

ought to start by opening up the legislative process so at least their own Members have a chance to participate with people on the other side of the aisle.

#### NATURAL GAS SUPPLY

(Mr. TERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the House for dedicating much of this week to energy, and I want to spend time today on the natural gas crisis. Clean-burning natural gas heats our homes, cooks our meals, and is used to produce almost everything we use, from food to fertilizer, to cars and clothes; but soaring natural gas prices have a devastating ripple effect on our economy. Families are paying hundreds of dollars more annually for their natural gas.

The U.S. chemical industry has cut at least 90,000 jobs in the past 4 years. Manufacturers have moved overseas where gas prices are much lower. Farmers have seen the cost of fertilizer double in 4 years as fertilizer imports have increased by 43 percent.

The Energy Policy Act, which the House passed again this week, would dramatically boost domestic natural gas supplies and lower prices. By adopting this balanced plan, we would save Americans approximately \$1 trillion in natural gas costs over the next 20 years, \$1 trillion saved along with hundreds of thousands of jobs.

#### AN ENERGY BILL ENRON WOULD LOVE

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, one feature industry loves about the energy bill this body passed again Tuesday is a provision that would repeal the Public Utility Holding Company Act, which helps States regulate large multi-state electricity companies.

Some people say that we do not need PUHCA anymore, that its time has passed.

But exemptions from PUHCA are what enabled the actions we heard from Enron and other energy traders in recently released tapes. Here is how they described what they were doing when allowed to operate without PUHCA:

"So the rumor's true?" one trader asked another. "They're [expletive] taking all the money back from you guys? All the money you guys stole from those poor grandmothers in California?"

The Enron trader responded, "Yeah, Grandma Millie, man. But she's the one who couldn't figure out how to [expletive] vote on the butterfly ballot."

The first trader responded, "Yeah, now she wants her [expletive] money back for all the power you've charged right up, jammed [expletive] for [exple-

tive] \$250 a megawatt hour," the first trader says.

One of the traders, referring to efforts to stop the gouging, said, "It's just crap. It's completely crap. It just goes against everything our country's about."

Well, I do not know about you, but in my mind, stealing from your customers goes against everything our country is about; and this is outrageous. The American people deserve better. In fact, they deserve an apology.

#### PISTONS WIN IT ALL

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Chauncy Billups, Tayshaun Prince, Big Ben Wallace, Richard "Rip" Hamilton, Rasheed Wallace, Corliss Williamson, Mehmet Okur, Lindsey Hunter, Elden Campbell, Darvin Ham, Mike James, Darko Milicic.

Mr. Speaker, these are the names of the Pistons. I would like to congratulate the Detroit Pistons for bringing the NBA championship back to the east, back to Motown, and back to the State of Michigan.

It seemed like no one believed in the Pistons, no one gave them a chance against the Laker team that had been really tailor-made to win the title.

Well, true fans believed, and our beloved team did not disappoint. The Pistons played hard every minute. They found every loose ball, controlled the offensive boards, and kept beating the Lakers down the floor. They never stopped coming and never stopped going for it. The Pistons had a whole team of role models. They had chemistry, coaching, spirit, determination, you name it. Detroit's defense was more dominant than any single player, and they are worthy of champions. They played as a team and won as a team and set a good example for all of us. Years from now, true Piston fans are going to remember this magical journey.

#### ENERGY

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, this week the House has voted on energy bills that do absolutely nothing to help Nevada families with the cost of power or skyrocketing gas prices. These bills only help this administration's special interest friends. The Republican energy bill is riddled with billions of dollars of taxpayer giveaways to nuclear, oil, and gas industries. I am appalled that we would spend one more cent on nuclear energy when there is no way to safely store radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. This administration continues to dump money into the Yucca Mountain project despite the fact that it is unsafe and a ridiculous proposal.

I am outraged that not one of these bills puts an end to fraud and abuse perpetrated by companies like Enron. Enron's deliberate and malicious manipulation of the market stole over \$1 billion from Nevadans and other Western ratepayers.

I am disgusted that we are doing nothing to reduce gas prices at a time when oil companies are reaping record profits. The FTC must investigate this industry and its practices.

Now is the time to create an energy plan that weans this country from its reliance on foreign oil and to harness renewable energy sources.

#### CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF JOBS CREATION BILL

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Indiana has lost more manufacturing jobs than any State in the Union. So today I rise to enthusiastically support congressional action on the American Jobs Creation Act. Thanks to impending sanctions by the WTO, Congress will today cut the corporate tax rate from 35 to 33 percent, provide \$4 billion in relief for AMT, also known as the antimanufacturing tax, and reform the Tax Code to reduce double taxation on U.S. manufacturers that export and do business overseas like so many Indiana companies do.

1.4 million new jobs since last fall is a good start, but let us rev up the engine of the American economy, especially American manufacturers, and create good-paying American jobs by passing today the American Jobs Creation Act.

9/11

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, let me first of all acknowledge the crisis in Sudan and demand that the Sudanese Government immediately respond to the killing in Dafor and as well the United Nations be allowed to provide humanitarian aid immediately. It is a crisis that we need to address, not yesterday, not today or tomorrow but we should have been addressing weeks and months ago.

But I speak this morning about the reflection of the existence of a 9/11 commission and to say to America and this Congress, what would we have done without knowing the truth? The headlines today suggest no Iraq-al Qaeda 9/11 link found at all, Mr. Speaker. It also says the plan was a 10-plane plan; but the most striking knowledge for all those relatives to hear was that the FAA did not, did not, did not contact the military or NORAD, was confused and did not contact in sufficient time for any intervention to occur.

