

Mr. Speaker, it has been 70 years since Social Security was founded. Here in this House, let me just give a quote: "It is proposed that the Federal Government assume one-half of the cost of the old age pension plan which ultimately ought to be supplanted by self-supporting annuity plans." These words were spoken in this House in a joint address before Congress by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1935. I think he had it right, and I think it is time for us to work on that.

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

(Mr. GUTKNECHT 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 Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

HONORING DR. JOSEPH M. STOWELL

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge and commemorate the accomplishments of Dr. Joseph M. Stowell, the outgoing president of the Moody Bible Institute. It is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Dr. Stowell for his 18 years of dedicated servitude to the Moody Bible Institute.

Mr. Speaker, the Bible says in the Book of Mathew 20 and 27: "And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be servant."

Mr. Speaker, by his steadfast commitment to his ministry, I believe Dr. Stowell is servanthood personified.

Dr. Stowell, devoted husband and a committed family man, is a man known for his compassionate leadership style. In fact, his love for his students and belief in their capacity to make a difference in the life of the community and for Christ have been the hallmark of his tenure as president.

Under his leadership and by the grace of God, various Moody Bible Institute ministries have been strengthened. These ministries have focused on methods that embraced the diversities in the body of Christ, including color, caste, and class distinctions; and has sharply focused attention to the ministry needs of urban centers.

In addition, the MBI graduate school has made significant strides with a Master of Divinity program and other academic majors that are designed to prepare students for ministry in a changing and diverse world. Dr.

Stowell's most recent contributions at MBI led to a restructuring of its many ministries to emphasize the unique contributions of the work of Christ through education, broadcasting, and publishing. His leadership did not just stop there. In 2001 the Distance Learning Center launched Moody Online which now has students enrolled throughout 28 countries. And over the past 18 years, MBI Broadcasting Network has expanded from 11 to 33 owned and operated radio stations which broadcast the award-winning radio ministry known as "Proclaim."

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Stowell has authored many books, including the recent Gold Medallion-winning book entitled, "The Trouble with Jesus." Dr. Stowell has earned tremendous respect from all people who know him. His unique leadership style, his love for the ministry, and his faithfulness in spreading the gospel of Christ was admired by the faculty, students, and others in ministry and in the community. Without question, Dr. Joseph Stowell was one of the most effective presidents in the history of Moody Bible Institute.

Mr. Speaker, there is an old adage that states: "When you start to benefit more than the people you serve, you are no longer a servant," and I submit today that Dr. Joseph Stowell has exemplified genuine servanthood and he has impacted the lives of those around him more than he will ever know.

He has now been called to his next season of servanthood to advance the cause of Christ, and he leaves Moody Bible Institute with a tremendous legacy. So today, I rise to recognize and commend the legacy of true servanthood which will never be forgotten. I commend Dr. Joseph Stowell.

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

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

SAFETY FOR AMERICANS FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING

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

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce legislation that I first introduced in the last Congress called the Safety for Americans From Nuclear Weapons Testing Act. Let me tell a brief story that has brought me to introducing this legislation.

From 1951 to 1992, over 1,000 tests were conducted at the Nevada test site. At the time, the government told people in this country that the tests were safe. What we know now is the government lied. In fact, only testing took place when the winds blew the fallout in the least populated direction from

the test site, which happened to be southern Utah. These findings were discovered in the 1970s when my father, who was Governor of Utah at the time, received more and more information about the high cancer rates in southern Utah. He got documents declassified at the Pentagon showing that the government knew there was risk with the testing and only did the testing when the fallout was blowing in the least populated direction.

Now, history is pretty clear. We know that the government knew people were at risk. We know the government lied to our citizens, and we know that thousands of people have died of cancer from the fallout from nuclear weapons testing, and yet the last test was in 1992. So why are we talking about this today? We are talking about this because the Federal Government is taking steps to resume nuclear testing.

One thing Members may hear about nuclear testing is the dangerous ones were above ground. Now we do tests underground. The picture next to me took place in 1970. It was an underground nuclear weapons test, the Baneberry Shot it is called. In this picture, we see debris 10,000 feet in the air above the valley floor of the test site.

The DOE's own data shows that underground testing does not contain the fallout. In fact, fallout is emitted into the atmosphere.

This is not just a southern Utah issue or a Western issue. In fact, the National Cancer Institute completed a study looking at concentrations of iodine 131, the isotope that causes thyroid cancer, and looked at how this was dispersed across the country from the testing. And from the Nevada test site going north and east, Members can see it has crossed the country, and even some counties in upstate New York and Vermont received higher concentrations of fallout than some counties close to the test site. So this is indeed an issue of national importance and national scope.

I have introduced legislation that I think is very responsible in terms of ensuring safety before any nuclear weapons testing can take place again. This legislation calls for a full environmental review, an environmental impact statement, before testing can happen so we can establish all of the health and safety risks and how they can be addressed before testing can happen. That has never been done before.

It also calls for setting up an extensive nationwide monitoring system so we can detect any radiation and fallout from the testing. It will not just be a government-run system; we will have a second monitoring system run by independent third parties through our university system to ensure that we understand the truths about what is going on with nuclear testing and exposure to radiation.

