

the estimates of the Minerals Management Service are that they could access 80 percent of the available oil off the shores of the United States of America from their existing leases. They just don't want to do it. Now, why might that be?

Well, maybe it has something to do with their making piles of money the way it is. So why would they want to provide relief to the American consumer by cutting into their obscene profits?

Second, there's some pressure on that side to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. There may be a fair amount of oil under there. We don't really know. There was one exploratory well drilled 30-some-odd years ago. Proprietary. No one knows. But we do know that right next-door to the west of the pipeline is a vast area that used to be called the Naval Petroleum Reserve. Why was it called that? Because we know there is a huge amount of oil under there. We've known that for 70 years. In fact, Bill Clinton, as President, decided to lease that to the industry to bring on line over 10 billion barrels of oil, of U.S. oil, for the American people.

Now, first, of course, we have to do away with the little loophole the Republicans created when they allowed the ban on the export of Alaska oil to lapse. I have a bill, and I've had a bill for a number of years to reinstate a bill on the ban of the export of Alaska oil.

But how about that known 10-billion-barrel reserve? The oil industry has drilled 25 exploratory wells and then has capped them, and they have no plans to provide transit from there to the existing pipeline, which is just to the east of that reserve.

So how about the industry takes some of the 20-30 billion barrels that are available off of their existing leases that could double our domestic supply for the next 20 years and then develop that? Then we can talk about more leases or, hopefully, by then, we will have transited into a new energy future that isn't going to require the same massive amounts of oil that the current economy requires.

There is something else the Republicans have left out. Had we started down a new energy path after 9/11, the lesson there would have been we don't want to be dependent upon the Middle East and Saudi Arabia. Most of those were Saudis who attacked us.

Who's giving hundreds of billions of dollars a year to the Saudis? Well, unfortunately, American consumers are, and we're dependent upon them, and the President goes over and begs for oil. Even though they're violating international law, he won't file complaints against them. We treat them with kid gloves. We need to be free of those people, so we need to be looking toward a different energy future, but in the short term, we don't need to be price-gouged, which brings up a third point which the Republicans don't want to address.

It's estimated that 50 cents of every gallon today is pure speculation for Wall Street. We could do away with that by closing the Enron loophole. Remember Ken-Boy Lay, the President's principal financier throughout his political career? He's dead now. Ken-Boy ran Enron. He wrote our energy policy behind closed doors with DICK CHENEY. Enron is bankrupt, but the Enron loophole lives on, and other major firms on Wall Street—Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and others—are now fully utilizing that loophole.

According to today's Washington Times, 99 percent of the premium crude in America is controlled not by ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, and others but by Wall Street and futures speculation. They're making a pile of money at the cost to American consumers. So let's close that loophole. But, no, the Republicans never want to take on Big Oil and make them do what they should do, which is to develop existing leases which they're sitting on, and they don't want to take on Wall Street and close the loophole that was created for Enron's Ken-Boy Lay, the President's best buddy.

Those are things we could do to provide short-term relief of, virtually immediately, 50 cents a gallon. Then in the medium and short term, by developing the 6,391 offshore oil leases and the former Naval Petroleum Reserve, with known reserves of over 10 billion barrels, we could make them develop that. Use it or lose it.

I think we're going to have a discussion about that later this week. Let's see where the Republicans come down on that. These are already let leases, and they can be developed much more quickly than new leases could be. Let's see what they're really all about.

ENERGY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, it is great to be on the floor today. You know, just because it's said on the floor doesn't mean it's true, and there are a lot of people who've discussed things today and who've discussed things throughout the debate, and so let's start talking about facts.

I've been on the floor numerous times to talk about energy, and I've softened my discussions. I used to talk about the Pelosi premium. I've kind of gone away from that because, really, the problem is a problem of supply. So I go back to the Bush administration, to January 2001, where a barrel of crude oil was \$23. You know, I just want to be honest. I want to talk about supply and demand. I want to get away from the partisan wrangle and address what we really need to address—lower gas prices—which is to bring on more supply. As we talk about these bills that are going to come forward this week, they do nothing for supply, and we'll talk about why that is.

