

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Ike came through Texas, landed near Houston. Much of the area in my State, especially in the Houston-Galveston area along the gulf coast, has been decimated. It will take billions of dollars for us to recover.

We are asking that this House understands the needs of the people of Texas and the areas that have been devastated. We will have to lend some assistance to the areas that need our help at a most important time.

For fear that someone may not understand, we are truly all in this together. Dr. King reminded us that life is an inescapable network of mutuality tied to a single garment of destiny. Whatever impacts one directly, impacts all indirectly.

Though you may live in some far corner of the United States of America, there are earthquakes, there are fires, there are storms that will come into your life. We are all going to need some help at some point.

So I am begging those of you who can, please understand that we have got to help Texans and Americans through this.

ALLOW OPEN, FULL AND FAIR DEBATE

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, this bill that was introduced last night at 9:45 has the same MO as the other lies that the Democratic Party have told the American people.

I quote here from A Congress Working for all Americans, something put out by the then-Democratic minority trying to become the majority. "Bills should generally come to the floor under a procedure that allows open, full and fair debate consisting of a full amendment process." More smoke and mirrors to get elected.

In fact, Mr. PAUL KANJORSKI stated it best when he was talking to a reporter about the promises the Democrats made on the campaign trail, "We sort of stretched the truth, and people ate it up." They have stretched the truth.

Speaker PELOSI in April 2006, said, we have a plan to lower the skyrocketing price gas prices. It was \$2.06 at the time. Now, as you know, it's over \$4.

But Mr. DEFAZIO from Oregon told the truth. He said, "It is sad to see the Republicans come to this." Now they laughingly say this will lead to higher prices.

The energy bill they passed in January of 2007 has caused gas prices to double. This is a sham.

DRILLING ALONE IS NOT THE ANSWER

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Bush-Cheney energy plan, supported by the Republican majority here in Congress, is 95 percent implemented. Yet the prices have increased by 150 percent. For the last 12 years, up until this term, the Republicans have been in the majority, along with the President.

Democrats have been the majority less than 2 years, and we are trying to put together a piece of legislation that brings in every aspect of some type of resolution for the energy shortage. All of us know that drilling alone is not the answer.

We can drill all we want to. The population of the world has gotten so large that there is no way it's going to be enough to do what we need to do. We have got to do alternative fuels that's in this bill, even including the possibility of nuclear energy.

I will support this bill strongly because it has a multiple number of ways to address this problem.

DEMOCRAT INACTION ON FAILING TO ADOPT A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat inaction on failing to adopt a comprehensive energy policy has come home to roost. We see this happened in the last hurricane. We have over 20 percent of our oil being produced in the gulf, and these oil rigs being shut down, and the refineries being shut down.

Americans are suffering. We have to diversify. Once again, when you look at the energy proposals here, we have to be up in ANWR. There's 10.3 billion barrels of oil up there that we need to be drilling. We have got to get that oil down here.

We have to make sure that there is natural gas, make sure that people can heat their homes this winter. We have to make sure that the folks that are out there driving trucks or tractors have diesel. We have to have that to make sure we keep our energy prices down and our food prices down.

But the time to act is now. We have to have a comprehensive energy plan. The Republicans have put forward all of the above. All of the above is to make sure that we have nuclear, clean coal technology, hydro. We have to make sure that we drill, that we make sure that we have all of the alternatives out there, but we have to do it now. If we don't get it done now, the rest of the world will pass us by. Next year China is becoming the number one manufacturing country in the world.

It's time to act right now.

SEEING THE EFFECT OF REPUBLICAN POLICIES

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the truth is that from 2001 to 2007, Republicans controlled all levels of power here in Washington. It was their opportunity to put the conservative economic ideas that they have been talking about for decades into law, and they did it.

Today we see the effect of these policies. Middle-class families are being squeezed by wages that have actually fallen by \$300 since President Bush took office, 3.4 million more Americans are unemployed, 5.7 million more Americans are living in poverty.

Foreclosure rates have hit a record high with 2.5 million families expected to lose their homes this year. The dollar remains weak because President Bush continues to borrow record amounts of money from other countries.

This is the economy Washington Republicans created with policies towards the needs of the wealthiest few over those of hard-working, middle-class Americans. Now Senator MCCAIN vows to continue those same economic policies if he wins the Presidency.

That does not sound like change to me.

NO ENERGY BILL

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

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat no-energy bill before us today is an absolute travesty. The bill will permanently lock up the first 50 miles of coastline and keep the next 50 miles under lock and key until coastal States pass a law permitting production.

They don't have any incentive to do so, so it essentially locks up the first 100 miles of coastline where most of our resources are located. This bill does not share any royalty revenues with coastal States, giving them absolutely no incentive to approve production off their coast.

Under current policy, producing States receive royalties from offshore production. This bill does not provide funding for environmental restoration or a sustainable funding mechanism to develop alternative and renewable energy sources, which would decrease our dependence on foreign oil.

This bill includes an unworkable, renewable energy standard.

In States like mine, Colorado, we are well positioned to utilize renewables. Other States will be unable to meet this unrealistic hurdle, costing consumers untold increases.

Speaker PELOSI, you can fool all of the people some of the time, some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. This is a travesty.

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COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, there is a real difference between the Democratic and Republican plans when it comes to energy. The comprehensive Democratic plan is an American-owned, 21st-century energy plan, and the Republican plan is not.

The Democratic plan lowers prices for consumers and protects taxpayers, expands renewable sources of energy, and increases our security by freeing America from the grip of foreign oil. Perhaps this is the problem with the objection to the Democratic plan: it requires Big Oil to pay what it owes taxpayers. It ends subsidies to Big Oil companies. Maybe some people don't like that. And it creates good-paying jobs here in America.

The Republican bill is more of the same old Bush-CHENEY, two oilmen in the White House energy policy written by and for the oil companies. It is time to end that policy.

ENERGY BILL WITH NO ENERGY

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, this is an extremely disappointing day for me, and I assume for America. Today is the day when we finally have an energy bill, except it doesn't have energy in it. And America wants us to work together, the Republicans and Democrats to work together, so that we have a comprehensive American energy plan that makes us independent of foreign oil where we can have price stability.

But unfortunately, as Republicans repeatedly reached out to the Democrat leadership to be involved in this process, we were totally shut out. The only negotiations occurred within the Speaker's office, and no Republican was allowed. We didn't even see the bill until late last night. This is not a true energy bill. If she would have included some of us, we could have made this hoax of a bill a lot better for the American public.

For example, they say that they open up 12 percent of the resources, but then put conditions on it that really can't be met. So even that 12 percent of the coastal waters are not going to be opened up while they pass a permanent moratorium on 88 percent.

This is a hoax, and America needs to see it for what it is.

COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN ENERGY

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, there are real differences when we talk about the Democratic and Repub-

lican energy plan. We are talking about expanding renewable sources of energy, and we are talking about creating good-paying jobs here in the great United States of America.

Since January alone, 90,000 Americans lost their jobs; 16,000 of those Americans were from the great Hoosier State of Indiana. The Center for American Progress just released a report saying if we invest \$100 billion into a comprehensive plan, we will be able to create 2 million green jobs in 2 years. We have already spent trillions of dollars in Iraq. We can invest \$100 billion in a comprehensive plan that can employ Americans. Eighty percent of Hoosiers are without college degrees; 70 percent of Americans are without college degrees. This is an opportunity to help Americans pull themselves out of poverty by investing in the green movement.

ENERGY PROPOSALS

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, today we have a stark contrast between the Republican approach to solving the energy crisis in our country and the liberal Democrat and the radical environmentalist approach to solving the energy crisis in our country.

We are going to look at two different pieces of legislation, the American Energy Act written by Republicans and some of our friends on the Democratic side, and the Democrats and radical environmentalist no-energy plan that we will have to vote on today.

Because it might not be easy to see this chart, I am going to go down this chart.

Real offshore exploration for new energy: Republicans say yes; Democrats say no.

Renewable energy without raising your taxes: Republicans say yes, Democrats say no.

Real oil shale exploration to find new energy: Republicans say yes; Democrats say no.

Drilling off the Arctic coastal plain: Republicans say yes; Democrats say no.

Emission-free nuclear energy to help us find new electricity and power: Republicans say yes; Democrats say no.

Clean coal technology: Republicans say yes; Democrats say no.

Increasing our refinery capacity in our country: Republicans say yes; Democrats say no.

The Democratic energy plan is a sham. Vote it down.

DEMOCRATS PROVIDE RELIEF AT THE PUMP

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to gas prices, Republicans don't have a record to be proud of. For 8

years, Washington Republicans have favored profits for Big Oil while America is paying record prices at the pump.

House Democrats know this country needs comprehensive energy legislation to bring down gas prices and invest in the energy sources of the future.

This week we will vote on comprehensive legislation that invests in renewable energy sources and responsibly increases domestic supply by opening portions of the Outer Continental Shelf for drilling.

In New Jersey, we want this energy package which will provide real relief for consumers at the pump, help end our dependence on foreign oil, create millions of new jobs, and help transition America to a cleaner, renewable energy future.

Mr. Speaker, just talking about an all-of-the-above plan won't help consumers who are pumping hundreds of dollars into their gas tanks every day. We need to pass a Democratic all-of-the-above plan that will help us solve our energy problems.

AMERICA HAS TO HAVE OWN RESOURCES

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, the American people know who the Republicans are. We are the party that for decades the Democrats, backed by the radical left, have accused of wanting to do nuclear power. We are the party that for decades the environmental movement has fought because we wanted to drill for oil and natural gas in America.

Mr. Speaker, we are the party that has this energy bill that is not being considered, while your party, headed by NICK RAHALL, GENE GREEN, GEORGE MILLER, and JOHN DINGELL, is claiming to have a bipartisan bill that is yours which does nothing.

Mr. Speaker, there is no Republican in your bipartisan. That is a new definition even for this Democrat Congress.

Mr. Speaker, back in 1998 I called for our California coast to be opened for exploration so we would have a strategic reserve we could tap in time of need. Guess what, BARBARA BOXER and the radical left attacked me. I lost that election. I haven't changed my position since then; I never will. America has to have its own resources. We are the party that you know has wanted to do that, and you are the party that has been blocking it.

RELIEF AT THE PUMP

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, it really troubles me that the United States is borrowing money from China to buy oil from Saudi Arabia to put in cars from Japan.