

The green on the top is the light. It is the same in all of these. The blue is the energy. And notice that the incandescent bulb is a better heater than light source. I brood my chickens with that.

Notice the light-emitting diode. If you have an LED flashlight, you will forget when you put batteries in it, and we need to move to these kinds of technologies.

I have one final chart to end this discussion with. There are two major entities in the world that follow the production and consumption of oil, and they make assumptions about the future. I wouldn't pay much attention to their assumptions about the future because they have been consistently wrong, but they are very good at charting what we have used.

This is the EIA, the Energy Information Administration, a part of our Department of Energy; and it is the IEA, the International Energy Association, this is a part of the United Nations. This is a group that has been following what has been going on in Iran. Both of them have been tracking what we have been using in oil, and these are their lives.

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And these are their lines. And notice, for about the last 3 years, 30 months or more, they're essentially flat. And during that time, that's just about the time that I have been coming here to the floor. It'll be 3 years the 14th day of March that I made my first speech on the floor here relative to this subject. And during that time, oil has doubled in price. Here we are at about \$50 a barrel. And there we are up there at, well, off the chart now, above \$100 a barrel.

In the few moments remaining to us, I'd like to look at a couple of charts. This is a very recent statement, January 22, by the CEO of Shell Oil. By the year 2100, the world's energy system will be radically different from today. Boy, will it. The world's current predicament limits our maneuvering room. We are experiencing a step change in the growth of energy demand. And Shell estimates that after 2015, supplies of easy to access oil and gas will no longer keep up with demand. He's saying it's going to peak about then.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by saying again that this is an enormously invigorating challenge. America's up to this challenge. What we need is the leadership necessary to make this happen.

OIL AND GAS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we all spend time with search engines. We all spend time with Google. You know, if you Google the term "gambling" you'll get millions of matches. And of course, you can't come to a Google page with-

out seeing the Wikipedia. And if you go to Wikipedia to see about gambling, it states that "Gambling has a specific economic definition, referring to wagering money or something of material value on an event with an uncertain outcome."

Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what is going on with energy policy here in the United States House of Representatives. Earlier today, the price of oil rose to a record high, nearly \$106 a barrel.

We all feel pain at the pump. In fact, I drive a hybrid car back home, but it's still getting awfully expensive to fill up. And like any good Texan, I have a Ford F-150 pickup truck, and last week when I had to fill it with metal to drive to the recycler, it cost me almost \$80 to fill up the truck.

In fact, since the Speaker of the House took the gavel on January 1, 2007, the average price of gasoline has increased by about \$1 a gallon. The price of gas now back home for me is about where it was in the days after Hurricane Katrina. You remember Hurricane Katrina wiped out almost all the refining capacity in the United States, and the price of oil went up higher than anyone had ever seen it go before. The price of gas at the pump was higher than anyone had ever seen before, and we're there now.

And I've got to tell you, in Texas, this time of year, we generally have our cheapest gas. So what's it going to be on May 1 when we start having to have all of those fancy blended gasolines for the compliance with the Clean Air Act, and the peak of the summer driving season is about to start? We're likely to see gasoline at \$4 a gallon back home.

And how does the House of Representatives handle this uncertainty and the resulting rise at the pump? By gambling. We bet our energy policy chips on future sources of energy that cannot fully support a country as large or as energy reliant as is the United States of America.

Last week, the House of Representatives voted to provide tax breaks to consumers who make green choices, and extends tax breaks to producers of renewable energy to create green jobs. Fair enough. But unfortunately, this scheme ignores the fact that green choices and renewable energy are currently more costly for consumers and are not yet ready for full market use.

In addition, the plan offsets these breaks by sending an \$18 billion bill to the energy industry that will ultimately pass that cost on to the consumer.

Now, I'm not all that good at math, and I'm certainly not a gambler, but for the life of me, no matter how you add and subtract, I cannot understand how we stand to benefit by handicapping the very resources that we rely upon to get to work, to create our jobs, to go to school, to go to the grocery store or even to the doctor's office. By doing so, the democratic majority here

in the House of Representatives is gambling American resources on a horse they know full well cannot possibly win the race.

Thanks to this legislation, the country has now lost \$18 billion that could have been spent by experts in the energy industry to expand renewable and alternative energy capabilities, the same energy capabilities that this scheme purports to promote.

