

IT IS TIME FOR THE IRS TO GO

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, an investigation revealed that 16,000 IRS employees illegally used their computers. The report states IRS agents spent 50 percent of their time at work on personal business. If that is not enough to service your revenue, IRS agents illegally used their computers for shopping, stock trading, gambling and pornography. Unbelievable.

Think about it. While 60 percent of taxpayer calls to the IRS go unanswered, the IRS agents were watching Marilyn Chambers do the Rotary International. Beam me up here. It is time to pass a flat 15 percent sales tax and abolish this gambling, porno-watching IRS completely.

I yield back the internal rectal service of the United States of America.

 THE REAL ISSUE AT HAND IS
ENERGY

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, today is a very important day. The one-party government in the United States is done. We had a vote of confidence in the other body today or yesterday and we are now back to two party government, and maybe, just maybe, we can get back to the issues the people really care about.

We are hanging around here today because we cannot seem to get the President's tax bill through. They cannot figure out how to give it all to the rich.

At the same time, we are failing to deal with energy. Now, the energy prices in my district, in Seattle, are facing a potential 250 percent increase from the Bonneville Power Administration. The estimates are that 102,000 jobs are at risk and that a whole quarter of a million jobs in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana are at risk because of the runaway gouging costs of energy in the northwest.

Seattle City Light has already raised it 30 percent and it is coming up another 30 percent. When will we get down to the issues that matters?

 SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS ON
MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I again want to salute our veterans. I was in Berlin in the spring of 1990 when the people were out there with their hammers and chisels taking down the Ber-

lin Wall piece by piece, and then I listened to the East Berliners thank our American soldiers for their vigilance through the period of the Cold War.

The following year in September of 1991, I was in Armenia when people went out in overwhelming numbers to vote for their independence from the former Soviet Union. Then I was with them the next day in the streets of Yerevan and they danced and shouted and sang, "Ketse azat ankakh Hayastan," long live free and independent Armenia; and then pointing to the United States of America as their example of what they wanted to be as a democracy.

So it is important for all of us to know that we owe our freedom here in the United States to our American soldiers but also hundreds of millions of people all around the world today are enjoying the blessings of freedom because of the sacrifices of American soldiers. We salute them all.

 CONSUMERS NEED HELP WITH EN-
ERGY COSTS AND THEY NEED IT
NOW

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, each and every day all across America families are paying higher energy prices. In my State of Connecticut, a gallon of gas now goes for \$1.82. In Illinois, the price has gone as high as \$2.39.

California citizens are being held hostage by out-of-state generators who have held down the production of energy in order to increase their own profits. In fact, if the price of milk had increased at the same rate as California's energy prices a gallon would cost \$190. No family would accept such price gouging. Consumers need help with energy costs and they need it now.

What does the President and the Republican leadership do today in the midst of this crisis? They are locked behind closed doors deciding how much of a tax cut to give to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans, while working- and middle-class families spend more of their hard-earned dollars on unfair gas and electricity prices.

Republicans remain focused on passing a tax cut that does little for these families but lines the pocket of people making more than \$300,000 a year.

The Vice President says the energy crisis is only an issue of supply and demand. His friends in the energy issue have the supply, and they are demanding an arm, a leg and family savings for it.

 ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for special order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

 IT IS ALL ABOUT ENERGY,
ENERGY, ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is Memorial Day weekend, and while gasoline prices in my district are among the Nation's highest, at well over \$2.00 a gallon, in fact it was about \$2.22 for regular, it still does not appear that President Bush and Vice President CHENEY have any plans to bring relief to my constituents at the gas pump.

While big oil is getting bigger, consumers in my district and across the country are getting gouged, and the President's energy plan does nothing to address that. Instead, the administration has proposed relief for its oil industry friends.

Big oil hit the jackpot last year, thanks to consumers in Chicago and across the country that paved the way for big oil's record profits. The top oil company profits last year went up over 100 percent on the average from the previous year, combining for almost \$50 billion in profits. Now Exxon Mobile is number one on the Fortune 500 list.

None of us should be surprised at the give-aways big oil is reaping from this administration and the Republicans. President Bush received \$2 million in contributions for his campaign, and the Republican Party received over \$25 million from big oil, with Enron and Exxon Mobile giving the most. It looks like those companies made the right bet.

Mr. President, I am again calling on you to persuade, in fact to jawbone, your friends in the industry to bring these prices down now. I hope you will think about that while you are relaxing at Camp David and my constituents are cancelling their family's summer vacations.

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for yielding.

It turns out that we are talking about a very similar sort of thing.

I wanted to point out to people today that the President's energy plan utterly ignores a key fact; that if we are

to put limits on global warming and the inevitable resulting climate change, we must cut back on burning fossil fuels that release carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas, into our atmosphere.

One of the simplest and most effective ways to reduce oil consumption is to increase the fuel efficiency of our cars and trucks. Currently, cars and trucks guzzle 40 percent of all the oil used in the United States and they produce 20 percent of the Nation's carbon dioxide pollution. Improved fuel efficiency would protect consumers from higher prices at the gas pump, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and decrease carbon dioxide emissions.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCREST), from the Republican Party, and I have together introduced, with bipartisan sponsors, a bill that would require light trucks and SUVs to meet the same fuel efficiency standards as passenger cars, gradually, by the year 2007. Once fully implemented, that would save the U.S. 1 million barrels of oil every day, reduce oil imports by 10 percent, and prevent over 200 million tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere every year.

