

bad to be honest with you, because I think it's important that if we have these commissions and we have those enforcement agencies, give them what they need.

Right now, as far as I'm concerned, the Federal Trade Commission is like a police officer in a high-crime area without a weapon. And I can tell you, there will be no real enforcement there if they don't have the tools that they need to be able to enforce the law when it comes down to it.

Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Act of 2008, H.R. 5351, very important piece of legislation. The bill has ended unnecessary subsidies to oil companies in which we're investing in clean and renewable energy. And I think it's important that Americans understand, and also, Mr. RYAN, that every Member of Congress understand, that none of the legislation that I've mentioned thus far would have seen the light of day if it wasn't for the 110th Congress and it wasn't for Democrats allowing it to come to the floor.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Absolutely. And I think you've made some great points, Mr. MEEK.

I just would like to say that, if you listen to some of our friends on the other side talk about gas prices, here is a party, Mr. Speaker, and an administration for 6 years—and the President and the Vice President being oil men—not doing a thing on energy, dependence on foreign oil, so on and so forth, to somehow accuse the Democrats of not addressing the issue, and completely oblivious to the fact that we're the ones passing legislation to crack down on price gouging, Mr. MEEK. We're the ones that are passing legislation to hold OPEC accountable for price fixing. It's the Democratic Party that's repealing the subsidies to Big Oil so that we can take that money and invest it into alternative energy sources. It's Speaker PELOSI that's calling on the President to take the barrels of oil that are going into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and put those in the market to drive down gas by a quarter, that's something easy we can do. But it is the President and the Republican Congress, Mr. Speaker, that have consistently vetoed these bills or put the kibosh on them in the Senate, blocking lower prices every step of the way.

And if you look at what we have done here, pushed by the Speaker, to have fuel efficiency standards being raised for cars and trucks, we will reduce oil consumption by 1.1 million barrels per day in 2020. This is forward-looking. This is something that will save consumers between \$700 and \$1,000 at the pump in 2020. Now, we know that's not addressing the issues today. We're talking about the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. We're talking about cracking down on OPEC. We're talking about cracking down on price gouging that may be going on in the United States and our local communities. These are the short-term issues. And each one has been opposed by the Republicans

and has been opposed by the President of the United States.

So when you ask the folks at home, Mr. Speaker, what the Congress has done, the answers are here. And if anybody wants to know what they are, they can go to the Speaker's Web site. Trying to stop price gouging at the pump, price manipulation from OPEC, divert the oil that's going into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, that's what we're trying to do here. Repeal the subsidies for Big Oil and put that money and invest it in alternative research. Mr. Speaker, these are the policies of the Democratic Congress. And each one of those has been opposed by the Republican Party and opposed by the President of the United States, period, dot, Mr. MEEK; period, dot.

So let there be no mistake, when common sense tells you we have a couple of oil barons running the executive branch, Mr. Speaker, and the Democrats are trying to push these initiatives to provide some relief for the common good and the common folks that we represent and it's opposed by the Republicans and opposed by this administration, it's important for us to set this record straight, Mr. MEEK.

So as we begin to wrap up here, Mr. MEEK, I would like to yield to you.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Well, Mr. RYAN, I look forward to next week. I look forward to the hearings that will take place under the Dome. Again, democracy will reign. We will be able to continue to move in this new direction that the American people want us to move in.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. What's wrong with that?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Nothing wrong with that at all.

And I also believe, Mr. RYAN, that through the hard work of not only the staff here that provide us with not only the information that we use to fight on behalf of the American people, but also when we go back to our districts, what we hear from our constituents, we give them voice, we are them. We are representatives of the various parts of the country that we're from, and it's important that we bring that level of frustration here.

Speaking of small business men and women, they own a pick-up truck or an SUV, we hear from them, Congressman, it cost me \$105 to fill my truck up. And they're still trying to sell their products for the same price, just a little bit more. Everything is going up, up, up, and they're getting priced out. And I think it's important, even from my neck of the woods in Florida, where you have bagel shops, some of them have gone so high up on bagels because of the cost and folks can't afford them.

So when you look at it, this is a major, major issue and every American is being touched by it, especially for those middle class families and for those individuals that are what we call our working poor. And so, Mr. RYAN, every day we come to the floor I think it's important we give light to that.

