owatonna High School, where he coached two state championship teams.

With a group of his friends attending the match at Eden Prairie, he admitted to feeling a little bit more pressure than usual, but the Eden Prairie team easily delivered the milestone victory. While Coach Davis said he never set a specific goal for victories, he did say that reaching the 1,000th victory was a special accomplishment.

So again, congratulations to Coach Davis for accomplishing this impressive feat, and also, thank you for continuing to dedicate yourself to helping student athletes with your time and your talent.

EXTENDING EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the thousands of my constituents who have had an essential safety net pulled out from under them because Congress has failed to take action to extend emergency unemployment insurance.

On December 28, 1.3 million nationwide, and over 80,000 in my home State of Illinois, lost unemployment insurance. Our economy is still recovering from the worst recession since the Great Depression, and now is not the time to cut off this important safety net.

I have heard from hundreds of my constituents about this, including Yvonne, a mother of five from Aurora, Illinois. While she has worked all of her life, she is now unemployed. Without unemployment insurance, she will no longer have a car or any of the resources she needs to look for work and to get her career back on track.

Unemployment insurance is not a handout; it is a hand up. Unemployment insurance is for workers who have lost their job, through no fault of their own, and who need a lifeline while they look for work.

In addition to leaving families without a safety net, failing to extend unemployment insurance is simply bad economic policy.

SNAP CUTS AND FARM MANAGEMENT LOOPHOLE

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my objection to the misguided priorities that are taking shape in the conference farm bill. More and more, and despite payment reforms that were

included in both the House and Senate legislation, it sounds like this farm bill plans to steal food from the poor to help pay crop subsidies to the rich.

Unbelievably, on the 50th anniversary of the war on poverty, it is being reported that the farm bill currently being negotiated in conference will include cuts of roughly \$8.5 billion to food stamps, denying critical food aid to over 800,000 households.

Some of the same conferees who support these cuts are looking to strip out payment limits that are designed to stop the subsidizing of millionaire and billionaire farmers, a loophole they are reopening that was closed already.

They are going to take food from the hungry: children, seniors, veterans, and workers. They are going to go out of their way to ensure that the wealthiest agribusinesses in America are getting handouts.

Allowing poor Americans to starve so that we can subsidize rich corporations is not why we are here. It is cruel, it is corrupt, it is immoral, and we have to do better for the people that we represent.

WAR ON POVERTY

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago today, President Johnson declared a war on poverty. Since that day, our country has fought to increase access to resources for those struggling to make ends meet.

Poverty has declined by more than one-third since 1967. That is because, historically, we have had strong bipartisan support for programs like Social Security and Medicare and tax policies like the Earned Income Tax Credit.

But the war on poverty is not over. In 2012 there were 49.7 million Americans living in poverty, including 13.4 million of our children.

We cannot break our promise to fight poverty. That is why this Congress needs to do everything to strengthen these programs and lift people out of poverty.

Tax credits for struggling families reduced the poverty rate in 2012 by 3 points. SNAP helped to reduce poverty by 3 points. Unemployment insurance reduces poverty as well, and it is why we need to extend it.

Our commitment to these programs must not waver. Let us work together to really end poverty now.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support for renewing the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program.

Because Congress failed to act, this vital program expired on December 28

of last year. Just 3 days after Christmas, 1.3 million Americans, including over 1,000 Granite Staters, were cut off from their benefits. Each week of congressional inaction, as many as 150 additional Granite Staters will lose access to benefits.

This compensation provides a critical lifeline to Granite Staters and other Americans who are struggling to find work.

This includes my constituent Lois Little, a teacher who wrote to me from Colebrook, New Hampshire. At the end of the last school year, Lois lost her job after teaching for 29 years because of falling enrollment in her rural school district. Over the last few months, she has applied to over 100 jobs, without any luck.

Her savings have been exhausted, unemployment benefits are now her only source of income, and she is worried about whether she can keep her home.

Let's come together and give Lois a chance. Let's renew Emergency Unemployment Compensation today.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR ON POVERTY

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the success and legacy of the war on poverty. The war on poverty, proposed 50 years ago today in this Chamber by then-President and fellow Texan, Lyndon Johnson, paved the way towards the enactment of many of our Nation's most popular and significant Federal programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, Head Start.

These programs, along with Social Security, unemployment insurance, and now the Affordable Care Act, form America's social safety net, which has protected millions of our Nation's children, working adults and elderly from falling into poverty.

