

3. U.S. NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION AS A PARADIGM FOR VIEWING WORLD OIL PEAKING

The history of U.S. natural gas production is cited as an example of the perils of over-optimistic resource forecasts. A detailed analysis of the North American natural gas history, status, and outlook might provide lessons useful in addressing world oil production peaking.

4. POTENTIAL FOR NON-TRANSPORTATION OIL FUEL-SWITCHING

World non-transportation liquid fuel usage is amenable to fuel switching, thereby freeing up liquids for transportation. If switching were to occur on a large-scale, it would likely take place gradually because other energy substitutes would have to be scaled up to meet the new demands associated with a major shift, e.g., electric power plants built, refineries expanded to produce a different product slate, etc. A detailed study would provide an understanding of how difficult, expensive, time-consuming and productive worldwide non-transportation fuel switching might be.

5. WORLD COAL-TO-LIQUIDS POTENTIAL

Sasol has operational coal-to-liquids (CTL) production plants and is under contract to study the construction of similar facilities in China. An analysis of worldwide large-scale CTL potential could yield a useful estimate of complexity, timing and potential.

6. WORLD HEAVY OIL/OIL SANDS POTENTIAL

Canada, Venezuela, and, to a lesser degree, other countries have potential to massively scale up their unconventional oil production. A better understanding of how quickly scale-up might be implemented, the related barriers, and ultimate potential would help in the understanding the potential contribution of these resources.

7. WORLD EOR POTENTIAL

An analysis of worldwide large-scale EOR potential could provide an estimate of complexity, timing and potential.

8. WORLD GTL POTENTIAL

An analysis of worldwide large-scale GTL potential could yield a useful estimate of complexity, timing and potential. In particular, the likely conflicts between GTL and LNG production could provide a quantitative estimate of likely future use of world stranded gas.

9. WORLD TRANSPORTATION FUEL EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT POTENTIAL

It is important that we have the best possible understanding of the U.S. and worldwide potential for the upgrading of transportation fuel efficiency, including possible timing, cost, and savings as a function of time. Excellent data is available on U.S. transportation fleets, but fleets elsewhere in the world are less well described. A careful study is needed.

10. IMPACTS OF OIL PRICES AND TECHNOLOGY ON U.S. LOWER 48 OIL PRODUCTION

Analysis of U.S. Lower 48 oil production since the 1970 peak strongly suggests that oil prices and advancing technology had little impact on the production decline. However, a number of institutional factors also impacted Lower 48 oil production, e.g., allowables (Texas Railroad Commission), price and allocation controls (1970s), free market pricing (since 1981), foreign opportunities for multi-national oil companies, etc. An in-depth understanding of these various influences might provide useful guidance for the future.

11. TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIONS FOR COAL LIQUEFACTION

Current world coal liquefaction R & D is focused on gasification of coal followed by

the Fischer-Tropsch synthesis. Other coal-to-liquids processes have been proposed, some of which were tested at relatively large scale. It may be worthwhile to revisit the various options in light of today's technology and environmental requirements to determine if any of them might also have competitive potential.

12. PERFORMANCE OF OIL PROVINCES OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.

There is a strong rationale for using U.S. Lower 48 oil production as a surrogate pattern for future world oil production peaking and decline. Other large oil province histories could also yield valuable insights and alternate patterns. Related analysis might provide an improved basis for modeling future world oil production.

13. HOW THE U.S. COULD AGAIN BECOME THE WORLD'S LARGEST OIL PRODUCER.

After the peaking of world conventional oil production, there will be a major world transition from the current world liquid fuel infrastructure. Over time, major conservation and energy switching initiatives will almost certainly be implemented, but the need for liquid fuels will not disappear for at least the remainder of this century because there are no known alternatives for a number of transportation applications. An analysis of the major factors required for the U.S. to return to a position of oil supremacy and oil independence would be enlightening.