Before we consider drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or other ecologically sensitive areas, which could include the coastline of Florida on the West Coast of Florida in the Gulf of Mexico, we should first use common sense solutions like improving fuel efficiency, by simply improving the gas mileage that our cars and trucks achieve.

MISPLACED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I had not planned on speaking today but it reminds me of a group of comedians coming forward today, and blaming President Bush for the energy crisis.

He has been in office a few months, yet the previous administration, President Clinton, did nothing about our energy problems. We became more reliant on foreign oil. We became more reliant on other products to provide services for our people, rather than providing for ourselves.

This Nation has changed dramatically. When I was a child, a person went to turn the light switch on and the lights came on. When they went to fill their gas tank, it was reasonable to fill their gas tank. In those days, we swatted flies and we poisoned rats. Today we set aside habitat for flies and rats. And who pays for it? Private property owners have to pay the price of setting their property aside for some stupid endangered species that some wacko Democratic politician wants to preserve.

In the words of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), beam me up, too. Both of us need to be out of here.

This is crazy. And we talk about big oil. If we had enough oil, we would not have enough energy to provide an argument for these people to complain about. So if we have less oil, they can complain more about Republicans not providing oil.

Wake up, America. There is something seriously wrong and it is the Democratic Party, excluding the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) who has finally learned what real world life is like. Buy America; provide energy; close our borders. It is realistic.

Two years ago and three years ago, this body realized there is something wrong with the IRS. In 1913, when we started the Tax Code, it was 11,400 words. The Tax Code today is over 7 million words.

In 1914, people voluntarily paid taxes. The government did not force them to pay taxes. They came forward and said our government needs help. We need to pay taxes.

350,000 good Americans paid taxes the first year and the IRS audited every doggone one of those people who paid voluntary taxes. Beam me up again.

Now we realize the IRS is out of control. There is a problem with this country, and it is the way people vote. If we want energy, let us provide more oil. If we want gas, let us provide more gas. We have not built a refinery in the United States for 22 years.

We have 15 different formularies or 19 formularies required in different States. In California in the L.A. basin, where I come from, we cannot bring gas from Northern California to our area. We cannot bring it from Washington, from Oregon, from Arizona, from Colorado, from Nevada, because it does not meet our standards. So when we have a problem with refineries, guess what? We have no gas; and yet we are more concerned about preserving flies and rats than we are providing energy for the American people that we are supposed to represent.

Let me say, people are part of the environment, too, and they are at the top of it as far as I am concerned. If we happen to save a rat in the process of saving a human life, so be it. But if we have to poison that rat to save a human life, as far as I am concerned that rat is in trouble.

Last year in California, Fish and Wildlife in October said we need to set habitat aside for the Stevens kangaroo rat, for the gnat catcher and for Longhorn sheep, and they set 2.9 million acres of land aside in California and it looked like a checker board. Now this is not where they live. This is habitat that would sustain those critters. If one does not own habitat, guess what? You own associated habitat. And then we complain that we cannot provide affordable housing for people.

What do we want to do? We want to give them a section 8 voucher from the government.

When one buys a new house in this country, on average 35 percent of the costs of that house are government

fees. Now, you tell a young person they are going to go out and buy a \$100,000 home, if they can find one, and \$35,000 of the price of that home is fees to the government? Beam me up again, I would say to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT). Something is seriously wrong with this Nation.

Then we say our children cannot afford to live in our communities. We need to change the direction of this country and we need to be more responsible and accountable to the people that we represent.

How do working people get helped in this Nation? By everything that can be done to engender the best economic environment for businesses, because when businesses do well, guess what happens? They give their employees raises because they need them. They give them better benefits. They give them more vacation pay.

When we create recession because of wacko bureaucratic laws that we pass around here and businesses suffer, guess what they do? They lay people off. People are lucky to work 40 hours a week. They are not surprised if they lose their benefits and have their vacation pay cut.

We need to change the direction of this Nation and start representing the good for the American people.

ENERGY IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, that was an extraordinary speech by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY MILLER) who preceded me in the well, and I will offer a little different perspective on what is going on in energy in the Western U.S.

It is Memorial Day weekend and all across the country Americans and their families are pulling up to the pump and surprise, prices are up, way up. But there is no market manipulation.

The deafening silence of the Bush administration and the runup on gas prices might have something to do with who supported their last campaign but I would not allude that on the floor.

There is no market manipulation. Exxon Mobil, profits \$15.9 billion last year, profits up 102 percent in one year, there is no market manipulation. There is no role for the Federal Government here, except to enable them to drill for more oil and to cut their taxes. That is what the Bush energy plan proposes.

Now, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY MILLER), I am very surprised that he did not want to talk about some of these things.

Yesterday I talked about Reliant Energy. Reliant Energy, based in Houston, Texas, profits up 1,800 percent in one year; bought a few generating