

program of emergency unemployment compensation, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### U.S. OPEN BEGINS PLAY TOMORROW

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

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I want to let all of my colleagues know that, as most of them already do, that tomorrow is the United States Open, the great U.S. Open, the great tradition in golf competition. And it is going to be held at Torrey Pines in San Diego.

I thought this might be an appropriate time to pay tribute to those great golfers who have come to the San Diego area, and especially to talk about the dean of golf in San Diego, that great champion who won two U.S. Opens, Billy Casper. We have had a number of great champions out of San Diego.

Madam Speaker, there is a line that connects Billy Casper and Phil Mickelson, who is one of the top contenders. He is going to be playing tomorrow. He is a great U.S. Open competitor who has been runner-up four times. He said the other day, I think it was on the Golf Channel, that he loves the U.S. Open. So far the U.S. Open hasn't loved him. But he follows a succession of great golfers out of San Diego.

We had "Gene the Machine," Gene Littler, who won the U.S. Open in 1961; the great Mickey Wright, possibly the greatest woman golfer of all time, who won, I believe, four LPGA championships; Craig Stadler, who while he didn't win the U.S. Open, won the Masters; the great Paul Runyan, "Little Poison," who at one point, even though he was outdriven about 100 yards on every drive by Sam Snead at the PGA Championships back in the thirties beat the Great Snead 8 and 7 by being so good around the greens; and of course the great Scott Simpson who won the U.S. Open in 1987. And that leads me to the guy who won the U.S. Open two times, really the dean of golf

in San Diego, California, the great Billy Casper.

Madam Speaker, people don't understand how great Billy Casper was and is. He won 51 professional tournaments. During the heyday of the big three, that was Palmer, Player and Nicklaus, that period between 1964 and 1970 when those three golfers were winning a combined 35 victories, Billy Casper by himself was winning 23 victories, more than Palmer or Player combined and three more than Jack Nicklaus. In fact, I think it was the great Jack Nicklaus who said at one point that it should have been the big four.

Billy Casper is a guy who had the greatest Ryder Cup record in the history of American golfers and the best come-from-behind win in a U.S. Open championship in our history. And let me tell you just a little bit about that. It was 1966 at Olympic Golf Course in San Francisco. Billy Casper walked up to the tee on the last nine, the back nine of the last 18 holes of the last day of the U.S. Open. He walked up to the tee seven shots behind the great Arnold Palmer in his prime. And after he had finished that nine holes, he had shot a 32, he had tied Palmer who was only three over par on the back nine, and with a seven-shot lead, you ought to be able to win the U.S. Olympic with the 37 on the last nine. But he tied him, caught him by seven strokes in the last nine holes. And the next day, the great Billy Casper won the playoff against Arnold Palmer with a 69. That is the great Billy Casper, one of the great Americans of all time, one of the great athletes and golfers of all time, and our dean of golf in San Diego.

I want to recognize my friend, Danny Burton who, while he is very modest, is a great athlete. He was the high school champion in Indiana, a guy we have all looked up to and a guy who also has some memories of his own about some of these U.S. Open champions.

I would like to yield to my friend from Indiana.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I thank the gentleman for taking the time to do this. I wish everybody that is interested in golf were paying attention tonight because you're mentioning some really great players from San Diego. There must be something in the water out there.

But Scott Simpson is a friend of mine. I have had the opportunity to play with Scott a few times. And he is probably one of the nicest people I have ever met in golf. He is a very good Christian man. He is an outstanding golfer. He doesn't know the meaning of "quit." And he won the U.S. Open as well. And he is one of those guys from San Diego that you as a San Diegoan, I guess that is how you say it, ought to be very proud of.

Billy Casper and Phil Mickelson, Scott Simpson and Gene Littler, a great bunch of guys and a great bunch of golfers; Phil Mickelson, I have had the pleasure of playing with him as well. I will tell you, he is going to win

the Open one of these days because he has the ability, and he is the caliber of man to get the job done. I know he has had a few flukes here in the past. He has won the Masters twice. And I predict Phil will win the U.S. Open before too long.

Mr. HUNTER. Let me ask my friend, Dan Burton, a lot of people have criticized Phil Mickelson because he is kind of a go-for-broke player. And they often say, as in some of the shots that he took in some of the closing holes in some of the majors, that Phil Mickelson didn't play the odds, that he didn't hit the safe shot. He went for the go-for-broke shot. And in some cases, it didn't work out. I kind of like that. Because that is really what we go to the golf course to see.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. The people that criticize Mickelson probably can't even carry his shoes. He has won two Masters. He is the number two golfer in the world right now. He is tough in every tournament. So when people say something bad about Mickelson, they had better take a good look at themselves, especially if they are a golfer.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman. And I will just say that it is a great day for Billy Casper, a great day for Phil Mickelson tomorrow, and a great day for the U.S. Open and all of our past champions.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Tomorrow is the beginning of the best and greatest golf tournament in the world.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman.

#### STATE OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COURTNEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss one of the most critical issues facing American families today—the state of the national economy. I want the American people to know that this Congress understands the struggles facing millions of people. And we have been taking steps to provide assistance to those in need. Just last week, we heard the troubling news that our unemployment rate jumped from 5 percent in April to 5.5 percent in May.

Now in Rhode Island, the problem is even worse with an unemployment rate of 6.1 percent. Now I strongly support an extension of unemployment insurance to those who exhausted their benefit. And I am disappointed that Republicans blocked its passage in the House earlier today. Unfortunately, our economic woes are not limited, though, to high unemployment. As health care costs and food prices rise, families find themselves forced to decide between buying groceries and medicine, a choice no person should ever have to make. And compounding problems of skyrocketing energy costs have made it tougher for people to fill

their gas tanks while affordable housing has become also increasingly rare.

