

dependence on foreign oil. Despite our country's increasing demand for fuel, the United States has not built an oil refinery in over 30 years. Total capacity of current refineries is roughly 17 million barrels per day, while demand is nearly 21 million barrels per day.

We cannot continue this trend of using more refined petroleum products than we produce. It is vital that we move away from our dependence on foreign sources to fill this gap. I am pleased that this week's long overdue legislation helps remove red tape preventing construction of new refineries.

House Republicans have also taken other actions to ban price gouging, promote conservation efforts, reduce the cost of energy, encourage the use of alternative power sources and improve our electricity transmission capability.

Republicans have also repeatedly supported legislation to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration.

And the Democrats? They have voted "no" on nearly every measure that would offer relief to hardworking Americans.

THE CASE FOR LEAVING IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Hussein is in jail. Zarqawi is dead. Now we should leave Iraq.

Zarqawi represented a small portion of a large and growing anti-American insurgency in Iraq, a sliver of the non-Baathist insurgency while Baathists make up a majority of armed insurgents. So his killing is unlikely to end the violence in Iraq.

Those who say we must prevail until victory are not themselves paying the price. Nearly 2,500 Americans dead, over 10,000 innocent Iraqis dead, our national honor tainted by a false case for war, Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, Haditha. When will we understand that you can bomb the world to pieces, but you can't bomb the world to peace?

DESERT OUTLAW

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, this morning, freedom has found a victory. Like the days of the Old West, an outlaw has been eliminated and we can take down the wanted posters.

We weren't looking for a bank robber, a railroad bandit or even a horse thief. We were tracking a terrorist, a war criminal. High-tech helped find his hideout.

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, militant mas-terminator who planned and ordered hundreds of bombings, kidnappings and beheadings of Iraqis and Americans, is dead. The prince of the forces of evil, the most wanted man in the desert of

destruction, died like the outlaw that he was. He wasn't hung at the courthouse square like the days of the Old West, but he was the recipient of a U.S. military air strike, a strike that all but wiped out his desert gang of bad men, cutthroats and outlaws.

But like the days of the Old West, there are more outlaws in hideouts in the hot hills of Iraq, and they, too, will be brought to a fitting end. Their reign of terror will be brought to justice.

Freedom must always fight to survive, but freedom will prevail when the desert dust settles.

And that's just the way it is.

VA MUST RESPOND APPROPRIATELY TO ID THEFT

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, this body and the American public should be outraged by the continuing reports of the theft of personal identification of America's finest, our veterans and our brave men and women who are serving in uniform today here at home and abroad.

As a result of the Department of Veterans Affairs incompetence, the well-being of millions of our military families has been compromised today.

Congress must act now to provide appropriate oversight. I have worked with my colleagues to demand accountability and full disclosure of the VA. I support my friend Congressman SALAZAR's legislation to provide veterans credit monitoring services. I have joined with those who demand that not one penny of the funding to pay for the VA's debacle be diverted from veterans health care or other sorely needed services.

The House must demand more of the Veterans Administration than its unacceptable response of hand-wringing and wrist-slapping. We owe our veterans and our active military personnel nothing less than to respond appropriately.

FUND THE BYRNE-JAG GRANTS

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, at a time when 80 percent or more of the meth in this country is pouring in from international superlabs like those in Mexico, the Federal Government has a duty to help local law enforcement to keep this poison off our streets. That is why I cannot understand why some, including the administration, would propose to eliminate the Byrne-JAG program.

For those of us that represent highly rural and exurban districts, these vital grants and the police officers that they support are critical to efforts to keep drugs out of our communities and away from our children.

Last year, the Byrne-JAG program took a significant hit, despite our best efforts. The effect was predictable. Many States had to cut or eliminate their drug task force.

We cannot afford these cuts again. We must fund the Byrne-JAG program at no less than \$900 million in FY 07.

QUESTIONING THE STRENGTH OF THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues like to say the economy is "robust." But for middle-class families it's the best of times, it's the worst of times. While the gross domestic product increases, Americans are drowning in a sea of debt in this wageless recovery.

New data released by the Federal Reserve today indicated that household debt grew at a faster rate in the first quarter of this year than in the previous quarter. Why is it increasing? Because middle-class families are taking on more debt just to make ends meet.

Wages in 2006 were actually lower than they were in November of 2001 when the recovery began. Monthly job growth is a measly 0.4 percent since March 2001, the weakest of any business cycle since World War II. At the same time, the cost for gasoline is up, tuition is up 38 percent, health care premiums have increased 73 percent.

What is the end result? America has a negative savings rate.

Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues like to say the economy is booming, and that is certainly true for the credit card companies. But for middle-class families, these are hardly the best of times.

It is time for a change. It is time for a new direction.

AL-ZARQAWI IS DEAD

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate our United States military for eliminating a ruthless and brutal terrorist in Iraq.

Late Wednesday night, it was announced that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq, had been killed in an air raid. This is a tremendous victory in our war on terrorism and a tremendous day for the Iraqi people. In fact, the air strike resulted from tips given to Iraqi Security Forces by residents in Diyala.

