

URGING THE CONTINUED INVESTIGATION OF HIGH GAS PRICES

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an issue of serious concern to my constituents in northern New Jersey, as well as to consumers and local governments throughout the Northeast: rising gas prices. Following the historic Northeast blackout, gas prices increased twelve cents on average during the last week of August, raising the national average to \$1.75 per gallon—an all-time high. In some places the spike was more severe—in New Jersey, for example, gas prices at the pump rose by more than 30 cents per gallon.

Local governments are particularly negatively affected by unforeseen spikes in gas prices. Municipalities budget more than a year in advance for gas purchases for police cars, public works trucks and for heating oil for municipal buildings. Similarly, consumers and families have to budget for gasoline purchases every week, and for the upcoming home heating, based on increasingly high prices.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that policymakers at all levels of government take action to combat price spikes induced by firms that manipulate market fluctuations to gouge consumers and governments. I am pleased to report that the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders acted quickly to do just that, passing a resolution sponsored by two members who are also local mayors, Mayor David L. Ganz of my hometown of Fair Lawn, and Mayor Jim Carroll of Demerest.

On September 17, 2003, Bergen County Freeholders voted unanimously to ask the New Jersey state legislature to investigate oil companies that deliberately gouge the public with high gasoline prices at the pump. The Board also called on President Bush to consider releasing oil from the 22 billion barrel strategic petroleum reserve to give consumers immediate relief. Mayors Ganz and Carroll cited high gas prices that were playing havoc with municipal budgets, especially for law and public safety departments of the county and their own municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bergen County Freeholders, particularly Mayors Ganz and Carroll, for taking swift action on behalf of their constituents and New Jersey consumers. I wish to add my voice to their efforts by urging Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham to expeditiously conclude the ongoing joint Energy Information Administration-Federal Trade Commission investigation of the record August gas price spike. If firms are indeed found to have manipulated market conditions to gouge consumers and local governments, I call on the Department of Justice and the Bush Administration to prosecute all wrongdoing to the full extent of the law.

Mr. Speaker, urge that every Member of Congress pay attention to the severe problem of gas price spikes now so that our communities do not face this problem in the future.

EXPLAINING MY VOTE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, no obligation which we have as elected Representatives is greater than that of making clear to those we are privileged to represent why we vote as we do, especially on important issues. Because debate time on the President's request for an \$87 billion appropriation for Iraq and Afghanistan will almost certainly be far too limited for Members fully to explain themselves, I ask unanimous consent to put here into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article which I wrote, and which was published in the Boston Globe on October 10, outlining my position on this issue.

[From the Boston Globe, Oct. 10, 2003]

PAYING FOR THE WAR IN IRAQ

(By Barney Frank)

The best argument for refusing President Bush's request that we put America \$87 billion deeper in debt to pay for the mistakes he has made in Iraq comes from a very good source—George W. Bush.

In objecting to the pay increase voted for federal employees, the president said that paying for it would require reductions in other domestic programs—e.g., environmental cleanup, aid to education, community development block grants, and transportation. After 2½ years of making light of the more than \$1.5 trillion that its budgets will add to the federal debt during his term, the administration has rediscovered the importance of controlling deficits and argues that additional federal expenditure on some items must come at the expense of others. So, if we do as the president asks and appropriate \$87 billion for Iraq, it will force reductions in other areas of federal spending that have already been cut below the barest minimum.

But while it would be a dereliction of my duty to my constituents simply to ratify the president's proposal, neither would it be responsible to reject it categorically. I cast the right vote when I opposed the president's decision to go to war in Iraq. None of the major reasons advanced at the time for this effort has been vindicated by events. Indeed, since the war in Iraq, our role as a force for stability has deteriorated in virtually every trouble spot. Syria, the Palestinians, North Korea, Iran—where there has been a change in America's ability to work for a reduction in violence, tension, and instability, it has been for the worse.

But while the war was unwise, it was also a fact, and it imposes on Americans' responsibilities that we cannot escape. Elections have consequences, even when they are decided as dubiously as our last presidential contest.

However, recognizing that we have both moral and practical obligations in this regard does not mean rubber-stamping the Bush administration's request. There are three ways in which Congress should modify the proposal.

