

abuse and mentoring, questions of health care for children.

Today in Texas, a court will undertake one of the most challenging legal cases of child custody ever to have been witnessed in the United States. As a strong opponent of child abuse and misuse of our children and affirmation of how precious they are, I ask the Court to make the right and determined decisions based on individual cases. We should not judge the parental rights based upon our opposition to the views of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Just as I supported the return of Elian Gonzalez to his parents, I now support the concept that these parents and children should not be divided and separated because of our opposition to some of the legal practices of their parents.

We must respect the first amendment, but also the precious right of children and parents being together. There must not be a biased determination.

The children are still our precious resource, and if no harm has been done by their parents then the courts must act in the best interests of the children.

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, 3 years ago, I authored H.R. 2102, the Free Flow of Information Act, with my colleague RICK BOUCHER from the State of Virginia.

As a conservative who believes in limited government, I believe the only check on government power in real time is a free and independent press. And the Free Flow of Information Act is not about protecting reporters, it's about protecting the public's right to know.

American people should know, Madam Speaker, we're at a unique moment in the history of this legislation. The overwhelming bipartisan House passage of the Free Flow of Information Act has now been joined with Senate action that includes the leadership of Senator RICHARD LUGAR, Senator ARLEN SPECTER, Senator PATRICK LEAHY and others. Senator BARACK OBAMA and Senator HILLARY CLINTON add themselves as cosponsors of the bill this week, and I heartily welcome the strong endorsement of Senator JOHN MCCAIN of this legislation.

I believe there's now a bipartisan majority in both the House and the Senate to support this vital legislation and ensure the vitality of a free and independent press for generations to come.

We just need one vote in the other body. And I believe we'll put a stitch in this tear in the first amendment freedom of the press.

THIS IS THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I'm very concerned about statements I've heard from all three Presidential candidates over the last few weeks. We hear constantly, I will do this, I will do that, I will do this, all referring to matters that have to be adopted by the United States Congress. And I would remind them that article I, section 1 of the Constitution says, all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.

So while we certainly look to the President as a partner in our policies, we know, as we've seen over the last couple of years, that this President, this White House ignores, the first article of the Constitution.

I would urge all three candidates, whoever is President, whoever he or she may be in 2009, re-read the Constitution, because this is the people's House. The founders' brilliance said that the people will speak as to the laws that they will obey through their representatives in Congress.

I again urge the President, the next President to re-read the Constitution and adhere to article I. Many of us wear this button because we're very concerned that people forget that this is their House.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

(Mr. KUHL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUHL of New York. Madam Speaker, it seems that every day we read about gas and diesel prices hitting a new record high as the pain at the pump continues to ravish hard-working Americans of their hard-earned money. The once nightmare scenario of \$4 a gallon gasoline may soon become an even harsher reality.

While we have sat patiently and waited for Speaker PELOSI's common-sense solution, the cost of gas has soared \$1.05 since the Democrats took the gavel. This increase represents more than a 43 percent jump in old prices. Enough is enough.

I'm sure that I'm not the only Member of Congress listening to their constituents worry about the consequences of the majority's inaction on energy legislation. And while our constituents cannot afford to drive to work or take their children to school, Democrats have voted four times to raise energy taxes in the 110th Congress.

Higher energy taxes mean higher gas prices, something that our constituents do not want or need.

It is time for Speaker PELOSI to fulfill her promise to the American people. Instead of voting to increase taxes again, Congress should immediately adopt legislation which will give Amer-

ica lower energy prices without raising taxes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to stand in the well or put documents on the podium when another Member is under recognition.

□ 1045

GIVE TAX RELIEF TO THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEED IT

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

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, while many of us are standing up for tax cuts for working middle class families, there are some on the other side who want to continue to provide tax breaks to millionaires, billionaires, and even to big oil companies earning record profits. For the last 7 years, we've watched these record giveaways to the wealthiest people and corporations turn our budget surpluses into record deficits.

The administration's fiscal mess is so bad that President Bush has borrowed more money from foreign countries than all 42 of his predecessors combined leaving our children in debt to unfriendly foreign leaders. American taxpayers are paying Iraq's bill while we have serious needs at home.

Yesterday, in my home State, New Hampshire, gas prices hit record highs, and nearly 4,300 New Hampshire families may lose their homes to foreclosure. It's time to help middle class families caught in the economic squeeze.

Now, I'm committed to changing the way Washington does business by giving tax relief to the people who truly need it. We can't fix our economy with the same policies that led to the economic slide.

WE NEED TO SEE THE DEMOCRATS' NEW PLAN FOR LOWER GAS PRICES

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, April 28, 2006, a press release by Anita Lowe: These skyrocketing gas prices are a reflection of the Republican energy plan. We need a long-term strategy to lower gas prices and meet our energy needs. Yet Republicans passed up a golden opportunity in major energy bills last year. Democrats have a plan to give American families the relief they deserve. Democrats, Madam Speaker, have been in charge for 16 months and gas prices have gone up over \$1.25 a gallon.

April 18, 2006, in a press release, then-Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI: But

the Republicans' bills clearly have done nothing to lower gas prices as the price of a barrel of oil has settled above \$70 a barrel, the highest price in our history.