Mr. Speaker, al-Zarqawi was responsible for an untold number of bombings and kidnappings. He is even believed to have personally beheaded two American hostages. His death lets our enemies know we will not bow to their ruthless tactics.

America, our allies and the Iraqi people are committed to the triumph of liberty over terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, our military is doing an outstanding job protecting our Nation from those who wish us harm. I ask that you join me in thanking our servicemen and women for their selfless courage and congratulate them on their most recent victory, the elimination of the brutal terrorist leader, al-Zarqawi.

□ 0915

REPUBLICAN HYPOCRISY

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, some of the things that happen in this place are enough to give hypocrisy a bad name. Example: I got a letter just 3 days ago from about 30 Republican Members of the House demanding that we add funding back for the Corporation For Public Broadcasting.

All but one of those Republican Members voted for a budget resolution that makes it impossible for us to do what they ask us to do in that letter. That is what I call posing for political holy pictures in the most cynical way.

Mr. Speaker, the second thing I would say is for any Member to come to the floor and ask that we fully fund programs like the Byrne Grant or any other grant, I would simply say this: Those who voted against the budget resolution have a perfect right to do that. Those who voted for the budget resolution need to simply look in the mirror to see why we do not have the money to do what they have just come to the floor and asked us to do.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS FORECAST ECONOMIC DOOM AND GLOOM

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

Mr. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I continue to be amazed that House Democrats always manage to find doom and gloom in the face of success on the battlefield and at home. Last week, the Department of Labor announced that over 75,000 Americans had achieved jobs, created in May, and that the unemployment rate dropped to 4.6 percent.

Mr. Speaker, while most people would celebrate this economic growth, Minority Leader PELOSI actually said this was proof that the Bush economic policies continue to go in the wrong direction. Can she seriously believe that over 33 consecutive months of economic growth, and the creation of 5.2 million American jobs hurts our country?

Additionally, PELOSI promised that House Democrats have a plan to take America in a new direction. After witnessing 181 House Democrats vote against tax reductions, I am confident they will rely upon their old same tax-and-spend strategies to chart their course.

American voters recognize that Democrats impose higher taxes and have demonstrated their trust in Republican economic policies this week by electing Republican BRIAN BILBRAY to Congress.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 5522, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 851 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5522.

□ 0918

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5522) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, with Mr. THORNBERRY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, June 8, 2006, the amendment by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) had been disposed of and the bill had been read through page 14, line 3.

Pursuant to the order of House of that day, no further amendment to the bill may be offered except those specified in the previous order of the House of that day, which is at the desk.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TRANSITION INITIATIVES

For necessary expenses for international disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance pursuant to section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, \$40,000,000, to remain available until expended, to support transition to democracy and to long-term development of countries in crisis: *Provided*, That such support may include assistance to develop, strengthen, or preserve democratic institutions and processes, revitalize basic infrastructure, and foster the peaceful resolution of conflict: *Provided further*, That the United States Agency for International Development shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations at least 5 days prior to beginning a new program of assist-

ance: *Provided further*, That if the President determines that it is important to the national interests of the United States to provide transition assistance in excess of the amount appropriated under this heading, up to \$15,000,000 of the funds appropriated by this Act to carry out the provisions of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 may be used for purposes of this heading and under the authorities applicable to funds appropriated under this heading: *Provided further*, That funds made available pursuant to the previous proviso shall be made available subject to prior consultation with the Committees on Appropriations.

DEVELOPMENT CREDIT AUTHORITY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans and loan guarantees provided by the United States Agency for International Development, as authorized by sections 256 and 635 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, up to \$21,000,000 may be derived by transfer from funds appropriated by this Act to carry out part I of such Act and under the heading "Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States": *Provided*, That such funds shall be made available only for micro and small enterprise programs, urban programs, and other programs which further the purposes of part I of the Act: *Provided further*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such direct and guaranteed loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That funds made available by this paragraph may be used for the cost of modifying any such guaranteed loans under this Act or prior Acts, and funds used for such costs shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the provisions of section 107A(d) (relating to general provisions applicable to the Development Credit Authority) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as contained in section 306 of H.R. 1486 as reported by the House Committee on International Relations on May 9, 1997, shall be applicable to direct loans and loan guarantees provided under this heading: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any portion of which is to be guaranteed, of up to \$700,000,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out credit programs administered by the United States Agency for International Development, \$8,400,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for Operating Expenses of the United States Agency for International Development: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading shall remain available until September 30, 2009.

PAYMENT TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY FUND

For payment to the "Foreign Service Retirement and Disability Fund", as authorized by the Foreign Service Act of 1980, \$38,700,000.

OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 667 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, \$646,000,000, of which up to \$25,000,000 may remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading and under the heading "Capital Investment Fund" may be made available to finance the construction (including architect and engineering services), purchase, or long-term lease of offices for use by the United States Agency for International Development, unless the Administrator has identified such proposed construction (including architect and engineering services), purchase, or long-