

Iraqis who have been forced from their homes and from their homelands. The photos show the tragic human side of the international refugee crisis, and in the faces of the children, you see confusion and fear. How do you explain to a child why he must leave his home, her friends, his school? How do you explain where her father is, or why his neighborhood is riddled with concrete and burned-out hulls of cars?

Nearly 5 million Iraqis have become refugees because of the occupation and civil war ravaging their nation. International relief organizations believe that 2 million of those 5 million refugees have fled their own nations and have sought safe haven in surrounding countries including Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

The photos in the exhibit were taken in Damascus. They are a glimpse into the lives of the all-too-often nameless and faceless. How can we even think about what it means to have 5 million people without a permanent home? It would be the same as if the entire population of the State of Kentucky or Colorado or Minnesota was suddenly evacuated from its State. No homes, no jobs. A detachment from everything we take for granted: income, schooling, access to financial savings, being close to one's family doctor. Some people even lose the very land upon which their homes are built.

The United States State Department made a commitment to assist in the voluntary resettlement, but despite a promise to take in 7,000 refugees in fiscal year 2007, only 1,600 were admitted into our country. In the last 6 months, State has only permitted an average of 400 people a month. At this pace, we're going to miss the target by a huge amount again.

We owe the Iraqi people more, Mr. Speaker. Certainly more than broken promises and despair. We cannot solely rely on the good graces of Iraq's neighbors or the assistance of the United Nations. This is a problem that we started, and it is our moral obligation to help resolve it.

The U.S., the United States of America, must end the occupation of Iraq and focus on the real needs of the Iraqi people. If we took even a fraction of what we are paying to occupy a nation in the middle of a civil war and put it towards the refugee crisis, we could change millions of lives and offer real hope for their future.

Next week or the week after, the House may consider the Iraq spending bill. Instead of extending the administration's occupation of Iraq, let's reaffirm our commitment to the Iraqi people through humanitarian assistance. Let's bring our troops and military contractors home, and let's help Iraq begin to heal.

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

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will ap-

pear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. WELLER of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUNSET MEMORIAL

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is April 30, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,882 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, died and screamed as they did so, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, no one could hear them.

And all of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and

lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution, it says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Mr. Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard this Sunset Memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,882 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is April 30, 2008, 12,882 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children, this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA NEEDS TO DEVELOP ITS OWN NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it's great to be down on the House floor. It has been a limited schedule this week, so we haven't had a chance to really take time to focus on the number one pressing issue in America today, which is the high price of gasoline and energy in this country. We get a chance to do that tonight.

I am going to initially yield to some of my colleagues who have graciously come down to help, and the first one I would like to yield to is Mr. SALI from Idaho.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, if you're afraid of the future, said Ronald Reagan, then get out of the way, stand aside; the people of this country are ready to move again.

As with so many things, President Reagan was right. We cannot avoid real problems, gloss over pressing needs or, out of fear of something unforeseen, sit immobile until we are overtaken by inevitable results of our previous inaction.

Americans are paying on average \$3.62 a gallon, and by early summer, we're going to be at \$4 a gallon. By the end of this year, it's projected oil will be at \$180 per barrel, an approximate doubling in the space of 1 year. Why are we paying so much? Very fundamentally, it's a supply and demand issue. We need oil, but the supply is limited. This is frustrating in its own right, but it's truly maddening when you consider the supply of crude is not really limited and that we have additional resources available to us, but they have been locked up by Congress.

The current majority claims they have the answers in a new clean energy agenda which purports to offer reduced reliance on foreign oil. But they seek to do it through increased alternative forms of energy, much of which is not even available today, instead of drilling for and pumping American crude.

Before the vote was taken on the majority's latest energy bill on December 18, 2007, Speaker PELOSI said, You are present at a moment of change, of real change. Perhaps she was correct, only the change she envisions is radically different than what most Americans want.

To lower the price at the pump and to break our addiction to foreign energy, we must increase production of American crude, not stifle it. Today, our country currently imports 61 percent of its crude oil and 15 percent of its natural gas. It's not only expensive but foolish for us to depend on such po-

litically unstable regions like the Middle East for our energy.

If this Congress were serious about reducing America's reliance on foreign oil, one would also think it would invest in new energy supplies that it can produce in the U.S., such as coal-to-liquids using clean coal technology; and it would engage in immediate development of domestic oil sources by obtaining oil from ANWR, drawing oil from our Outer Continental Shelf, our oil shale, and even oil sands.

Additionally, we have large supplies of natural gas, and instead of using it for domestic purposes, we're selling about two-thirds of it abroad. Natural gas is a steal when compared to crude oil. According to one recent news story, natural gas prices are currently much lower than crude oil when the two are compared on a BTU equivalency basis. Currently, crude oil is nearly \$120 a barrel compared to natural gas at about \$11 per thousand cubic feet. Since natural gas is used at about one-sixth of the cost of crude oil, that's a bargain.

We need to actively develop American natural gas resources, and we can because the supply is there. We need to lift the moratorium Congress has imposed on drilling our offshore natural gas reserves and tap into this incredible resource.

These are supplies that we have right now on the lands of our own Nation. We don't have to go abroad and be held economic hostage to foreign oil cartels.

Natural gas is one piece of the puzzle. But let's be candid. We still need oil, a lot of it. And as we increase oil supply, we must also increase refining capacity to process it, yet it has been three decades since we built a new oil refinery. Lack of refinery capacity is another reason why gas prices are so high.

And we further tied our hands by shying away from clean, secure, safe nuclear energy. Since the 1970s, nuclear technology has been developed that will enable us to produce nuclear energy without the potential dangers of previous years.

In his news conference yesterday, President Bush said, Many of the same people in Congress who complain about high energy costs support legislation that would make energy even more expensive for our consumers and small businesses. He went on to say, Congress is considering bills to raise taxes on domestic energy production, impose new and costly mandates on producers and demand dramatic emission cuts that would shut down coal plants and increase reliance on expensive natural gas. That would drive up prices even further. The cost of these actions would be passed on to consumers in the form of even higher prices at the pump and even bigger electric bills.

□ 2030

Now, of course the President was referring to our friends on the other side of the aisle. And the fact that he's right does sadden me because this is

not a partisan problem, it's an American problem that demands a true bipartisan solution. Yet, the Speaker's energy bill that came out at the end of last year will invest less than \$300 million over 3 years in such clean energy sources as hydropower, marine and hydrokinetic energy, wind energy, solar, and clean coal technology.

In contrast, consider the cost of what the Speaker chose to invest in through her energy bill. The bill contained \$375 million for a Green Jobs program for 3 years; \$600 million to assist developing countries with their renewable energy development, and additional funding, as needed, to assist India and China with the same. That's right, we are sending American tax dollars overseas to the two very countries we are competing with for energy supplies. Is that the kind of real change that Americans want?

Tragically, with the policy changes wrest by this Congress, Americans across this country have only continued to see higher and higher gas prices as new record-high gas prices are reached almost daily. As President Reagan correctly reminded us, Americans are not afraid of the future, we welcome it. In facing the future, however, America needs sound energy policy that develops domestic energy sources from every source available, including crude oil, natural gas, clean coal, hydropower, and every alternative source of energy. To put it another way, we need all the energy we can get from all the sources we can possibly afford. We need a real energy policy, not a futuristic wish list. Madam Speaker, we're waiting. Please don't make us wait any longer.

With that, I yield back.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I want to thank my colleague, and I appreciate it.

A couple of things I want to highlight. When he talks about supply, we have a 250 years worth supply of coal in this country, 250 years that we can have access to. And according to the Federal Government, there is enough oil in deep waters many miles off our coast and on Federal land to power more than 60 million cars for 60 years. So your point about supply is important and a critical portion of this debate, and really what separates Republicans from the Democrats as we fight about these energy costs.

We believe that when you bring more supply to the public that's demanding it, prices will go low. Speaker PELOSI promised, on April 24, 2006, "Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down the skyrocketing gas prices." Well, they have a plan, but the plan was just the opposite of what she envisioned. Here's a barrel of crude oil, \$58.31 when she became Speaker of the House; the price today, \$115.92. That, as I stated on this floor numerous times, that is bitter change, that's negative change. Change is not always good. This is bad change. This is change that was promised by the current leadership in the House.