

## COMMENDING JIMMY FRANKLIN

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

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise and pay tribute to a great Georgian, Mr. Jimmy Franklin of Statesboro, Georgia.

This week in Orlando, Florida, Mr. Franklin will receive from the Georgia Bar Association the Distinguished Service Scrolls Award recognizing his outstanding achievement in his profession.

Mr. Franklin is a respected member of the bar, a leader in his city and county and his church. This award recognizes his long contribution to Georgia. Also, I am proud to acknowledge his long and trusted advice to me, to other Members of Congress, and to Governors of Georgia. His knowledge of policy and his love of this country is unsurpassed.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and a pleasure for me today to pay tribute to a great Georgian, Jimmy Franklin, and a warm and trusted friend of whom I have the greatest respect.

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#### UPDATING VICE PRESIDENT ON EVENTS IN REAL WORLD

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Florida, the Vice President reassured that there were connections between Saddam Hussein, he said, long established ties between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda. This has been proven wrong, and woefully wrong, many times. But as recently as this morning, the 9/11 Commission issued a breaking story saying it is now clear there is no connection between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda as it relates to 9/11.

I do not know how the Vice President of the United States of America can be so sorrowfully misinformed or has decided to misinform the public. Neither quality is worthy of the Vice President of the United States of America.

Now, I do not know what it is going to take to help the Vice President shake him of this delusion. I know in this town in Washington some people are firm in their opinions and flexible on their principles, but it is now time for us to acknowledge there is no connection between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein. The war in Iraq was a war of choice.

#### CONTINUE TO SAY NO TO EMBRY- ONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the debate begins over the proper way to pay

tribute the 40th President of the United States, some argue that the best way to honor the memory of Ronald Reagan would be to permit the destruction of human embryos for scientific research on diseases like that which claimed his life, and while I would never criticize grieving family members who advocate this, anyone else who would use the memory of Ronald Reagan to erode the sanctity of human life would do more to desecrate his legacy than by any other means.

Reaffirming his pro-life views on the 10th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, President Reagan said, "There is no cause more important for preserving freedom than affirming the transcendent right to life to all human beings." He said, "We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life, the unborn, without diminishing the value of all human life." Let us choose life. Let us honor Reagan. Let us honor his pro-life values by continuing to say no to embryonic stem cell research.

#### GOVERNMENT KEEPING AMERI- CANS ADDICTED TO HIGH-PRICED OIL

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, reasonably priced gasoline has become a distant memory for most Americans, yet gasoline can still be had for 5 cents a gallon. Where? Well, in Baghdad. How? Because the American taxpayers are subsidizing gasoline for the Iraqis at the cost of \$167 million a month. Even at that we are being ripped off by Halliburton, we are told. We are paying too much for it.

So while Americans are curtailing their summer vacations because they cannot afford to fill their tanks, they are backing up the trucks in Baghdad and filling up 20 to 30 gallon tanks for \$1 to \$1.50. That is a lot less than the price of a gallon here.

Yet the Republicans would tell us that their lame energy bill would do something about this. Well, we passed their lame energy bill two or three times before on the floor of the House. We are voting on all the same provisions again. The \$18 billion subsidy to the oil and gas industry, yes, that will really help. That is going to help Americans get more affordable gasoline and help make this country more energy independent and efficient.

They actually do not want us to be more energy independent and efficient. They want us to be addicted to the high price oil, to continue to shovel money into these multinational oil companies.

#### FLYING FIRST CLASS AT THE PENTAGON

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, almost every Member of this body is pro-military. But we also should be pro-taxpayer too. So all of us should be shocked that the Defense Department lost \$100 million on unused airplane tickets over the 6 years between 1997 and 2003. In addition, the Pentagon bought 68,000 first class or business class tickets over this same period.

Members of Congress fly coach class unless they use frequent flier miles to upgrade. Public officials, including those in the military, are supposed to be public servants, not rulers or some elite, special, privileged class.

The Defense Department gets almost everything it asks for, so it just does not seem to care about wasteful spending. But if any high-level officials at the Pentagon have even the slightest concern for the taxpayer, they should immediately eliminate this unused ticket business so we do not lose \$100 million or more over the next 6 years.

Also, all members of the military should fly coach, like almost all Members of Congress and almost all our constituents do, instead of buying 11,000 or more first class tickets each year.

#### COMPENSATING IRAQI PRISONERS AT THE EXPENSE OF AMERICAN POWS

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, according to The Hill newspaper, former American prisoners tortured by Saddam Hussein's regime in the first Gulf War are criticizing the Bush administration for fighting their compensation claims while planning to compensate the Iraqi victims of abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison.

Rumsfeld told the Senate Committee on Armed Services last week that he is seeking a way to provide appropriate compensation to those detainees who suffered such grievous and brutal abuse at the hands of American Armed Forces. And yet this administration, this President, went to court to keep American POWs, those who were tortured by Saddam Hussein, from getting the compensation that was given to them by a lower court.

Why would this administration, why would this President, why would this Secretary of Defense, want to compensate Iraqi prisoners who had been tortured, and fight the compensation of American prisoners who had been tortured? Whose side is this administration on?

#### A SAFER, STRONGER AMERICA

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, after 4 years of leadership by President Bush,

I believe our Nation is safer, stronger and better. We are fighting and winning a war on terror on many fronts, including Iraq and Afghanistan; Afghanistan is free; Libya is disarmed; and Iraq is well on its way to becoming a free country in the heart of the Middle East. The spread of democracy in this part of the world will help ensure our safety here in the United States.

Recent economic data is a powerful confirmation that the President's pro-growth economic policies are working. Home ownership rates are up, and minority home ownership is at its highest level ever. Real GDP has grown at its fastest rate in almost 20 years over the last three quarters. Productivity has grown at its fastest 3-year rate in 40 years during the past 12 quarters.

Mr. Speaker, we have overcome the triple shock of terrorist attacks, corporate scandals and recession, and we are a stronger country on many fronts, thanks to the leadership of President George Bush.

#### SOARING GAS PRICES

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, after months of record-breaking gasoline prices, the pocketbooks of America's working families are hurting. Rising gas prices mean working families have less money to spend on important items, such as clothing and groceries, a factor that hurts our overall economy as well as individual families. Family vacations are being canceled.

Today, the average price of a gallon of gas in the United States is \$2.10, but in Iraq the cost of one gallon of gasoline is only 5 cents. It only costs \$1.10 to fill up a 22-gallon tank in Baghdad.

Americans deserve to know why their gas prices are soaring out of control, and, just as importantly, Americans need a solution. It is time to pass a real, meaningful, common sense, comprehensive energy policy and bring down the high cost of gasoline for America's working families.

#### RESTORING AND PROTECTING LOUISIANA WETLANDS

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

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, my State, Louisiana, is suffering the worst national ecological disaster in the history of this country. Every year we lose up to 35 square miles of the most precious wetlands in America. The comprehensive energy bill we passed yesterday on this House floor and sent to the other body contains money, for the first time, billions of dollars, to address that national economic disaster.

Louisiana contributes over \$5 billion a year from offshore development. We get less than 1 percent back. That bill

we sent to the other body contains billions to begin to restore and protect those vanishing wetlands, the biggest environmental program, bigger than the Chesapeake Bay, bigger than the Everglades.

I cannot speak about the other body and how they vote, but let me issue a warning: No one in this Congress who votes against that comprehensive energy bill and that environmental package, no one in this Congress better show their face in south Louisiana if they vote against that comprehensive energy bill.

#### MAKING AMERICA MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I listened to my colleague from Louisiana's impassioned point, and I happen to agree that there are things we need to do with this devastating coastal erosion in Louisiana. But the way that we go about that and the way we deal with some of our significant energy problems is not simply ritually repassing an inadequate and failed energy policy that has already stalled in the other body.

It does not have to be this hard. We do not have to hold good ideas hostage. The wind energy production tax credit would pass in a heartbeat; energy grid reliability would be massively supported; increased fuel efficiency standards are long overdue; and, yes, maybe even some assistance for the coastal erosion.

Hopefully, after we get past this week's ritual repassage and the beating of our gums, I hope the House will return to enact simple, common sense proposals that will make America more energy efficient without compromising the environment, and make our families safer, healthier and more economically secure.

#### NEW MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL WORKS

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a simple observation based on large part from the results of two town meetings we had in my district last week, one in Fairhope and one in Mobile: The new Medicare prescription drug law that we passed and which has been enacted is working.

Since the changes to the Medicare program began to take effect on June 1, millions of Americans have taken advantage of the toll-free Medicare helpline as well as the Internet web site. In fact, during the first 4 days of May, 1.6 million men and women, nearly 10 times the normal call volume, called that helpline for further infor-

mation. During the same time period, 7 million people visited the Medicare web site.

After just 2 weeks of competition between the drug manufacturers of this country, prices on name brand drugs have dropped nearly 12 percent, and the cost for generics have dropped nearly 13 percent.

Some would have us believe that the new and improved Medicare program is not working, that it will be too costly and seniors will not take the time to show interest in this. The facts speak just the opposite.

#### FTC SHOULD INVESTIGATE INCREASE IN GASOLINE PRICES

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are playing games here on the House floor this week. America's consumers should not be fooled into believing that the energy bills on the floor will do anything to lower gas prices in the immediate future.

Back in 2001, the FTC concluded that during the summer of 2000 price spike certain suppliers had pursued a profit-maximizing strategy, intentionally withholding gasoline supplies or delaying shipping as a tactic to drive up prices. Such collusion would be easier today, with the top 10 refiners now controlling 78 percent of the supply. That is a 22 percent increase over a decade ago.

Today, 48 of my Democratic colleagues joined me in sending a letter to the FTC asking that it begin a thorough investigation into whether or not gas companies are colluding to artificially increase prices.

We cannot let the Bush administration's cozy relationship with big oil companies hold Americans hostage at the pump. If Congressional Republicans were really interested in doing something today, they would call on the Bush administration to launch an investigation to determine whether oil companies are purposefully inflating prices at the pump.

#### UNITED STATES REFINERY REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2004

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 671, I call up the bill (H.R. 4517) to provide incentives to increase refinery capacity in the United States, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of H.R. 4517 is as follows:

H.R. 4517

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States Refinery Revitalization Act of 2004".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following: