rush in reforming the electric utility industry could result in large industrial users seeing greater benefits while residential users and small businesses would pay for that benefit.

We must honor past regulatory schemes and commitments and allow recovery of stranded investments. Electric utilities incurred ''stranded costs'' under a regulatory scheme not of their choosing. These utilities made long-term decisions based upon decades of regulation. To deny industry the recovery of these costs would go against the fairness I spoke of earlier. That being said, lower costs should be fostered by real deregulation and industrial and regulatory innovation, not by simply shifting costs. We should not merely ''reshuffle the deck'' to see who pays.

A significant hurdle to deregulation is the diverse nature of power generators, including public power providers, municipalities, investor-owned utilities, and power marketing associations. Reconciling these disparate views will be a monumental task, yet fairness demands that we produce a level playing field for all energy providers and transmitters.

So reforming the energy industry on a Federal level demands clarifying, simply clarifying the roles of the Federal and State governments. Where does the Federal responsibility end and the States' begin? The diverse situation among the States adds to these reform difficulties. Some States have always supported regulation, others have taken progressive stances, while still others, like my home State of Florida, enjoy the benefits of moderately priced electricity and see little need for major reform.

Eliminating the barriers to entry into the electric market is fundamental to this reform. We must repeal the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act, PURPA, and the Public Utility Holding Company Act, PUHCA, to ensure that any transition to retail competition is truly competitive. The entire efficacy of PURPA centered on the supposition that producing electricity would become more expensive. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it has become cheaper. Thanks to PURPA, Americans will pay $38 billion in higher electric bills over the next 10 years than they should.

Deregulation of the electric industry requires consideration of a myriad of factors. The stakes are very high, but so are the benefits. To that end, I am introducing today a piece of Federal legislation that will change all that. It is called the Electric Energy Empowerment Act of 1999. It will not mandate the States to act, but instead will empower and encourage them to enact measures providing these customers retail competition and choice.

My legislation amends the Federal Power Act to clarify jurisdictional boundaries between state and federal authorities, thus empowering the states to enact competitive retail electricity markets. As an incentive for the states to move forward, the legislation includes a reciprocity condition. Further, the legislation eliminates the existing federal barriers to competition: it encourages the establishment of independent transmission system operators, and it deregulates the wholesale market by making the FERC wholesale open access rules applicable to non-jurisdictional entities.

I think everyone will agree that we are inevitably moving toward an electricity industry based on competition, market force, and lower rates. This is certainly my goal as I introduce this legislation today.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Charlie Martin, Indian Rocks Baptist Church, Largo, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Lord, we humbly pray for Your blessings upon our people today. America needs what only You can provide. We want Your will, we need Your direction, we desire Your peace, and we ask Your protection for all people. We read where You said, ''If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.''

Please bring healing to America and to all of our world. For our leaders, O God, grant wisdom for each decision and bless their families with Your love. This we pray in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOME TO PASTOR CHARLIE MARTIN

(Mr. YOUNG of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to introduce today the chaplain who delivered our opening prayer. Pastor Charlie Martin is the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks, which is in Largo, Florida, which is right in the heart of the Tenth Congressional District that I have the privilege to represent.

Like many of my colleagues, I have an opportunity to visit with many churches throughout the district and throughout our State, and I must say that I have found no one who is more inspiring in their message and delivery of the Bible than Pastor Charlie Martin. He is a dynamic religious leader, and he makes going to church a lot of fun.

He delivers his messages in such an entertaining way that people clamor to come to the church to the effect that he has to have at least three services every Sunday morning. He is respected and loved in our community. His ministry is very unique. He reaches out to everyone. He has a community outreach program that goes far beyond the county limits of our county back home. It is worldwide, in effect.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to mention an example of the worldwide outreach. Many of us know the problems of the people in Bosnia, the refugees and orphans that are housed with very little clothing, very little supplies. We called this to the attention of Pastor Charlie and he and the members of the church turned out in large numbers, collected an airplane full of shoes and sweaters and supplies for babies, and we had it delivered to Bosnia to the orphanages. That is just one example of many, many more.

As I said, Pastor Charlie is the pastor of our people, he is our pastor at home, and wherever I go throughout my congressional district, people are approaching me constantly saying, ''Congressman, it is nice to see you in Pastor Charlie's church,'' or ''Congressman, I am a member of Pastor Charlie's church,'' and everyone knows who Pastor Charlie is.

Now my colleagues have had an opportunity to meet him and have him here today. I am very proud to have him as our guest here today, Pastor Charlie Martin of the Indian Rocks Baptist Church in Largo, Florida.

THE TIME IS NOW FOR PRAYER IN OUR SCHOOLS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, another school tragedy, another scapegoat. This time it is guns. Littleton is not just about guns, parents or discipline. Littleton is much to do with Congress.

That is right. A Congress that allows God to be banned from our schools while our schools can teach about

cults, Hitler, and even devil worship is wrong, out of touch, and needs some common sense.

