

his salary and start leveling with us. Even a child can tell you, you can have special privileges if you obey the rules, and even the Vice President can't have it both ways.

Many of us wish you weren't part of the executive branch, Mr. Vice President, but so long as you accept the executive perks, we will demand executive responsibility and accountability.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to engage in personalities with regard to the Vice President.

AUTO WORKERS ARE AMERICANS WHOSE JOBS ARE WORTH PROTECTING

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I was appalled last week by the words of the Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID asking Senators to vote for a job-killing fuel economy standards bill for cars by asking them to, "speak for the American people, not for the three car companies that are closing plants and laying off people."

Well, the last time I looked, the over 1 million people who work directly for the big three are actually American citizens, and millions of others whose jobs are supported by the big three are Americans as well, the last time I looked. Everyone knows that the biggest producer of CO₂ emissions is electricity production, and yet I didn't hear the Senate majority leader volunteer to make the blazing neon blazing casinos in his home State of Nevada more energy efficient. How about we regulate their energy consumption?

Let's hope that the Democratic leaders in this House understand that millions of American workers and their jobs are worth protecting and don't follow the Senate's lead in their attempt to destroy them.

DEMOCRATS MAKE NATIONAL PARKS AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE A PRIORITY IN INTERIOR BILL

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider legislation that begins to restore our commitment to our national parks and our environmental protection.

Over the past 6 years, the Republican-led Congress has cut critical funding to maintain and restore our national parks and our water infrastructure. This new Democratic Congress is not going to allow them to crumble from neglect. That is why we

are making a major investment in upgrading our national parks and our water infrastructure.

The bill also improves the quality of drinking water throughout the country by restoring funding to the Clean Water Revolving Fund Act, an important program that saw significant cuts under the previous Republican-led Congress.

This bill is further proof that Democrats are taking America in a new direction, investing in key priorities that will protect our drinking water and our national parks.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LIBRARIES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of America's local libraries. Libraries have long been the locus of learning, cultural exchange and imagination for young and old alike.

As a former librarian, I know that libraries play a crucial role in providing generation after generation with access to great books and world-changing ideas. Libraries serve our communities as a sort of guidepost along an often overwhelming path of information in the Internet age. Librarians still provide the invaluable service of helping us answer the toughest questions and directing us to the most reliable sources for research.

For many Americans, libraries are the only place they have ready access to thousands of books on almost any topic. By their very nature, libraries encourage us to branch out and pursue interests that we might not be naturally inclined to pursue.

The phenomenon that best describes libraries, contribution to local communities is a patron wandering through the stacks and simply selecting a book because it caught his or her eye. It's this ability to ignite our imaginations and spur us to learn that makes libraries a lynchpin for thousands of communities across the Nation.

VICE PRESIDENT IS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago, when the Vice President met with the senior executives of big oil companies, and we wanted to know what they discussed when it came to energy policy for the country, the Vice President exerted executive privilege and said those meetings were private.

Now when we want to know what he is doing as it relates to America's national security in the lead-up to the war in Iraq and after the fact, the Vice President has declared he is a member of the legislative branch, the legislative branch.

Every 10-year-old who is studying social studies in the United States knows that the Vice President is in the executive branch. So we have decided that if the Vice President is no longer a member of the executive branch, therefore, we will no longer fund the executive branch of his office, and he can live off the funding for the Senate presidency.

We will follow the logic of this ludicrous argument that the Vice President of the United States is in the legislative branch, no longer in the executive branch. The Vice President is acting like he is unaccountable and above the law.

In fact, there is a real consequence to his decisions. His decision to avoid the historical record as it relates to America's national security has consequences. For too long he has accounted like he is above the law and not accountable, and it's time we bring him back to earth.

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VISIT WITH SECRETARY OF THE NAVY TO BEAUFORT BASES

(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 of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the pleasure of joining Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter on tours of the Marine Corps air station at Beaufort and the Marine Corps recruit depot at Parris Island. I was honored to have the Sergeant Major of the Marines Corps, Carlton W. Kent, join us as well. The mission at Parris Island became crystal clear as we had breakfast with the dedicated drill instructors followed by a briefing led by its commanding officer, Brigadier General Paul Lefebvre. It was inspiring to see the determined recruits in action as they practiced firing the SAW M249, learned swimming, and participated in pugle sticks. Lieutenant Colonel William Ferrell welcomed the Secretary to the air station. After visiting with the Secretary and community leaders, I am more confident than ever that the air station is uniquely suited to take on F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. County Council Chairman Weston Newton, Council Military Liaison Skeet Von Harten, Beaufort Mayor Bill Rauch, Port Royal Mayor Sam Murray, along with other chamber and civic leaders expressed support for the Marine and Navy installations.

I'd like to thank the Secretary, the Sergeant Major, Lieutenant Phil MacNaughton and their staffs for making this visit so possible.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11th.

INCREASE IN CAFE STANDARDS

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week the Senate took historic action by approving the first meaningful increase in CAFE standards in over 30 years.

The Senate bill would raise the average efficiency of all cars on the road to 35 miles per gallon by 2020. The result would be dramatic relief for working families at the gas pump, significant cuts in demand for foreign oil, and the reduction of tailpipe emissions that lead to climate change and air pollution.