Then when this new majority came in and since Bush has come in, the price has doubled to \$58 a barrel. Now, I didn't have time to update today's crude oil price, but as of Thursday of last week, it was \$136 a barrel, which is over double the \$58. The trend line is negative. The trend line is not a positive thing. So the debate is how do we change the trend line. How do we get to a price where we at least stabilize the price of a barrel of crude oil? Then how do we help that effect the lowering of gas prices?

I live in the bi-State area between St. Louis and Illinois where it's \$4.17 a gallon. So, even if we're assuming the promise of the Speaker that we drop it by 50 cents on speculation, we're still paying \$3.85 or \$3.75. I mean it is still way too high for people in rural America to get to work, to go to school, to get in the fields. Diesel prices have doubled. It's way too high. Even if we assume the promise of speculation at 50 cents, which I reject, that's still way too high. We need to bring on more supply. This is a problem.

So, when you have a problem, you need to start really addressing credible solutions, not scapegoating, not trying to find blame. What do we need to do as a country? We've brought this to the floor numerous times. As for the Outer Continental Shelf, I think the public is now there. The national polls are clear. The Outer Continental Shelf is over 50 miles off the coast. You can't see it from the coastline.

What is more hazardous to our beaches and to our tourism are super tankers that are bringing crude oil from around the world, super tankers that are then having a wreck or are having a disaster where that crude oil is then washing to shore. The exploration off the east coast, off the west coast and off the eastern gulf of billions of barrels of oil that are trillions of cubic feet is not debatable anymore. It is accepted, in principle, by the American public. It was put off access by this Congress years ago.

This year, through the appropriations cycle, we can change this. We can say: Let's encourage our business and industry. Let's go into the Outer Continental Shelf. Let's explore for oil and gas, wind and solar. The great thing about the Republican policy is that we want everything, more of everything. We want wind. There's going to be a big wind generation facility built in my district, and I welcome it. We want solar. I want to encourage tax incentives for people to put solar cells on their homes. All of the above is a solution.

If you'll look to the far right, I have a bigger chart of fuel from coal. The Germans did it in World War II with the Fischer-Tropsch technology. We can do it today. In Illinois alone, there are 250 years of BTU ability, the same as Saudi Arabia's. Then there are renewable fuels. In December, this Congress passed an expansion in renewable fuels, hoping cellulosic comes on. Add

that to corn-based ethanol, to biodiesel and to soy diesel. All of the above is our solution and is American made.

The great thing about this: American jobs exploring the OCS, American jobs building the wind and the solar panels, American jobs mining the coal and refining the coal, American jobs in the farm fields across America.

In an era when we are concerned about jobs and the dollar, it makes sense to invest in America, in American energy sources and in American jobs.

AVAILABLE AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY

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

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, everywhere in Wisconsin, people are asking for help to cut the cost for gasoline and diesel fuels. People are having a tough time just keeping their heads above water, paying one out of four of their paychecks toward gas just to get to work. We must do everything possible to make certain gas and oil become more affordable. During the past year, I've been listening to everyone involved in the oil industry, and one thing is clear. Current oil prices are not explainable by normal marketplace forces of supply and demand. Why are gas prices so high?

Well, there are many reasons, including increased demand from China and India and the declining value of the dollar, but these reasons alone do not explain today's surging oil prices.

While ignoring cries for help from ordinary people, President Bush and Vice President CHENEY—the two oil men in the White House—have been unwilling to investigate the anticompetitive activities of big oil companies and speculators in large investment banks. Their only response to the surge in oil prices has been to beg for more addictive oil from the Arabian kings in the Middle East, even though last year, as we emptied our pockets, Saudi Arabia enjoyed a windfall of \$500 billion.

We cannot afford to follow the advice of the White House oil men and of their supporters. For, if we do, we will become not just bankrupt but a nation of beggars.

Aside from begging, the White House oil men also offered more of the same losing ideas that caused this mess in the first place: More drilling rights for Big Oil. Their old school drilling idea is shortsighted as it requires years—years, not weeks—to explore, pump, refine, and deliver gasoline and diesel fuels. We need gas price relief now, not next year. Here is how we get started.

First, we need leaders who will stand up to Big Oil and who will provide the necessary oversight to the oil markets to prevent speculators from manipulating prices for their own benefit. On June 23, just yesterday, an Oppenheimer equity research expert, Mr. Gyte, testified before an Energy

and Commerce subcommittee, focusing on oil price manipulation.