It is time for Congress to look in the mirror, and it is time for Congress to allow local school boards to make those decisions.

TIME FOR REFORM OF THE SATELLITE HOME VIEWERS ACT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the Second Congressional District of Nevada is a vast area containing about 110,000 square miles and 1.2 million people, many of whom are spread out over a large portion of rural Nevada.

So today I rise to support meaningful reform of the Satellite Home Viewers Act. Every American, no matter where they live, deserves access to their local television networks. Our office has received thousands of phone calls and letters from frustrated constituents in my home State. These honest, hard-working Nevadans are frustrated over the current Federal law which prevents them from receiving local programming with a satellite dish. They often ask, ''Why will the Federal Government not let me watch my local news?'' The only answer is because of outdated, misconstrued Federal regulations.

We need to reform the Satellite Home Viewers Act to reflect the changes in technology, to change the mistakes of the Federal Government and adhere to the needs of the American people. Today I urge my colleagues to join me in helping reform the Satellite Home Viewers Act.

WE MUST NOT PRIVATIZE SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, conservatives in the Republican Party are proposing that Congress privatize Social Security, turning it over to Wall Street, even though Social Security will be solvent at least until 2034.

Privatization in many parts of government has simply gone too far. The purpose of public prisons, for example, is to protect the public, to punish and to rehabilitate. The purpose of privatized prisons is to maximize profit by reducing staff and too often cutting back on security. The purpose of public medical systems is to provide the best health care possible to all people. The purpose of privatized medical systems is to maximize profit, often meaning that the quality of care is compromised.

The purpose of a public pension system, a public Social Security system is to provide a bedrock source of income for the elderly to keep them out of poverty. A privatized Social Security system would end that guaranteed income.

Mr. Speaker, we must not privatize Social Security. Let us keep Social Security the very important public program that it has been for 60 years.

MILITARY READINESS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the dishonest demagoguery about Social Security has begun. However, I continue to be troubled by the state of our military readiness. For years the Clinton administration has reduced spending for national defense while sending our troops on more and more deployments. The result, our military readiness has declined.

Case in point: A Lieutenant Junior Grade in our Navy was recently quoted as saying, and I quote, ''It took us two days to complete what should have been a two-hour procedure for all of these reasons: We could not get a hydraulic test stand that worked correctly. The support equipment people could not fix the hydraulic test stand because they did not have the correct publications. The publications had not been updated to reflect the new tool requirements. Nobody knew how to operate the new test equipment. If we do not have the people or tools to fix the aircraft, then the aircraft cannot fly.''

Mr. Speaker, we need to commit to restoring our military to a level capable of defending the United States of America. We need to support our troops, our young sons and daughters who lay their lives on the line to defend this great country.

WELCOME TO DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated to Delta Days on Capitol Hill. If my colleagues will look up in the viewing area, there are some 550 Deltas here on the Hill. This is our tenth anniversary, and we have come to talk about issues that impact the African American community. Delta Sigma Theta is a sorority of 180,000 women nationwide with some 900 chapters.

Our colors are crimson and cream and red and white. Our national president is Marcia Fudge. The head of our Social Action Committee is Devarieste Curry.

There are two Members of the House that are members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. They are my colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) and myself. On behalf of the Congress, we welcome you to the Hill and we hope to hear all you have to tell us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is reminded not to refer to the gallery, but to address the Chair.

KEEP U.S. TROOPS OUT OF KOSOVO

(Mr. KUYKENDALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share some thoughts of one of my 12-year-old constituents on Kosovo, and I quote:

''I would like to know why our government is thinking about sending troops to Kosovo. This sounds a lot like a Vietnam type of war which lasted 9 years. I am 12 now, and if this lasts for 6 more years, then I might be drafted and have to go to war. In my parents' generation almost everyone knows someone who served in the Vietnam War. Not too many people speak highly of our involvement in Vietnam. I want to be a successful person and a good citizen when I grow up. I want to uphold those great ideals I read about in Washington, D.C. that our Founding Fathers set down in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, as well as many other places. I would like my country to be seen as doing the 'right thing' or fighting for a 'noble' cause. Right now in Kosovo it does not look like that to all of the nations of the world.

''I visited the Vietnam War Memorial and the Korean War Memorial and toured Arlington National Cemetery. I saw monuments to thousands of Americans who gave their lives for freedom. My father spoke with me about the meaning of these monuments and the sacrifices Americans made during these conflicts. How Kosovo a part of that duty?''

To Justin Kawahara, I say that is an excellent question.

COMMITMENT TO END VIOLENCE IN OUR NATION

(Mr. MARKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, the tragedy in Colorado has saddened our country and has highlighted a deadly mix of violent imagery and guns. Addressing the cumulative effects of years of violent imagery means addressing issues on TV, in the movies, and on the Internet.

Dealing with children's access to guns and explosive materials is something we must do as a society. An effective, proactive response must include a willingness on the part of industry leaders to deal pragmatically with access to certain content on the Internet.