

When will the Speaker's office hear the cries from the American public?

MEDICARE

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

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, we've been working diligently to improve Medicare for America's seniors. In fact, on June 24, the Democratic-led House of Representatives passed by a large bipartisan margin, 355-59, critical Medicare legislation. Unfortunately, it's being blocked by the White House and Republicans across the Capitol.

I urge the White House and Republicans in the other body to stop siding with private health insurance companies and, instead, join us in standing up for families who rely on Medicare.

Our Medicare bill is critical to the health of our neighbors. It helps ensure that seniors have access to high quality health care and the doctor of their choice.

Health care for our military families and retirees is also linked to our Medicare bill, and the Military Officers Association is calling on the White House and Republicans to end their opposition.

Our legislation cuts overpayments and wasteful subsidies to private managed-care insurance companies and re-directs these resources to where they belong: the health of our seniors.

IT'S TIME FOR REAL SOLUTIONS, NOT MORE BROKEN PROMISES FROM THE DEMOCRATS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, more than 2 years ago, then-Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI promised the American people that Democrats had a "commonsense plan to lower gas prices." Well, we're now over \$4 a gallon, up more than 76 percent since Democrats took Congress. It's clear that plan never materialized.

American families, truck drivers, and small business owners deserve action from Washington, not more broken Democrat promises. They deserve real solutions, and that's exactly what we Republicans have to offer, initiatives that will make us less dependent on foreign Nations for energy, will create jobs here at home, and will grow the American economy.

In order to put us on a path to energy independence, we must increase the production of our vast amount of resources in an environmentally sound manner, while encouraging conservation. We must continue to invest in renewable energy resources. We must also increase our nuclear capacity, too.

It's time for real solutions, Mr. Speaker, not more broken promises from the Democrats.

RISING COST OF FOOD

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this fall, the rising cost of food will be felt by schools from Massachusetts to Hawaii, an impact that will severely strain the budgets of school districts across this great land.

Today, Chairman GEORGE MILLER and the Education and Labor Committee will hold a hearing on the rising cost of food and the impact on the school meal programs. Sadly, healthier food choices may be scrapped for cheaper, less nutritious food. After-school meal programs may be scaled back or eliminated. Our kids will pay the price.

There is no easy answer to this problem, but we can all agree that we cannot let this food price crisis result in our school-aged children going without food simply because school districts are struggling with these rising prices.

I commend Chairman MILLER for holding this hearing, and I look forward to working with him on this important issue.

LET'S TAKE ACTION

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it's good to be back. I had a wonderful week in my Seventh Congressional District in Tennessee, a great district that has rural areas, suburban and metropolitan areas. And everywhere I went, people were saying: What is Congress going to do right now to get the price down at the pump?

Well, my constituents know this affects every family every day, the price at the pump. They also know it is an energy independence issue, and yes, indeed, they do know that this is an issue of national security.

Yet the Democrat leadership of this House doesn't want to do one thing on debating this issue. Well, we have some bills that are in there.

How about, Mr. Speaker, if we debate H.R. 3089, a bill to promote domestic oil, natural gas, and nuclear energy production? Or there's H.R. 5984, to offer incentives for clean energy production and energy efficiency?

The Democrat solution seems to be simple and ill-advised: just drive a smaller car, take the bus, or walk if you can.

These may not be bad things, but they are often impossible for Tennesseans in my Seventh Congressional District. They want real solutions now.

BIG OIL DOESN'T NEED MORE LAND TO DRILL—THEY SHOULD USE IT OR LOSE IT

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Americans continue to suffer pain at the gas pump due to 7 years of missed opportunities and outdated policies. President Bush's energy strategy was literally written by the oil companies—give more public resources to the same oil companies that are raking in record profits while Americans are reeling from record prices.

Every day we hear House Republicans demanding the need for more domestic drilling in order to reduce gas prices. What we don't hear is anyone on that side of the aisle demanding that Big Oil drill on the 68 million acres of land they are sitting on, refusing to develop.

Legislation on the floor today will force those oil companies to produce oil and gas or diligently develop the 68 million acres of public land they already have, otherwise they will lose the leases. Experts estimate that these reserves could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil.

THE COOPER-WOLF SAFE COMMISSION: A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who stood up to the Nazis, said, "The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children." And this Congress is failing to serve the American people and failing to serve our children.

We have more than \$53 trillion in unfunded liabilities and \$9 trillion of debt. China, who violates human rights and religious freedom, holds our debt. The Saudis, who fund radical Wahhabism all over the world, hold our debt.

Standard and Poor's Investment Service predicts loss of AAA bond rating as early as the year 2012.

Is this bleak scenario what the 110th Congress wants to leave our children and grandchildren? If the ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world it leaves to its children and grandchildren, this Congress is failing miserably.

