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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 2, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Everywhere I go in my district, people tell me they are frightened. They are frightened about what is happening in this country. They fear for the future of our country. What they're talking about is that they fear for our freedoms and they fear for the principles that formed this country and have always been the basis on which we've operated. I share that fear; and I believe

they should be fearful. And I believe that the greatest fear that we all should have to our freedom comes from this room, this very room, and what may happen later this week in terms of a tax increase bill masquerading as a health care bill. I believe we have more to fear from the potential of that bill passing than we do from any terrorist right now in any country.

In order to help explain some of why we should be fearful, the Republican Conference has gone through Speaker PELOSI's bill—tax bill masquerading as a health care bill—and brought out some pertinent points page by page; and I want to share some of those with people. One of the good things that's happened this year is that people have learned they can read these bills and become familiar with them themselves, so they don't need us to tell them, but it may help to point to specific pages.

Page 94—section 202(c) prohibits the sale of private individual health insurance policies beginning in 2013, forcing individuals to purchase coverage through the Federal Government. We can't make that up. It's right there in the bill.

Page 110—section 222(e) requires the use of Federal dollars to fund abortions through the government-run health plan; and, if the Hyde amendment were ever not renewed, would require the plan to fund elective abortions.

Page 111—section 223 establishes a new board of Federal bureaucrats (the "Health Benefits Advisory Committee") to dictate the health plans that all individuals must purchase; and would likely require all Americans to subsidize and purchase plans that cover any abortion.

I think one of the funniest pieces in the bill, if anything can be considered funny, page 122, section 233(a)(3), requires the commissioner, the new insurance czar, to, quote, issue guidance on best practices of plain language writing—this from the same people

who wrote a 1,990-page health care bill which is very difficult to read.

Page 1183—section 1904 provides \$750 million in Federal funding for a new entitlement program to offer, quote, knowledge of realistic expectations of age-appropriate child behaviors and skills for parents to interact with their child.

Page 1255—sections 2231–2235 makes veterinary students eligible for up to \$283 million in Federal scholarship and student loan forgiveness funding.

Page 1432—section 2531 provides incentive payments to States that enact new medical liability laws—but only if such laws, quote, do not limit attorneys' fees or impose caps on damages.

We need medical liability reform. This bill will prevent that from happening. It's a bad bill. The American people should be frightened of it.

OUR NATURAL GAS RESERVES

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, thanks to new drilling technologies that are unlocking substantial amounts of natural gas from shale rock, the Nation's estimated gas reserves have surged by 35 percent, according to a recent study. The study conducted by the Potential Gas Committee, the authority on natural gas supplies, has indicated that the United States possesses a total natural gas reserve of 1,836 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, or enough to last almost a century at current consumption rates. This new estimate shows an exceptionally strong and optimistic gas supply picture for this country, according to the report, which is issued every 2 years by a group of academic and industry experts. The new estimate is the highest resource evaluation in the committee's 44-year history and some geologists say even this estimate is too conservative.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Much of the 35 percent increase comes from estimated gas reserves that are trapped deep in dense shale rock which drilling companies have only recently learned how to tap. Shale formations are deep underground, 6,000 feet or more, and the rock is relatively impermeable. Deep drilling is expensive, and in the past the amount of gas that could be recovered was not sufficient to justify the cost. However, new advances in production techniques have boosted all previous estimates of financially recoverable natural gas.

One shale formation that is receiving new attention is the Marcellus basin, a 400-million-year-old shale formation stretching from New York to West Virginia. That basin alone is believed to hold as much as 500 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, or the approximate equivalent of 80 billion barrels of oil. It's not clear, however, how much of this shale gas is recoverable.

In recent years, natural gas producers have expanded the use of a technique called horizontal drilling. After drilling more than a mile below the Earth's surface to reach the shale layer below, a drill operator then slowly steers the drill bit to one side until it is heading sideways across the shale layer. This technique allows access to more of the shale than a traditional vertical well could provide. However, even with this new technique, the density of shale rock still traps most of the gas. Producers therefore use a process called hydraulic fracturing in which a water-and-sand mixture is forced at very high pressure into the well that creates millions of tiny cracks in the rock, enabling more of the gas to be released. And while shale gas only provides a small fraction of the Nation's total gas production, many experts believe the rising supply of natural gas means it can be substituted for other fossil fuels.