14. MARKET SIGNALS IN ADVANCE OF PEAKING

Increases in oil prices and oil price volatility have been identified as two precursors of world oil peaking, but both are likely short-term signals. The identification and character of longer-term signals, if they exist, could be of significant value.

15. RISK OF REPEATING THE SYNTHETIC FUELS EXPERIENCE OF 1970S AND 1980S

One risk of embarking on aggressive oil peaking mitigation is that OPEC might undermine such efforts by dramatically increasing conventional oil production. This could only happen if excess capacity were to exist, which could happen if world oil peaking was many decades away. Were such a dramatic increase in OPEC production to occur, governments would be under pressure to terminate support for their mitigation programs. Related scenarios might worthy of study.

16. EFFECTS OF OIL PRICE SPIKES IN CAUSING U.S. RECESSIONS

Oil price spike have been followed by U.S. recessions, but they are not the only cause of recessions. A detailed study of the role of oil prices and other factors in causing recessions might be worth further study.

UNITED STATES-BAHRAIN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-71)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JINDAL) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement (the "Agreement"). This Agreement enhances our bilateral

relationship with a strategic friend and ally in the Middle East region and will promote economic growth and prosperity in both nations.

In negotiating this Agreement, my Administration was guided by the objectives set out in the Trade Act of 2002. The Agreement reflects my Administration's commitment to opening markets and expanding opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses. The Agreement will open Bahrain's market for U.S. manufactured goods, agricultural products, and services. As soon as it enters into force, the Agreement will eliminate tariffs on all manufactured goods that the United States sells to Bahrain and immediately remove Bahrain's import duties on over 80 percent of U.S. agricultural products. The Agreement is also one of the most comprehensive ever negotiated to reduce barriers to trade in services and will create new opportunities for U.S. services firms.

The Agreement contains procedures that will facilitate cooperation between the United States and Bahrain on environmental and labor matters. The labor chapter of the Agreement reinforces Bahrain's recent legislative actions to expand democracy and improve the protection of worker rights, including trade union rights. Provisions in the Agreement requiring effective enforcement of environmental laws will contribute to high levels of environmental protection.

The approval of this Agreement will be another significant step towards creating a Middle East Free Trade Area by 2013. This Agreement offers the United States yet another opportunity to encourage economic reform in a moderate Muslim nation as we have done through our free trade agreements with Jordan and Morocco. Leaders in Bahrain are supporting the pursuit of social and economic reforms in the region, encouraging foreign investment connected to broad-based development, and providing better protection for women and workers. It is strongly in our national interest to embrace and encourage these reforms, and passing this legislation is a crucial step toward that end.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 16, 2005.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

5227. A letter from the Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program Annual Renewal Fee (RIN: 0570-AA34) received October 6, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5228. A letter from the Regulatory Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Review Inspection Requirements for Graded Commodities (RIN: 0580-AA89) received November 10, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5229. A letter from the Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington; Control Committee Rules and Regulation [Docket No. FV05-927-2] received November 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5230. A letter from the Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulations Governing the California Clingstone Peach (Tree Removal) Diversion Program [Docket No. FV05-82-01-FR] (RIN: 0581-AC45) received November 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5231. A letter from the Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Domestic Dates Produced or Packed in Riverside County, CA; Increased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV05-987-1 FR] received November 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5232. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Air Force, Case Number 03-03, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

5233. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Department anticipates it will be prepared to commence chemical agent destruction operations at the Pine Bluff Explosive Destruction System facility in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1512(4); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5234. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Public Housing Operating Fund Program; Correction to Formula Implementation Date [Docket No. FR-4874-C-09] (RIN: 2577-AC51) received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5235. A letter from the Deputy Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5236. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Congressionally Mandated Evaluation of the State Children's Health Insurance Program: Final Report to Congress" in accordance with the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 (BBRA); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5237. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, CDC, Department of Health and

Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins — Reconstructed replication competent forms of the 1918 pandemic influenza virus containing any portion of the coding regions of all eight gene segments — received November 3, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5238. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Cimarron, Las Vegas and Pecos, New Mexico) [MB Docket No. 04-218; RM-10987; RM-11237] received October 27, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5239. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of the Television Table of Allotments to Delete Noncommercial Reservation of Channel 39, 620-626 MHz, Phoenix, Arizona, and to Add Noncommercial Reservation on Channel 11, 198-204 MHz, Holbrook, Arizona [MB Docket No. 04-312; RM No. 11049] received October 27, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5240. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Barnesboro and Gallitzin, Pennsylvania) [MB Docket No. 05-103; RM-11205] received October 27, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5241. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Rule Concerning Disclosures Regarding Energy Consumption and Water Use of Certain Home Appliances and Other Products Required Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act ("Appliance Labeling Rule") — received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5242. A letter from the Chairman, Holocaust Memorial Museum, transmitting the Museum's FY 2005 Report on Audit and Investigative Activities in accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5243. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's report entitled, "Building a High-Quality Workforce: The Federal Career Intern Program," pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5244. A letter from the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce, transmitting information regarding the activities of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization for 2004, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 5601 et seq; to the Committee on Resources.

5245. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 041126332-5039-02; I.D. 100405D] received October 24, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5246. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule — Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; End of the Pacific Whiting Primary Season for the Catcher/processor Sector [Docket No. 040830250-5109-04; I.D. 101805C] received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5247. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report detailing the progress and the status of compliance with privatization requirements, pursuant to Public Law 105-33 section 11201(c) (111 Stat. 734); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5248. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Report to Congress on AMBER Alert, July 2005," pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5791 Public Law 108-21, section 301(e); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5249. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting the first annual report to Congress on victims' rights, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3771 Public Law 108-405, section 104(a); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5250. A letter from the National Treasurer, American Ex-Prisoners of War, transmitting a copy of the Financial Statements with the Independent Auditors' report, for the year ended August 31, 2004, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1101 and 1103; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5251. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the annual report of the Office of Justice Programs for Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 3712(b); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5252. A letter from the Controller, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, transmitting the Audited Financial Statements of NSDAR for the Fiscal Year ending February 28, 2005, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1102; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5253. A letter from the Deputy Executive Director, Reserve Officers Association, transmitting the Association's report of audit for the year ending March 31, 2005, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1101(41) and 1103; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5254. A letter from the National President, Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association, transmitting the financial statement of Women's Army Corps Veterans Association for fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1103 and 1101(64); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5255. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Analysis, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Taxable REIT Subsidiaries: Analysis of the First Year's Returns, Tax Year 2001," pursuant to Public Law 106-170, section 547; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5256. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Special (Occupational) Tax (2004R-778P) [T.D. TTB-36] (RIN: 1513-AB04) received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5257. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's FY 2002 and FY 2003 Annual Report on the Child Support Enforcement Program in accordance with 452(a) of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5258. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's

final rule — 2006 Limitations Adjusted As Provided in Section 415(d), etc. [Notice 2005-75] received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5259. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Weighted Average Interest Rate Update [Notice 2005-72] received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5260. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Low-Income Housing Credit Allocation and Certification; Revisions [TD 9228] (RIN: 1545-BE50) received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5261. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Extension of Time for Filing Returns [TD 9229] (RIN: 1545-BE63) received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5262. A letter from the Chair, IRS Oversight Board, transmitting a copy of the Board's 2005 annual report that discusses the IRS's performance over the past year; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5263. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a draft bill entitled, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain rules regarding sales of property to comply with conflict-of-interest requirements applicable to the federal judiciary, and for other

purposes."; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5264. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Deemed Duration of Marriage for Widows/Widowers and Removal of Restriction on Benefits to Children of Military Parents Overseas [Regulations Nos. 4 and 16] (RIN: 0960-AG23) received October 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5265. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's requested legislative proposals as part of the National Defense Authorization Bill for Fiscal Year 2006; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Financial Services, and Ways and Means.

NOTICE

Incomplete record of House proceedings.

Today's House proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.