

That the Senate failed passage H. Con. Res. 94.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 3630.

That the Senate agreed to Conference Report accompanying the bill H.R. 2055.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 17, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 17, 2011 at 12:56 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3672.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 17, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 17, 2011 at 2:37 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 95.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches per side.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO CZECH REPUBLIC FORMER PRESIDENT VACLAV HAVEL

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, the late Czech champion of freedom, Vaclav Havel, once explained the battle between good and evil as "an eternal, never-ending struggle waged not just by good people against evil people. It takes place inside everyone. It is what makes a person a person, and life, life.

"So anyone who claims that I am a dreamer who expects to transform hell into heaven is wrong. I have few illusions. But I feel a responsibility to work towards the things I consider good and right. I don't know whether I'll be able to change certain things for the better, or not at all. Both outcomes are possible. There is only one thing I will not concede: that it might be meaningless to strive in a good cause."

Mr. Haval, for your meaningful life's work engaging the affairs of state and of the heart for right and good, thank you and God bless you as your mortal struggle ends and you finally rest in peace amidst the freedom of your beloved Republic.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Another phony crisis, courtesy of the extremist bah-humbag House Republicans.

House Republicans have never met a deal they couldn't find a reason to dislike. Now they've resorted to fighting their colleagues in the other body to avoid doing something positive for our country.

Right now, we could be cutting the payroll tax, we could be extending jobless benefits, and approving a Medicare fix for our doctors. The average American family in Cleveland, Lorain, Sandusky, and Toledo now faces a \$1,000 tax hike because of the Republican game of chicken.

American middle class families want the payroll tax cut or their taxes will go up on average about \$1,000. Millions of Americans need unemployment benefits, but House Republicans need to pick a fight. And it doesn't matter with whom. If they can't fight with Democrats, who are standing up for the middle class, they will fight with their colleagues in the other body.

Here's what I want for Christmas: I want the Republicans to care half as much about manufacturing jobs in America as they care about manufacturing crises. Now wouldn't that be a holiday present?

REPUBLICANS HAVE SERVED THE PUBLIC

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday House Republicans successfully passed a bill that protects every American taxpayer and promotes job creation by extending the payroll tax cut, reforming unemployment insurance, and providing Medicare payments to physicians for a year. Over the weekend, liberals in the Senate amended this legislation to provide for only a 2-month fix. In an attempt to tie House Republicans' hands and force the 2-month extension, Senate liberals led adjournment for recess.

The American people deserve much better than this childish behavior when our unemployment rate has consistently remained above 8 percent for 34 months and over 25 million Americans are searching for work.

Our sympathy to the people of the Czech Republic upon the death of former President Vaclav Havel, who was a brave patriot helping liberate Central and Eastern Europe from communism, leading to the establishment of the neighboring Slovak Republic.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

GOP AS GRINCH

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. It's Grinch time in Washington, Mr. Speaker. One is incredulous that the House Republicans would oppose a tax cut for 160 million Americans, but that's just what they're going to do today.

Is this bill perfect? No. There are aspects upon which both sides disagree. But it is the area of agreement that should be the most important: Congress stops playing hostage politics and halts the tax hike on 160 million fellow citizens.

Saturday's Senate vote was 89-10—not just liberals, I say to my friend from South Carolina—with all members of the Senate leadership, Republican and Democrat, voting in favor. If House Republicans vote against this compromise, they will ring in the new year with a tax hike of their own making.

If House Republicans were serious about wanting certainty, as they claim, they would vote for this bill today and guarantee that 160 million Americans won't pay higher taxes on January 1.

Mr. Speaker, rejecting this bill and holding up the payroll tax cut and unemployment benefits will be a true example of how the GOP Grinch stole Christmas for 160 million Americans.

SENATE PLAN NOT GOOD FOR PHYSICIANS, PATIENTS, OR AMERICA

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of doctors around the country.

As a physician, and now a legislator, I am personally devastated at the way our government continues to treat those who care for America's patients, particularly those who care for America's seniors.

Physicians have staff to pay, electricity bills, building leases, and numerous other costs associated with running a practice. The 2-month patch that the Senate sent back to us as part of the payroll tax package does not provide doctors and their practices with the stability that they need to do their job—caring for America's seniors.