In his words, "I believe the surge in crude oil price, which more than doubled in the past 12 months, was mainly due to excessive speculation and not due to an unexpected shift in market fundamentals."

His testimony and that of others is that speculative manipulation in the oil futures market is real and that, by designing effective regulation of the oil markets, prices for oil may decline immediately, anywhere from \$45 to \$65 a barrel immediately, not in 10 years.

Based upon all of the information available today, the first and best choice for Congress is to prepare appropriate legislative and regulatory actions, which, according to experts, will drop prices dramatically in several weeks.

In addition to better oversight of the oil markets, Congress must begin to invest in the development of reliable and affordable energy resources. We can do this by continuing to drill for new oil on Federal lands already leased to American oil companies even as we invest in renewable sources of energy using solar, wind, geothermal, cellulosic, and biomass-based technologies. We must also ask: Is it time to build new and more modern nuclear sources of electricity?

By investing in these new renewable energy resources, we will create millions of new, higher waged jobs, and we will develop what we've been talking about—the green economy right here at home—as we become an energy independent Nation.

We cannot neglect again to mention the OPEC kingdoms, which have been manipulating both world oil prices and supplies for years. To push back against their illegal manipulation of the oil market, I sponsored and passed major legislation that will, in time, bust up the oil cartels and will reestablish a freely competitive marketplace to make prices reasonable once again for everyone.

What is it? What is it that my colleagues on the other side have against free markets? Simply put, we cannot continue to be held hostage by OPEC and by the manipulative partners in Big Oil.

The final piece to solving the surge in oil price is the declining value of the dollar. Here, you see a picture form of the dollar in 2000, when President Bush took office, declining by 38 percent in the last year. In several more months of this economic activity of borrow and spend, you will be able to take your dollar, paste it with some glue on an envelope and use it as a postage stamp.

Regretfully, as a direct result of President Bush's economic policy of borrow and spend, our money has lost its purchasing power. It simply doesn't stretch as far as it did before. As a direct result of dollar light, prices for everything have gone up, not just for gasoline but for a loaf of bread, for a gallon of milk and for everything we re-

quire just to survive: Our rent, our mortgage payments and our health care bills.

People are screaming, "It's the dollar, stupid!"

Prices for everything are up, but by working together, we can bring about a different economic policy, one different from borrow and spend. We're working hard to bring about the changes we need. By working together, we will become an energy independent Nation, and we will make available, affordable energy for all of us.

LESSON FOR TODAY: DRILL OFFSHORE

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, they say it's not safe to drill offshore because, they say, oil rigs are polluters of crude oil. So the lesson for today is: Where does the oil pollution from off our coasts come from?

Let's keep it simple. This is a chart. This is a chart that shows oil pollution from off our coasts. It comes from the National Academy of Sciences. It gives four sources.

As shown by the blue line, the number 1 polluter of crude oil off our coasts comes from Mother Nature. Sixty-three percent of the crude that has polluted our coasts and our gulfs comes from Mother Nature. It seeps from the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico to the surface, 63 percent.

The number 2 polluter, as shown by the green line, is recreational boating. Thirty-two percent of the pollution of crude oil comes from boating.

The number 3 source, shown by the yellow line, appropriately so, is from tankers from overseas, 3 percent. It's those tankers, for example, that come from Saudi Arabia that are polluting our oceans by leaking crude oil, but it's only 3 percent.

As shown by the red line, the little bitty red line, 2 percent of offshore drilling rigs cause 2 percent of that oil pollution.

Let's do it again, Madam Speaker, to make sure it takes.

As shown by the blue line, the number 1 polluter of our oceans and off our coasts is Mother Nature. Sixty-three percent of that pollution seeps from the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico to our shores. Mother Nature is the number 1 villain.

The number 2 culprit, as shown by the green line, is recreational boating. It causes 32 percent of that oil pollution off our shores.

The number 3 culprit, as shown by the appropriate yellow line, are rigs or, rather, tankers from other nations such as Saudi Arabia, causing 3 percent of the pollution.

Lastly, the number 4 culprit of 2 percent, as shown by the little bitty red line, are those nasty offshore drilling rigs.

So, Madam Speaker, maybe it's time we look at the facts and realize that