I hope these new green jobs are close to home, because workers are going to have to pay for walking shoes in addition to work boots.

Mr. Speaker, why is the majority willing to gamble our economic and national security on the uncertainty of the energy sources of tomorrow in order to bow to the billion dollar environmental industry today?

Of course, Members of this House want to expand alternative and renewable energy resources. In fact, we must do so, as we just heard in the last hour. We must have clean, safe, reliable, affordable sources of energy to continue to compete in the 21st century. But these are not new technologies in which we are investing. Ethanol has been subsidized since the 1970s, in fact, probably earlier than that. We've had solar and wind power capabilities since the 1980s. Yet, somehow this majority believes that the reason that these technologies have not taken over is because of some sort of cabal by the energy market.

So rather than financially support the research into new technology, this body chose to strap higher costs on the backs of already cash-strapped Americans. What about the needs of the Nation's families today? What about the families struggling to pay for oil to heat their homes, gas to drive their cars?

Today we face a slowing economy, a credit crunch. We have a hard hit housing sector. So how does the majority respond to those who are struggling to pay for gasoline and heating oil? They say the energy equivalent of "let them eat cake." Let them pay for something that is inherently more expensive than the current market provides.

Mr. Speaker, if California wants to cut energy demand by pricing people out of the market, as we just heard in the last hour, that's fine for them. But please don't think that the rest of the American people are going to sit back and let that happen without a fight.

Our economy is suffering. Our energy needs are great. This is not the time to double down on short-term schemes that deals long-term problems. America relies on energy to fuel our economy and our lives. That means that America needs real change to spur the development of new technology in the fields of renewable and alternative energy.

Let's spur this development in the right way and invest in all forms of energy, and let's do so without prejudice, without handicapping or picking the winners and losers based upon the

cleanness or the carbon consciousness index, whatever that is.

Let me end by quoting the famous songster, Kenny Rogers, the Gambler, because it seems like an appropriate way to wrap up this discussion. "You got to know when to hold them, you got to know when to fold them; know when to walk away and know when to run."

Let's hope the other body walks away from this risky democratic scheme so we can keep Americans from having to pick up the marker for the House's irresponsible gambling habit.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. WATT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. YARMUTH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WATT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, March 13.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, March 13.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KUHLMANN of New York, for 5 minutes, March 13.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 10, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5643. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Vehicle Fleet Report on Alternative Fuel Vehicles for fiscal year 2007, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 13218; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5644. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's Vehicle Fleet Report on Alternative Fuel Vehicles for fiscal year 2007, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 13218; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5645. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the March 2008 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2291(b)(2); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5646. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting a copy of the Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States, September 18, 2007, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 331; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5647. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report on the activities of the Community Relations Service (CRS) for Fiscal Year 2006, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2000g-3; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5648. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report on the use of exemption from antitrust laws provided by Section 405 of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, Pub. L. 109-417; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5649. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Little League Baseball, transmitting the Annual Report of Little League Baseball, Incorporated for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1084(b); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5650. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting a copy of a draft bill to amend subsection (e)(1) of Section 210 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, or SAFETEA-LU, to allow a State to use funds from a grant under Section 210 to promote the use of motorcycle helmets; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1312. A bill to expedite adjudication of employer petitions for aliens of extraordinary artistic ability; with an amendment (Rept. 110-540). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. RAHALL (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. DICKS):

H.R. 5541. A bill to provide a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. BOREN, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BONNER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

H.R. 5542. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a temporary moratorium on enforcement of the

cap amount on payments for hospice care under the Medicare Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Ms. BERKLEY):

H.R. 5543. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to increase the retirement security of women and small business owners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mr. STUPAK):

H.R. 5544. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a demonstration project for integrated health systems to expand access to primary and preventive care for the medically underserved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 5545. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify Medicare physician reimbursement policies to ensure a future physician workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. CANNON, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. WEINER, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5546. A bill to amend the antitrust laws to ensure competitive market-based rates and terms for merchants' access to electronic payment systems; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 5547. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to ensure that the mission and functions of Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators include keeping energy costs as low as reasonably possible for consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 5548. A bill to provide for the continued availability of automated stamp vending machines at facilities of the United States Postal Service serving underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 5549. A bill to expand the dental workforce and improve dental access, prevention, and data reporting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently