

the pump, or Sally Public, either one of them has been to the pump today, and they have watched that thing go around at \$3 a gallon and realized the average income in this country is \$40,000. Forty thousand dollars.

Now, the Exxon president, or the executive that I just talked about, is going to get a \$32,000 tax break from this bill that my friend says is going to somehow cripple the economy.

What is fair about that? The average person has to buy gasoline to get to work, take their kids to school, heat the house. If you live where I do, you do not need so much heat as you do in other parts of the country, and down where the gentleman from Louisiana lives, you do not need much heat. But other places they have to use a lot of heat in the wintertime. They are still paying 4 bucks a gallon for it, or are going to be paying 4 bucks a gallon.

The average person, you talk about these capital gains; oh, well, everybody gets capital gains, yes. The Exxon chief will take \$32,000 in tax breaks away on average, and the average \$40,000 person in this country is going to get 7 bucks. That is the average. That is 2 gallons of gas.

Now, is that fair? Is that what you think America is all about? Is that what the Republicans say? Well, you know, the gas prices are going up. I guess it is supply and demand. I don't know. I don't know how come the oil companies are making all this extra money. We shouldn't be able to cut down how much money they make. They should just be able to make more money. They are taking it out of the hides of the working people in this country.

Now, we don't want people on welfare, no, sir. We don't want people on welfare. You can't buy a house in many places or find a place to live in many cities because the prices are so high.

When I was in New Orleans just about 4 or 5 weeks ago, I asked the president of Tulane Medical School, if I could do one thing for you, what would it be? He said, do you know what it would be? Bring some housing downtown, because all my nurses have to live 70, 80 miles away and drive into work every day, and all the workers in the hospitality industry have to live out of town. They are all paying 4 bucks a gallon for gasoline, driving all the way from Baton Rouge all the way down.

That is not just in Louisiana. It is all over this country. You are sitting here telling us that we cannot do anything, that Big Oil has to be protected. Well, they will just go down in a pile.

Then the real interesting part is to come out here and blame the environmentalists. Here we have got global warming, absolutely clear, and everybody is tackling the environmentalists saying, oh, they are the ones who are creating the problem. We have got to get off oil.

The President, I got to say, occasionally the President is right. I don't say that very often on the floor, but I will

say the President was right when he said we are addicted to oil. Boy, this Congress is addicted to oil. When we cannot close three loopholes and take back \$5 billion that we could use for home heating oil or student loans or Medicare or Medicaid or all the things that this society needs, we can't take that and use it for the public good, there is something very wrong in this society.

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And if the people are going to have a choice in November, they are going to say, well, Republicans stood by and watched the deficit go up out of sight, and they watched the oil prices go up out of sight, and they said, well, we don't know what to do. Nothing we can do about that. We have to keep passing tax breaks to the 1 percent in this society who are doing very well.

The President gets out there and tries to tell everybody that things are going well in this country economically, but the people don't believe it. You know why? Because it isn't going well for most people. They are stuck with \$3- and \$4-a-gallon gas. They have no way to avoid that. It is hard to ride your bike 70 miles into town to get to work. Now, you can do it, but it really takes a lot of effort. Most people aren't able to change from a car with a gasoline engine to a bicycle, so they are stuck. They can't walk to work. They are stuck in this society. In our city they are talking about raising the rates on the mass transit because of the cost of gasoline. So even those riding the bus are going to get socked by this.

When we come out here and offer a modest motion to something that the Republican Senate went along with, you know how bad it is. And that is the irony of ironies, to have me up here arguing for three amendments that have been approved by the Republican Senate. If I will go along with that, I will take anything to make it better for the American people. But not the Republicans in the House. Oh, no, no, no, must not touch the oil companies. Huh-uh. We can't take a single dime away from them or the whole thing will come unraveled.

And they want to be sure that America's millionaires are comfortable for at least two more years of tax holidays.

Meanwhile, the rest of us get to pay for their fiscal recklessness.

They can't do anything about gasoline prices, and won't fight to make oil companies pay their fair share in taxes—fair share—like the rest of us do.

They can't do anything about the rise in poverty in America, where one in five children—1 in 5—lives in poverty today.

They can't do anything about helping Middle Class kids have access to student loans to pay for college.

They can't do anything about a prescription drug benefit that benefits the drug companies and confounds senior citizens.

They can't do anything about controlling special interests, because they are the Party

of special interests. Republicans are the Party of One Percent.

If you're a fat cat, Republicans are inviting you to dinner, and they are serving the American Middle Class.

We have an opportunity to do something that benefits the American people, all of them. The oil companies ought to pay their taxes like everyone else. And millionaires will just have to manage with only two more years on tax holiday.

We have an opportunity to take a stand for the 99 percent of the American people who have been left out of a Republican nation.

The American people should be first in line, not first to pay.

It's time we do something about it.