Congressman COOPER and I have a bill, the SAFE Commission Act that has 105 cosponsors, that would put everything on the table, entitlements and tax policies, in order to rein in Federal spending. If we could come together, both sides of the aisle, we can ensure that our children and our grandchildren don't have to worry about the day when China and Saudi Arabia decide to call in our debt.

ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it's amusing to listen to my friends on

the other side of the aisle decrying Democrats as somehow responsible for the problem of the current high energy prices.

The fact is our friends on the Republican side controlled everything, by and large, for the last 7 years. They passed an energy bill in 2005 which was a perfect energy bill for the 1950s.

Nothing that they are proposing in terms of draining America dry by opening up more drilling is going to make any difference for 8 to 20 years, according to all the experts, and oil companies already have 68 million acres available for exploration now that we're encouraging them to use.

It's interesting that after the Republicans blocked even a study of improved fuel efficiency standards for our vehicles, the Democrats for the first time in 30 years have improved those efficiency standards. We're stopping Government competition with the oil companies by suspending Federal purchase of oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. We had to pass legislation to force the administration to do that.

Now, we're looking at squeezing speculators a little bit, and there are a range of choices to help commuters compete now.

It is time for us to talk honestly about the options and what's going to make a difference, not pretending that turning our energy future over to oil companies will make any difference in price or supply for years to come.

FLUOR'S IMPACT IN THE GREENVILLE COMMUNITY

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

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, you know, there's plenty of economic bad news around, coupled here and there, and we've had our share of those in the upstate of South Carolina, but there's also some bright spots, and those are very much worth celebrating.

Fluor Corporation's employment in Greenville, South Carolina, has gone from 2,500 in 2003 to 5,400 today. An additional 3,200 project-based workers help in projects around Greenville. Fluor is currently looking for 2- to 300 engineers to come help with significant new projects that they've won all around the world.

In fact, their growth has been so significant they've been a major cause of the drop in the vacancy rate in class A office space in downtown Greenville, going from 24 percent down to 11.9 percent in the central business district.

That's impressive, Mr. Speaker. It's worth celebrating, and especially worth celebrating is the fact that Fluor will now be taking over the contract at the Savannah River Site, where for 50 years, we've been producing and storing tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen that will give us the opportunity to learn how to

store hydrogen and break through to a hydrogen economy.

THE ENERGY DEBATE

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I actually think that we're at a refreshing point of clarity in the energy debate, because the one thing that we have learned is the only thing standing between the American people and lower energy prices at the pump is the Democrat-controlled Congress.

They've made their position very clear. It is drive less and pay more. Or, as we heard yesterday, drive small cars and wait for the wind. Or, the other suggestion we've heard is the Congress has done such a wonderful job running a railroad, now let's have Congress take over the energy industry and we can run that, too.

It's only been in the last 18 months that we have seen energy prices increase a dramatic 76 percent. At 9 percent approval rating, I don't think we're hearing a clamoring from the American people for Congress to take over and run anything.

The Republican Party now has become the party of the little guy. We want to open up energy exploration, permit expediting so that we can get this online. We don't have to wait 20 years. That's Congress that caused those barriers. Congress can unlock those barriers and bring clarity back to the issue.

□ 1045

ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, here is the problem: When President Bush took over as President the price of a barrel of crude oil was \$23. When the Democrats became the majority, the price of a barrel of crude oil was \$58. Today, it's hovering around \$140 per barrel of crude oil. All we're trying to do on this side is bring forth some solutions. We're doing that today with a discharge petition on one such technology, coal-to-liquid technologies, H.R. 2208. It's not my bill. It's my Democrat colleague, RICK BOUCHER's, bill.

The United States has the largest coal reserves in the world, 250 billion tons of recoverable coal. China has invested \$24 billion in coal-to-liquid technologies. We, in the United States, have invested zero. The largest reserves, zero investments.

This is how it works: We operate a U.S. coal mine, U.S. jobs. We build a coal-to-liquid refinery, U.S. jobs. We have liquid fuel to compete with crude oil fuel, we pipe it in a pipeline, U.S. jobs. We go to our aviation industry

with jet fuel. All these budget airlines are going broke because of high cost fuels. This is "a" solution, not one, but one of many.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5811, ELECTRONIC MESSAGE PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1318 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1318

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5811) to amend title 44, United States Code, to require preservation of certain electronic records by Federal agencies, to require a certification and reports relating to Presidential records, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration of H.R. 5811 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). The gentleman from Vermont is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Vermont?

There was no objection.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1318 provides a closed rule for consideration of H.R. 5811, the Electronic Message Preservation Act. The resolution, as you know, provides 1 hour of debate controlled by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The rule makes no amendments in order because no amendments were submitted for consideration.