Less than 2 weeks ago, through the inaction of this House, 1.3 million Americans, including 65,000 Texans, saw their unemployment insurance disappear. This number will grow to over 3 million in the coming months if action is not taken. This vital lifeline is essential for millions of our fellow Americans who are out of work and struggling to make ends meet.

The 50th anniversary of President Johnson's speech is the perfect opportunity for Congress to show its support for those less fortunate, and I call on this Chamber to bring the legislation to renew Emergency Unemployment today.

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PASS UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE NOW

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, when Lyndon Baines Johnson came before this House and this Nation to say that the United States, the richest country in the history of the world, should not have people living in squalor and in poverty, shouldn't have seniors eating dog food, shouldn't have poor kids living with no chance of a better life, he did what this Nation really is all about. He really lived up to the true meaning of "liberty and justice for all," and he made those words real when, for so many years, they had not been real.

And yet those programs which lifted millions of Americans out of poverty, that war on poverty which lifted so many out and gave so many people a chance, after about 10 years, there became a war on the war on poverty.

Now the latest battle in the war on the war on poverty, what took place on December 28, 2013, this House refused to extend unemployment insurance for 1.3 million Americans. This is no way to uphold the great legacy of the war on poverty. Let's pass unemployment insurance. Let's do it now.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with many Members to mark President Lyndon Baines Johnson's 1964 State of the Union Address.

Let me first take a moment to thank Leader PELOSI; our whip, STENY HOYER; and the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, for their tremendous leadership in leading our agenda for economic justice and for jobs.

This is truly a historic day in our fight to provide every American with a pathway out of poverty. This morning, we were joined here at the Capitol by Linda Johnson Robb, President Lyndon Baines Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson's eldest daughter, to mark the 50th anniversary of her father's State of the Union speech in which he declared an unconditional war on poverty. At the time of his speech, the Nation's supplemental poverty rate was approximately 26 percent; 36 percent of low-income households struggled with food insecurity; and more than a third of American seniors were living in poverty.

And let me tell you, President Johnson got it. He recognized in his speech that poverty is a national problem requiring national organization and support. He knew that in a great society it is absolutely essential that we prioritize investments that lift millions out of poverty. As a result of his vision, his daughter reminded us this morning of the bipartisan and bicameral effort that followed, benchmark antipoverty legislation passed during the Johnson administration, in-

cluding—and I want to remind everyone of these major initiatives that have significantly changed the lives of millions of Americans—the Civil Rights Act, the Urban Mass Transportation Act, the Criminal Justice Act, the Food Stamp Act, the Older Americans Act, Social Security amendments, the Voting Rights Act, the Housing and Urban Development Act, the Public Works and Economic Development Act, the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, the Amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Higher Education Act, the Child Nutrition Act, the Child Protection Act, and the National School Lunch Act, in addition to Head Start, Job Corps, of course food stamps, now known as SNAP, Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

The result of these policies and programs are undeniable. The poverty rate was cut nearly in half by the mid-1970s. They even had a personal impact on many of us here, a personal impact on me, providing a critical bridge over troubled waters when I was a single mother in the seventies, trying to raise two boys and go to college. And I am forever grateful to the American people for being there for me when I needed them.

And we know that today, 50 years later, these critical antipoverty programs continue to provide that support for vulnerable Americans and people living on the edge. Today, the Nation's supplemental poverty rate is now 16 percent, well below what it was in 1964. The programs put in place after the war on poverty, they work. They create economic security, return people to their dignity, and provide opportunities for Americans to lift themselves out of poverty.

According to a report released by the Center for American Progress yesterday, without the safety net initiated as a part of the war on poverty, "poverty rates today would be nearly double what they currently are." And I will now insert that report into the RECORD.

[From americanprogress.org, Jan. 7, 2014]

KEY FINDINGS FROM OUR NEW NATIONAL POLL

One-quarter to one-third of Americans, and even higher percentages of Millennials and people of color, continue to experience direct economic hardship. Sixty-one percent of Americans say their family's income is falling behind the cost of living, compared to just 8 percent who feel they are getting ahead and 29 percent who feel they are staying even. Twenty-five percent to 34 percent of Americans report serious problems falling behind in rent, mortgage, or utilities payments or being unable to buy enough food, afford necessary medical care, or keep up with minimum credit card payments. While these numbers have somewhat retreated over the last five years, they are still shockingly high, and the disparities across demographic groups underscore how uneven the current recovery has been.

A majority of Americans have a direct personal connection to poverty. Fifty-four percent of Americans say that someone in their immediate or extended families is poor, a figure that has actually increased 2 points