

NON ENERGY POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, as gasoline prices soar, as our truckers are about to sit on the side of the road because they can't get enough money to buy fuel for those diesel trucks that they're driving up and down our highways to deliver goods, people are wondering, how did we get here?

Well, there are several reasons how we got in this mess, and Congress is partly to blame. First of all, we had this theory that ethanol is going to save us all, so we subsidized the production of ethanol. What that has done is drive food prices up around the world, because in the United States, instead of eating corn or letting it go to feed our beef, we're burning it in our vehicles, and that's caused world food prices to go up, not just in the United States but all over the world.

Costco and Sam's Club are now rationing rice. Who would have thought in this year, 2008, in America we can't buy rice because we're tilling up our soil and burning crops. We're also finding out that ethanol can't save us all because, promised to be a nonpollutant, that's wrong. Science Magazine has now reported that ethanol causes more pollution than that nasty old crude oil that we produce. There are a lot of reasons for that. One of those reasons is because it takes a lot of fertilizer to produce corn, and that fertilizer runs down the Mississippi River. And when it gets down in the Gulf of Mexico that nitrogen in the fertilizer kills everything, except algae, and that is called a dead zone. Dead, because nothing is there except algae.

So what we ought to do is quit the subsidies to ethanol. Let the world market handle whether we should use ethanol or not and stop those subsidies.

The second thing that's a problem but we don't talk much about is the value of the American dollar gets less and less on the world market. It's less this week than it was last week. Why? Because the Federal Reserve doesn't regulate the dollar. It regulates interest rates. Well, maybe that isn't just what the Constitution says. When in doubt, sometimes we ought to just read the Constitution. It says Congress has the responsibility "to coin money and regulate the value thereof." We have the responsibility to set the price on the dollar and we should do so. Stabilize the dollar so it doesn't cost us more to buy gasoline every week. That is our responsibility and we can't pass it off to someone else.

Third. The crude oil supply in the United States, which we still drive our cars based upon crude oil production, is getting less. It's an economic fact that third graders learn—the less supply you have, the higher rate of cost. And, of course, those oil companies that everybody wants to punish, the American oil companies only control 10 percent of the world market. Foreign coun-

tries, foreign dictators like Chavez down there in Venezuela and OPEC, they set the price on crude oil in the world, not American oil companies. So we need to take care of ourselves.

Now here's a map, Mr. Speaker. We drill off the coast of Texas, where I'm from, we drill off Louisiana and part of Mississippi and Alabama. But you see all these red zones here? Even off the sacred coast of California, there's crude oil out there and we can drill for crude oil but this Congress won't let us take care of ourselves. Why? Because the environmental lobby is so strong in this Congress that they have had fear tactics that prevent us from drilling here, off the east coast, and way up here in ANWR in Alaska. Open up the Outer Continental Shelf and start drilling.

You might be interested to know right here off of Florida, 47.5 miles, there's a new rig going out there and it's built by the Chinese and the Cubans because there's an oil field out there. But we won't drill there.

So we need to drill offshore. And we need to let our refineries produce more. They're producing all they can and because they can only produce so much, we're importing gasoline into this country for the first time, or one of the first times in our history.

We haven't built a new refinery in 30 years. Why? Silly environmental restrictions. Nobody wants pollution, but we need to get back to common sense and let our refineries refine.

Right here where I represent in southeast Texas, most of the refineries for this country are right there. Produces 22 percent of the Nation's jet fuel.

Now let's talk about jet fuel. This Congress passed a bill recently that says we cannot explore or take crude oil out of the tar sands in Canada. Canada is one of our biggest importers of crude oil.

Now what does that mean? That means because the crude oil is in the sand, we can't take it into the United States. Well, who uses that? The United States Air Force turns that into jet fuel. Doesn't anybody understand we're at war? Our airplanes need to be flying. But because of this Congress, they cannot import that. And now where are we going to get our jet fuel to fuel the Air Force? Silly restriction passed by this Congress. So let's remove that restriction as well.