Pass this Motion to Instruct. Make this the day we tell the oil companies to supply the demand, and stop demanding more tax subsidies to enrich only themselves.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this and do something for the American middle class.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DRAKE). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

BLOCKING PROPERTY OF ADDITIONAL PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-100)

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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 International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order blocking property of persons in connection with the terrorist act in Beirut, Lebanon, on February 14, 2005, that resulted in the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and the deaths of 22 others, and other bombings or assassination attempts in Lebanon since October 1, 2004, that are related to Hariri's assassination or that implicate the Government of Syria or its officers or agents. I issued this order to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive

Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, concerning certain actions of the Government of Syria. In Executive Order 13338, I determined that the actions of the Government of Syria in supporting terrorism, continuing its occupation of Lebanon, pursuing weapons of mass destruction, and undermining United States and international efforts in Iraq constituted an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, and declared a national emergency to deal with that threat.

The United Nations Security Council, in Resolution 1595 of April 7, 2005, established the international independent investigation Commission (the "Commission"), reiterated its call for the strict respect of the sovereignty of Lebanon, and reaffirmed its unequivocal condemnation of the February 14, 2005, terrorist bombing that killed Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 others. The Commission's charter included identifying the bombing perpetrators, sponsors, organizers, and accomplices. United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1636 of October 31, 2005, called upon all States to provide necessary assistance to the Commission concerning its investigation into the February 14, 2005, terrorist bombing and to freeze the assets of those persons designated by the Commission or the Government of Lebanon as suspected of involvement in this terrorist act, upon notification of such designation to, and agreement of, the Committee of the Security Council established by UNSCR 1636. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1644 of December 15, 2005, condemned other terrorist attacks in Lebanon since October 2004 and reaffirmed that all those involved in these attacks must be held accountable for these crimes, and in doing so, authorized the Commission to extend its technical assistance to Lebanese authorities with regard to their investigations regarding the terrorist attacks perpetrated in Lebanon since October 1, 2004.

In view of UNSCR 1636, my new order takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338 by blocking the property and interests in property of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to be, or to have been, involved in the planning, sponsoring, organizing, or perpetrating of the terrorist act on February 14, 2005, that resulted in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and the deaths of 22 others, or any other bombing, assassination, or assassination attempt in Lebanon since October 1, 2004, that is related to Hariri's assassination or that implicates the Government of Syria or its officers and agents, or to have obstructed or otherwise impeded the work of the Commission. The order further authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate for blocking those persons

determined to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, any such terrorist act, bombings, or assassination attempts, or any person designated pursuant to this order, or to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person designated pursuant to this order.

I delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and the United Nations Participation Act, as amended (22 U.S.C. 287c), as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of my order. The order was effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on April 26, 2006.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 26, 2006.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

IRAQ FORUM

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the carnage and the bloodshed continue in Iraq. Things are getting worse, not better. April is indeed the cruelest month for 63 American soldiers who won't be making it home. In fact, it is the deadliest month so far in the year 2006.

We are coming up on the 3-year anniversary of the President's infamous aircraft carrier flight suit stunt, and I am still looking for someone who can answer this question: How is it possible that we have lost more than 2,000 of our troops after this mission was supposedly accomplished?

Today's big headline? The President has a new spokesman. As if the same talking points, the same platitudes, the same wretched ideas coming out of a different mouth is going to make a

lick of difference. The White House doesn't have a PR problem, it has a policy problem. Do they actually think two out of every three Americans are unhappy with the President's performance because of his Press Secretary? Are they that dismissive of the intelligence of the people they are sworn to serve?

It is as if the administration were our landlord in a house that was being condemned, with a foundation crumbling and every corner infested with vermin, and when we register our complaints, they go ahead and change the drapes. There will be a new talking head at the briefing room podium, but the administration's approach remains stubbornly resistant to change.

The other big news of the day is that Secretaries Rice and Rumsfeld dropped in on Iraq, and from this visit we learn that there may be a troop reduction by the end of the year. But that strikes me as a cosmetic, contrived move that is driven by the political calendar. It is clearly not enough.

Remember, this President, who says he doesn't believe in timetables, made it perfectly clear that he intends to keep our troops in Iraq for at least as long as he is in office. And there is every reason to believe that the construction of permanent military bases has begun. This is exactly the open-ended, long-term occupation that fuels the rage of the insurgency.

I, for one, am not willing to stay silent on the sidelines. I will do everything in my power to make the case that the troops should come home now. I will continue to explore alternatives to our current Iraq policy, and I will continue to shine a spotlight on conditions on the ground in Iraq.

To that end I invite my colleagues to join me tomorrow morning as I convene a forum that will help put a human face on the Iraq conflict. We will hear from an impressive panel of witnesses, including:

A Georgetown professor, who spent the bulk of his career with the CIA, where he was considered one of the Agency's preeminent counterterrorism experts.

We will hear from a Shia Iraqi woman, a civil engineer married to a Sunni, who has lived through the invasion and the occupation and then fled to Jordan after her son was briefly detained as a political prisoner.

A marine who served in the Iraq war and was discharged last year due to his post-traumatic stress disorder.

A young American doctor, half Iraqi, half Jewish, who recently returned to Iraq, where she lived as a young child. She has put her medical practice on hold to raise awareness about the devastating impact the war is having on the people in Iraq.

I will also be joined by several of my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY), the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the gentleman from North