I think this is a responsible step. We cannot go down the path again of nuclear weapons testing. If Members do

not think that we face the potential for nuclear weapons testing, let me repeat a quote from an article in the February 15, 2005, Salt Lake Tribune. The article discusses Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman's testimony before the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Bodman said the administration remains convinced the "readiness posture" of the nuclear proving ground must be enhanced. He said, "We will continue our efforts to maintain the ability to conduct underground nuclear testing and complete the transition to the 18-month readiness posture that is mandated by Congress."

Two new kinds of nuclear weapons have been discussed for development. If we are going to develop those nuclear weapons, I fear they are going to be tested. The Department of Energy has projected over half a billion dollars of expenditure over the next 5 years for testing of this new type of nuclear weapon.

If we are going to go down that path, which I do not think we ought to go down for a number of reasons, we surely ought to ensure safety if any nuclear weapons are going to be tested. That is why this legislation I have introduced is a responsible approach. Everyone in America ought to want to make sure that we ensure safety, and do not blanket this country with cancer-causing fallout, as happened once before.

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I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

I would just like to close by mentioning I have supporters of this bill that include the National Association of Atomic Veterans, Physicians for Social Responsibility, the National Association of Radiation Survivors, the Intermountain Pediatric Society, the Utah Medical Association and the Utah State legislature. I encourage my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this bill. I hope we bring it to speedy action on the floor.

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

(Mr. FLAKE 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time

of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

PETROLEUM PRICES AND PRICES AT THE GAS PUMP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. According to Reuters news agency today, oil prices held just below record highs on Wednesday as fund buying continued to dominate the market even though the United States Government said crude oil stocks had risen to their highest level for 8 months.

Looks like the Saudi campaign promised to keep prices low before the election has now come to pass. Now that we are past the inauguration, oil prices are going through the roof.

Today, U.S. light crude rose 11 cents to \$54.70, within a dollar of record highs hit last October. Oil prices are up, the dollar is down, and our economy is sputtering. And the demand for oil is just about to increase with summer and vacations coming on.

The stock market fell by more than 100 points today based on investors' fears about these rising oil prices. The price at the pump has also gone up significantly in the last few weeks if you have not noticed. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average price at the pump this week is \$1.99, up seven cents from the end of February and a 26-cent increase from 1 year ago. What a down draft on economic growth that is. In fact, the gas price increase is up 15 percent. That is more than five times the rate of inflation.

Ohio's gasoline price at the pump today is 11½ cents up from the last week of February. Currently, Ohioans are paying over \$2.05 for their gasoline and the upward trend is not going to stop there. We in the Midwest are facing the highest increases in gasoline prices in the last year, with an increase of over 32 cents a gallon. That is over four cents higher than any other region of the country. Residents in Cleveland are paying today more than \$2.07 a gallon, an increase of over 12 cents from the last week of February and over 33 cents per gallon from a year ago.

What is truly dangerous and tragic about this trend is our continued dependence on imported sources of oil. It means that our Nation is strategically vulnerable to disruptions in those with over half of the petroleum we use imported. That is why, when I asked Secretary Donald Rumsfeld this week when he was before our defense committee what he was doing as the Secretary of the largest Cabinet agency in the government of the United States to help lead America to a new energy era, I was very surprised to hear his answer,

which I quote from the record: The Department of Defense has no authority to do anything about oil. Needless to say, we don't get funds appropriated by this committee for doing things that relate to reducing our Nation's dependency on oil.

I was shocked at his answer since we were considering the supplemental appropriation bill this week for the Defense Department, and just in the supplemental, there is over \$1.411 billion related to unforeseen fuel price increases, for fuel delivery costs. For instance, the Defense Logistics Agency is going to pay \$742,300,000 more just in the supplemental; the Marine Corps, \$311,380,000; and the list goes on and on. Indeed, the Institute of Local Self-Reliance, in a report done just a few years ago, says that in any fiscal year, our government spends over \$100 billion just allowing oil to flow into this country. We are not inventing any new energy sources. We are just becoming more dependent every day.

Imagine an America that was energy independent again and where energy independence rose to be a real national priority. Biofuels that our farmers can grow could displace a huge amount of imported petroleum in the short term. Not 10 years from now, but within 3 years, we could displace 25 percent of what we currently burn in our tanks with ethanol-based fuel and biodiesel-based fuel and other derivatives. Yet the Bush administration, is it trying to move America in a more independent direction? No. They are cutting their support for biofuels, the minimal amount of research and development dollars in the Department of Agriculture, by over \$100 million this year alone. Grain-based ethanol and grain-based biodiesel truly can help America wheel her way to a new energy future.

The American people need a new Declaration of Independence. We need to cut the umbilical cord to Saudi Arabia and the Middle East and every other undemocratic regime around this earth to which we are attached because of our oil dependence. There is no better time than now to begin. I just wish someone in the Bush administration was paying attention to the gouging going on at the pumps across this country and the fact that Americans cannot buy biodiesel and ethanol even when they want it and when Detroit is manufacturing cars that can use it.

Ask yourself, who has got a lockout at the pumps across this country? Freedom for America in the 21st century should mean freedom from dependence on imported petroleum.

AMTRAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pretty excited about