

some say it could happen with claims at higher levels. Analysts forecast the nation will gain more than 150,000 jobs in March, partly due to temporary hiring for the Census. The March figures will be reported April 2.

"We believe that the trend in initial claims is signaling that . . . job creation is imminent," economists at Bank of America Merrill Lynch wrote before the Labor Department's report.

Initial claims are considered a gauge of the pace of layoffs and an indication of companies' willingness to hire new workers.

The number of Americans continuing to claim unemployment benefits, meanwhile, fell to 4.6 million.

But that doesn't include millions of people who are receiving extended benefits for up to 73 extra weeks, paid for by the federal government, on top of the 26 customarily provided by the states. Nearly 5.7 million people were on the extended benefit rolls for the week ended March 6, the latest data available. That is about 300,000 lower than the previous week. The extended benefit figures aren't seasonally adjusted and are volatile from week to week.

All told, more than 11.1 million people are claiming unemployment benefits, the department said.

I would like to urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the previous question and the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1426

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) at 2 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer the resolution previously noticed.

The Clerk will report the resolution. The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 1220

Whereas, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct initiated an investigation

into allegations related to earmarks and campaign contributions in the Spring of 2009.

Whereas, on December 2, 2009, reports and findings in seven separate matters involving the alleged connection between earmarks and campaign contributions were forwarded by the Office of Congressional Ethics to the Standards Committee.

Whereas, on February 26, 2010, the Standards Committee made public its report on the matter wherein the Committee found, though a widespread perception exists among corporations and lobbyists that campaign contributions provide a greater chance of obtaining earmarks, there was no evidence that Members or their staff considered contributions when requesting earmarks.

Whereas, the Committee indicated that, with respect to the matters forwarded by the Office of Congressional Ethics, neither the evidence cited in the OCE's findings nor the evidence in the record before the Standards Committee provided a substantial reason to believe that violations of applicable standards of conduct occurred.

Whereas, the Office of Congressional Ethics is prohibited from reviewing activities taking place prior to March of 2008 and lacks the authority to subpoena witnesses and documents.

Whereas, for example, the Office of Congressional Ethics noted that in some instances documents were redacted or specific information was not provided and that, in at least one instance, they had reason to believe a witness withheld information requested and did not identify what was being withheld.

Whereas, the Office of Congressional Ethics also noted that they were able to interview only six former employees of the PMA Group, with many former employees refusing to consent to interviews and the OCE unable to obtain evidence within PMA's possession.

Whereas, Roll Call noted that "the committee report was five pages long and included no documentation of any evidence collected or any interviews conducted by the committee, beyond a statement that the investigation 'included extensive document reviews and interviews with numerous witnesses.'" (Roll Call, March 8, 2010)

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee included in their investigation any activities that occurred prior to 2008.

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee interviewed any Members in the course of their investigation.

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee, in the course of their investigation, initiated their own subpoenas or followed the Office of Congressional Ethics recommendations to issue subpoenas.

Therefore be it: Resolved, that not later than seven days after the adoption of this resolution, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall report to the House of Representatives, with respect to the activities addressed in its report of February 26, 2010, (1) how many witnesses were interviewed, (2) how many, if any, subpoenas were issued in the course of their investigation, and (3) what documents were reviewed and their availability for public review.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies.

MOTION TO REFER THE RESOLUTION

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that properly belongs before

the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

I yield back the balance of my time and move the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to refer.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to refer the resolution will be followed by 5-minute votes on adopting House Resolution 1212; and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 1, answered "present" 15, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 187]

YEAS—406

Ackerman	Carnahan	Forbes
Aderholt	Carney	Fortenberry
Adler (NJ)	Carson (IN)	Poster
Akin	Carter	Fox
Alexander	Cassidy	Frank (MA)
Altmire	Castle	Franks (AZ)
Andrews	Chaffetz	Frelinghuysen
Arcuri	Childers	Fudge
Austria	Chu	Galleghy
Baca	Clarke	Garamendi
Bachmann	Clay	Garrett (NJ)
Bachus	Cleaver	Gerlach
Baird	Clyburn	Giffords
Baldwin	Coble	Gingrey (GA)
Barrow	Coffman (CO)	Gohmert
Bartlett	Cohen	Gonzalez
Barton (TX)	Cole	Goodlatte
Bean	Connolly (VA)	Gordon (TN)
Becerra	Conyers	Granger
Berkley	Cooper	Graves
Berman	Costa	Grayson
Berry	Costello	Green, Al
Biggert	Courtney	Green, Gene
Bilbray	Crenshaw	Griffith
Bilirakis	Crowley	Grijalva
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Guthrie
Bishop (NY)	Culberson	Gutierrez
Bishop (UT)	Cummings	Hall (NY)
Blackburn	Dahlkemper	Hall (TX)
Blumenauer	Davis (CA)	Halvorson
Blunt	Davis (IL)	Hare
Bocchieri	Davis (KY)	Harman
Boehner	Davis (TN)	Hastings (FL)
Bono Mack	DeFazio	Heinrich
Boozman	DeGette	Heller
Boren	Delahunt	Hensarling
Boswell	DeLauro	Herger
Boucher	Diaz-Balart, M.	Herseth Sandlin
Boustany	Dicks	Higgins
Boyd	Dingell	Hill
Brady (PA)	Doggett	Himes
Brady (TX)	Donnelly (IN)	Hinchee
Bralley (IA)	Doyle	Hinojosa
Bright	Dreier	Hirono
Broun (GA)	Driehaus	Hodes
Brown (SC)	Duncan	Hoekstra
Brown, Corrine	Edwards (MD)	Holden
Brown-Waite,	Edwards (TX)	Holt
Ginny	Ehlers	Hoyer
Buchanan	Ellison	Hunter
Burgess	Ellsworth	Inglis
Burton (IN)	Emerson	Inslee
Calvert	Engel	Israel
Camp	Eshoo	Issa
Campbell	Etheridge	Jackson (IL)
Cantor	Fallin	Jackson Lee
Cao	Farr	(TX)
Capito	Fattah	Jenkins
Capps	Filner	Johnson (IL)
Capuano	Flake	Johnson, E. B.
Cardoza	Fleming	Johnson, Sam