

cheaper for all Americans, not the posterous proposal he is putting forward.

WATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today, all over Capitol Hill people are preparing for the State of the Union speech. Iraq, global warming, health care are all at the top of everyone's list. One that, unfortunately, will be suspiciously absent is the topic of a conference that is taking place just across the Potomac River, the third National Dialogue on Water Resources. Yet there is nothing that is more important than the discussion about water. Indeed, if you are talking about war and peace, climate change and health care, they are all directly related.

Water is not just a potential source of conflict, but of conflict resolution. You can actually measure water flows in quality. If the Israelis and the Palestinians can solve their water issues, who knows where it could lead.

Health. One-half the people in the world today who are sick are sick due to water-borne disease, almost all of which is preventable.

Global warming. We are concerned about global warming because of the impacts that are directly water-related: rising ocean levels, coastal erosion, storm surges, disappearing snow pack and polar ice, flooding, rainstorms; too much water too little water in the wrong places at the wrong time. Global warming is all about water.

It is my hope that regardless of what is discussed in the State of the Union and thereafter, that we can add this subject to the top of the list of the 110th Congress, to work with the administration and people on both sides of the aisle to build on one of the few areas of bipartisan progress that we have seen in the recent toxic atmosphere on the House floor.

In the 108th Congress, we were able to work to reform the flood insurance programs, before Katrina. In the 109th Congress, we had the landmark Water For the Poor Act that I was able to work on with Republicans Henry Hyde and Senator Bill Frist.

There are some simple steps that we can take now. I hope that Chair LOWEY and Ranking Member WOLF will fund our international water and sanitation commitments. I hope that out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee we will update the hopelessly outmoded Corps of Engineers water principles and guidelines that are over a quarter century old and lead to bad decisions. I hope that we can continue Chair FRANK's commitment to further flood insurance reform.

Others are going to take more of a lift, but we can use water supply and

quality in the farm bill to pay farmers to do the right thing and make a profound difference on water around the country. We can shift our frame of reference to deal with basin-wide water management; and we can use the huge value implicit in water resources to fund our crying needs.

At core, Madam Speaker, it is time for us to match our policies on where the water comes from, which date back to the beginning of our country and were basically frozen in place by 1950, to overlap with our water quality and environmental and health protections which have been developed largely since that time.

Money is actually less of a problem because, while water is priceless, we are doing silly things with it; for example, subsidizing people to grow cotton in the desert. When we have an era where for bottled water, some people are paying up to \$8 a gallon or more, we are paying more than gasoline or cheap wine, there are ways that we can tap into that value. We spend too much on uncoordinated infrastructure investments with inappropriate pricing, poor planning and incremental fragmented management.

We have the possibility to refine those partnerships, both public and private, to bring together the Federal agencies, even Congress itself, to limit our stovepipe mentality with fewer subcommittees and more policy management. It is not really that hard. College students, farmers, local government officials, Girl Scouts and church youth groups understand these basic principles after the most basic of study. It is time for the rest of the players to catch up with them, and I hope starting with the 110th Congress.

GLOBAL WARMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about global warming and our energy future, the epic challenges of our time.

First, I want to applaud our leader, Speaker NANCY PELOSI, for recognizing the importance of this issue to our children and our grandchildren. And I think she is right to put a deadline for the House to act.

Energy independence and global warming are of paramount concern to the American people. Most polls show the American people, by 70 to 80 percent, think these are very serious problems.

Today, a significant development occurred on this front. In the Capitol this morning, the U.S. Climate Action Partnership issued its call for action. This group is composed of environmental groups, World Resources Institute, NRDC, Environmental Defense, the Pew Center on Global Climate Change;

industrial giants like Alcoa, BP, Caterpillar, Duke Energy and Dupont; and many others, including our power company in New Mexico, PNM Resources.

Listen to what they say in their report: "We know enough to act on climate change."

"The challenge is significant, but the United States can grow and prosper in a greenhouse gas constrained world."

"In our view, the climate change challenge will create more economic opportunities than risks for the U.S. economy."

"We need a mandatory flexible climate program."

This report is significant, because major U.S. companies have stepped up to the plate and called for action now. They are optimistic. They believe we can get this done. In the 109th Congress, the Udall-Petri legislation, H.R. 5042, had most of the components called for by this partnership. We will reintroduce it in the 110th and try and capture these up-to-date recommendations.

Udall-Petri stands for immediate action. Our bill is a mandatory cap-and-trade system that uses the marketplace. It puts a price on carbon dioxide emissions. Our bill has a safety valve which balances economic losses with emissions reduction achievements. And our bill provides the flexibility to unleash American business ingenuity.

I told the partnership their first agenda item should be to meet with President Bush. Their message needs to be heard in the White House. The President has called for a voluntary program. While his voluntary program has been in place, we have seen no reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. In fact, we have seen every year in the 6 years a 2 percent increase every year. President Bush should take note of these business leaders and let's join together to leave the planet a better place for our children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, this morning myself and several Senators and Representatives including the Senate Majority Leader REID and House Majority Whip HOYER had the honor of participating in an unprecedented meeting with the CEOs of DuPont, GE, Duke Energy, Lehman Brothers, PG&E, FPL Company, Caterpillar, Alcoa, BP America, and PNM Energy from my home state of New Mexico, and the heads of the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, Environmental Defense, and the World Resources Institute. The United States Climate Action Partnership, as this organization of CEOs is named, has coalesced around the urgent need to enact a federal global warming policy, and to enact it now. I am humbled both by the commitment expressed by these leading global corporations and by the enormity and importance of the task we here in Congress have before us to craft policies to address perhaps the most pressing issue of our generation. I applaud them for their leadership and courage on this issue, and I look forward to working with them.