Some people say, Well, let's tax those mean old oil companies. We'll show them. Also, we'll tax people to drive. Let me tell you something. That idea is to punish people who drive. Now where I live, down here in southeast Texas, we don't have any subways. Nobody rides a choo-choo train to work. The closest subway is in Dallas, 250 miles away. They drive pickup trucks because they work the land, they farm the land, and they can't buy the diesel fuel to run their trucks.

So here are some ideas, Mr. Speaker, that we ought to do and change the policy that this Congress has implemented.

And that's just the way it is.

ENERGY PLAN NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT) for 1 minute.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This past week for the first time, some Americans paid \$4 a gallon for gas. The national average for regular unleaded gasoline now is \$3.61 a gallon. Americans have never paid such a tremendous amount of their hard-earned dollars on gasoline, Mr. Speaker, and the high gasoline prices are taking a toll on their pocketbooks.

Many issues are responsible for the higher gas prices, but in order to lessen America's dependency on foreign and unstable energy sources, we need to be looking right here at home. We're relying too much on foreign energy sources and our dependency on these sources is a risk for our national security. We have natural and technological resources to support domestic production and find oil sources here at home. We can increase our domestic energy exploration and production in the U.S. while also utilizing alternative energy sources such as hydrogen, wind and solar power.

Citizens can't afford the price of gas. For our people, for our country, the majority must bring an energy solution to the floor now so that American families are no longer paying an unprecedented \$4 a gallon for gas.

RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT
CHARLES "ANDREW" WILKINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) for 1 minute.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles "Andrew" Wilkins, a great young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 250, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been an active member of his Scout troop, participating in many activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 21 merit badges, spent 47 nights camping, and served as Senior Patrol Leader for 2 years. Andrew was also elected to be a member of the Order of the Arrow, scouting's national camping honor society.

For his Eagle Scout project, Andrew coordinated the construction of the Northumberland County Fallen Heroes Memorial located in front of the sheriff's office in Heathsville, Virginia. This monument is a memorial to Deputy Sheriff John Sanford who was killed in the line of duty in 2005.

Andrew is a senior at Northumberland High School, and plans to continue serving his community and our country in the United States Coast Guard.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles "Andrew" Wilkins for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. I thank the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, they say that in America all you need to do to be successful is to work a half a day, and you can choose whether it's the first 12 hours or the second 12 hours. The American people probably expect double from their government these days when we have serious challenges to our economic and national security. So what is Congress doing? Are we doing what it takes to be successful to solve these problems? No. We're not starting business today until noon. Congress is sleeping in. Maybe we're on California time, but I will wager we will not be here until midnight.

Any Third World dictator would be pleased at the way we are operating today. Our economy is in a precarious situation. We learned this morning that oil is at \$120, could go to \$200 per barrel, that gas is at \$4, easily could go to \$5. We're still denying our intelligence community the tools important to keep this country safe. And Congress is sleeping in.

Many of us came to Washington sacrificing a good, normal lifestyle in our respective States' districts to serve this nation and work hard to help make America stronger, but we're not being given a chance to do our job. Kansans have been asking me for months, "What is the government going to do about the rising cost of gas?" In April 2006, the Democrat house leadership assured Americans they "have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices." Well, Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Democrat leadership to unveil this plan. Since 2007 when the Democrats took control of the House, gas prices have risen 50 percent. We have \$4 a gallon, going to \$5.

Today we hear that the House Democrat leadership has intentions to bring a \$250 billion supplemental on the American people without proper input from Congress. I guess we don't have time. Congress is sleeping in till noon. As a body, Republicans and Democrats are very proud of our responsibility to oversee the power of the purse, but the Democrat leadership has completely undermined that power.

What is this defense supplemental appropriations bill about? We don't know. Nor does the chairman of the respective appropriations subcommittees. Why? Because the Speaker doesn't think it's important for Members of Congress to weigh in and oversee the appropriations process. We don't know

if this package will give our men and women in uniform the resources that they need to protect themselves. We don't know if this package will address price of gasoline or the price of food. We don't know if this package will ensure that our veterans are properly taken care of.

The experts, the men and women, Democrat and Republican, who serve in Congress on the committee could answer these questions. We spend time overseeing the process, the funding needs of our agencies, but we've been cut out of the process. In other words, the people's representatives have been cut out of the process. How do the American people feel about a \$250 billion monstrosity that has no input from their representatives? Unless you're from San Francisco, who will be represented in this bill?

Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, DAVID OBEY, and I are friends. Last year, as a part of overseeing the national park system, we went to Death Valley National Park in California. As fate would have it on that very hot day, we took a drive into Death Valley and the truck that we were in that the Park Service gave us had not one, not two, but three flat tires. With the capable assistance of Rob Nabors, the committee staff director, Chairman OBEY and I changed all the flat tires and got ourselves back on the road. By working together we got it back on the road.

In many respects, the development of the emergency supplemental reminds me of that day in Death Valley. The environment on the House floor is hot and getting hotter every minute. The Democrat leadership is having a very difficult time getting this legislation on the road. I believe Chairman OBEY would have better success if he enlisted the assistance of his fellow appropriators, Democrats and Republicans. Let us work together on this legislative vehicle, together through the normal process, as we did on that hot day in Death Valley last year.

This has been the most disappointing Congress in recent memory. The Democrat leadership shirks their duty to tackle the real issues facing American families. They've left Congress out of the workload. It's no wonder that we have the lowest approval ratings in history. A banana republic could not do it better. Mr. Speaker, don't slip on the banana peel.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SCOTT BURNS DURING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, next week is National Police Week, a time for us to recognize those who boldly serve in municipal, county, State and Federal law enforcement. Furthermore, on May 15, we will

observe National Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor those who have been disabled or killed in the line of duty. They have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of their fellow citizens.

The peace of mind we are afforded thanks to the dedicated service of our law officers is invaluable, but many times we aren't immediately aware at what price that security comes. However, this past weekend, my constituents and I were painfully reminded me of the very real danger that our law enforcement officers and agents battle daily. On Saturday, May 3, hundreds and hundreds of us mourned the loss of Texas State Trooper James Scott Burns at his funeral in Linden. Scott was killed by shotgun blasts from a killer who he chased and pulled over on April 29 while doing his job of service to his fellow citizens. He left a widow and a 6-month-old daughter, of whom he was extremely proud. He also left a huge family that was both related by blood and related by spirit who care deeply about him.

The overwhelming support shown by family, friends and fellow law enforcement officers was truly a testament to Trooper Burns' lovable nature, his sense of humor, his honorable character, but most important his sense of service for others. His loving family is now forced to carry on without him and the world is worse off without him unless we perpetuate the good that he did in his life through the things that we do in the future so that he will not have lived in vain. Though Scott's being killed by the possibly drug-crazed killer meant that others were not also killed, Scott's greatest contribution came not in the way that he died but in the way that he lived.

The extraordinary choice by Scott Burns and other law officers to protect our communities means that they go to work every day knowing and believing the words that came from Jesus himself when He said, "Greater love hath no one than this, that a person lay down his life for his friends."

Our law enforcement officers dedicate themselves to protecting citizens knowing that they may very well lay down their lives to protect others. No words can adequately express the gratitude that's due them. Scott's family will hopefully find solace from so many who showed their support in the past and will do so in the future. The fact that the funeral procession extended for so many, many miles down Highway 59 from Linden to the cemetery will hopefully provide some solace. It also shows that those who are affected by Scott and his life will not forget. Law officers from around east Texas, from the State of Texas at large as well as from all over the country came and were there.

As a former prosecutor, a former judge and chief justice and now as a member of the House Judiciary Committee and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, it is both a sobering privilege and a priority to address