

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

issues and legislation regarding the security of our law enforcement community and the American people. There is no greater function of the Federal Government than to provide for the common defense against all enemies, both foreign and domestic.

Therefore, it is imperative that we work to support our law enforcement officers and agents and their families by providing them with the training and resources they need to properly carry out their duties. Furthermore, there should be greater incentives in place to encourage harsher sentences for violent offenders who might otherwise be released to the streets and repeat dangerous offenses.

While law enforcement officers risk their own safety every day for the well-being of our Nation and local communities, Congress must do as much as possible to ensure the preparedness and security of our noble crime fighters. As we prepare next week to nationally honor the courage of police officers like our own Texas State Trooper Scott Burns, let us consider the well-being of our law enforcement officers and their families with the same persistence and selflessness with which they afford us.

WE NEED AN ENERGY PLAN

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

Mr. AKIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In the last little more than a year, gasoline prices have gone up \$1.33 cents a gallon. That's a larger increase than what we've had over the previous 5 years before that. The Democrat leadership said that they had a plan at that time, this is a year ago, to keep the gas prices from going up. Yet the gas prices have gone up.

Now I don't think the American public wants us to bicker between parties. They want us to be solving problems. And I don't believe it's the Democrats' fault necessarily that the gas prices have gone up internationally. But what is a problem is that we're not dealing with the problem. What we should be talking about is how do we move off of our dependence on foreign oil to American energy? What we should be seeing would be movement in the direction, depending on which way people want to go, additional refinement capacity. There have been no new refineries built in over 30 years. Investment in new nuclear technology. Our nuclear technology is old, many, many years old. It's a good source of energy. The idea of getting liquid fuel from coal. We have tremendous coal resources. Shouldn't there be something being done in that area?

But nothing in any of these areas. A lack of a plan is unacceptable. It's not the Democrats' fault that gas prices go up, but it is a problem when we don't have a plan.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Eternal Father, drawing us ever closer to You, the spring rains make us mindful of Your presence in our lives.

Water comes down from the heavens as rain. Although it is always the same itself, it produces so many different effects. One in the tree, another in the rose bush, still another in the vine, and so in the whole of creation. Remaining essentially the same, the rain adapts itself to the needs of each creature that receives it with the openness of absorbing life.

In the same way, Your Spirit, Lord, remaining absolutely simple in its integrity, apportions its grace upon each Member of Congress. Your Spirit makes one a teacher of honest facts; another a visionary of the future; to another, the ability to remove obstacles; and yet another the art of compromise. Still others respond with a depth of spirituality and service not easily recognized.

May all respond to this plenitude and accomplish great deeds for this Nation, revealing Your glory at work in the world now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WHO'S THE "CHUMP" IN THE OIL GAME?

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, we have a situation today where Americans are paying almost \$4 a gallon for gasoline. This morning, Goldman Sachs announced that oil is going to go up to \$150 to \$200 a barrel, which means that it is not going to stop at \$4. It will be about \$5 or \$6.

Now, think about this: This is a tremendous boom to Iran and Iraq. Iran will gain enormous wealth and political influence. Iraq will get even more revenue than the \$72 billion they're anticipating this year. They got \$100 billion over the last couple of years, much of it our money.

And yet Americans have already contributed over half a trillion dollars to Iraq's economy. Within the next couple of weeks, we'll appropriate another \$170 billion. Iraqis are getting a surplus of oil revenue from us and yet we are paying to pick up their garbage and train their security forces when they've got surpluses they don't even know what to do with.

Who's the chump in this picture, Madam Speaker?

LET'S BE CAUTIOUS WITH MORTGAGE BAIL-OUT PROGRAMS

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, before I came to Congress, I had an opportunity to serve my constituents in a different way. I was a home builder, a land developer, and even a mortgage lender. I know firsthand some of the problems that the real estate industry and the housing industry is facing today.

Ninety-four percent of the American homeowners are paying their mortgage