First, while it is important that we provide funding for the military to pay for this war, we should not vote for every dollar requested. The president is justifiably seeking funds to replace the weapons and ammunition consumed in the war in Iraq and in the expensive occupation of that country. But some of that ought to come from a redirection of the tens of billions the Pentagon is still spending on unneeded weapons that

were conceived for the Cold War era. Nuclear attack submarines, defense against intercontinental ballistic missiles, and other weapons were justified by the need to confront a Soviet superpower. As one conservative commentator recently noted, the administration's request for \$65 billion for the Pentagon is aimed at preserving the current weapons procurement policy, which includes a substantial amount for Cold War armaments rather than the military capability we need for the current world situation.

Second, the proposals to engage in social spending in Iraq include several billion dollars which may be desirable but do not rise to the level of necessity—especially if it must come at the expense of equally important social spending in the United States and in desperately poor other nations in the world.

But wise reductions in both categories will still leave us with a large amount to spend, especially given the ineptitude of the administration's efforts to get others to share the burden.

Here the congressional response should be clear. None of this money should be added to the national debt, nor should it be allowed to exacerbate the severe problems that already result from inadequate funding in so many domestic programs. It is well past time for Congress to repudiate the Bush doctrine that you can pay for two wars with three tax cuts.

Further expenditures for the aftermath of the Iraq war must be funded by undoing the Bush tax cuts on incomes of \$200,000 and above. I will not vote for any additional appropriation to pay for the war in Iraq unless it is completely financed by changes in the tax code that will undo some of the tax reduction now being enjoyed—and scheduled to be enjoyed further—by the richest 2 percent of Americans.

We should be undoing tax cuts to produce far more than \$87 billion. Even before the \$87 billion request, the Bush policies were slated to add \$1 trillion to the national debt in fiscal years 2003 and 2004 alone. But at the very least, the president ought to be willing to join us in paying for the consequences of his policy in Iraq by cutting back on the excesses of his fiscally irresponsible and socially inequitable tax reductions.

I will vote to meet America's obligations in Iraq even though I thought we were wrong to incur them. But I will not do so at the expense of important domestic social and economic needs. Forcing Congress—and America—to make such a choice will be damaging and divisive, and President Bush should stop insisting that we do.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROCCO M.
MALANGA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention an exceptional individual, Rocco M. Malanga, who was honored for his tireless commitment to serving the members of his community at the Columbian Foundation Annual Columbus Day Humanitarian and Achievement Awards Dinner on Saturday, October 11, 2003.

For the past twenty-four years, the thoughts, actions, and deeds of Newark (New Jersey) Police Department's Deputy Police Director Rocco Malanga have all been directed toward ensuring the continued safety and well-being

of the men and women of northern New Jersey. It is only fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

Deputy Police Director Malanga's distinguished career in law enforcement began in 1979 when he served as an officer in the Bloomfield Police Department. By 1981, Rocco had joined the ranks of the Newark Police department and, 2 years later, he became one of the first police officers nationwide to be assigned to the Fear-City Task Force. Recognized as the first Law Enforcement initiative to address quality of life issues in a major United States city, the Fear-City Task Force provided ample opportunity for Rocco to witness firsthand the day to day needs and concerns of the local community. Rocco continued to draw from these experiences three years later, when he was assigned to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as an undercover officer.

Despite his noteworthy contributions while serving in the DEA, Rocco Malanga returned to the Newark Police Department in 1999 and was promoted to the position of Deputy Police Director. Since then, he has been involved in all aspects of police administration ranging from budget preparation to the introduction of all of the newest technological advances to the department. Always keeping the needs of his department and his community foremost in mind, Rocco's face has become a familiar sight in both Washington, DC, and in Trenton, NJ, where he is frequently found lobbying for federal and state grants.

The services rendered to the people of Essex County by Rocco Malanga have been noted and commended by countless law enforcement and community organizations. Among the many groups who have gathered to honor Rocco Malanga are the Knights of Columbus, the Italian-American Police Society of New Jersey, the Hispanic Law Enforcement Society of Essex County, the Bronze Shields, and the Honor Legion. Perhaps most impressive, however, are the honors that Rocco has received from his colleagues and peers: he served as the president of the Newark Police- man's Benevolence Association from 1987–1995 and, in 1995, was asked to become the Director of the Essex County Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a U.S. Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing individuals who have devoted themselves to serving the special needs of the people in their community. The strong leadership, integrity, and passion for volunteerism that Deputy Police Director Malanga has brought to his life and his work is beyond compare.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues and me in gratefully recognizing the invaluable services that Rocco M. Malanga has provided to the men and women of Essex County.

HONORING THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAFU SHIMPO

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2003

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Rafu Shimpō, a bilin-

gual English-Japanese newspaper published, distributed, and read avidly in my Congressional District, celebrating their 100th anniversary.

