

in the year 2001 it was 8.3, so it has gone up. In the city that I live in, in El Monte, it was at 6.7 in the year 2001. Now, it is at 8.7. It has not gone down.

While the President hails the recent uptick in the economic figures, he fails to mention the unemployment among Latinos and other minorities which continues to rise.

Let us leave no family behind and provide unemployment insurance benefits for all.

SOUTH CAROLINA POLICY COUNCIL

(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 week, the visionary Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform, honored the South Carolina Policy Council with the rare and prestigious Dragon Slayer Award. President Edward T. McMullen, Jr., received a symbolic sword for the Council's efforts in fighting tax increases in South Carolina.

Since 1986, the South Carolina Policy Council has educated South Carolina's legislature and citizens about State and local public policy based on the traditional values of individual liberty and responsibility, free enterprise, and limited government.

In addition to President McMullen, I would like to give a special thanks to the dedicated staff of Administrative Assistant Marion Harsey, Vice President for Development India Hazzard; Vice President for Public Affairs Ashley Landess; Vice President for Policy Gerry Dickenson; Chairman of the Board Jake Razor; and the courageous analyst Hal Eberle.

The Palmetto State is truly blessed to have such talented people working on public policy, and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking the South Carolina Policy Council for their vital service.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, September 11, and the current December 7.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WITHOUT WORK THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the American worker. As we wrap up our work for the year, 8.7 million Americans are without jobs this holiday season.

The administration keeps promising economic growth will bring job growth. Yet, even on the heels of an impressive third quarter of economic growth, the job market has not taken off.

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The Labor Department reports that only 57,000 jobs were added to the econ-

omy last month, a figure that represents only one-third of economists' prior expectations.

We all know there are deeper economic problems contributing to the loss of American jobs. Our trade policies have produced record-level trade deficits and have only encouraged American companies to send good-paying jobs overseas where they take advantage of cheap labor.

However, as we sit here with 1 day left in the session, we need to do what we can today to help better the lives of the American workers. We all know that the administration talks about cutting taxes and putting money in our pockets, but typically the American working class gets very little of this extra money. What I want to know is if the administration is so intent on putting money in our pockets, why they are eliminating the overtime provisions that are in this omnibus bill we are talking about today. Why will they not extend the unemployment benefits? These are policies that give America's workers more money every single pay period. And if there is ever a need for extra cash, it is during the holiday season.

THE ALIEN ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make my colleagues aware of H.R. 3651, a bill I dropped just today at the end of 3 years of service in the House. It is titled the Alien Accountability Act. I can only apologize to the House that I was not able to bring it to the House sooner.

It deals with the 8½ million people who are here in America outside our laws. It deals in a post-September 11 era with a challenge that America has been trying to face to know who is here, why they are here, and whether or not they threaten Americans, all Americans.

This is not a partisan issue. I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the Alien Accountability Act to once and for all bring to the awareness of civil authorities the 8½ million people that are here, according to our census, outside the law and find a way to register these people and to bring about some equitable conclusion to what has been a failed system of illegal immigration.

CELEBRATING BANKERS LIFE AND CASUALTY COMPANY 125TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Bankers Life and Casualty Company on their 125th anniversary, which will occur on June 17,

2004. Established in 1879, Bankers Life and Casualty Company is one of the most esteemed insurance companies in the United States. Headquartered in Chicago, it is the oldest health and life insurance company in the city and is currently the largest tenant in the world-famous Merchandise Mart. Through Bankers' dedicated work over more than a century, thousands of Chicagoland employees have helped millions of people across the country achieve their vision of living happy, active, and financially secure lives.

I congratulate them for 125 years of service to the residents of America.

INCREASED EARMARKS IN THE OMNIBUS BILL

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the omnibus bill that we will be passing later today, and I rise with great reluctance to criticize the bill. This Republican Congress has increased the number of earmarks in bills by about four-fold in just the past couple of years. This is no way to do business.

We speak a great deal and at great length in this House about rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal agencies in the way we spend money with the Federal Government. I would suggest that we look no further than the earmarks that we propose in this bill and other spending bills to root out waste, fraud, and abuse.

Most of these earmarks simply benefit one Member, one project. It is typically referred to as pork-barrel spending. We as Republicans have decried this practice for years, and now we seem to have embraced it.

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to turn a different direction and realize that if we want fiscal restraint, if we want to return to balanced budgets, then we have to do something about this kind of spending.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2673, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-402) on the resolution (H. Res. 473) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2673) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.