

of course, extending unemployment insurance. It is retroactive to anybody who has lost their job back to March.

I remember just after the attacks in September, going back home to Albuquerque and talking to people there and I always ask now, I say, how are things going, how is business going? They were laying people off at the rental car companies. Tourism and travel has been really decimated by these attacks. It is not just large airlines. It is the hotels and the motels and the rental car companies, all of those folks who lost their jobs already, even back to March when, technically, the recession started.

They are going to be eligible for extended unemployment benefits if they cannot find a job and we are going to have to accept that in this time of a slowdown, it is probably going to be a longer time period between the time one gets laid off and when one starts the new job.

I know the gentleman from Arizona has worked hard on the Committee on Ways and Means, as have other Members of this House. The leadership has really come up with a very good compromise proposal. I think the House just needs to pass it. We need to move on.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I will yield first to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I will just make a quick point. Very quickly, picking up on what the gentlewoman from New Mexico said, this bill incorporates a variety of different opportunities in what we call tax-slaying extensions, taking advantage of opportunities and credits already existing in terms of research and development. The gentleman mentioned welfare to work and work opportunity tax credit. I would be remiss on behalf of my constituency if I did not mention the extension for the first Americans, for native Americans, who find themselves, as we understand, so often left behind.

Now, as we seek to revitalize tribal economies and economic opportunities there, there are provisions that have been included in this bill that are good for Oklahoma, and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATKINS) has been an unfailing champion on this. We are pleased to include that in this bill so that no American is left behind. Opportunities are there for all. I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I will yield to gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I just want to reiterate, the theme here is: would you rather have a paycheck or an unemployment check? Would you rather be independent or dependent?

These tax credits, these investment credits create jobs. Yesterday I was with a friend of mine named Kevin Jackson. He owns a company called

Envirovac. He has about 400 people on his payroll. They go into factories and do maintenance. He says every factory that they visit right now is flat because they are laying off people in this recession. This jobs creation-economic stimulus package will turn it around. Again, we are talking about real people and real faces, because we know these folks. They would rather be independent than dependent on an unemployment check. They want a job.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) for the balance of the time.

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, people are hurting in America. We have lost 700,000 jobs in this country since September 11. We need to help people across to the next job. We need to help keep the jobs that we have and help find new jobs in this economy. The way we are going to do it is by giving small business the tools they need to invest in creating new jobs, restore confidence in capital markets, put money in the pockets of consumers immediately, both low-income and middle income Americans, and we are also going to help people over the hump with health care and unemployment insurance to make sure that those who are hurting can make it by. We want this recession to be as short and as shallow as we possibly can make it. In the House, we will act.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) will yield, I know the gentleman's time is about to expire, but I did want to say that it is imperative that this House acts and, hopefully, the Senate follows as well, to make this recession short and shallow, as the gentlewoman from New Mexico said, but also to help the unemployed.

What is really excellent about this new stimulus bill is that for the first time, it provides assistance in purchasing health insurance for the unemployed. America has never done that before. This is a first. Only this bill offers the same assistance to everyone. If one works for an employer who provided what is called COBRA benefits, one can use their 50 percent benefit, or their 60 percent benefit now, for COBRA benefits. But most people work for small employers and small employers are not covered by COBRA, so if one works for a small employer and is laid off, the old bill and the bill of the other party will not help them. This will give them a 60 percent premium subsidy, whether they buy their own health insurance, whether their employee is COBRA-covered or not. Everyone will be treated the same. All unemployed will get help, with health insurance benefits as well as extended unemployment benefits. I thank the gentleman for yielding his precious time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) for her good work on this bill, and I thank all of my colleagues for participating in this Special Order.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota). The Chair would again remind all Members that it is not in order to characterize Senate action or inaction, to encourage action by the Senate, or refer to individual members of the Senate, except with respect to sponsorship of bills or amendments.

#### AMERICA NEEDS BIPARTISAN STIMULUS PACKAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me say that I do plan initially to respond to some of the comments that were made by my Republican colleagues about the potential stimulus bill that I gather we may see on the House Floor as early as tomorrow. Regardless of the substance of the stimulus package that the Republican leadership may bring up tomorrow, I think the bottom line is, and everyone needs to know, that it is going nowhere. They are fully aware of the fact that it is going nowhere. I think what we are going to see tomorrow, and I think it is very unfortunate, is basically a replay of what happened a couple of months ago when, in the aftermath of September 11 and the World Trade Center and Pentagon tragedies, there was an effort in the few weeks afterwards, because of the realization of the impact on the economy and because the recession was only, if you will, accelerated by the events on September 11, there was a recognition that we needed to do a stimulus package to get the economy going again, and that the only way to achieve that, given that we have a divided government, one body Democrat, one body Republican majority, that we needed to work across party lines and to bring the House and the Senate together.

So there was sort of understanding that we would all sit down and work on a stimulus package together, Democrats and Republicans together, Senate and House together, as well as with the President.

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But unfortunately, very quickly that dissolved because the House Republican leadership wanted to pass their own version of a stimulus package and was not willing to work with the