

lower gas prices by developing the resources of our land in an environmentally safe way. This is an approach that is supported by some 60 percent of the American people in a recent Gallup poll. But the majority won't listen.

Instead, they let gas prices surge even higher by refusing to schedule a plan to break America's dependence on foreign sources of energy. Mr. Speaker, I think American consumers deserve better. It is time to develop the resources of our land and bring down gas prices on behalf of American families and small businesses. And that, as Webster said, would be "worthy to be remembered."

THE SECRET RESOURCES OF INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL, CREATIVITY, AND INNOVATION

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased my friend, Mr. BOEHNER, made reference to the idea of "promoting our resources," a quote from Daniel Webster.

What is the single resource that America has, the only resource that America has that can really bring down the price of fuel and break our addiction to Middle Eastern oil? There is one secret resource that we can promote. And that is the resource of intellectual capital, creativity, and innovation. We know that just poking more holes in the ground cannot solve this problem. We have got 25 percent of the world's oil. We have 3 percent of the oil in our land.

What can solve this problem is innovation, innovation like the A123 Battery Company in Boston that is going to allow us to drive electric cars, Phoenix Motorcars, Inc., that is going to have an electric car that will get 100 miles just on an electrical charge, the Sapphire Energy Company that has developed a gasoline from algae-based sources. We need to develop the resource of intellectual capital.

The optimists on this side of the aisle are doing that. The pessimists on this side of the aisle want to remain addicted to gasoline. That is a path that is doomed to failure. Let's be optimists and solve this problem.

WHERE IS THE MAJORITY'S ENERGY PLAN?

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, what is the deal? Lately when I've been in South Carolina, I have been talking to a lot of frustrated folks. And they are frustrated because they are watching their hard-earned paychecks burn up in their gas tanks. And I'm frustrated because I know there is no energy plan to help these families.

Two years ago the Democrats said they would introduce a commonsense plan to help the energy crisis. And today, when the Americans need it most, when they're paying \$4 a gallon for gas, there is no energy plan. Yet I stand here today week after week, as I am doing, asking my friends on the Democrat side, "Where is the plan?" I have only seen plan 1, and that has been drafted by the Republican party.

Are my Democrat colleagues not hearing the pleas of the American public about high gas prices? Do they not travel to their respective districts and talk to their citizens? Have they not heard the public's frustration? Or do they choose to ignore them?

As Members of Congress, it is our duty to solve the problem. And it is just not good enough to tell them, "We have no plan."

THE NEW GI BILL

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, in the coming days, the House will once again consider the new GI Bill which restores the promise of a 4-year college scholarship for Iraq and Afghan veterans, similar to the educational benefits available after World War II. The original GI Bill of 1944 allowed millions of families to achieve the American Dream and set the economy on the right course after a draining war.

After World War II, for every dollar spent on the GI Bill, \$7 was returned to the economy. The new GI Bill will spark yet another American economic recovery, one that is needed during this time of economic uncertainty with skyrocketing gas prices and food prices and devastating job losses.

But even more importantly, it will fulfill our promise to our military personnel that if they serve their country in war, they will receive a quality education at home. The current benefit simply does not live up to that promise. Mr. Speaker, while President Bush and his Republican allies remain strong advocates for continuing the war in Iraq, it is important that they join us in keeping this important promise to our Nation's troops.

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BRING DOWN GAS PRICES BY INCREASING SUPPLY

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, one day we will end our dependence on foreign oil and empower our economy with alternative sources of energy. But until that day comes, we have to do everything in our power to strengthen our economy by making energy more affordable by increasing domestic American production. Roughly 70 percent of

what we pay at the pumps comes from the price of oil in the global market, which is driven by relationships between supply and demand.

To lower gas prices, we have to use American energy resources. Right now, the U.S. produces 41 percent of the petroleum we use. We can do much better than that. Just by opening up a small portion of Alaska for oil production, we can recover 15 years of Saudi Arabian crude oil. By streamlining rules for energy exploration off the Outer Continental Shelf, we can access roughly 115 billion barrels of oil, enough oil to power 60 million cars for 60 years.

With gas prices over \$4 a gallon, this Congress must act. We have to increase supply. Doing anything else would be irresponsible.

AIRLINE REORGANIZATION THREATENING MEMPHIS BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this morning's Memphis Commercial Appeal had distressing news for our city. Delta Airlines had canceled part of its contract with Pinnacle Airlines, an airline that had 1,000 jobs in our community. The stock price fell 25 percent, and the newspaper reported that stockholders are concerned about the continued existence of the business.

If the merger takes place and Delta and Northwest merge, it is entirely possible that Delta will cancel the remaining portion of Pinnacle's business with Northwest AirlinK, where they serve many customers through Northwest Airlines. That would be devastating to the Memphis economy and possibly cost us thousands of jobs.

I am very concerned, and plan to call Delta Airlines to find out why this contract was cancelled, what possibly could happen, how this merger would affect those 1,000 people, and if possibly re-regulation of the airlines is in order to make sure that abrupt changes in contracts that might cause irreparable harm and immediate damage can't take place if they threaten an industry and an employer in my district such as Pinnacle Airlines.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the future of this large business in my community, and plan to look into it for the benefit of the employers and my overall business community.