If we are serious about ending our dependence on foreign oil and combating climate change, we have to take real action on car efficiency. At a time when many cars on the road are already capable of meeting this standard, the consumers are voting with their dollars by buying record numbers of hybrids. We simply cannot wait.

By acting to raise CAFE standards to 35 miles per gallon, this House can take courageous action to meet some of the greatest challenges of our time, keep our domestic auto industry competitive, keep those jobs in these countries, and do not concede the efficiency market to foreign manufacturers.

I hope the House will take this visionary action.

DEMOCRATS WILL ADDRESS GLOBAL WARMING

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, did you know that our planet is showing the disconcerting signs of global climate change? That should serve as a wake-up call to all of us. Scientists have found that 11 and 12 of the warmest years on record have occurred since 1995. The water in our lakes and rivers has warmed, and ice is being lost in the Arctic Sea at unprecedented rates.

Steps should be taken to stop or reverse these trends as soon as possible, and the Democratic Congress is doing just that as a part of the Interior and Environmental appropriations bill.

The legislation includes provisions to focus our efforts on global climate change by establishing a commission of the government's top scientific experts tasked with identifying key areas of scientific research and empowering them with the resources to finance their work. It also provides for funding, over the President's request, for clean water funds, reducing diesel emissions, clean air grants, and ensuring that environmental laws and justice and regulations are followed.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Congress is committed to taking steps necessary to protect our natural resources and address global climate change. There's still time to save our planet.

WE MUST END THE WAR IN IRAQ NOW

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to others who are calling for an end to the war in Iraq. We must end this war, and we must end it now. We cannot wait, and we must not wait.

Every month, every week, every hour, every minute, every second, every moment that another young American is killed, their innocent blood is on all of our hands. We have a moral obligation to bring this madness to an end. Nothing but nothing good can come out of this war. It is destroying Iraq and destroying the very soul of our Nation.

As Members of Congress, we must find a way to stop it and stop it now.

REPUBLICAN FISCAL MISMANAGEMENT WILL NOT SOON BE FORGOTTEN

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

Mr. HODES. Mr. Speaker, last week, Republican leaders sent a letter to the White House vowing to support the President's plans to veto essential legislation to protect our homeland, put thousands of new agents on America's borders, and invest in our country's priorities.

This sudden and newfound interest in fiscal responsibility is nothing more than hypocritical rhetoric. It does not match their actions or their record. Under Republican leadership, earmarks and deficit spending exploded.

For 6 years, Republicans and President Bush set the standard for fiscal mismanagement and turned record surpluses, created in the last years of the Clinton administration, into record deficits. And the President has refused to change course, once again proposing a budget for the upcoming year that does not find balance within the next 5 years.

Unlike the President's budget, the final Democratic budget blueprint brings us out of the red in the next 5 years, while also investing in critical homeland security initiatives. Instead of threatening to veto this essential legislation that the President claims is his top priority, President Bush should work with the Congress and sign this important legislation into law.

DAY OF SILENCE

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, many of the 70 million Americans who enjoy music over the Internet woke up and their music was silent today, and the reason, because of an outrageous decision by a Federal agency that caused outrageous increases of 300 to 1200 percent of the copyright fees that Internet

Web broadcasters have to pay. And in protest of that outrageous decision, Web broadcasters today have joined together in a day of silence to let Americans know what's going to happen if Congress refuses to act to right this wrong.

And I call today on my colleagues who will be hearing and have heard from many of their constituents on this day of silence. I hope they will co-sponsor H.R. 2060, the Internet Radio Equality Act.

The simple fact is, if we do not pass this bill, Web broadcasters are going to go out of business. Many of the 70 million Americans who enjoy music over the Internet will not get to listen to it.

Congress needs to act. It's the right thing to do. Let's pass this bill.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF CORPORAL CHARLES W. LINDBERG

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

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Corporal Charles W. Lindberg, and I offer my most sincere condolences to his family.

Mr. Lindberg, a fellow marine and fellow Minnesotan, was the last survivor of the six U.S. Marines who raised the first flag over Iwo Jima during World War II.

On the morning of February 23, 1945, Corporal Lindberg and his fellow marines made their way to the top of Mount Suribachi. At the request of their battalion commander, they placed an American flag at the summit.

Years later, as he reflected on that fateful day, Corporal Lindberg said, "Down below the troops started to cheer, the ship's whistles went off, and it was just something that you would never forget."

This was the first time a foreign flag was flown on Japanese soil. The moment was captured in a photo by Sergeant Lou Lowery. This event, along with the famous photo made by Joe Rosenthal of the second flag raising, became a symbol of courage and victory in our country.

Just weeks after the flag raising in Iwo Jima, Corporal Lindberg was injured in the line of duty. For his bravery, he was awarded a Purple Heart and the Silver Star.

Mr. Speaker, in this Chamber we often speak of service to our country. Corporal Lindberg's story is a symbol for generations on the importance of service and duty.

After his retirement, Corporal Lindberg spoke to hundreds of veterans groups and student groups, inspiring all who heard him. He is much loved and admired by those who knew him.

God bless the Lindberg family, and God bless America.