

We need an energy bill passed, and we need it passed now. We can start on that this week. I am hoping that all of us here in this Congress can work together to put the national interests ahead of anything else and get this finished. There really are no excuses for not doing so.

RENEWING THE ASSAULT WEAPON BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, assault weapons go back on to the streets of America in 3 months. Time is running out to protect our police officers, our communities and our children. After September 13, criminals, drug dealers and gangs will be able to go and buy their assault weapons.

In this past week, we certainly brought back memories of President Ronald Reagan. I remember his contributions to gun safety. He understood the dangers of assault weapons, which is why he ushered in one of the first bans on military-style weapons, banning the importation of rapid fire shotguns. In 1989, President George H.W. Bush expanded this list to include 43 other assault weapons.

By 1994, with the country facing, unfortunately, a wave of mass shootings throughout this country, Congress finally banned the production or sale of new assault weapons. In a joint letter to the House Members pushing for passage of the ban, former President Reagan said, "We urge you to listen to the American public and to the law enforcement community and support a ban on the further manufacture of these weapons." As usual, President Reagan said it best.

Renewing the assault weapon ban is about the safety of our police, our children and our communities. Congress only has 28 more working days in which to renew the assault weapon ban.

Let me say this: When you think about the American people, when you think about police throughout this country, who are now lobbying the Members of Congress and the Senate to have this bill come up on the floor for a vote, and yet we still hear nothing. President Bush today has actually said that he would sign the bill if it gets on his desk.

Let me say this: This House needs to bring the bill up on to the floor for a vote so that it can go to the President's desk. The American people have to get involved in this issue. They have to contact their Members of Congress in the House and Senate.

We need to talk about what assault weapons can do. We need to talk about what the health care costs will be from the damage done if assault weapons are back on our streets. We need to talk about how many of our police in the

past have been killed because they were outgunned because of assault weapons. We need to remember our history to know why we passed the assault weapon ban 10 years ago.

We cannot allow this to sunset. We must make sure the assault weapon ban is kept in place. It is for the safety of our communities, our children, our police officers. The American people are always saying they have no part in government. You can have a part in government, but you have to become involved. You have to have your voices heard.

I will stand here every Tuesday, Monday, whenever, to make sure that the American people hear this message.

Today, June 14, is my son's birthday. Going back 10 years ago, when a mad man came onto a train and shot and killed my husband and shot my son in the head, we never thought Kevin would live. The criminal at that time had large capacity clips which could hold 14 bullets.

Some say it would not have made any difference on the Long Island massacre. Well, with the ban that is in place, even though it is 10 bullets in a clip, if you could talk to the people at the end of the train that lost their lives, if we had the 10-bullet ban in place, if we had the assault weapon ban in place, maybe we would have had a few of our people that would have lived that day.

I celebrate my son's birthday. It is a miracle that he is alive. That is why I came to Congress, to reduce gun violence in this country. I started my career by lobbying to make sure the assault weapon ban got in place here in Congress. I will continue to fight to make sure the assault weapon ban stays in place.

PROVIDING IRAQIS WITH BETTER OPPORTUNITIES THAN AMERICANS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, last week the Associated Press reported that Iraqis are paying 5 cents a gallon for gas in Iraq, 5 cents. Why are Iraqis getting such a good deal? Because the American taxpayer is subsidizing the Iraqis to the tune of \$167 million a month, approximately \$500 million over 3 months.

Here in the United States on average Americans are paying over \$2 a gallon for gas, up approximately 50 cents since the beginning of the war in Iraq. Fill up a car with gas, a little north of \$50; yet in Iraq to do the same costs you about a dollar, what would cost us here \$50. We are subsidizing them, the American taxpayer, to the tune of \$167 million a month. Here in the United States, what have we done? Nothing.

I am not against building and rebuilding Iraq after the war, but I am opposed to providing Iraqis with a better opportunity than we provide Amer-

icans, and I am not just talking about gas prices.

Take health care. They have health care. We have opened up 150 health clinics and hospitals throughout Iraq, providing 100,000 with prenatal and infant coverage costing Americans taxpayers \$1 billion. In the United States, 44 million Americans are without health insurance; 33 million Americans work full-time without health care; 10 million American children are without health care. What do we do?

In the area of jobs, in Iraq we provide universal job training. In the United States, under the President's budget we cut \$238 million from job training programs.

Veterans in Iraq, \$60 million is being spent to train the Iraqi veterans from past wars.

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In the United States, under the President's budget, we are cutting \$257 million from American veterans medical care.

In the area of education, in Iraq, we built 2,300 schools. In America, under the President's budget, we have underfunded by \$8 billion the Leave No Child Behind Act. In Iraq, universities are receiving \$20 million for higher education partnerships. In America, we have cut Perkins loans by \$90 million and frozen the Pell grants for 3 years in a row. That is the President's budget.

Police. In Iraq, we are spending \$500 million to retrain the police on security. In the United States, the COPS program for community policing throughout our country, supporting police officers, we have cut in the President's budget by \$659 million.

In the area of housing, in Iraq, we are spending \$470 million for public housing. In the United States, under the President's budget, we cut \$791 million from section 8.

The environment, \$3.6 billion in Iraq for water and sewer. In America, the President's budget cuts \$500 million from the revolving fund.

For roads, in Iraq, we are spending \$240 million on new roads and bridges. In America, the Army Corps of Engineers' budget is cut by 10 percent.

We could go on and on with program after program. My colleagues know that in the election of 2000, then Governor Bush, now President Bush, declared he was opposed to nation-building. Who knew it was America he was talking about when he said he was opposed to nation-building? But the good news is that in the 2004 reelection, President Bush can say he kept his commitment in opposition to nation-building. The problem is, it is here at home.