The time for debate about whether or not global warming is real and whether or not it is

attributable to human activity on this planet, has passed. America must lead the global effort with a national global warming policy. We can no longer sit and reap the benefits of fossil fuels without mitigating the negative effects they are having on our planet and our way of life. We cannot, we must not, leave this one up to our children.

It is now the moment in time when we must create a policy to address global warming. To that end, my good friend and colleague from Wisconsin, Mr. TOM PETRI, who was also present at the meeting this morning, have developed a comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions control bill. We introduced the Keep America Competitive Global Warming Act during the 109th Congress and are currently making minor changes to the legislation for reintroduction in the coming weeks. Our legislation will put our country on the path to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while not jeopardizing American competitiveness, American jobs, and the American economy.

The bill is an economy-wide, upstream, cap-and-trade policy that covers all greenhouse gas emissions. However, to provide some certainty to the economy, the bill provides for an unlimited number of additional "safety valve" allowances. This safety valve provision provides cost-certainty to industry and will help ensure that this policy will not result in economic harm. We believe it is better to have a policy that works slowly yet surely rather than one that might prove economically unworkable. Many companies, including some who were present at this morning's meeting, have expressed the need for a safety valve in any mandatory greenhouse emissions control legislation.

Some of the other key provisions of this legislation include the creation of an Advanced Research Projects Agency at the Department of Energy to explore the truly out-of-the-box, high-risk, high-payoff research that will be necessary if we are to get to a low or no carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas world. Technological advancement hold the key to the long-term solution of global warming. Our bill also includes resources for workers, entities and localities who may be negatively impacted by this policy. Also, Madam Speaker, to address concerns about American competitiveness, our legislation ensures that the United States will not be put at a competitive disadvantage relative to developing countries or countries not taking actions comparable to ours to stem greenhouse gas emissions.

Madam Speaker, the message we hear from scientists is clear, we must act immediately to stop global warming. We must do so, however, in a responsible manner that does not cost American competitiveness and American jobs. Mr. PETRI will soon be reintroducing our reasonable, certain, and efficient global warming legislation. Please join us in combating one of the most pressing issues facing our country today.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SARBANES) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God Almighty, the floor of this Chamber, the courts of our land and the tribunals of peace, as well as the everyday decisions of corporate America, cannot live on megabytes, lest the hunger for true justice and holiness become a famine covering the whole Earth.

Help Your people to turn their attention to the deeper truths that will guide nations and unite peoples in compassion and respect for fully living in the present moment.

Do not allow us to argue against the truth, rather, give us a proper sense of our own ignorance; never be ashamed to admit our mistakes, nor swim against the wide current of common sense.

Never let us be the doormat for a fool or seek favor with the powerful. Instead, strengthen us to fight to the death for truth. For then You, Lord God, will fight on our side now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. DAVIS of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MAKING ADOPTION TAX RELIEF PERMANENT

(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, last week, I introduced a bill that will make permanent the \$10,000 adoption tax credit which is set to expire in 2010.

As the father of an adopted son, as a former attorney handling adoptions, and as a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, I know firsthand the challenges and rewards adoption brings.

The adoption process can be mentally and procedurally exhausting. Families should not be overwhelmed with financial burdens as well. We should offer incentives, not penalties, to those making this commitment.

I am proud to sponsor this bill and pleased that 46 of our colleagues, including Ways and Means Committee Chairman CHARLES RANGEL, have joined me as co-sponsors. This legislation is necessary to promote adoption and foster the creation of happy homes.

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

PENSION-KILLING BILL FALLS SHORT

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider legislation to kill the pensions of Members of Congress convicted of a felony.

Amazingly, lawmakers who broke the law collect taxpayer-funded pensions after conviction. Rostenkowski collects after mail fraud; Traficant collects after corruption; Cunningham collects after bribery; and Ney collects after conspiracy.

Today's bill is a step forward, but blocks pensions for only four felonies: bribery, being a foreign agent, conspiracy to defraud, and perjury. The key story is what is missing.

Our House leadership presented a bill, but banned an amendment that would add 17 public corruption felonies to the list. Under today's unamended bill, Congressmen would still get a pension if convicted of income tax invasion, wire fraud, intimidation to secure contributions, and racketeering. Speaker PELOSI voted for these tougher reforms in 1996, but appears to have changed her mind.

Mr. Speaker, I will support the bill before the House because it is the result of reform-minded Members like me who brought it to the floor, but it does fall 17 felonies short of the reforms needed to fully clean up this House.

SHRINKING MILITARY IS GETTING BIGGER

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, disturbing news: the U.S. military is smaller in size than any time in the last 50 years and continues to shrink, according to USA Today. But those who apply are larger than ever.

Only 1.4 million people wear the military uniform; 95 percent of those are Reservists and National Guard troops. So the number of full-time military troops is small considering 300 million people live in the U.S. So why the shrinking military? One reason, more Americans do not qualify. To be in the best military in the world one must be