

Mr. WESTMORELAND. This morning I'm here, and if I could talk to the people of America, Madam Speaker, I would tell them that the number to the House operator is 202-224-3121, but I know I can't do that. But if I could, it would be 202-224-3121, and I would ask for Speaker PELOSI.

I would tell Speaker PELOSI that I'm not a hoax because, see, here's a quote: "This call for drilling in areas that are protected is a hoax, it's an absolute hoax on the part of the Republicans and the administration."

The American people, Madam Speaker, 73 percent of them are not a hoax. She's too busy trying to save the planet. Speaker PELOSI announced, "I'm trying to save the planet."

I hope, Madam Speaker, that if the American people could get this number that they could call the Speaker and say, "Before you save the planet, let's secure America."

Madam Speaker, we're going to adjourn today, and many in this House are going to leave for a vacation, a trip overseas, to Africa, Europe, Asia, while my constituents can't even afford to drive to a State park.

We must stay in session. We must do something to increase U.S. oil production.

HEATING OIL

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, sky-high prices for gas and heating oil have taken a big bite out of family budgets. Just as we enter the home stretch of the summer driving season, these same families are bracing for increased prices in home heating oil.

Families in my district use heating oil to stave off winter cold, and too many of them are already shivering. We're not even into the heating season yet, and already prices in the Hudson Valley are over \$4.60, 70 percent more than last year.

We need to throw these families a lifeline and fix the energy crisis threatening them.

To help with the costs, I have cosponsored the HEATR Act to give qualifying families a \$500 tax credit for their heating costs over \$1,500.

To fix the markets, the majority has tried repeatedly to provide support for new technologies, increased domestic drilling, and oil releases from the SPR. Each time, the President and his allies have opposed these measures and are holding our energy solutions hostage to their insistence on old, ineffective drilling proposals.

They need to get out of D.C. and see how these prices are affecting working families, figure out how to join us, or soon we will all be out in the cold.

LET'S PASS MEANINGFUL LEGISLATION

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, a famous American, Will Rogers once said, "The only thing I know about American politics is what I read in the newspaper."

Madam Speaker, what I read in the newspaper this morning are these headlines: "A shadow over recess. Impasse on energy obscures victories as Dems head home."

Another headline: "Energy shadow falls over the August recess."

Reading further, I thought we had a little ray of light and encouragement in a press conference that the Speaker gave yesterday. "And, asked if she could envision a scenario where there could be a vote on new offshore drilling, she said, 'Of course.'"

"But shortly thereafter, Pelosi's office issued a written 'clarification' stating that Pelosi was not changing her position."

And the quote now, "She has no plans to bring to the floor a bill to allow drilling in protected areas."

Unconscionable, Madam Speaker. I don't know what the plan is. Maybe it's in one of the chapters of a new book that she's spent the last 3 months writing while she should have been doing something, Madam Speaker, about these high gasoline prices that are crippling this Nation. Unconscionable.

Let's stay here. Let's not adjourn. Let's pass meaningful legislation.

□ 0915

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF I-35 BRIDGE TRAGEDY

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it was one year ago today, at 6:05 p.m. this evening, that an eight-lane steel truss span bridge collapsed into the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. I'm sure we all remember that strange and surreal sight of a bridge laying in the very river it used to span and the images of vehicles that were crushed in the debris.

As a school teacher, for me the most poignant and terrifying image was that of a school bus balanced over the abyss as it was about to plunge into the steel and concrete below, but whose occupants were thankfully all unharmed.

Unfortunately, not everyone on that bridge made it home safely; 13 people were killed in the tragedy. That those numbers weren't higher was due in no small part to the hundreds of firefighters, police, emergency personnel and ordinary citizens who rushed to the aid of their fellow Americans. Their direct actions immediately following this tragedy saved lives and eased suffering.

Ordinary residents of Minneapolis displayed extraordinary courage on August 1. We are here today to note this

sad occasion and to remember those who were lost.