At a time when American businesses need certainty, Congress gives them a brief, unpredictable, and unreliable timeline. Two months of tax payment relief is just another short-term fix, and it's simply not good enough. Physicians deserve better. Patients deserve better. The American people deserve better.

I will vote "no" on the Senate bill and urge my colleagues to do the same. Then let's come back with a policy that will, for heaven's sakes, at least take us through the year ahead.

SENATE PLAN IS IRRESPONSIBLE

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, the President has said it would be inexcusable not to extend the payroll tax cut for a year. However, the Senate's plan merely extends the plan for just 60 days, instead of a full year extension, creating uncertainty for our job creators at a time when millions of Americans are out of work. It also creates more uncertainty about implementing the plans, as we just learned today from the National Payroll Reporting Consortium.

American families deserve better than tax policy in 2-month increments. Last week, the House passed bipartisan legislation that extends the payroll tax cut for a full year, which would save American households an average of \$1,000 a year. It also extends unemployment benefits and ensures senior citizens have access to their doctor by preventing a cut in Medicare reimbursement rates.

The worst part of the Senate plan is it puts new permanent fees on home mortgages to pay for 60 days of spending. This is an irresponsible and outrageous plan.

Our bill is offset by reasonable spending cuts, not new taxes on hardworking middle class home borrowers. A full-

year plan with no new taxes is better than a 2-month spending spree which is nothing more than a political side-show.

I guess the Senators were anxious to leave town and not finish their work. So I think we ought to call the Senate plan "I'll be home for Christmas."

PULSE OF TEXAS: HUMBLE RESIDENT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, each week my neighbors take the time to make their opinions known through emails, phone calls, and letters. Today's Pulse of Texas is from a Federal employee in Humble, Texas, who recently wrote me with these wise observations:

"I am an 11-year Federal Government employee who works hard, and yet I'm on a 2-3 year pay freeze while unemployment benefits are extended over and over again. I live in a house that I purchased because I could afford it, yet my tax dollars go to bail out bad lenders and borrowers. My children go to colleges that they can afford. They all held jobs during college, and the oldest graduated with zero in student loan debt, yet now there is a plan to bail out those who went to schools above their means. Enough is enough.

"Please help break the cycle of entitlement and lack of personal responsibility that the government is fostering in this country."

Mr. Speaker, America should be the land of freedom and opportunity, not more free stuff and entitlement.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1610

WE NEED A 1-YEAR EXTENSION

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

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, Nevadans tell me time and time again that they want some certainty in their lives. They want their elected leaders to move beyond patchwork agreements every single month.

We passed a 1-year package, fully paid for, that extends unemployment benefits while providing a pathway back to work, keeps an extra \$1,000 in the pockets of Nevada's struggling families, while protecting Social Security, and maintains access to health care for seniors and veterans by keeping doctors in Medicare.

Throughout the entire negotiation process, the American people were assured that they would receive an entire year of certainty. Then the Senate pulled the rug out from underneath them. Passing a 2-month extension now will put us right back here in February, when we should be using that time to debate job-creating ideas.

The House will stay here and work on this critical issue until it is resolved.

The House agrees with the President and the American people: we need a 1-year extension. Anything else will be judged as a failure to do our job.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled joint resolution was signed by the Speaker on Friday, December 16, 2011:

H.J. Res. 94, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes,

and Saturday, December 17, 2011:

H.J. Res. 95, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

IMPACT OF INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION FAILURES

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2056) to instruct the Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study the impact of insured depository institution failures, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

On page 2, line 10, insert "and" after the semicolon.

On page 2, line 14, strike the semicolon and all that follows through line 19 and insert a period.

On page 4, strike line 14 and all that follows through page 5, line 5, and insert the following:

(2) *LOSSES.*—*The significance of losses, including—*

(A) *the number of insured depository institutions that have been placed into receivership or conservatorship due to significant losses arising from loans for which all payments of principal, interest, and fees were current, according to the contractual terms of the loans;*

(B) *the impact of significant losses arising from loans for which all payments of principal, interest, and fees were current, according to the contractual terms of the loans, on the ability of insured depository institutions to raise additional capital;*

(C) *the effect of changes in the application of fair value accounting rules and other accounting standards, including the allowance for loan and lease loss methodology, on insured depository institutions, specifically the degree to which fair value accounting rules and other accounting standards have led to regulatory action against banks, including consent orders and closure of the institution; and*