

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN of Virginia). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

SUPPORT THE NO MORE EXCUSES ENERGY ACT

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday the Investor's Business Daily printed an editorial entitled "The Drill Nothing Congress." Here is a short quote from it.

"It is a problem driven by domestic supply restrictions imposed by the Democratic Congress in the face of growing worldwide demand. The Democrats preach energy independence while they do everything in their power to prevent it." The problem they are speaking of is \$4 a gallon gasoline.

The American people are fed up with a Congress that can't seem to respond to one of their most basic concerns. People are tired of Democrat leaders blocking action to bring down skyrocketing gas prices. So we have introduced a discharge petition to force a vote on the No More Excuses Energy Act. We need to increase domestic production of energy in order to bring down the price of gas at the pump.

I urge all my colleagues to sign on to the discharge petition and support the bill when it comes to the floor of the House. There is no excuse not to.

HISTORIC JUMP IN JOB LOSSES DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ACTION

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote to extend unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks to help workers out as they continue to look for a job.

Mr. Speaker, the grim numbers of five consecutive months of job losses is yet another sign that President Bush's economic policies have utterly failed the American people. The unemployment rate has surged from 5 percent in April to 5.5 percent in May, representing the biggest one month jump in more than 2 decades, and climbing to the highest level in nearly 4 years.

These statistics are not just numbers to more than 1.5 million Americans who have seen their unemployment benefits expire simply because there are not enough jobs to go around. So today the House will vote to extend unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks to help these workers. Demo-

crats have been pushing to extend unemployment benefits since the beginning of the year, but have faced stiff opposition from the President and congressional Republicans.

Mr. Speaker, with job losses so far this year totaling 324,000, American families can wait no longer. Thanks to this Democratic Congress, today we are going to get some relief.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RESPONSE, ELECTED OFFICIALS, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND EVERYDAY HOOSIERS

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is said that if a picture is worth 1,000 words, this picture tells the tale of the worst series of storms to strike southern Indiana in 100 years.

I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions, though, of emergency management, disaster response, elected officials, community leaders and everyday Hoosiers in my district during this last week of devastating weather. I particularly want to honor EMA directors, sheriffs, mayors and county officials in Rush, Johnson and Bartholomew counties, Indiana.

They suffered greatly from tornados, heavy rains, flooding, creating a catastrophe that awaits additional presidential response, but this catastrophe did not await the response by these public servants. They went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise, saving lives and serving the people of their communities.

Hoosier communities and families are hurting and need to know that more help is on the way. As I rise to commend these government officials and everyday Hoosiers for their response, I urge this administration again to declare an expedited major disaster for all 44 counties of Indiana affected by these historic storms.

DC CENTRAL KITCHEN AND THE CAMPUS KITCHENS PROJECT

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I visited DC Central Kitchen, where I learned about an innovative program, the Campus Kitchens Project. This is a program that uses high school and college dining facilities when the kitchen is normally closed to prepare meals for area soup kitchens and shelters.

College and high school students involved in this program take a large leadership role in starting and maintaining the kitchens. Campus Kitchens

helps feed hungry people in our communities today, while building tomorrow's leaders committed to ending hunger.

Hunger is a political condition, and we need government action to end it, but we also need people from all sectors dedicated to doing more to end hunger. There are over 400 high schools and 100 colleges in Massachusetts alone. If each school organized a group to fight hunger in their community, just think of what could be done.

I congratulate DC Central Kitchen and the Campus Kitchens project for their work, and I thank the staff and students for their commitment to ending hunger.

INCREASING AMERICAN JOBS AND ENERGY PRODUCTION RESPONSIBLY

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, people in southwest Louisiana understand that increasing American energy production means more American jobs, good high-paying American jobs.

They also know that a magic bullet will not lower the price at the pump for families, but increasing American energy production in a responsible way will help, and it will create American jobs. The American people want to increase energy production in a responsible, environmentally friendly way.

They want to see unleashing of American entrepreneurship and ingenuity. They don't want any further delays in seeking energy independence, and they know that this is in the interest of national security.

Families in southwest Louisiana and across the country want to see solutions to the high prices at the pump, and Republicans have viable answers to this. We have introduced a number of bills. The American people are now asking the Democratic leadership in Washington if they have solutions, because so far they haven't seen any.

Now, the Democratic Presidential nominee suggests to CNBC's John Harwood yesterday that while the U.S. would be better off without such a shock in gas prices, he sees higher prices as a good thing.

I don't get it. I just don't get it. We can work together to solve this problem. We can decrease America's dependence on foreign sources. It's a sensible thing to do, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this quest.

DEMOCRATS TAKE ACTION ON RECORD HIGH GAS PRICES AT THE PUMP

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, as the prices at the pump continue to hit record highs, House Democrats know that the

American people are struggling with these outrageously high prices. Some people are having to choose between buying gasoline and food. Others cannot afford to go to work.

Before the Bush administration conducted the bombing, the war and the occupation of Iraq, the price of gasoline was as low as \$1.35 per gallon. Now it's over \$4 per gallon. Oil was \$23 a barrel. Now it's over \$130 a barrel. There is no way, no way you can convince the American people that the price at the pump is not related to this misguided war and occupation of Iraq.

