



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2005

No. 132

House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 18, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM PRICE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) for 5 minutes.

HONORING THE FALLEN IN IRAQ

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow will mark the 4-year anniversary of our troops' deployment in Afghanistan. In honor of their service and their memory, Democrats and Republican colleagues of mine have been reading their names, the names of those who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that our Nation will never forget their sacrifice. Prior to the summer recess, a number of us have read a little over 1,800 of their names into the RECORD. Since that time in July, an additional 188

have fallen. To date, 244 American service men and women have perished in the Afghanistan theater of combat. Additionally, 1,957 members of our armed services and fellow citizens have died fighting in Iraq. We owe these brave men and women and their families a debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid. At the very least we must pay tribute to our fallen service-members.

Staff Sergeant Jefferey J. Farrow
Private Lavena L. Johnson
Sergeant Arthur R. McGill
Corporal Steven P. Gill
Petty Officer Third Class Travis L. Youngblood

Sergeant Bryan James Opskar
Sergeant Jason T. Palmerton
Specialist Jacques Earl "Gus" Brunson

Specialist Ernest W. Dallas, Jr.
Staff Sergeant Carl Ray Fuller
Sergeant James Ondra Kinlow
Staff Sergeant Jason W. Montefering
Sergeant Milton M. Monzon, Jr.
Sergeant Christopher J. Taylor
Sergeant John Frank Thomas
Private First Class Ramon A. Villatoro, Jr.

Specialist Adam J. Harting
Staff Sergeant Michael W. Schafer
Specialist Adrian J. Butler
Captain Benjamin D. Jansky
Specialist Edward L. Myers
Specialist John O. Tollefson
Lance Corporal Christopher P. Lyons
Corporal Andre L. Williams
Private Ernesto R. Guerra
Sergeant First Class Victor A. Anderson

Sergeant Jonathon C. Haggin
Staff Sergeant David R. Jones, Sr.
Private First Class Jason D. Scheuerman

Sergeant Ronnie L. "Rod" Shelley, Sr.

Private First Class Robert A. Swaney
Specialist James D. Carroll
Corporal Jeffrey A. Boskovitch
Lance Corporal Roger D. Castleberry, Jr.

Sergeant David J. Coullard
Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr.

Sergeant James R. Graham, III
Lance Corporal Brian P. Montgomery
Sergeant Nathaniel S. Rock
Petty Officer First Class Thomas C. Hull

Staff Sergeant James D. McNaughton
Lance Corporal Timothy Michael Bell, Jr.

Lance Corporal Eric J. Bernholtz
Lance Corporal Nicholas William B. Bloem

Lance Corporal Michael J. Cifuentes
Lance Corporal Christopher Jenkins Dyer

Lance Corporal Grant B. Fraser
Specialist Jerry Lewis Ganey, Jr.
Specialist Mathew V. Gibbs
Sergeant Bradley J. Harper

Over the next couple of weeks, I will continue to read the names until we complete the 188 that have fallen since the summer.

I want to also read the words of then President Franklin Delano Roosevelt: "Each of these heroes stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live and grow and increase its blessings."

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to read all the names and think of the lives that have been lost in service to our country. My colleagues and I will continue to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. Your Nation thanks you and we will never forget you.

INCREASING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND REFINING OF OIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as summer turns towards winter, the American people will continue to face high

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H8849

prices of gasoline and soon will face even higher costs for natural gas. Short of moving to Florida or another warm weather State, the American people are looking to Congress to solve this problem. Recent events such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have highlighted a very serious problem with the Nation's crude oil and gasoline supply/demand balance. One way to fix this balance is for the United States to increase its refining and production capacity. No new refinery has been built in the United States in nearly 30 years. Total current capacity at operating refineries is 17 million barrels per day while total U.S. demand is nearly 21 million barrels per day. Therefore, the only way to bridge this gap is to increase the amount of imported refined products from foreign sources. Currently the U.S. imports 7.9 percent of its total refined petroleum products. By 2005, the U.S. is expected to import 10.7 percent of its total.

Mr. Speaker, these staggering numbers further underscore the dire need for new and increased refining capacity in the United States. If not, we will continue to rely on unstable, anti-American governments to meet our growing demand for gasoline. Not only will this situation be a blow to economic growth in this country but it will also represent a serious national security risk for all of us.

Even before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, a number of market factors contributed to the record high gas prices: An increased demand at home and abroad, political unrest in the Middle East and in Africa and product disruptions contributed to the already tightening supply of crude oil. Until refining capacity and production capacity grow faster than demand, oil markets will remain tight and vulnerable to unforeseen and unpreventable events such as natural disasters. The high cost of gasoline and other fuels has the potential to stifle economic and job growth and is putting a strain on the wallets of American families.