I also want to give the numbers on Iraq, as I always do. As of today, May 1, in Iraq, the total deaths are 4,064. The total number wounded in action and returned to duty, 16,567. And total number wounded in action not returning to duty is 13,344. Mr. RYAN, you know, every time I come to the floor I like to read that into the RECORD so that Members will understand our responsibility of trying to bring the super majority of our men and women home.

One last point, Mr. RYAN. I think that when we look at this issue called public service, and I'm speaking to all of the Members, we have to look at it from the standpoint that we're only here for a short period of time. Less than 11,000 Americans have actually had an opportunity to serve in this U.S. Congress. And every day Members should take the responsibility to treat it as though it is their last day to serve and not put something off for another day or another week or another month, because there are people out there that are counting on us and depending on us, as it relates to bringing about health care to their children, bringing down these fuel costs and energy costs, and also making sure that we're able to stimulate this economy in the right way.

So with that, I would yield back to Mr. RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Well, I appreciate that. And you brought up those who are serving here. And I think it's worth noting that the veterans measure, another initiative that the Democrats have tried to push for a new G.I. Bill, for free college for our vets, opposed by Defense Secretary Gates, opposed by the administration. This is an opportunity for us to thank those men and women who are serving our country to say, when you get out, you're going to have free college tuition anywhere in the country. And I think that's a small gesture.

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And once again, I think the President and our friends on the other side are out of step with what the American people think we should be doing. It's one thing to wave the flag, and it's another thing to put your money where your mouth is.

So, Mr. MEEK, I want to thank you for the opportunity to join you here on this beautiful Thursday evening in Washington, D.C., and I look forward to coming down here with you next week and continuing to make the case for the programs that Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER and Mr. CLYBURN and RAHM EMANUEL and JOHN LARSON are pushing in our caucus. These are the issues that we care about and we're going to continue to push.

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 Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1760. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Healthy Start Initiative; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 2954. To amend Public Law 110-196 to provide for a temporary extension of programs authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 beyond May 2, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, May 5, 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:

6360. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-359, "Electronic Mail Public Record Clarification Amendment Act of 2008," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6361. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-359, "Electronic Mail Public Record Clarification Amendment Act of 2008," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6362. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-360, "Compliance Unit Establishment Act of 2008," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6363. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Participants' Choices of TSP Funds — received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6364. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN AGENCIES (RIN: 3206-AJ92) received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6365. A letter from the Assistant Secretary — Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Public Access, Use, and Recreation Regulations for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (RIN: 1018-AV43) received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6366. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by American Fisheries Act Catcher Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: 0648-XG86) received April 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6367. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel by Vessels in the Amendment 80 Limited Access Fishery in the Western Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: 0648-XH07) received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6368. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: 0648-XH13) received April 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6369. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch for Vessels in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Trawl Limited Access Fishery in the Eastern Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: 0648-XG59) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6370. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; Sea Turtle Conservation [Docket No. 071030628-8482-02] (RIN: 0648-AV84) received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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. FRANK of Massachusetts: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5579. A bill to remove an impediment to troubled debt restructuring on the part of holders of residential mortgage loans, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-615). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5818. A bill to au-

thorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make loans to States to acquire foreclosed housing and to make grants to States for related costs; with an amendment (Rept. 110-616). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

[Omitted from the Record of April 30, 2008]

H.R. 135. Referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure extended for a period ending not later than May 22, 2008.

[Submitted May 1, 2008]

H.R. 948. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than June 6, 2008.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. TOWNS (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. WATERS, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 5937. A bill to facilitate the preservation of certain affordable housing dwelling units; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 5938. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide secret service protection to former Vice Presidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARSON:

H.R. 5939. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the time limitation for the use of entitlement to educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill for certain persons actively pursuing a qualifying educational degree or certificate; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed 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. GORDON (for himself, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. EHLERS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. WU, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. BIGGERT, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. AKIN, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. INGALLS of South Carolina, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. GINGREY, and Mr. BILBRAY):

H.R. 5940. A bill to authorize activities for support of nanotechnology research and development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 5941. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize taxpayers to designate a portion of their income tax payments to a National Military Family Relief Fund to be used by the Secretary of Defense