Today, Madam Speaker, oil closed at \$114 a barrel. Democrats have a plan to lower gas prices taking America in a new direction. We're ready to see this new plan. I don't understand why the Democratic leadership won't bring out the new plan, why there is not an outcry from their membership to see the new plan.

**MR. PRESIDENT, REAL PEOPLE
NEED YOUR HELP TO REDUCE
OIL PRICES**

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Madam Speaker, let's talk about what this House has done already without any participation from our Republican colleagues or from the President of the United States.

We've passed legislation cracking down on those who would take advantage of this situation by price gouging with little to no participation from the other side of the aisle and a President's threatened veto. We've passed legislation cracking down on the multinational oil cartels who would fix prices at much damage to American consumers without little to any help from the other side of the aisle and a threatened Presidential veto. And we've passed legislation rescinding the billions in tax giveaways that the prior Congress gave to the oil companies and turned them around to give them to tax benefits for homeowners and businesses who want to invest in renewable energy without any help from the other side of the aisle and with the President threatening a veto.

Madam Speaker, people are hurting, real people, not oil company executives, and we need both sides of the aisle and the President of the United States working to fix it.

**RECOGNIZE WORLD HEMOPHILIA
DAY**

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today in celebration of World Hemophilia Day in which we recognize the serious challenges of those worldwide who suffer from hemophilia, a day in which we raise awareness to fight for a cure.

Hemophilia is a rare genetic disorder in which the blood doesn't clot causing excessive bleeding and easy bruising. Without proper treatment, it can lead to organ damage, serious joint and muscle problems, and terrible pain. Those with hemophilia often live in a world unknown to others, anxious about even minor injuries or cuts because what is minor for most people

can be a major problem for those with hemophilia.

As a physician, I'm confident that with attention, diligence, innovation, and scientific progress, we will improve the lives of those afflicted with this troubling disease and realize a cure.

Madam Speaker, hemophilia is a daunting condition requiring vigilant care, but we see a day where patients need not fear its pain or its consequences. I'm proud to stand today in support of World Hemophilia Day.

**WITH ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, IRAQ
MONEY CAN BE BETTER SPENT
AT HOME**

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Madam Speaker, as taxpayers filed their income tax this week, many were probably wondering just how much of their individual taxes would be invested in Iraq instead of here in the U.S. at home. Consider that every single second, the Bush administration is spending \$4,000 in Iraq. That means that income taxes paid by the average taxpayer would not even cover the cost of one second of this war.

This country is already facing difficult economic times. We cannot afford to continue spending \$339 million a day on a war that has no strategy for victory. If we invested one day of this sum in America instead, we could give 2.6 million American children access to medical and dental care, or we could hire more than 2,000 more border patrol agents to protect our borders. And we could send 18,000 more students to college.

Madam Speaker, at a time when Americans are getting squeezed at the pump and the supermarket and are suffering in the housing market, Washington Republicans need to realize that we should prioritize the needs of America over those of Iraq.

**WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PROMISE
OF CLEANING UP WASHINGTON?**

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Madam Speaker, I come today to the floor to point out something that's really already been pointed out in the press, and that is, as they say, that the Democrats, unfortunately, have horrifically failed as the majority party getting most anything done. Now, they made promises after promises to help the American people, and maybe it's no surprise that most of those promises have come to naught and have been broken.

This is most evident by the recent Democrat budget. It includes a massive \$683 billion tax increase which only further burdens our children, kills jobs, hurts small businesses, and basically

just punishes the American family. And worst of all, this budget was created to finance wasteful spending and the special interests here in Washington.

So what happened to all of those promises of cleaning up Washington and cutting spending? Well, it seems they simply got lost in the shuffle of all of their spending taxpayers' dollars.

PASS A CAP-AND-TRADE SYSTEM

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

Mr. INSLEE, Madam Speaker, I want to share a little note of optimism we heard yesterday in our Global Warming and Energy Independence Committee. We had a group of venture capitalists and investors come before us, and they told us that they were supremely confident that America can create a clean-energy economy that is based on new types of technology so we can solve our global warming problem and wean ourselves off our addiction of Middle Eastern oil. It was very heartening. But they told us they need one thing to really open up the floodgates of technology. They need a cap-and-trade system to cap carbon dioxide and really spur investment.

The President yesterday gave short shrift to that. He was disappointing. We've got to provide leadership here to get this job done. His message was sort of a "can't-do" message for a "can-do" people, we Americans. Let's get this job done. Pass a cap-and-trade system. We will have a burst of new economic growth in this country.

**MR. CARTER, RECONSIDER YOUR
PLANS TO MEET WITH HAMAS**

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN, Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents in Tennessee's Seventh District, I rise to protest President Jimmy Carter's decision to meet with the leadership of Hamas, a group designated by the U.S. State Department as international terrorists. They see this as an outrageous act, something that is a disgrace to the men and women who have protected this Nation.

Madam Speaker, Islamo-Fascist terrorism is the plague of our time. Every American official, past and present, should stand ready to help destroy it and to eradicate its philosophy of hate. My constituents feel that by meeting with Hamas, Mr. Carter a former President, undermines the critical goal and only goads the enemy further.

I urge Mr. Carter to reconsider his ill-conceived plan, join the rest of us in our collective to eradicate Islamo-Fascist terrorism and to halt any plan to prop up the enemy.