Of course the most efficient way to reduce our dependence on oil and gas is to encourage conservation. Making sure your tires are inflated properly, carpooling and using public transportation are all fast and easy ways to conserve gasoline. In homes, buying energy-efficient appliances and making sure doors and windows are properly sealed are effective ways to conserve. But, Mr. Speaker, these are short-term fixes. Curbing demand is necessary, but in the long term it is not merely enough. We need to increase domestic production of oil. Currently the U.S. imports about 60 percent of all of its oil. The Department of Energy projects this number to increase to 73 percent by the year 2025. In order to ensure reliable and secure supplies of oil, we have no choice but to increase the domestic supply.

One way to increase production is to finally open ANWR to oil and gas exploration in Alaska. The United States

Geological Survey estimates that there is between 5.7 and 16 billion barrels of oil that is technically recoverable. This estimate does not take into account that with new technology, the share could become even higher. A resource of this magnitude cannot simply be ignored. ANWR alone would be capable of reversing the decline in U.S. petroleum supply within a decade. It is not a quick fix. There are no quick fixes. But it is the quickest and most reliable option we now have to reverse the decline brought upon us by years of neglect of our domestic capacity.

In addition to gasoline, oil and natural gas play a key role in the homes of all of us. Oil and natural gas help generate the electricity that powers lights, appliances and entertainment systems. They also provide the building block for plastics, resealable food storage containers, and durable appliances and electronics, all of which contribute to a convenient and safe environment for all of us.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, even under the best circumstances, storms like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita would have had a noticeable impact on oil markets. However, at a time of extremely high demand and tight supplies, practically shutting down the United States' largest oil and refining region caused even greater pressure on our oil markets. In order to alleviate this pressure, we must increase our domestic refining capacity and production. If not, gasoline and home heating prices will continue to climb.

REPUBLICAN CORRUPTION AND ITS IMPACT ON AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, at a time when working families are trying to pinch pennies to pay for skyrocketing gas, record high heating bills and ever-increasing health insurance premiums, this is not the time for Washington to ignore the real needs of the American people.

But that is exactly what has happened over the last 5 years under Republican leadership in Congress. Mr. Speaker, a culture of cronyism exists here in Washington unlike anything we have ever seen before. At the White House, we have the President's chief political adviser and the Vice President's chief of staff under investigation for illegally leaking a covert CIA operative's name to reporters. Today we learn that the Vice President himself may also be under investigation in that case. Evidently, according to today's Washington Post, the special prosecutor is assembling evidence that, and I quote, "Cheney's longstanding tensions with the CIA contributed to the unmasking of operative Valerie Plame."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend. Members are reminded to avoid remarks personally offensive to the Vice President.

Mr. PALLONE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Despite the fact that President Bush promised 2 years ago to fire anyone that was involved in the leak, both Karl Rove and Scooter Libby remain on the White House payroll.

And it is just not over at the White House. Here on Capitol Hill, you have the Republican Senate leader under investigation by the SEC for possibly having inside information on stocks that he sold off earlier this year. Over on this side of the Capitol, the Republican majority leader was forced to step down from his leadership post—

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend. Members are reminded that they are to avoid personalities toward Senators, as well.

Mr. PALLONE. Okay, Mr. Speaker. Shortly after the majority leader stepped down, Time Magazine's Jonathan Alter wrote about the majority leader's tenure as majority leader and how the Republican majority leads this House. Alter recalls his first visit with DELAY a decade ago. These are Alter's own words, and I quote: "A decade ago, I paid a call on Tom DeLay in his ornate office in the Capitol. I had heard a rumor about him that I figured could not possibly be true. The rumor was that after the GOP took control of the House that year, DeLay had begun keeping a little black book with the names of Washington lobbyists who wanted to come see him. If the lobbyists were not Republicans and contributors to his power base, they—"

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. STEARNS. Can a Member of Congress intimate as the gentleman from New Jersey is doing about Mr. DELAY in reference to a black book and all the innuendo that he is doing on the House floor? Can he do that?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman stating an inquiry or making a point of order?

Mr. STEARNS. I am stating an inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has not yielded for purposes of a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am just reading from Time Magazine, so I do not see why I cannot continue.

As I said, the gentleman from Texas may no longer be the majority leader, but he is still wielding power here in this Chamber and that power is not benefiting the American people. Instead, the actions of the House Republican majority benefit only a small few to the actual detriment of everyday Americans.