

Los Angeles Times

75¢ DESIGNATED AREA/HIGHER 46 PAGES © 2010 NYT TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2010 latimes.com

Obama plans big tax break for business

President Obama this week will call for tax incentives that would allow businesses to write off 100% of new capital investment through 2011 — moves that the White House says could save businesses \$200 billion over two years.

The far-ranging tax proposal is one of a series of economic measures the White House planned to release this week. The first came Monday when Obama called for a \$50-billion boost in spending on the nation's roads, runways and railroads, his latest effort to respond to the stubbornly sluggish economy in a political climate turning against recovery.

The \$50-billion spending plan, Obama said, would put construction workers back on the job and rebuild deteriorating infrastructure.

"It's a plan that says even in the aftermath of the worst recession in our lifetimes, America can still shape our own destiny, we can still move this country forward, we can still leave our children something better ... something that lasts," the president said, in an often raucous campaign-style speech at a union-organized rally in Milwaukee.

Hours after the president spoke, the White House said that Obama would announce the business tax cuts Wednesday. "This unprecedented step would be

New jobs are a step down

Millions can find only part-time or lower-paying work. Those hardships add up to a drag on the economy.

DON LEE REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON

Beyond the 15 million Americans who have no jobs at all, millions more are caught in part-time or limited jobs that don't pay them enough to maintain their standard of living — much less contribute to the strong consumer spending needed to power the nation out of the economic doldrums.

Economists have a technical term for these people: underemployed.

But there's nothing technical about it for David Linehan of Quincy, Mass., who lost his job as an analyst for an energy-trading firm during the recession, along with his \$30,000 salary and benefits.

The 43-year-old now tries to get by on less than one-third that amount as a driver for a rental car company. His new employer limits his work to less than 30 hours a week because any more would make him eligible for company-provided health insurance.

"I'm so sick of news about the recovery," said Linehan, who has some college and technical-school training. The latest Labor Department report shows there are nearly 9 million people like Linehan who want full-time jobs but can't find them. In some cases, their formerly

Asian Americans who have lost a job have a harder time finding a new one. BUSINESS, B1

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2010 - LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

Los Angeles is in for an art feast

The Hammer and LAX Art are working on a biennial in 2012 that will span the city.

JORI FINKELE

For years, cutting-edge contemporary art has been one of L.A.'s greatest exports. Biennial curators from other cities fly here to do studio visits, make discoveries and take them back home.

Now the Hammer Museum has teamed with non-profit gallery LAX Art to reclaim the home turf and tap into the huge community of young artists living here. A team of curators from the institutions are planning a large-scale biennial, starting in 2012, featuring artists from the L.A. area. The exhibition will take place at both spaces as well as public sites in the area.

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Biennial planners know the show

Biennial, from D1 versions of the Oscars or Emmys," says Ann Philbin, director of the Hammer Museum.

As for the decision to partner with LAX Art, Philbin says it grew out of a year-long conversation with Lauri Firstenberg, the founder of LAX Art, because the organizations are so "sympatico."

Firstenberg expands on that thought. "Annie's mission of supporting artists working on the ground in Los Angeles really rubs up against the ethos of our own organization," she says.

Logistically, organizing a biennial is a large undertaking, but this is not, exactly new territory for the Hammer Museum curator All Subotnick has co-organized one edition of the Berlin Biennial.

Deputy director Douglas Fogle previously organized the Carnegie International. And since 2001 Philbin has overseen for the Hammer a series of thematic group exhibitions that happened to take place every two years and at times (think "Thing No Sculpture from Los Angeles" in 2005) had the messy, ebullient energy of a biennial packed with new talent.

This is also familiar ground for Firstenberg, who curated one edition of the California Biennial, which has taken place at the Orange County Museum of Art since 1984, though not always every two years. Her gallery also works to introduce new artists regularly, but she says her nonprofit



ANNE PHILBIN Los Angeles Times

ARTISTS: Hammer Museum director Ann Philbin says biennials "are our versions of the Oscars or Emmys."

has been "bursting at the seams" in terms of exhibition space.

That's one reason, she says, why the collaboration between LAX and the Hammer will extend beyond the biennial. The two plan to work together on other projects, such as upcoming shows of Shannon Ebner to take place at both venues.

So what does the new biennial mean for the California Biennial, which opens its 2010 edition at OCMA on Oct. 24?

Museum director Dennis Szakacs, who calls his biennial "a cornerstone" of the museum's program, is not making any snap decisions. Whether they would rethink their own plans, he says, "remains to be seen until we have more details on the new project."

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PERSPECTIVE: Joshua Lillenstein, a medical student, his next team of surgeons. He called her treatment "a

COLUMN ONE

Cancer educates a med student

Joshua Lillenstein is uninsured, battling to regain his health and studying medicine at USC. The experience "has been fascinating."

MOLLY HENNESSY-FINKE

Joshua Lillenstein lined up for treatment this summer at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center's general oncology clinic. A medical student who'd been battling cancer for four years, Lillenstein had little choice. In June 2009, he lost his insurance after maxing out on the lifetime benefit.

At 30, Lillenstein found himself playing two roles: a patient negotiating the county's options for the uninsured and a medical student working the halls of the same hospital to finish a demanding 12-week surgery rotation.

The line at the metal detector near the county's oncology clinic snaked out the door. Lillenstein, who'd arrived straight from morning rounds in his doctor's coat, stood out among the patients. Security guards took one look at his white jacket and ID badge and waved him through.

He was in his first year of medical school at USC when doctors diagnosed testicular cancer. At the time, he was insured by Anthem Blue Cross through the student health insurance program.

Lillenstein sought treatment at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, one of the nation's leading cancer research and treatment sites. He withdrew from school three times for chemotherapy and surgery on portions of his liver and bowel, his spleen and lymph nodes and replacing bone marrow destroyed by chemotherapy with a transplant.

In January, six months into remission, Lillenstein returned to complete his

[See Cancer, A9]

ELECTION 2010 California national

GOP is fired up but lags in registration. Democrats have added to their ranks but lack motivation.

CATHLEEN DECKER

With the voters' verdict only eight nail-biting weeks away, the outcome of California's general election rests on the answer to one question: What happens when the national Republican wave crashes into the state's Democratic seawall?

Across the country, Democrats are morose and Republicans jubilant about their prospects, with the intransigent economy feeding a voter revolt against the party that controls the White House and Congress. Prognosticators are competing to issue dire predic-

Iran has the potential for 2 warheads

The nation's uranium stockpile has grown, but its nuclear enrichment program may be slowing.

WORLD, A8

Little Rock 9 member dies

Jefferson Thomas, who as a student in 1957 helped integrate an Arkansas high school, was 67.

NFL fans trade stadium for TV

Attendance is slipping as cost and convenience keep viewers at home.

SPORTS, C1

Exit at ABC

David Westin, president of the network's news division, will step down.

CALENDAR, D1

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