The history of The Rafu Shimpō is an important part of both American and Japanese American history and heritage, created in Los Angeles.

In April 1903, three young men, Rippo Iijima, Masaharu Yamaguchi, and Seijiro Shibuya produced the first mimeographed news bulletin to the Los Angeles area Japanese-speaking community. Its title comes directly from the community it serves—Rafu Shimpō means Los Angeles area newspaper—ra from Rashogiri, the old Chinese name for Los Angeles, fu is prefecture or area, and shimpō is newspaper.

Beginning in 1914, under the new management of Henry Toyosaku (H.T.) Komai, the newspaper began to grow. In February 1926 he added an English language section with the help of a 20-year-old UCLA education major, Louise Suski. By 1932, the English section became a daily feature.

On April 4, 1942, The Rafu Shimpō ceased publication as Americans of Japanese descent were forcibly removed to desert internment camps. At the end of the war in 1945, though other Japanese Americans were released, H.T. Komai continued to be detained in Santa Fe, New Mexico. But the Komai family's dedication to publishing The Rafu Shimpō persevered. H.T.'s son, Akira Komai, with a \$1500 loan from three other staff members, rebuilt the newspaper.

The newspaper grew rapidly after World War II, from a circulation of 500 in 1946 to 20,000 over the next 30 years. Today, H.T.'s grandson, Michael Komai, serves as the 3rd generation publisher, a position he has held since 1983. The award-winning daily has over 45,000 readers and prevails as the premier news source for the Los Angeles area Japanese American community.

As part of The Rafu Shimpō's 100th anniversary celebration, an awards banquet will be held in Los Angeles on Thursday, October 16, at the Century Plaza Hotel. The yearlong anniversary celebration will also include special recognitions from the Japanese American National Museum, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Asian American Journalists Association and Asian Business League.

The 100th anniversary of The Rafu Shimpō is another milestone in the rich history of Los Angeles as well as the history of America, and I join the Los Angeles Japanese American community in celebrating this wonderful legacy.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN ON THEIR NATIONAL DAY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2003

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my warmest wishes to the Taiwanese people as they celebrate their National Day on October 10. This special day gives us the opportunity to reflect on Taiwan's numerous achievements.

Taiwan is one of the most amazing success stories in Asia, if not the entire world. Less than 20 years ago, Taiwan was ruled by an authoritarian dictatorship under martial law. Today, it is a flourishing, multiparty democracy that holds competitive elections, respects human rights and upholds the rule of law. This remarkable political evolution proves beyond any doubt that the notion of "Asian values"—often used to justify one man rule—is a fallacy.

While Taiwan has established a robust democracy, a number of political challenges still remain. We must work to ensure that Taiwan's status and global contributions are properly respected and appreciated by the international community. This can be accomplished, in part, through Taiwanese participation in the World Health Organization and other appropriate international organizations. Taiwan's security is also a high priority. I have no doubt that Taiwan will meet these challenges and play an increasingly important role in world affairs.

Taiwan and the United States share a common commitment to the ideals of democracy, freedom and human rights. The 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, which forms the official basis for friendship and cooperation between the United States and Taiwan, continues to provide a strong foundation for the bond between the people of both countries. That bond is made stronger each day by the Taiwanese-American community, which has made important contributions to American social, economic and political life.

Best wishes and congratulations to President Chen Shui-bien, Tecro Representative C.J. Chen and all of the citizens of Taiwan on the occasion of its National Day.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to join my colleagues in wishing the Republic of China a happy National Day.

Despite Taiwan's small size and lack of natural resources, in recent years Taiwan has emerged as an economic powerhouse. It is the world's 17th largest economy, with the world's 15th largest trade volume. This economic performance has contributed to both regional and global prosperity. At a time of economic interdependence among nations, Taiwan has a lot to offer to the world.

On Taiwan's National Day, I would like to see Taiwan continue to play a major economic role in the world and further strengthen its economic ties to the United States. Indeed, bilateral trade between Taiwan and the United States topped \$66 billion last year and will continue to grow—to the benefit of both nations.

Congratulations, President Chen. We wish you and your people the best of luck as you seek readmission to the United Nations and the World Health Organization. You deserve a prominent place on the world stage.

I also wish to add that President Chen has pledged Taiwan's resources in helping us fight worldwide terrorism. President Chen believes any attack on America is tantamount to an attack on Taiwan and all the other peace-loving