What do we have here at home? We have a higher unemployment rate than when he took office; more uninsured; college costs soaring now by 10 or 12 percent a year, on average. Health care costs for a family of four was \$6,500 3 years ago; today it is \$9,000. Yet in Iraq in the areas of health care, education,

job training, housing, and the environment, we are making investments that we do not promise here at home.

This administration has two priorities, two sets of values, two sets of books: one for Iraq and one for America.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are the most generous people in the world, but we can no longer afford to be so generous if our hope for a prosperous tomorrow for our children is diminished and less than the one we promise the people overseas. We cannot deny Americans the same dreams of affordable health care, quality education, a safe place to live that we promised the Iraqis, but denied the American people. The same values that we hold for Iraq we must pledge for every American as well.

It is time that we look at the energy crisis we have in this country and ask the American taxpayers to subsidize 5 cents a gallon in Iraq while we pay north of 2 bucks a gallon here in the United States, while we say to our children, you should graduate college with a \$16,000 bill and yet provide universal health care and higher education to Iraqis. We can do better; we need to do better.

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

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECORD TRADE DEFICITS UNDER BUSH ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Speaker, today the Bush administration set yet another record. Congratulations. They announced a new record trade deficit for April, which puts the United States on track for yet a new annual record in trade.

Now, what does that mean to average Americans? Well, first off, it means that we are outsourcing jobs overseas, outsourcing capital overseas, losing jobs and productivity here; and we are going in debt to China and Japan and other nations. China has \$122 billion of U.S. Treasury bonds; Japan owns \$440 billion. They are getting to a point where they will be able to influence our economy and our interest rates in the United States and our currency. This is worrisome.

The loss equals about \$1.5 billion a day in U.S. wealth; \$1 million a minute being hemorrhaged overseas.

Now, when one is confronted with a policy that is failing, one usually would begin to rethink that policy. But no, not the Bush administration. As we know, they are very stubborn; and they are never wrong. In the case of trade, they think that there are tremendous benefits to the United States by outsourcing, exporting jobs, putting people here out of work. In fact, the President's own economic adviser in the annual report of the President of the United States said as much. He said that this was a good thing that jobs were being outsourced. It was a new manifestation of the radical free trade policies that they believe in down there at the White House.

Now, the problem, of course, goes beyond just the outsourcing of jobs and loss of capital. It is ultimately undermining the national and economic security of the United States of America. As we lose our productive capacity in critical areas, we are going to have a hard time replacing those in a future time of crisis, whether it is with China or somebody else who will have captured much of that productive capacity, those critical skills that go with those capacities.

I sat next to a gentleman on the plane last week going back to Oregon who works in the titanium industry; and he is very concerned about the loss of U.S. capabilities in critical metals, and very concerned that China is now leaping ahead in many areas, and if we should ever get into a conflict or an adversarial situation with China in the future, we would be at a disadvantage.

But this administration thinks, in fact, that this is all really great, because a few people are getting really rich. The CEOs are doing great. So what if salaries are down, wages are down, jobs are lost here in the United States of America. The CEOs or the contributor class. The Bush Pioneers and Rangers, those who can gather up \$250,000 or \$1 million for the President's reelection, are telling him, this is great, their bonuses are up, they are doing well, their friends at the country club are doing well; and we can just maybe change the subject when it comes to average Americans. Maybe we can distract them with something else so they will not realize how screwed they are. I hope not. I hope that Americans next fall express their opinion of these radical free trade policies, the huge trade deficits, the outsourcing of jobs, the CEO class who earn 600 and 700 times what their workers earn.

Mr. Speaker, this is a scandal, what we are doing; and it is undermining our country. And the President, if reelected, says one of the first things he is going to do is expand NAFTA, the job-losing NAFTA agreements, to all of Latin and South America. Just think of the opportunity. They pretend it means we will export things there, but they know it does not. It means the

same thing as all of the other trade agreements. It means U.S. companies can locate there to exploit cheaper labor and lay off people here at home. But ultimately, who is going to be able to consume things here in the United States of America when the middle class is not working anymore? Ultimately, they are going to undo the entire system of the United States of America, but they do not really seem to care much about that.

They announced a big victory just yesterday, that is, that Mexican trucks, unsafe Mexican trucks that weigh two times as much as U.S. trucks, that are bigger, that are driven by people who do not take drug tests, do not have U.S. commercial drivers licenses, do not have the same rest time requirements, do not have in many cases front brakes, will be rumbling down the U.S. highways soon. They announced a great victory when the Supreme Court threw out a case that would restrict Mexican trucks from coming into the United States. Again, something else very shortsighted and very much against the interests of average Americans and working Americans.

CALLING ON THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION FOR CLEAR FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wondered how I would begin this evening inasmuch as this past week we honored a fallen President, and I wanted to ensure that the respect of that week continued. So I simply say that it is important, if we remember anything from the honor that was given to President Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, it might be, among many, many things that were said last week is his ability to convince and convey by words and diplomacy and particularly what is attributed to him, along with others that he helped inspire, is the ability to tear down the Iron Curtain, to break through the wall of Communism, and to do so, as has been said very frequently, without one single bullet being fired.

I think that is an appropriate backdrop for the pain and anguish with which I come to the floor this evening, and that is to again speak of the tumultuous activities and events and incidences that are occurring now in the Middle East but, in particular, in Iraq.

It is represented to us that the insurgents are increasing their activity, their brutality, their bloodshed because of the potential transition of government. But I believe it is crucial for this administration to do several things: one, to again address this body of Congress to be able to enunciate and to provide information on just what