We know what the American people are facing, and we are taking steps to help. Of the many challenges that we are dealing with right now, one important priority for me is to address the housing crisis. Now home ownership has become an unreachable dream for many Rhode Islanders who face the typical monthly housing payments upwards of \$2,200. The situation for renters is not much better. The average two-bedroom apartment right now rents for nearly \$1,200 a month. Meanwhile our State's foreclosure rate has risen 20 percent in the last few months. I have worked to help Rhode Islanders facing foreclosure, but we need to do more at the national level.

I have been proud to support Chairman FRANK's efforts to pass comprehensive housing legislation which would significantly increase availability of affordable housing nationwide and help those facing foreclosure to keep their homes. I am certainly hopeful that the Senate will act soon and we will bring swift relief to the American people.

Our constituents also face skyrocketing energy costs which are eating up an ever larger portion of disposable income. The average U.S. household spends approximately \$1,000 more per year on gasoline than it did 5 years ago. Meanwhile oil and gas companies are reaping record profits while doing nothing to lower prices for consumers. I think this is an absolute outrage.

I have strongly advocated a comprehensive energy plan to lower costs, create jobs and improve our environment. As a short-term strategy, this Congress has, among other things, suspended shipments to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to provide more oil to the market. We cracked down on price-fixing among energy companies and passed legislation to repeal massive tax breaks for oil and gas companies.

In the longer term, though, we must invest in conservation and domestic production of clean and renewable fuels. This will reduce our reliance on foreign energy sources while creating new jobs in the green energy sector. Unfortunately, the President's stubborn opposition to commonsense initiatives has blocked any real progress. I'm going to keep fighting to move our Nation forward, toward a more responsible energy policy, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the state of our Nation's health care system. Right now, approximately 47 million Americans lack health insurance while the rest watch their coverage costs continue their steep climb. That is why I've introduced the American Health Benefits Program Act, which will provide every American with access to the same quality, affordable coverage as Members of Congress. My bipartisan proposal offers a practical model to begin reigning in costs, improving quality and delivering the

same level of health care that this country deserves.

American prosperity, Mr. Speaker, depends on individual economic security. Only when Americans no longer have to choose between groceries, gas and health care will our economy truly flourish. I am committed to improving the economic outlook for the millions who are struggling, and I will continue working with my colleagues in Congress on this vital and urgent goal.

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

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

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, we have been talking about the energy crisis in this country now for some time, and it has captured the imagination and the attention of probably every person in America, all 300 million people, because the price of gasoline is now over \$4 a gallon.

It has affected every family as far as their ability to live the kind of life they want to because they have to spend so much money on energy. It has affected the price of our food because the people who transport our commodities across the country—the truckers—are now paying \$4.50 to \$5 a gallon for diesel fuel. In fact, they've demonstrated here at the United States Capitol with their trucks because it's so expensive for them to do their jobs.

We had a hearing today on how China is being involved in the United States and in Central and South America. They're buying up more and more of the oil because they have an economic expansion program, funded, in large part, by the money that we give to them in trade. India is now taking more and more energy and oil. So the demand around the world is growing at a very rapid rate.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are always talking about new energy—new sources of energy, new technologies. I'm for all of that. We all want to clean up the environment, but with the demand for oil growing at such a rapid rate all around the world and with these countries that have more and more ability to buy oil and to use oil because they need more because their populations are growing so rapidly, we need to do something about energy in this country.

We have the ability from coal shale, I understand, to take care of this country for a couple of hundred years, as far

as oil is concerned, by converting that shale into a usable energy oil shale. We have the ability to get 1 million to 2 million barrels of oil a day out of the ANWR in Alaska. We're not doing that. We have the ability to get 1 million or 2 million barrels a day off the Outer Continental Shelf. We're not doing that. We have up to a 500-year supply of natural gas in this country. We're not drilling for that. It's all because of what people call environmental concerns.

I would just like to say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that we should be concerned about the environment, but we should also be concerned about the economy of this country. We can't survive if the energy costs continue to go up and up and up while we wait on the transition to new technologies. Those new technologies are going to come, but it may take 1 year, 5 years, 10 years from now before they are able to pick up the major part of the energy needs of this country. We can't wait that long. We simply can't. We could become a second-rate economic power if we don't get control of our energy needs and are able to get the energy that is necessary for this country to grow economically.

I just don't understand why my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and in the other chamber on the other side of the aisle continue to say we should not drill for oil in our own country.

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The American people, if you went out on the street and asked anybody at any service station, will tell you they don't care where we drill, because they want their gas prices down.

Now, we can drill in an environmentally safe way, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will not allow us to do it. It is just unexplainable, as far as I am concerned. We have the resources in this country, we have the ability in this country, to provide for the oil resources that are necessary to lower the gas prices in this country, and we are not doing it. And we are not going to do it as long as the other side, the Democrats in this Congress, continue to block us, because of "environmental concerns."

There has to be a balance between the economic concerns in this country and the environment concerns, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are simply not realizing that. They have the "ostrich syndrome." They have got their heads in the sand.

Gasoline prices have gone up \$1.50 in the last 2 years since this body has been taken over by the Democratic Party. This is intolerable. They said they were going to do something about the energy crisis in this country when it was \$1.50 less per gallon. We have to do something about it, and we have to start now.

We talked about energy independence during the Carter years back in the