The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Bilirakis) is recognized for 5 minutes. (Mr. Bilirakis addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss national security and public safety for our country and who is responsible for that duty.

Public safety, that is the first duty of government. Local security, local public safety goes hand in hand with local law enforcement. National security, national public safety is the responsibility of the Federal Government.

But there is an unfunded public safety mandate that is afflicting an already struggling industry: our airline industry. The airline industry is an important sector of the American economy. With increasing fuel costs and taxes, the industry lost $9 billion last year alone and has lost $32 billion since September 11, 2001. Presently, taxes and fees comprise 26 percent of a $200 airline ticket. The flights seem to be at near capacity, yet some airlines are losing money, and I want to mention just one reason why.

Although the Federal Government has taken over much of the security for air travel after the terrorist attacks of September 11, airlines are still paying for national security and public safety. The airline industry incurs over $777 million a year out of their own pockets for an unfunded Federal security mandate such as catering, security, security for checkpoints and exit lanes, and first class, or first flight cabin sweeps.

Specifically, the people who load the peanuts on the airplanes, for example, the airlines are forced to expend $81 million, not only on their salaries, but the security checks on these caterers.

Mr. Speaker, we want the Federal air marshals on our planes, and while many of their accomplishments remain below the radar, their presence on thousands of domestic flights since 9/11 has helped to maintain the safety of our skies, but the Government should pay their way.

Mr. Speaker, some may argue that it is the airline’s responsibility to provide for some reasonable security. Well, the airlines already cough up scores of dollars to comply with Federal regulations. For example, the Federal Airline Administration reports that full deployment of hardened cockpit doors meeting outlined specifications have been implemented on about 10,000 airliners and foreign aircraft flying to and from the United States.

Who paid for most of this, Mr. Speaker? The airlines, because the Government, our Government told them to.

Still, airlines face additional expenditures in the name of safety. Video monitors and other devices to alert pilots of cabin activity as well as guns in the cockpit are just a few of the other extraordinary undertakings undertaken by the industry, all of which, Mr. Speaker, cost money.

If the Government does not offer financial assistance to implement these technologies, who will? Once again, it is the already struggling industry that is saddled with these unfunded mandates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. Poe) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, we must bring some relief to these carriers by reducing these unfunded mandates that they are expected to pay.

I urge my colleagues to help preserve this vital industry and start imposing
Drilling for oil just is not the answer. We need to accept the fact that fossil fuel is a thing of the past. To solve the current energy crisis and to prepare for a secure and successful future, we need to invest in conservation and renewable energy technologies. For example, providing tax incentives for the construction of energy efficient buildings and manufacturing energy efficient heating and water heating equipment could save 300 trillion cubic feet of natural gas over 50 years.

By failing to take advantage of renewable energy technologies, we are continuing to promote our national insecurity by pouring billions of dollars each year into repressive regimes.

That is why I have reintroduced the smart security resolution, H. Con. Res. 158. SMART is a sensible multilateral American response to terrorism. SMART will help secure America for the future by preventing the threat of terrorism, by reducing nuclear stockpiles, eliminating the possible use of nuclear weapons through diplomatic means, and establishing a new Apollo project to ensure America's energy independence.

Many Members of Congress understand the importance of reducing our dependence on foreign oil. Nothing threatens our country and our security more than our reliance on oil from repressive Middle East regimes like Saudi Arabia and Libya.

Of the 21 million barrels of oil consumed by the U.S. each day, 14 million are imported from other countries. Most are imported from the Middle East, where as we know democracy is not pervasive. This lack of democracy allows the authoritarian leaders of many Middle East countries to pocket billions of dollars each year from American oil purchases.

So while the leaders of these countries are becoming increasingly wealthy, the rest of their people fail to benefit from the oil proceeds. Sadly, this economic disparity allows the powerful elite to tighten their hold over their people.

This repressive power structure allows the conditions which give rise to terrorism, resource scarcity, extreme poverty, and lack of education to run rampant. It is quite clear that we need to decrease our dependence on foreign oil in order to keep America safe from the threat of terrorism.

But there is a right way, and there is a wrong way to accomplish this goal. Many Members of Congress have suggested by drilling in ANWR, that we can simply drill for gas and oil off the coasts of our shores, or in places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to solve our energy crisis.

Unfortunately this suggestion is just plain wrong. In fact, drilling for oil in the United States would do little to immediately reduce our dependence on foreign oil, because it would take at least a decade to get a drilling operation up and running in ANWR or off our coasts. Even then there is no telling whether there is usable oil.

That does not sound like a comprehensive energy strategy to me. No.

### METHAMPHETAMINE PROBLEMS

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, this evening I would like to discuss a major problem that is moving rapidly across the country. That is the problem of methamphetamine.

Methamphetamine first came into prominence during World War II. Many Japanese kamikaze pilots were given methamphetamine to allow them to finish their mission.

From that point on it spread to Hells Angel and other biker groups on the West Coast and has been slowly spreading its way from west to east across the country. It is the most highly addictive drug that is known at the present time and an addiction after only one usage.

It creates a euphoria that lasts between 6 and 8 hours. There is a huge dopamine release in the brain, and it is cheap. It costs much less than heroin and cocaine, provides increased energy. Many young mothers who have two or three kids and have a tremendous energy drain become drawn to this particular drug.

People who are working two jobs, sometimes truck drivers who want to stay awake for 2 or 3 days on end find that methamphetamine serves their ends. Often it always results in fairly rapid weight loss.

Violent behavior is often a side effect. Many methamphetamine addicts experience crank bugs. These are the hallucinations that there is a bug under the skin. In order to get those bugs out, they will pick at their skin. That will cause rather extreme skin lesions to result.

Also, when they use it orally, their teeth disintegrate very rapidly, extreme quick aging, and usually death ensues within a few years of methamphetamine use.

It always causes brain damage. And much of this brain damage is irreversible. An 18-year old who has been on meth for a year will have a brain scan that will look very like an 80-year old Alzheimer’s patient. There is so much brain tissue that has been destroyed, that the two brain scans are somewhat indistinguishable.

It is very common to see a great deal of meth abuse in rural areas. And this is due to the fact that when you manufacture meth, there is a very strong odor of ether. And as a result, if you manufacture in the city, sometimes that odor is easily detectable.

The chief ingredient of methamphetamine is pseudophedrine, a common cold medicine. Oklahoma has done a fairly effective job of eliminating the labs by making methamphetamine a class V substance. And that puts it behind the pharmacy counter.

But many other States have failed to follow suit. Other ingredients of methamphetamine are lithium batteries, drain cleaner, styrene fluid, anhydrous ammonia, and iodine.

It is a tremendously toxic mix, and of course it leach a lot of toxic waste. In order to clean up a methamphetamine lab, it will cost anywhere from $5 to $6,000. Many of the tests that are worn by those cleaning up those meth labs cost about $500, and they can only be used one time because of the toxicity.