Natural gas can also serve as a bridge between our current energy feedstocks and renewable energy production. According to Guy Caruso, the former administrator of the Energy Information Administration, "natural gas has a role to play as a bridge because of the long lead time and scalability issues of renewable fuels. It's nice to have aspirations about renewable energy and efficiency, but we need to recognize these long-term goals and that we need something to get us there in the meantime."

As an energy source, natural gas is cheaper than oil, and when burned it emits 30 percent less carbon dioxide than oil and 45 percent less carbon dioxide than coal on an energy equivalent basis. Natural gas is also highly efficient. Approximately 90 percent of the natural gas produced is delivered to consumers as useful energy. In contrast, only about 30 percent of the energy converted to electricity in conventional generating facilities ever reaches consumers. And with 84 percent of the natural gas consumed in the United States being produced do-

mestically, an increase in the use of natural gas would not only dramatically lower greenhouse gas emissions but it would also reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Natural gas powered vehicles in use today are also helping to improve air quality by displacing petroleum powered vehicles which contribute about three-fourths of the carbon dioxide pollution found in urban areas. According to NGV America, one of out of every 10 transit buses and over 130,000 additional school buses, taxicabs, garbage trucks and other vehicles on U.S. roads are already fueled with cleaner burning natural gas. In fact, in 2008, the use of natural gas vehicles displaced almost 300 million gallons of petroleum use in the United States.

Using natural gas instead of coal or oil is a low-cost, low-emissions solution for reducing our Nation's dependence on foreign energy sources while also reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

YEMEN

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

Mr. WOLF. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To meet the President's deadline for closing Guantanamo, there has been a rush during the past 2 months to transfer as many detainees as possible to their home countries, or to a third country that would accept them.

On September 26, the administration announced that a detainee named Alla Ali Bin Ali Ahmed was transferred to Yemen. The announcement did not reveal the terms of his transfer but said the United States has coordinated with the Yemeni Government to ensure that the transfer took place under, quote, appropriate security measures.

There is an ongoing and very real concern about detainees returning to terrorism. According to data from the Department of Defense, at least 15 percent of former Guantanamo detainees have returned to terrorist activity. The 15 percent that have returned to terrorism following release were merely those detainees who were perceived to be low security risks. That's why they were released years ago. The detainees pending release now are the worst of the worst. Their recidivism rate may be much higher than 15 percent.

If these detainees are to be transferred, they should go only to governments that are willing and able to try, detain, rehabilitate or monitor them. Yemen does not meet that standard. An economic crisis, domestic security challenges, and Islamic terrorism are right now threatening to overwhelm the Yemeni Government. The FBI director recently highlighted Yemen as an area of persistent al Qaeda activity. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula openly advertises their intent to attack the United States and our overseas interests, and is able to work in

relative freedom in Yemen. Counterterrorism measures in Saudi Arabia have forced extremists to seek refuge abroad, and many have relocated to Yemen's ungoverned areas. Known al Qaeda terrorists, including USS *Cole* bombers, have escaped from prison in Yemen to return to terrorism. The Christian Science Monitor reported last month of the rising threat to Saudi Arabia from the deteriorating security situation in Yemen. Saudi police prevented a bomb attack on October 13, and one of the perpetrators was a former Guantanamo detainee who entered the country from Yemen.

The bottom line is that terrorist detainees should not be sent to Yemen where al Qaeda operates freely and the government appears unable to control their actions and movements. Reuters has reported that the Obama administration has already cleared 75 of the remaining detainees for transfer abroad, and that includes 26 detainees from Yemen. Based on what we know, this administration is planning to send more, perhaps many more, detainees to this lawless country, increasing the risk of future terrorist attacks on Americans.

The administration should immediately terminate the return of detainees to Yemen, and the congressional committees of jurisdiction should investigate and demand a full justification. The release of any detainee to Yemen represents a potentially dangerous threat to the United States and U.S. citizens, both military and civilian.

As of now, the administration has gone down a dangerous road, and Congress is idly allowing them to make these misguided decisions.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LUJÁN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

The prophet Isaiah has said, "God will destroy death forever; the Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of His people He will remove from over the Earth, for the Lord has spoken."

O, God, source of forgiveness and the salvation of all, hear our prayer today as we call to mind all those who have served in the House of Representatives