Construction on a new bridge is underway. It will be wider, longer, more reliable and safer. And I thank my colleague who spoke earlier, Mr. ELLISON, for his leadership on that, but it won't bring back those who tragically died.

Let us learn from this disaster and ensure it never happens again.

AMERICANS DEMAND ENERGY PLAN

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

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, we need an American energy plan and we need it now. The American people are hurting. Young families are hurting. Senior adults are hurting. Small businesses are hurting. Vern, from Jefferson County, Tennessee, is hurting.

Vern is an Iraqi war veteran. Vern has to drive from Jefferson County in Tennessee all the way into Knoxville. It's costing him over \$90 a week to drive to work. He makes \$8 an hour. He's trying to become an electrical apprentice.

Vern told me he may have to go on welfare. Vern has a young family. Vern is an Iraqi war vet. Vern wants to do what's right by his family. He has already done what's right by America. This Congress needs to do what's right for Vern and other young families in America, senior adults in America, small businesses in America.

We don't need any more excuses. We need to vote on meaningful energy legislation. We need to do it now. We don't need to go home, we need to take votes. I'm willing to stay here today and vote. We voted this week. We had time to vote to go home. We ought to have time to vote to bring down gas prices at the pump. The American people demand it, they demand it now.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS STAND BY THE PRESIDENT'S DRILL AND VETO POLICIES OF THE PAST

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, House Republicans claim to be interested in supporting legislation that will help reduce the price of gas at the pump, but unfortunately they have consistently opposed legislation that would directly benefit the American people.

Republicans said no to cracking down on price gouging. They said no to repealing billions in taxpayer-funded subsidies to Big Oil so that we can instead invest in renewable energy resources. They said no to legislation that would force big oil companies to either drill on the lands they already have leased or lose the leases.

Last week, the Republicans said no to tapping the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to help lower gas prices immediately. And this week they said no to going after speculation.

Madam Speaker, if House Republicans are serious about helping the American people, they need to stop protecting Big Oil.

PRICE AT THE PUMP IS NOT A HOAX

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my sincere disappointment with the liberal Democrat leadership of this House.

I think it's important that they realize the price at the pump is not a hoax, it's not a mirage, it is not a bad dream, it is real life. And to my constituents in the Seventh District of Tennessee, they are angry with the price at the pump.

What we are hearing from them is this, Madam Speaker: we can't afford the change the Democrat Congress has wrought. We can't afford the price that they have delivered at the pump. And we definitely cannot afford for the Democrat Congress to vote themselves an adjournment resolution and leave for 5 weeks—5 weeks, while the price at the pump continues to rise, while the price of electric power rises, while home heating oil prices are going to triple.

This is reality. It is real life. And it is what is facing our constituents every single day. Take some of the power you're using to save the planet and use it to address this issue.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SOLIS). Pursuant to House Resolution 1384 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 6599.

□ 0920

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6599) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes, with Mr. LYNCH (Acting Chairman) in the chair. The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on the legislative day of Thursday, July 31, 2008, the bill had been read through page 55, line 19.

Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those

amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 11 by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. FLAKE of Arizona.

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. KING of Iowa.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. GARRETT OF NEW JERSEY

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 11 offered by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey:

Page 36, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$18,018,000)”.

Page 41, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$18,018,000)”.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 185, noes 227, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 558]

AYES—185

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggart
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)

Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holt
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan

Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCauley (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mitchell
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Muggrave
Neugebauer
Nunes
Pallone
Pascarella

Paul
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen

Roskam
Rothman
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Scalise
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Space
Stearns

Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (FL)

NOES—227

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bordallo
Boren
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Burgess
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Cazayoux
Chandler
Childers
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Eshoo
Etheridge
Faleomavaega
Farr
Fattah

Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Honda
Hookey
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kildee
Kind
Kirk
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)

Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Norton
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Porter
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)