TAKING NEEDED ACTION ON ENERGY

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has placed a significant burden on American families. Now they are having to decide whether to buy food or gasoline. The price of both has increased significantly in the past 6 months.

Now back in my district they are having to defend themselves from opportunistic, gas-grabbing criminals. Thieves are actually posting Internet videos discussing how to steal gas from cars. The kind of information that used to be shared in the prison yard has made its way into the "broadcast yourself" genre of Web sites. It is shocking, but it is not really surprising, because we have ignored the issue of providing a supply of energy in this country.

Americans may have given up on waiting for the majority party to ease the pain at the pump, so Americans may just file this under "desperate times call for desperate measures."

The Speaker may be able to ignore the Members who have asked for something to be done to address gas prices, primarily on the supply side. Eventually the consequences of the blatant disregard for rising prices is going to come home. Let's hope, let's hope, that this Speaker, this majority party, will take action before our families get robbed by thieves in the middle of the night.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, June 14, the Orange County Water District will celebrate its 75th anniversary. Along with the other members of the Orange County delegation, I introduced House Resolution 1199 to honor this significant occasion.

The Orange County Water District's 75th anniversary is particularly meaningful as it comes just months after we opened up the largest groundwater treatment replenishment system in the Nation on January 10, 2007. The replenishment system is on the cutting edge of water reuse technology. It will purify 70 million gallons of water a day, providing clean water to over 100,000 families in Orange County.

The vision and the initiative by the District in establishing the groundwater replenishment system is the reason it received the 2008 Clair A. Hill Award and was named the Public Water Agency of the Year in 2008.

The District is a leader in identifying and creating new and exciting options to meet the water needs of California, of the Nation and of the world, and I hope that this resolution will make its way to this House quickly.

WE HAVE A PLAN

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Americans are puzzled; puzzled why gas prices have topped \$4 per

gallon and why House Democrats have done nothing. They are puzzled why America sits on an estimated untapped reserve of 175 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 1.1 trillion barrels of oil, and yet we remain increasingly dependent on foreign oil.

The American people should know that there is a plan in Washington for energy independence. Republicans have a comprehensive strategy of exploration, innovation and conservation that will set America on a positive track. We have the tools and capacity to put our plan into motion. All we need are Democrats to step forward, join us, and tell the American people that Washington is no longer going to stand in the way of energy exploration in this country, that the short-term and long-term strategic and economic value of investing in America is our first priority.

Republicans have a plan. What remains to be seen is what the Democrats will do.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

FALSE REPUBLICAN RHETORIC ON ENERGY SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing a lot of talk this week about high energy prices. The Republican talking point for the week is that Democrats are causing high gas prices because we won't allow drilling. That is false rhetoric.

It is the oil companies that are choosing not to drill on 80 percent of the leases already available for drilling in Alaska. It is the oil companies that are choosing not to increase drilling in the Naval Petroleum Reserve, one of the largest petroleum reserves in the Nation and one that President Clinton made available for drilling.

Meanwhile, it is the Democrats who have put 70,000 more barrels of oil per day on to the market by halting shipments to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. It is the Democrats that have passed legislation that would allow OPEC to be investigated for price fixing, legislation that the President has threatened to veto.

It is time to stop the rhetoric, Mr. Speaker. I challenge the President to demand fair play from OPEC and the Republican Party to stand up for the American people and not Big Oil.

FAILED ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would just echo what my colleague from South Carolina said. Where is the plan?

If the Democrats do not have a plan to lower energy costs for the American people, please bring some of the Republican proposals that we have already designed and which will begin to bring immediate relief.

The other night I had a teletown hall meeting and I was listening to the people in the 19th Congressional District of Texas. One person said, Congressman, I have to drive 100 miles every day to go to my job. She said, my gasoline has gone up, but my paycheck has not.

The most disturbing news was the gentleman who said, Congressman, I have to get dialysis three times a week. I have to drive 70 miles each way. He said, now I am down to trying to decide whether I am going to be able to buy food, gasoline, or the treatment for my diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Democratic majority, who promised the American people a plan, to bring that plan to this House floor, instead of important legislation like we voted on yesterday, supporting the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation. I know the American people are going to be very comforted that this body took up that legislation, and not energy legislation that would have brought relief for high energy costs.

HISTORIC JUMP IN JOB LOSSES REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ACTION

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, every month this year the Bush administration and the Bush economy has shed more jobs than it has produced, leaving millions of American workers competing against each other for the remaining jobs. We haven't seen this many people enter unemployment so quickly in over three decades.

Today, the House will consider providing up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits to workers who have exhausted the 26 weeks of regular benefits. The bill will provide relief to American families struggling through these tough economic times.

Unemployment benefits are also important to economic recovery, with absolutely every dollar of the benefit checks going right back into the economy. And while the economy continues to weaken and costs for gasoline and food skyrocket every day, the need for government help is clear.

Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues continue to oppose these efforts to assist millions of out-of-work Americans, even though they supported a similar extension in 2002, when job loss numbers were not nearly as bad as they are today.

Mr. Speaker, as our economy continues to face tough times, Washington should explore every possible option to help those struggling. That is exactly what Democrats will do today in Congress, extend those benefits.