

our own deficit which is growing like Topsy. We know it from bankruptcy and airlines. We know it from the fact that companies employ a million people less than they employed a year ago. We know it from layoffs in major sectors. Layoffs continue in manufacturing. Layoffs continue in retail.

We know it because of the higher cost of terrorism insurance, something we must get completed before this House and Senate go home for the elections because every place now which is exposed to the public is beginning to experience increases in the insurance, increases that are quite extraordinary, not only here in the Nation's capital where some might have expected it, but anyplace there is a facility where large numbers of people meet or even in rural areas where there may be some sensitive facilities nearby.

I am particularly concerned that in the face of this situation, with virtually no conversation going on in the media or in this body about the economy, we see that the American people turn on the television and say when is somebody going to talk about me. Our claims for unemployment were 33 percent above what they were a year ago. Most States have not kept the recommended reserves in their unemployment trust funds, just when they are most needed, and pathetically, 19 States have increased the earnings requirement in order to qualify for unemployment insurance while only 1 State has reduced the earnings requirement. This at a time when in a recent article we learned that if a person makes less than \$50,000 per year, their chance of being laid off is 43 percent greater than if they earned more than \$50,000 a year. I do not know how the lower middle class and low income people make it in times like this, and I do not understand why we would not be talking about these issues, why they are off the radar screen, because they are on the minds of all of our constituents.

Last year, only 38 percent of the jobless even qualified for unemployment insurance. If a person is a part-time worker, if they are a lower paid worker, if they are a temporary worker, they have been written off for unemployment insurance very often because when the great statute was passed, those kinds of workers were far less numerous, and we have not done our job to revise our own statutes, to take into account the new employment trends, employment trends that have been with us now for a full generation.

One of the reasons, of course, for this jobless recovery is that after September 11, the economy seemed to ride along just fine, and we thought, well, is not this something, they hit us and it did not make much difference. We owe a lot to the American people for making sure that they continued to live their lives, including live their lives in the economy, because this economy was driven or has been driven along for some time by consumer spending and consumers continue to stand after September 11.

It is clear as the nose on our face, however, that consumers have now lost confidence in the economy, and the reason we know it is because they have stopped spending. Consumers account for two-thirds of all the economic activity in our economy in the first place, so let them stop spending and we begin to feel it very quickly, and that is what they have stopped doing.

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And I say to my colleagues, have you not stopped spending as much as you were spending? I do not know anybody who is spending the way they were 5 years ago, because there are too many uncertainties in the economy. And there is too little discussion here or elsewhere about what to do about those uncertainties.

After 9-11, in order to keep people spending, we had all kinds of approaches among retailers, reductions, the no-interest financing on cars; but it seems pretty clear that consumers have had it up to here, and I can understand why. Household debt is now 75 percent of the gross domestic product. When you get that much debt, I do not care how much you want to spend, you are probably going to think very hard before continuing on the all-American spending spree that the country has been on for some years now.

Now, I am not at all criticizing Americans either for spending or for deciding that the time to spend should end. I believe that they have a right to expect guidance from us on what we are going to do about it, and I believe they are getting guidance neither from us nor the Bush administration. We have to look forward and not only look backward to the good old days when the economy was so flush it looked like it would never stop expanding. The economy has been jolted to understand that that kind of expansion cannot go on forever. And if it cannot go on forever, we have to explain to the American people what to expect.

One thing we can expect is that the terrible budget cuts that the States and localities are having to do this year will continue for the indefinite future. Because when we cut this year, we find the problem rolls over for 2, 3, maybe even 4 or 5 years. In my own district, the chief financial officer has said that he thinks that the city must have a 5-year plan that indicates that our budget will be balanced not only this year, by making the kind of terrible cuts that we here and all across the country are having to make, but that we will not simply roll over the problem to other years. And so we have to look at a series of cuts that are going to continue for some time, because the kind of exuberance one saw in the market was indeed reflected in State and local budgets, and, yes, in spending by the American people.

I do not come to the floor today to say to my colleagues, all right, what is the answer? Let us write the answer clearly so the American people can see

it. What I do come to the floor to say is that we should be debating not only foreign affairs but domestic affairs. We should not only be debating what should happen in Iraq, in Afghanistan, where we still have a theater of war, in the Middle East. All of these are of top concern and priority, but there are equal priority concerns on the domestic front.

When we have been at our greatest has been when we have shown the world we know how to walk and chew gum at the same time. That is the challenge before us today, not to short-change the domestic agenda at a time when we have a slow recovery, when Americans do not know where their next health care premium is coming from, when the corporate abuse statute we will pass has yet to prove itself, when companies are still coming forward with restatements of earnings. All that is still on the screen and our constituents still need to hear from us a balanced debate: What are you going to do about Iraq and what are you going to do about home?

So I come to the floor as we ask that we initiate that debate; that the relevant committees help us to become involved in that debate; that we ourselves take on the role of restoring confidence in the consumer so that the consumer feels that it is safe again to spend because they have in Washington a Congress and a President who knows how to guide us during troubled times. They do not have that now.

When we have a balanced conversation and a balanced debate about the two great bookends, the domestic and the foreign, I think we will restore the confidence in the economy that we know now has vanished.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. KELLY (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for September 11 on account of congressional business.

Mr. WALSH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) today and September 9 on account of congressional business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FOLEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. NUSSLE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 51 minutes

p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 11, 2002, at noon.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for official foreign travel during the second quarter of 2002, by Committees of the House of Representatives, as well as reports of foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the second quarter of 2002, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2002

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Steve Nixon	3/23	4/2	United Kingdom		1,354.16						1,354.16
Commercial airfare							345.81				345.81
Susan Firth	4/2	4/8	Bosnia/Herzegovina		1,300.00						1,300.00
Commercial airfare							5,100.00				5,100.00
Hon. Robert E. Cramer, Jr.	3/23	3/24	Cyprus		169.00						169.00
	3/24	3/26	Uzbekistan		666.00						666.00
	3/26	3/28	Pakistan		524.00						524.00
	3/28	4/3	India		1,650.00						1,650.00
	4/3	4/5	Syria		522.00						522.00
	4/5	4/7	Turkey		536.00						536.00
	4/7	4/8	Switzerland		284.00		(³)				284.00
Hon. C.W. Bill Young	4/1	4/5	Italy		1,942.00						1,942.00
	4/5	4/8	Russia		1,083.65						1,083.65
	4/8	4/9	Netherlands		303.95		(³)				303.95
Hon. Henry Bonilla	4/1	4/5	Italy		1,942.00						1,942.00
	4/5	4/8	Russia		1,083.65						1,083.65
	4/8	4/9	Netherlands		303.95		(³)				303.95
Hon. Rodney Frelinghuysen	4/1	4/5	Italy		1,942.00						1,942.00
	4/5	4/8	Russia		1,083.65						1,083.65
	4/8	4/9	Netherlands		303.95		(³)				303.95
Douglas Gregory	4/1	4/5	Italy		1,942.00						1,942.00
	4/5	4/8	Russia		1,083.65						1,083.65
	4/8	4/9	Netherlands		303.95		(³)				303.95
Hon. Jim Kolbe	4/2	4/3	Mali		262.00						262.00
	4/3	4/5	Ethiopia		361.00						361.00
	4/5	4/7	Mozambique		467.00						467.00
	4/7	4/8	South Africa		165.00						165.00
Commercial airfare							2,281.75				2,281.75
Hon. Jim Moran	4/2	4/3	Mali		262.00						262.00
	4/3	4/5	Ethiopia		361.00						361.00
	4/5	4/7	Mozambique		467.00						467.00
	4/7	4/8	South Africa		165.00						165.00
Commercial airfare							2,281.75				2,281.75
Hon. Dan Miller	4/2	4/3	Mali		262.00						262.00
	4/3	4/5	Ethiopia		361.00						361.00
	4/5	4/7	Mozambique		467.00						467.00
	4/7	4/8	South Africa		165.00						165.00
Commercial airfare							2,281.75				2,281.75
Charles Flickner	4/2	4/3	Mali		262.00						262.00
	4/3	4/5	Ethiopia		361.00						361.00
	4/5	4/7	Mozambique		467.00						467.00
	4/7	4/8	South Africa		165.00						165.00
Commercial airfare							2,281.75				2,281.75
Alice Grant	4/2	4/3	Mali		262.00						262.00
	4/3	4/5	Ethiopia		361.00						361.00
	4/5	4/7	Mozambique		467.00						467.00
	4/7	4/8	South Africa		165.00						165.00
Commercial airfare							2,281.75				2,281.75
Mark Murray	4/2	4/3	Mali		262.00						262.00
	4/3	4/5	Ethiopia		361.00						361.00
	4/5	4/7	Mozambique		467.00						467.00
	4/7	4/8	South Africa		165.00						165.00
Commercial airfare							2,281.75				2,281.75
Scott Lilly	4/2	4/3	Mali		262.00						262.00
	4/3	4/5	Ethiopia		361.00						361.00
	4/5	4/7	Mozambique		467.00						467.00
	4/7	4/8	South Africa		165.00						165.00
Commercial airfare							2,281.75				2,281.75
James W. Dyer	4/3	4/5	Argentina		841.50						841.50
	4/6	4/7	Brazil		538.00						538.00
Commercial airfare							5,166.80				5,166.80
John T. Blazey	4/3	4/5	Argentina		841.50						841.50
	4/6	4/7	Brazil		538.00						538.00
Commercial airfare							5,196.87				5,196.87
Hon. Jack Kingston	5/3	5/6	Israel		1,086.00		(³)				1,086.00
Hon. Dan Miller	5/25	5/27	France		760.24						760.24
	5/27	5/29	Italy		486.00						486.00
	5/29	5/30	Greece		240.43						240.43
	5/30	5/31	Slovakia		180.00						180.00
James W. Dyer	5/28	5/30	USA		21.00		(³)				21.00
	5/30	6/1	Netherlands		480.00						480.00
	6/1	6/4	Germany		352.00						352.00
			France		897.00						897.00
Commercial airfare (Part)							4,720.31				2,720.31
Frank Cushing	5/27	5/27	USA		21.00						21.00
	5/28	5/30	Netherlands		480.00						480.00
	5/30	6/1	Germany		352.00						352.00
	6/1	6/4	France		897.00						897.00
Commercial airfare (Part)							4,720.31				2,270.31
Scott Lilly	5/30	6/1	Germany		263.28						263.28
	6/1	6/4	France		826.50						826.50
Commercial airfare							5,698.20				5,698.20
Gregory Dahlberg	5/28	6/1	England		1,376.00						1,376.00
Commercial airfare							5,236.00				5,236.00
Valerie Baldwin	5/28	5/29	Brussels		207.00						207.00
	5/29	5/30	Germany		214.00						214.00
	5/30	5/31	Crotia		268.00						268.00