

air conditioner on as much as we do or whether we turn it off when we are going to leave for the weekend.

The second thing that it does is, the real problem in California is they just did not build enough power plants. They grew their economy, they grew the population considerably and figured that they would import the power from other places. If you put on price caps and you create huge uncertainty in the industry, nobody is going to go in and say, Yeah, I'm going to take my savings; I'm going to invest in a new power plant, if you do not know whether you are going to be able to recover your investment. So it does not solve the real problem, which is supply. A price cap does not produce one more kilowatt of electricity.

Then the other thing I think it would cause is the reality now that California is dependent on importing electricity from much of the West, including the State of New Mexico. If you put on price caps, you will not be able to buy some power, because people will not sell it to you if they have to sell it to you at a loss. We could make this so much worse. I do not understand why there are still some in the Congress who think the right answer is for us to legislate the price of power. It would be a disaster for California, for the West.

I am glad the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission took the steps that it did, and in fact I was one of the 17 Members of this House that signed a letter asking them to pursue this strategy, a market-based strategy of price mitigation. But really we need to shift and focus on the long-term policies that we need. I do believe that we need a balanced and long-term policy. It has got to include conservation, both conservation by individuals but also the government in systemic efforts that we need. If I go to Baillio's, which is our appliance store, if I do not have a choice of an energy-efficient refrigerator, then I really cannot conserve in that way. There are some things that government must do to make sure that conservation works and that it is not just my decision to turn on or off my lights, but a decision and an encouragement to invest in efficient lighting systems by industries or, for example, the Building America program I mentioned.

The interesting thing about the Building America program and the way that it has changed the building of homes is it is not just adding another layer of insulation in the attic, which we have done that, too. It is the changing the design of the home, starting from the ground up, on making it energy efficient. The savings are just incredible. That is really important for first-time buyers who are looking at how much can they cover on their mortgage, how much house can they get for their money. If the cost of maintaining that house is maybe 10 or 15 or \$20 lower, that can go to a mortgage payment rather than to the electric bill. So building from the ground up is very important.

Those are things that we can encourage and do through government. We have got to increase supply, no question about that, in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The gentleman mentioned it, and I think it is worth repeating, 55 percent of America's oil comes from outside the United States. The fastest growing supplier of oil to America, and the number six supplier to America, is Iraq.

Most folks do not know that Saddam Hussein probably has more impact on American gas prices than any of us would wish to admit. I noticed an article in the paper on Monday, they are reconsidering sanctions on Iraq. And not a surprise, every time they do that at the United Nations, Iraq decides that it is going to turn off its spigot and tell the rest of the world that they have us by the short hairs. I do not want to be by the short hairs with Saddam Hussein, which means we need to reduce our foreign dependence on single sources of supply so that when one individual dictator says, Well, I'm turning off the spigot, we have other sources, we are not over a barrel, that our energy policy is not just going on bended knee to other governments and begging for oil. That is not a policy. That is a plea. We should not put ourselves in that situation.

So we have got to have conservation, we have got to have exploration, we have got to build our infrastructure and take care of some of the infrastructure problems that we have, and we need real government reform. I think that that is the recipe for a stable, long-term policy for energy independence in this country. I appreciate the gentleman's efforts to bring this session to the House.

Mr. EHLERS. That was an excellent summary of what we have been trying to convey this evening. I thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico for her comments.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2216, and that the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations also may insert tabular data and other extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 877 AND H.R. 1198

Mr. TOWNS (during the special order of Mr. EHLERS). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 877 and H.R. 1198.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIAN OF THE CENTURY

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge West Virginia Day, at least for the 1 hour left in today, and the West Virginian of the Century, U.S. Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, whose accomplishments will last forever. 138 years ago, on June 20, 1863, West Virginia became the 35th State in the Union. Over those 138 years, our State has been blessed with many great statesmen and women, but last month at the State capitol in Charleston, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD was appropriately honored as West Virginian of the Century by a proclamation from our West Virginia Governor, Bob Wise, and resolutions from the West Virginia House of Delegates and the West Virginia Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the remarks of Senator BYRD on that occasion.

REMARKS BY SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD, "WEST VIRGINIAN OF THE 20TH CENTURY," MAY 31, 2001

West Virginia, how I love you!

Every streamlet, shrub and stone,
Even the clouds that flit above you
Always seem to be my own.

Your steep hillsides clad in grandeur,
Always rugged, bold and free,
Sing with ever swelling chorus:
Montani, Semper, Liberi!

Always free! The little streamlets,
As they glide and race along,
Join their music to the anthem
And the zephyrs swell the song.

Always free! The mountain torrent
In its haste to reach the sea,
Shouts its challenge to the hillsides
And the echo answers "FREE!"

Always free! Repeats the river
In a deeper, fuller tone
And the West wind in the treetops
Adds a chorus all its own.

Always Free! The crashing thunder,
Madly flung from hill to hill,
In a wild reverberation
Makes our hearts with rapture fill.
Always free! The Bob White whistles
And the whippoorwill replies,
Always free! The robin twitters
As the sunset gilds the skies.

Perched upon the tallest timber,
Far above the sheltered lea,
There the eagle screams defiance
To a hostile world: "I'm free!"

And two million happy people,
Hearts attuned in holy glee,
Add the hallelujah chorus:
"Mountaineers are always free!"

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Governor Wise, my fellow West Virginians, ladies and gentlemen:

Now in my 84th year, I look back over the ups and downs of a long and full and active life. I see a vastly changed world from what it was when I walked the dirt roads of Wolf Creek Hollow in Mercer County and studied in a two-room schoolhouse. The nation has grown from 102 million when I was born in

1917 to the burgeoning population of 275 million people today. At the beginning of my life, the nation was still in its horse-and-buggy days. Now we are in the age of instant communications, the Internet, jet-propelled planes, inter-planetary exploration, medical miracles, and the highest standard of living that the world has ever known.

We live in a country whose greatness seems to have been foreordained by her fortunate geography and rich natural resources, her agreeable and temperate climate, and by the hardy and industrious race of men and women who hewed her forests, cultivated her fields, bridged her rivers, built her cities, and created the American Dream that has excited the envy and won the admiration of mankind around the globe. How blessed we are to have inherited this pearl of great price! And how thankful we should be to the provident hand of that Omnipotent Being, who has favored our undertakings from the pre-dawn infancy of the colonial experience to the present-day meridian of the American Republic!

I am grateful for the Divine hand that delivered me, in my infancy to my home in West Virginia. I am grateful for wear-worn shoes; for the callouses of honest labor; and for the challenges of an unforgiving terrain. I am thankful for wrong turns that led to the right paths; for good people who inspired me to strive for great things; and for the rich experiences that taught me the difference between knowledge and wisdom.

I am grateful to the people of West Virginia for placing their trust in this adopted son of a poor coal miner, a mere "scrap boy" who used to go door to door gathering bits of food to fatten up the hogs raised by my foster father in a pen by the railroad tracks.

I am grateful to the people for giving me the opportunity to serve our state and our nation; to stand in the midst of history, among men and women who have changed the course of destiny, at the pinnacle of power in the greatest legislative body ever to grace the Earth.

And I am grateful to the people for their many kindnesses to Erma, my wife of 64 years, to whom I owe so much. She has been God's greatest gift to me.

West Virginians have given so much to me. Without your faith in me, I do not know where I would be today, but one thing I do know: I would not be here.

Never having forgotten my roots, I continue to be aware that my highest duty is to West Virginia and to the people of our state, who have honored me with public office for more than a half century.

My own less-than-modest beginning and the poverty of my state during my boyhood years have never faded from my view, and it has been my constant desire to improve the lives of the people who sent me to Washington. In many ways, I think that I have succeeded, but there is still work to do.

I am blessed to have had at my side a wife who, for 64 years, has been the central pillar of my home and my career. Erma and I grew from childhood to adulthood during the years of the Great Depression and in the coal mining towns of Southern West Virginia. The bottom rungs in our Ladder of Life were missing, but with God's help and by His grace, we have weathered storms of adversity and come through times of sorrow as well as joy to the present moment.

Not least of all, I owe much of my phenomenal success in serving the people of my state and my country to the many extraordinary men and women who have worked on my staff throughout my long career in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

As we have now crossed the threshold into a new century, I take this opportunity to

urge my fellow West Virginians to build their future on the development of the human mind and the rock of the human spirit. I hope that more and more West Virginians will understand the imperative of education and the value of our schools, and that we will restore education to its rightful position as the primary key that opens doors onto the classic American dream of fulfillment in life as individuals and as a society. I hope that increased numbers of parents will become involved in monitoring their children's learning progress, in encouraging better performance at all levels of their children's schoolwork, and in applauding the achievements of good teachers.

I also hope that increased numbers of children will discover and rediscover the joys of reading, that more and more students will find unfathomed challenges in mathematics and the sciences and in history, and that a new generation of well-educated, keenly interested, and highly dedicated and industrious students will emerge from our schools to assure our State's preeminence in every field of learning, business, industry, and endeavor known to man, and many fields yet unknown but waiting for some blade-sharp West Virginia intellects to invent and open doors to them.

I hope that West Virginians will continue to preserve and honor the old values that guided and sustained our fathers and mothers and more distant ancestors in their daily lives and in the life of our state from its earliest beginnings.

The Biblical proverb admonishes us, "Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set."

My foster parents on their knees influenced my life from my early beginnings. I am sure that many of you can say the same thing.

Man is a spiritual creature. But if that spirituality is ignored—if man's soul is allowed to starve—the result is spiritual death. And no task of national renewal will be possible unless that effort is also a task of spiritual renewal.

George Washington in his farewell address, made the point succinctly:

... And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

Scientists have long sought the so-called "missing link." The real missing link in our national cultural life is God.

From the depths of my heart, I thank Governor Bob Wise, House Speaker Bob Kiss, Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin, the members of both the House and the Senate, but most of all, I thank the people of West Virginia for the many years in which they have reposed their confidence and their faith in me. I have done my best.

May God always bless the State of West Virginia.

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that, the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet, knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Senator BYRD as "West Virginian of the Century," and in thanking him for his tireless work on behalf of the great State of West Virginia and its millions of residents.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Senator BYRD as West Virginian of the Century and in thanking him for his tireless work on behalf of the great State of West Virginia and its millions of residents.

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:

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. RAHALL, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Member (at the request of Mrs. CAPITO) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. NUSSLE, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS REFERRED

A bill and concurrent resolutions of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 657. An Act to authorize funding for the National 4-H Program Centennial Initiative; to the Committee on Agriculture.

S. Con. Res. 35. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Lebanon, Syria, and Iran should allow representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the four Israelis, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, Omar Souad, and Elchanan Tannenbaum, presently held by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon; to the Committee on International Relations.

S. Con. Res. 42. Concurrent resolution condemning the Taleban for their discriminatory policies and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, June 21, 2001, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows: