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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "Open my eyes, Lord, that I may see the wonders of Your law."

The longest of the Psalms, Psalm 119, studies many facets of law so that people down through the ages would be fascinated by the full impact of the law's meaning.

The law's deepest impression, however, comes when Your law is taken to heart. Law then becomes the pulsating rhythm that unites people in every step of every day. Law transforms the source of breathing in freedom and exhaling corruption.

Your law, O Lord, brings fulfillment to the individual and salvation to society.

Bless and guide the lawmakers of this Chamber and of this land now and forever. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIRES 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### HOUSE DEMOCRATS RESTORE FISCAL SANITY TO D.C. BY PASSING BUDGET THAT IS BALANCED BY 2012

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

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, this week the House will vote on a final budget conference agreement that charts a new way forward for our country. It is the first budget agreement reached in an election year since the Clinton administration and restores fiscal sanity to a process that has been out of control since President Bush came to Washington in 2001. Unlike past Republican budgets, our budget returns to surplus in 2012.

The new budget makes investments in energy, education, and infrastructure, while also providing tax relief to middle class families. The agreement does not include any new tax increases. In fact, it does support significant tax relief for middle class families, including extension of marriage penalty tax relief, the child tax credit, and the continuation of the 10 percent tax bracket. It also includes an additional year of the alternative minimum tax relief.

The budget also ensures that veterans get the quality health care they need and protects our homeland. It also rejects cuts proposed by the President to important first responder programs like the COPS program.

Madam Speaker, this budget deserves strong bipartisan support.

### PROTECT AMERICAN FAMILIES FROM MEXICAN DRUG GANGS

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the New York Times reports that our Mexican allies are now engaged in a life-or-death struggle against massive drug

cartels. These cartels assassinated the Mexican FBI Director and now threaten the President's life. President Calderon has asked us for help, and for the safety and security of American families, we must.

If you see a red star on this map, it means that our Drug Enforcement Agency says that a Mexican drug gang is operating in your congressional district. If you see a green star, like in Las Vegas, Chicago, San Francisco, it means the DEA knows that the drug gangs have a command-and-control center in your congressional district.

Last month the gangs of Mexico topped their murder of hundreds of Mexican police officers with a new practice: beheading people and leaving their heads in coolers. It would be naive to think that such violence remains just south of our border.

That's why Congress should fully fund the Merida Law Enforcement Initiative.

### DEMOCRATS HAVE A STRONG RECORD OF TRYING TO LOWER OUR NATION'S GAS PRICES

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, the record price of gasoline is pinching the wallets of every American. It seems every day the price hits another record. Since day one this Democratic House has been committed to lowering prices at the pump and adopting a smarter energy future.

Thanks to a Democratic Congress, President Bush finally agreed to temporarily suspend sending oil to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, a move that will instantly lower gas prices by about a quarter when it goes into effect by the end of this month.

Thanks to this Democratic Congress, the Federal Trade Commission recently agreed to implement the market

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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manipulation authority that it was given in an energy law that we passed last year. This agreement should ensure that the U.S. petroleum market is free from price and supply manipulation.

Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration would have never acted on these two issues had it not been for the persistence of this Democratic Congress. We will continue to pressure the administration and congressional Republicans to join us in lowering gas prices.

#### THE TIDE IS TURNING: AMERICANS SUPPORT INCREASING OUR DOMESTIC ENERGY SUPPLY

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, gas is over \$4 a gallon and people are upset. According to a May 20 Gallup poll, 57 percent of Americans support drilling in U.S. coastal and wilderness areas that are now off-limits. The tide is turning. Americans know we can solve this problem of high gas prices.

Just this week the Sioux City Journal reported the results of what they called the "most important election in the county's history." By a solid 58-42 percent, the voters of Union County approved a zoning ordinance that will keep alive the county's chances of landing the Nation's first oil refinery in 32 years. They know we need to increase our energy supply, and that's why I introduced the Refinery Streamlined Permitting Act, H.R. 2471, a bill that would require agencies to give high priority to refinery applications that would result in greater capacity, a cleaner-burning fuel, and a reduction in refinery's pollution output.

Mr. Speaker, Americans need substantive solutions to secure our Nation's energy future. Let's join together in our efforts to open up the coasts, the wilderness areas, and drill for more oil to increase our domestic supply and bring down the price of gasoline.

#### REPUBLICAN LEADERS OPPOSE OUR EFFORTS TO LOWER RECORD HIGH GAS PRICES AT THE PUMP

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, the American people do continue to face record high gas prices, and this Democratic Congress has acted and will continue to act on legislation, commonsense legislation, that will reduce the price at the pump. Only now we need to get the support of President Bush and our friends on the Republican side of the aisle who seem content on pursuing the same failed policies that got us here in the first place.

Over the last couple of months, this House has passed 9 bills that would

lower gas prices. While we received a little bit of bipartisan support, the majority of our friends on the Republican side have opposed those 8 bills.

House Republicans said "no" to legislation that would enable the Justice Department to take legal action against foreign nations manipulating the price of oil. House Republicans said "no" to legislation that would give the Federal Trade Commission the authority to investigate and punish those who are artificially inflating the price of gas.

Mr. Speaker, our friends on the Republican side of the aisle need to realize that saying "no" is not an energy policy.

#### THE PRICE OF GASOLINE: CONGRESS MUST TAKE ACTION TO LOWER GAS PRICES

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, traveling through my district in west and middle Tennessee this past week, gasoline and the price at the pump are what everybody is talking about. Busy moms in Tennessee are now spending about \$240 to fill the minivan up every month. That's about \$100 more than it was when the Democrats took control of the gavels in both the Senate and the House.

Well, the Congress must stop talking and they must take action so that we can solve this problem.

Government has been and continues to be a roadblock when it comes to lowering gas prices. Republicans want to incentivize efficiency and innovation. We want to incentivize and promote production of American energy resources for an American solution to this problem. We want to incentivize ingenuity. We are innovators. We can solve this problem when we put our best minds to it.

And there are some concrete steps that we could and should take now, things that we have supported, like repealing and delaying the ethanol mandates; taking advantage of our natural resources, western shale, ANWR.

Mr. Speaker, families are calling out for relief. Let's take action.

□ 0945

#### DEMOCRATS TAKE ACTION ON RECORD HIGH GAS PRICES AT THE PUMP

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, as the price of gasoline continues to hit record prices almost every week, congressional Democrats continue to pass legislation to help us reduce our dependence on foreign oil and lower prices at the pump. Unfortunately, the only solution President Bush and congressional Republicans come up with is

more drilling. They ignore the fact that drilling in the U.S. has recently exploded. Since 2000, the number of wells that have been drilled in this country has increased by about 66 percent, while the price at the pump for the consumer has more than doubled.

President Bush and congressional Republicans also continue to push drilling in the Arctic Refuge. Again, they ignore experts who say that opening the refuge for drilling would produce only about 6-months' worth of oil and it wouldn't be available for another 10 years. How is that a strategy for lower prices today?

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats know that American families are feeling squeezed every time they head to the gas station. That is why we continue to pass legislation that should help ease the pain at the pump. It would be nice if the President would support these efforts.

#### BAD POLICY HAS BANNED DRILLING OFFSHORE

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

Ms. FALLIN. If I told you that a loaf of bread was \$4, and there was plenty of wheat growing right here, but you said I could not harvest it, then I would be right to call you illogical. If I told you that you could bake more bread with a new oven, except that your rules say we can't build it, then I'd be right to say that your rules are hurting consumers. If I told you I needed to keep my bakery profits to expand my production, and you tax them away to "punish" me for market forces beyond my control, then you would be the one to blame for the rising bread prices.

Sounds silly, doesn't it? Unfortunately, this pretty much sums up our current energy policies. Just substitute gas for bread.

Bad policy has banned drilling offshore in Alaska where there are huge oil reserves. Bad policy has curtailed refinery construction. Bad policy taxes productivity, reduces the capital needed for new production, and the same basic rules of economics apply to bread and energy. When bad policies block production, you have shortages, and prices go up and people get hurt.

#### PASS THE NEW GI BILL

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, how we treat those who serve this country abroad in our Armed Forces says a lot about this Nation. The greatest gift that we can give to those men and women who are returning to the United States from Iraq and Afghanistan and the fields of battle is an education with the passage of the new GI Bill. When I went to Iraq last year, the troops said this version of the