The effects of the Bush-Iraq recession, and that is what it is, are devastating our economy and wreaking havoc on the lives of families and children. It's time our Republican friends in the Bush administration join us in supporting our legislation to bring down the price of gasoline, and it is time to end the war and occupation of Iraq.

Believe me, this will bring down the price of gasoline at the pump.

HURRICANE SEASON

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, June 1 marked the beginning of yet another hurricane season, and experts have predicted a 90 percent probability of either a near-normal or an above-normal hurricane season. They estimate that six to nine hurricanes will form, including two to five major hurricanes.

Approximately 50 percent of all Americans live along our coasts. As a result of that, millions, millions face great risk associated with these storms that we know are going to be out there. Having a hurricane preparedness plan can help lessen and mitigate some of those dangers.

The National Hurricane Center recommends that people in hurricane-prone areas assemble a disaster supply kit that includes a first aid kit, essential medications, canned foods and at least 3 gallons of water per day per person for the minimum of 3 days. Obviously, extra battery-powered radios, extra batteries, and flashlights are also recommended.

As we have learned in south Florida, the forecasters, meteorologists, and the hurricane specialists at the National Hurricane Center are often the best source of the most valuable and reliable information on preparedness. I urge all Americans to prepare for this hurricane season and to listen to what the forecasters have to say.

STRUGGLING TO FIND JOBS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we are coming to a moment of truth in a

few hours for every Member of the House of Representatives. The truth is that every congressional district across the country, individuals and groups of people are struggling to find jobs in an economy cut down by a senseless, wasteful war, overwhelming energy prices, rising food prices and just bad business fundamentals.

People can't find jobs because there aren't enough of them. The truth is 4 million have exhausted their unemployment benefits already and things could get even worse unless we pass the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2008.

The truth is the American people elected us to serve them, and the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act will be a test of whether the Members remember who they really work for, the people or Big Oil. We are hours away from a moment of truth.

Vote for this bill, H.R. 5749, because Americans who work every day and lose their job through no fault of their own are entitled to a helping hand from their government.

HAMMERED BY THE HIGH COST OF FUEL AND GASOLINE

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

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, families and businesses are being hammered by the high cost of fuel and gasoline. This issue is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue, it's an American issue. It's an issue that our families and our consumers and our businesses want us to address, and that is the rising cost of gasoline.

A CNN poll recently stated that more than half of Americans are being forced to cut back significantly on their household spending. Another news report stated that 10 percent of the American companies are expecting to cut back their workforce.

One other national company stated that it was cutting 15 percent of its white collar jobs over the next 2 months. Families in my district can barely afford to commute to work. I had one family tell me that between the father commuting to his job, and the mother to her job, and the two children back and forth to college and high school, that they are spending \$700 a month on gasoline.

Parents are struggling with buying groceries, food costs. Family farms are struggling. They are trying to get their products to the market with the high cost of fuel, which has tripled. Small businesses are struggling with their services and their products and their customers that have decreased.

The question we have to ask ourselves is what kind of future will our children and our grandchildren have if this Congress takes no action to produce more U.S. energy. The lack of production of sufficient U.S. energy is

dangerous for our national economy and dangerous for our U.S. national security.

HIGH PRICE OF GASOLINE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, where is a good Samaritan? My friends are talking about the high price of gasoline. Can you imagine the impact on those who have exhausted their unemployment, people who have built this Nation, hard-working Americans.

Do you recognize that just this past week, unfortunately, with embarrassment, the administration had to announce that unemployment rose 5 percent in April, 5.5 percent in May, 49,000 jobs were lost. Where is the good Samaritan?

That is why today Democrats will stand on the floor of the House and stand alongside of working Americans and extend the unemployment benefits for those families who have exhausted all of their resources, this will go into March 2009, helping the bus driver, the nurse, helping those who are working with their hands, who have families to support, who can barely get gasoline.

Can you imagine being unemployed through no fault of your own, and this administration does not want to offer the extension of unemployment benefits? Today the good Samaritan will be on the floor of the House. We will debate this question. We will pass this bill. The President will sign it, and we will give relief to hard-working Americans.

ENERGY PLAN

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I had a constituent come up to me over the weekend and say Congress has no energy plan. I corrected that person. The Democrats' leadership is no energy.

Just in the last few months, Congress has voted under their leadership to take shale from Colorado and Wyoming off limits for extracting the oil. Last week coal-to-liquid for aviation fuel was banned. The Air Force is not allowed to enter into a long-term contract to buy that type of synthetic fuel. We are going backwards.

The reality is if we bring all of our resources together, yes, conservation, yes, alternative fuels, and open up the resources that we have right here in America offshore where there is a moratorium that Congress can lift, a moratorium that was imposed by Congress on shale oil that can be lifted by Congress, and in Alaska where Congress can lift that moratorium, if we combine all of those resources, we can be free of OPEC. It is time for a real energy policy where we free our resources for American-made energy.