It is imperative that this Congress, not next year, not in November, not in

January, investigate now, holding hearings before Judiciary, Homeland Security, Armed Services, and International Relations. It is imperative that we know the truth and that we respond to the truth and that we act on the truth.

#### GOOD ECONOMIC NEWS

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute our steadily growing economy. Sometimes it is hard to remember how the intellectual fortunes of free enterprise have fallen under high taxes and government intrusion. Now that the Bush tax cuts have started to kick in and boost the economy, we see again that job growth has remained strong and in May we gained jobs. The American people are recognizing the positive leadership of George W. Bush and the Republican Congress.

Let us look at the facts: job seekers in America are getting good news and, most importantly, jobs. There were 248,000 jobs created in May. That means more than 900,000 jobs created over the last 3 months alone. Today the unemployment rate is down to 5.6 percent, lower than the average unemployment rate of the last 3 decades. America's families are seeing the change in their kitchen-table finances. Homeownership has risen to the highest level ever and real disposable income is up to an annual average rate of 3.9 percent. Finally, our business owners are benefiting. Real business investment in equipment and software is up to an annual rate of 14 percent.

This is an economics package that puts people first. The President and the Republicans in Congress will continue to knock down the barriers of high taxes and government red tape. By removing those barriers, we see the true entrepreneurial spirit of the American people and with that spirit so grows our economy.

#### COMPLAINT FILED WITH ETHICS COMMITTEE

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, when we as Members of Congress choose to look the other way at wrongdoing, when the agreed-upon standards of ethics of this body are seriously violated and no one makes a peep, the credibility of this institution is seriously damaged.

One of my colleagues has filed a complaint with the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the Ethics Committee. He has raised serious questions about Majority Leader TOM DELAY's conduct, questions related to bribery, extortion, fraud, money laundering, and abuse of power. Some Republicans have tried to dismiss this

complaint as mere partisan politics rather than respond to the substance of the charges. The gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) threatened that as a result of this complaint from now on it is a matter of, quote, you kill my dog, I'll kill your cat.

This House has a duty to investigate wrongdoing, and we should do it immediately and seriously; and we should do it without killing dogs or cats.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). Neither the content of an ethics complaint nor the fact of its filing may be debated on the floor until such time as it may become the question pending before the House.

#### A GREAT DAY FOR TENNESSEANS

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this is a great day for the people of Tennessee. It is also a great day for the people of Texas and Washington State and Florida, Wyoming, Nevada, and South Dakota because today we are going to pass the American Jobs Creation Act in this House. In that bill, there is a provision that restores the deductibility of sales tax to our Federal income tax filing. For those of us in States that do not have a State income tax, deducting that sales tax is important. For our 5 million Tennesseans, this is a great day.

Mr. Speaker, I started my fight for tax fairness when I was a member of the Tennessee State Senate, and I have continued that upon coming here to Congress. I want to thank Congressman KEVIN BRADY, Majority Leader TOM DELAY, and Chairman BILL THOMAS for their leadership and their outstanding work on this issue of tax fairness.

□ 1030

This is an enormous step forward. It is one that we have waited for since 1986. It is a great day for Tennesseans. I thank them for their leadership.

#### OIL COMPANY PROFITS

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, at the President's direction the Vice President presided over secret meetings with big oil, dirty coal, and a legion of industry lobbyists.

In secret they wrote an energy policy that has turned this country into a panhandler, begging for more oil. Motorists in downtown Seattle will pay an extra quarter of a billion dollars, that is billion, in just the next 90 days be-

cause of the increase in the price of a gallon of gasoline. The administration will blame it all on the war. The price of gasoline is over \$2 a gallon and the price in Iraq is 5 cents a gallon.

Yes, Mr. President, it is war all right. It is war that the oil companies are waging against the American people with the knowledge and consent and assistance of the administration. Oil company profits are up over 300 percent for one company, 200 percent for another. We are waging a war all right. It is a war to get America out of the hands of pricing, special interests and back into the hands of the American people. We want our country back. November 2 is coming, Mr. Bush.

#### COMMENDING DELTA AIRLINES

(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, 75 years ago today in 1929 Delta Airlines flew its first six-passenger aircraft from Monroe, Louisiana to Dallas, Texas, inaugurating a great company and a great contributor to the United States of America.

Begun as a crop dusting company in the Mississippi Delta, Delta Airlines has grown to a worldwide company, employing 60,000 people, 30,000 of them in my home State of Georgia and our great City of Atlanta.

I am pleased to rise today and commend Delta Airlines on the celebration of its 75th anniversary and to commend them for the contribution they have made to the travel of the United States of America and its citizens and to business enterprise, travel, and tourism around the world.

#### SALUTING SONIA SCHREIBER WEITZ

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

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, today on June 17, 2004, the Holocaust Center of Boston North, Inc., located in Peabody, Massachusetts, and dedicated to the study of the Holocaust, Genocides, and Human Rights, will honor my constituent Sonia Schreiber Weitz with the Center's first Social Justice and Human Rights Award.

A Holocaust survivor who experienced the torture and degradation of five Nazi concentration camps and Hitler's Death March, Sonia Weitz has devoted her life to educating young people to the dangers of bystander behavior, the nature of hatred and power of one individual to create positive change. An accomplished author and poet, she is committed to fighting for human rights and sharing her experiences during the Holocaust with audiences of all ages.

Born in Krakow, Poland in 1928, young Sonia attended public schools