

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman for that.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I look forward, along with the Leader and the rest of my colleagues, to begin working with the gentleman and the majority to start on an earnest attempt to create an environment for job creation so that people in this country can get back to work.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KRATOVIL). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland? There was no objection.

WE MUST PASS A JOBS BILL

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I think it is important to note the change in the economy as we move forward. But the challenge to us as Members of Congress, even as we reflect on the enormous impact the investment dollars have had, last year in January of 2009 we had lost 779,000 jobs. In January of 2010, only 22,000 jobs were lost and the economy is percolating. But 22,000 is unacceptable.

So we must pass a jobs bill now. But we must also be concerned not only for the recently unemployed, for the white collar workers, but we have to be concerned about the young workers, 18 to 30. We have to be concerned about the chronically unemployed, or the ex-felon who has paid his or her dues, has a family, and other than getting work, they would be dependent on a government handout. They don't want that.

So when we talk about jobs, we have to worry about seniors, and working families, and people who have been unemployed for a long period of time. We have got to put a job in their hand. And that is what I want to do, work to get jobs for the American people and the 18th Congressional District.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE NEED FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, besides the question and the need for jobs, I think it is important for America and for my colleagues to know that the meeting yesterday at the White House at Blair House was a vitally important meeting. I know that many Americans were able to see it in its purity, meaning that you were able to watch it live.

The President intended that we have the opportunity to hear real discussion. And I would beg to differ whether this was an opportunity for just show and tell. I have listened to the President's commitment to health care reform. I have listened to the Democratic leadership's commitment to health care reform. And I have spent hours listening to constituents through town hall meetings in August and traveling throughout the district. As they speak about jobs, I want us to be very clear.

□ 1230

Every time I am in the district, someone says, are you going to get health care reform passed?

This is real meat and potatoes. This is about premiums that go up about \$1,400 to \$2,500 a year on a family of four. This is about 36 million to 40 million who are now uninsured. This is about working people who are uninsured. This is about families whose children have asthma or respiratory illnesses or preexisting conditions and are not able to get insurance because of birth defects or other illnesses that their children are born with, a preexisting disease. And presently, you cannot get insurance if you have a preexisting disease.

This is, likewise, about the non-competitive atmosphere that health carriers live in and that we suffer under. And you know what?

Before we began discussing this health care reform, we accepted it as the norm. We didn't think anything of it. In Alabama, one insurance company in the entire State. In a State like Texas, only three insurance companies. That is not competition. That is, you take me the way I want you to take me, and if you don't like it, move on.

That's the kind of atmosphere that health care insurance companies live in. They tell us, move on. Preexisting disease, move on. You can't pay your premiums, move on. You're in the hospital and we don't want to pay it, get out. That's what atmosphere Americans are living in.

And I realize that those who have insurance that they like, they don't see these horror stories of people dying because they don't have insurance. And I want the people who have insurance to keep their insurance. But 45,000 people die every year because they don't have health insurance.

So yesterday's meeting was a serious meeting, because the bottom line of it

was, we're listening and we're open, but we have to move on because we're losing people's lives.

And so this preexisting disease will be eliminated. Premiums will go down. We'll save billions of dollars because of the health care reform process.

At the same time, I want us to do good. I want to make sure that we save physician-owned hospitals. Many of you probably have been patients in physician-owned hospitals, where doctors have come back in and purchased failing hospitals by a small percentage of ownership, where their name is on the line, where they want high quality hospitals like the 40-plus that are in the State of Texas, like Doctors Hospital, like St. Joseph's Hospital, like the hospitals down in the Valley, where individuals who are paying the amount of money can count on doctors being there who care. And so I want this health insurance reform not to close down those hospitals and eliminate those employees who are there.

We can do a lot of good, and we must pass health care reform. We have to already recognize that we've passed the antitrust exemption so that you can have more competition in these States. We did that this past week. That's a good thing.

But we've got to make sure that we increase CHIPS for our children, Children's Health Insurance Program, protect Medicare and Medicaid, and open the floodgates for Americans who work and have dignity to have dignity when they are sick. The last thing you want to do is to be on your sickbed and to lose your house, your car, your ability to support yourself while you're losing your job because you're sick.

So I simply say that it is time now for the wake-up call to go out amongst all of those who care. America needs to wake up. When America demands, this legislative body, this People's House acts.

And so I thank the President for transparency yesterday. I thank the Democratic leadership for transparency. I thank my friends on the other side of the aisle for attending and engaging.

But after all is said and done, there will still be 45,000 people that are dying every year because they don't have insurance.

Mr. Speaker, the call is being made. The question is, will we answer. I will, for one, answer for health care reform for America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STACY PALMER-BARTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my long-time staff member and dear friend, Stacy