

possibility of tightening up immigration laws paralyzes most politicians. Absolutely true, but not with the people who have joined me here tonight, and I want to thank my colleagues for their courage.

INCENTIVE TO TRAVEL ACT WILL STIMULATE ECONOMY

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as we look to stimulate the economy, we should help the industries that have been hit the hardest, the airlines and tourism. The airlines are losing billions. They have laid off over 100,000 people. Tourism is New York State and New York City's second largest industry, and it is reeling. 15,000 restaurant workers and over 6,000 hotel workers in New York City have been laid off since September 11.

The Incentive to Travel Act, which has been introduced in a bipartisan way with the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) will help the economy. It will give Americans the incentive to take a vacation at a time when we all deserve one. For 1 year, the bill would provide tax deductions for families of up to \$2,000 nationally, and an additional \$1,000 for New York for travel and entertainment expenses.

It would immediately restore the deduction for business meals and entertainment to 80 percent from 50 percent. The Incentive to Travel Act is an incentive to stimulate the economy, unlike the Republican stimulus package, which is called the "Special-Interest Payback" in USA Today. They say it is time to take a vacation for the special-interest Republican payback.

Mr. Speaker, I request to put this editorial in the RECORD.

[From USA Today, Oct. 23, 2001]

SPECIAL-INTEREST PAYBACK

CRISIS BECOMES EXCUSE TO RAID FEDERAL TILL FOR FAVORED GROUPS

Just about everyone recognizes that the events of Sept. 11 and afterward impose new challenges and responsibilities on the nation and its leaders. But this new reality doesn't seem to have penetrated House Republican leaders. In the latest example, they take up today a special wartime "stimulus" bill that's little more than a good old-fashioned special-interest giveaway.

The case for a stimulus wasn't strong from the beginning. While the economy is clearly suffering, no one yet knows how bad it is or how long it will last. Given that uncertainty, the best bet is for a temporary jolt that eases the current slump without jeopardizing the nation's long-term economic health with a return to deficit spending.

Yet against Bush's advice, and that of experts such as Alan Greenspan and former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, the House has decided to repay corporate patrons for their years of campaign support. Among its many deficiencies, the House plan is:

Long-lived: More than a third of the tax cuts take effect in 2003. Even if there's a recession this year, it most certainly will be over long before those cuts kick in.

Unfocused: Rather than target relief at those who need help the most, the House lavishes tax benefits on just about everyone with a lobbyist. Companies get 70% of the tax cuts in 2002, and some of their breaks are permanent. Low-income families get a one-time rebate check.

Fiscally irresponsible: The House version blows through Bush's stimulus goal of \$75 billion. And with many provisions long-lasting, it imposes costs on the country's fiscal health over the next decade. That means less money to pay down debt, higher mortgage rates and slower economic growth.

This is easy to dismiss as politics as usual. But that's the problem. These are times that require everyone, especially political leaders, to put aside petty self-interest and everyday horse trading for the country's good.

The House leaders showed an unwillingness to do that with their adamant refusal to consider federalizing the nation's airport-security system. Now they're at it again with their brazen attempt to use the current crisis to please well-heeled special interests.

Worse, they've weakened the hand of those in the Senate who are trying gamely to provide focused relief to the economy. If Republicans pay off their contributors under the guise of stimulus, what's to prevent Democrats from doing the same? Already, some Democrats have been trying to get a minimum-wage boost included along with money for road and school construction, among other longstanding party priorities.

History shows that Congress rarely gets the timing or the size of stimulus packages right. The Fed, which can act far more quickly and with greater precision, is best suited to manage the ups and downs of the economy. If stimulus is to be provided, it should be targeted at low- and middle-income families most in need of help. That would cost far less than the \$160-billion House proposal. Ideally, any money used for stimulus should be repaid down the road so that the nation's debt-repayment schedule isn't also sacrificed in the war on terrorism.

If lawmakers can't rise above their traditional narrow focus and produce a stimulus that works, the country would be best served if they gave this idea a long vacation.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HILL of Indiana (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. STEARNS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for October 23 on account of a family emergency.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INSLEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FLAKE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EHLERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREENWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 146. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 182. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1000. An act to adjust the boundary of the William Howard Taft National Historic Site in the State of Ohio, to authorize an exchange of land in connection with the historic site, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1161. An act to authorize the Government of the Czech Republic to establish a memorial to honor Tomas G. Masaryk in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 1668. An act to authorize the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor former President John Adams and his legacy.

H.R. 2217. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2904. An act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 25, 2001, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows: