

Biomass. I speak as a Congressman that has promoted biomass as it relates to our agricultural opportunities that we have and reusing sugar cane and reusing some of our crops as it relates to orange peels and others to turn them into energy, to put power back into the grid.

And to talk about solar power constantly, as coming from the Sunshine State, I talk about solar power because I see opportunities in it. I see homeowners being able to have the opportunity to save on their electric bill. But it's all about the transition. So if we continue to depend on fossil fuel, especially when it comes down to affecting the economy of so many Gulf State communities, communities along the Gulf States that are affected by this; and the dollars that are being deployed right now is something that we can prevent in the future.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to do my part here tonight. I wanted to make sure those individuals in this picture here, that I didn't let them down. I told them that I would bring voice to their issue as it relates to, which is my issue too, as it relates to the fact that people are canceling on these guys, and gals I must add.

And I just really want to thank Pamela Anderson for supplying this picture also at Anderson Marina. And they want to go to work, and we need to give them an opportunity to go to work.

But as we look at this issue, Mr. Speaker, it's important that as this Congress moves with the investigation and the legislation that I'm a prime sponsor of and cosponsor of, that's not enough. It's making sure that we're able to look at this situation as though it is a natural disaster, and the Federal response should treat it as though it is.

So we need to make sure that these individuals do not fail, because if we didn't let the banks fail, we should not let these individuals that work every day, pay taxes, and many of whom are veterans in this country, and they're Democrats and they're Republicans and Independent. I can tell you one thing about this oil spill. I don't care what your party affiliation is. The bottom line is the bottom line. And when 50 percent of your business is walk-ups, and that shuts down to 1 or 2 percent, and you have a boat that usually you're taking six people out on and now you're only taking one, and the other person happens to be your cousin, something is really wrong with that; and it's going to affect these families.

So I hope that as we move on, not only with the investigation, because we're an investigative body, but as we look at the effects that this oil spill has brought about, I think that we have to take into account what we're going through right now.

My heart goes out to my brethren in Alabama. My heart goes out to those that are in Mississippi. My heart goes out to Louisiana. I think it's very im-

portant that folks understand that this issue is just not a gulf issue. It's a United States issue, and it's a perfect example of why we need to move forward as it relates to alternative fuel and energy in our country so that we don't have to find ourselves in a situation where individuals are affected by some mishap that took place because individuals were irresponsible and brought about pain and suffering for these individuals that are trying to work and put food on the table for their families.

With that, Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to come to the floor. I want to let the membership know that many Members of the Florida delegation wanted to be here this evening; but due to the hour, they were not able to be here. The Florida delegation will be meeting tomorrow. When I say the Florida delegation, I'm saying the Members of the House and the Senate will come together to talk about this issue of Florida and its deep water Horizons oil spill. This directly affects our economy because our economy is all about tourism.

I hope in that Florida delegation meeting that there is a continued bipartisan spirit to not only help Florida bounce back, but also, as we move forward, as we look at energy, as policymakers, that we remember this moment, that we remember that all of Florida is going to be affected by the perception that there's oil in the water. And so it doesn't matter if you represent the west coast or you represent southern Florida or you represent the east coast of Florida or you're in the middle of Florida, every last one of those Members, the 27 members of the delegation, with two Senators, I think it's very, very important, including two Senators, I think it's very, very important that we remember this moment, remember the Floridians that are being affected, and the fact that our economy already, we're on our knees, and we're getting ready to get hit in the back of the head again if we don't cap this oil from coming out from the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, and we don't remember this moment as we move forward as it relates to our national energy policy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SUPERVISION OF OFFSHORE DRILLING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Florida, his discussion about energy. It's certainly a timely topic.

I think we're all pretty upset with what BP has done. We heard the President point out that we're not going to have any finger-pointing. But that was yesterday. That was yesterday's news.

Then I understand today the White House announces that it's going to have a commission that's going to do the finger-pointing. So one day no finger-pointing, the next day we're going to have a commission to do the finger-pointing.

□ 2230

So I guess we know that nobody that comes in here would ever do anything but tell the truth, but whoever is sending out those messages sure is being inconsistent.

I heard the President say last week that he was tired of all the cozy relationships between Big Oil and government. Well, as long as Big Oil is being properly supervised, then we are okay. But the trouble is in the last year-and-a-half apparently things have not been going so well in the area of supervision. There is an article that the AP put out: Federal inspections on the rigs not as claimed. This was actually from Sunday, May 16.

This article indicates the Federal agency responsible for ensuring the Deepwater Horizon was operating safely before it exploded last month fell well short of its own policy that the rig be inspected at least once per month. The agency's inspection frequency on Deepwater Horizon fell dramatically over the past 5 years, and apparently in the last year-and-a-half that has dropped significantly.

According to the article, let's see, this indicates officials said 83 inspections had been performed since the rig arrived in the gulf 104 months ago, which was September of 2001. And then being questioned about the once per month claim, officials subsequently revised that total up to 88 inspections. And the number of more recent inspections changed from 26 to 48 since January of 2005. No explanation was given for the upward revisions.

But what's amazing to some of us is the fact that you could have a level 5 hurricane as existed in the gulf with Hurricane Katrina before it hit the coast of Louisiana—once it hit the coast it was a level 3, but out there at the rigs it was still a 5—and some of those platforms were completely destroyed, completely destroyed, but the blowout preventers worked. There was no oil leaked. So you wonder, What's the deal?

And relying on the old adage here in Washington that no matter how cynical you get it's never enough to catch up, begin thinking about the President deploring this cozy relationship between Big Oil and the government. Because if he is blowing smoke, then maybe there's fire there.

So we got to looking, as, after all, it is MMS, the Minerals Management Service of the Department of the Interior that's supposed to be monitoring British Petroleum and making sure that our environment's kept safe because we need the energy. My friend from Florida was talking about all the alternative energies. Well, that's going

to cost a ton of money to develop. So on the one hand you can shut down this economy and prevent everybody from driving cars, prevent the trains from carrying all the freight that they do, prevent ships from traveling using the fuel they do, stop all these things, stop commerce completely and somehow come up with money to develop alternative energies, or you can develop what we have and make sure that the government is doing a good enough job as a watchdog to make sure that there are not these kind of violations. That's what could be done.

And some of us have proposed repeatedly that all you have to do is use the resources we have got, take the government's royalty and use that to develop alternative energy sources so that as we deplete our energy resources, more than any nation in the world when you consider all the different resources we have, use the government's share of the royalty to fund alternative energy research so that we keep moving smoothly, transitioning into the day when we don't need any type of carbon-based fuel. But it's not in the next few years.

We saw efforts in the last 2½ years since Republicans properly lost the majority because they were spending too much. Little did we know those that convinced the public to elect them to stop the deficit spending would do 10 times the spending, or create 10 times the deficit in 1 year that we dealt with in 1 year right after I got here. But be that as it may, we have the resources to drive this economy like none in the world. We have the resources that will allow us to take those royalties and to develop resources so we don't need the carbon-based fuel that we are using today.

We could be moving toward nuclear energy, making sure it's a cookie-cutter-type facility and that parts can be utilized in different facilities. You train somebody to work in one, they can work in others. Those things can be done, but we are not moving in that direction. We are still moving, under this majority, toward greater and greater reliance on foreign oil and foreign energy.

So wanting to see, though, what could the President be talking about regarding this cozy relationship? Being on the Natural Resources Committee, I have some institutional recollection of things that have gone on since I have been here the last 5½ years, and one of the things that we have taken up was the fact that during the last 2 or 3 years of the Clinton administration the Department of the Interior had at least a couple of people who intentionally left language regarding price controls out of the Federal leases with major oil for offshore drilling. And it has cost this Nation millions and millions of dollars because it was knowingly done.

We had hearings, brought the Inspector General in. And I was one who inquired, Why hasn't there been a more thorough investigation about why these individuals intentionally, know-

ingly left the price control language out of the leases? It was always put there under former President Bush, under George W. Bush. His Department of the Interior always put it in. But for some reason, the last 2 or 3 years of the Clinton administration it was left out. And the Inspector General indicated that, well, he couldn't talk to those two particular individuals in question because they left government service.

Found it a little bit hard myself to understand why you can't investigate gross negligence, and if not gross negligence maybe even intentional misconduct. But we won't know until the proper investigation is done, why wouldn't he, as the Inspector General who was charged with doing the inspection while the Bush administration was in the White House, why he wouldn't do this.

Now, this is a man who had worked in the Clinton administration, and now he is Inspector General. Of course, his idea was to blame Bush, a theme that's followed up today even, even though it wasn't President Bush that negotiated the leases. It was the Clinton administration Department of the Interior. But one of the two individuals that he said, Well, we just can't question her because she is no longer a part of the government. She has gone back in the private sector. There is nothing we can do about it.

And so I certainly wondered myself why you wouldn't pursue that, perhaps turn it over to the FBI, to the Justice Department, let them do some investigation, because nobody is beyond their investigation of potential Federal wrongdoing, certainly mismanagement in costing the country millions and millions of dollars. But it's not just that it cost the country millions and millions of dollars. It made that money for the big oil companies with which the Clinton administration cut these deals.

□ 2240

But anyway, that individual who had worked with the Department of the Interior and had assisted in seeing that the leases did not contain the price control language cost the government taxpayers millions and made those millions, transferred to the big oil companies, whatever happened to her?

Well, a little checking because we know the President said there's a cozy relationship he was concerned about. It turns out that this administration has put her back in the Interior Department as the deputy assistant secretary for Minerals Management Service. The people, MMS, the very people who were supposed to inspect these offshore rigs, the very people who are supposed to make sure that the blowout preventers worked properly so that if there's a catastrophe like Hurricane Katrina, the blowout preventers work and no oil is leaked from those wells. Well, it didn't work out here, as the AP article talks about. The inspections weren't done with the regularity that they were supposed to.

Now, I agree with the President that we need to be working on issues and not finger-pointing, except that if we—the problem is there are other rigs under operation right now under the supervision of these same folks that let this happen. We can't afford more disasters like this in the gulf or anywhere else.

I've been a strong advocate for offshore drilling, but I anticipated that we would have a government that would not spend days and weeks deciding what to do, that they would get out there and do something. Not do a fly-over and a wave-by, but an actual on-the-job, on-the-ground, you're-going-to-get-this-done.

Now, we've heard that maybe the boot was on the neck of these folks. It feels like maybe it's more on the toe or something because we don't seem to be moving in the right direction. You hear stories—you know, having so many friends that know something about oil and gas. You hear different versions about potential ways to close this well up. God help BP if it turns out they could have closed this with some explosives very quickly but have not acted quickly enough in order to hopefully some day rework the same well, letting this disaster hit the coast in this manner.

So what is the administration doing? I anticipated that with offshore drilling we would make sure that these blowout preventers were regularly tested—which wasn't happening here under this administration—and that if there were an accident, we would see what happened with Katrina; they would shut themselves down.

And we can't see that there's really any strong movement toward inspecting the rest of the rigs that this Minerals Management Service may have neglected just like this BP rig. They ought to be out there on every rig checking and making sure that they're not allowing this to happen somewhere else.

I'm not for shutting down the energy resources. But when you see a major company having more than one problem and other major oil companies not having the same problems, it does make you wonder if they are, number one, not being properly inspected. And if they're not being properly inspected, do they have a cozy relationship?

Well, let's see. This new deputy assistant secretary for Minerals Management Service, what job did she come from? Well, here it is. She was the general manager for social investment programs in strategic partnerships at British Petroleum America in Houston. Previously, other work experience, she had been director of Global Health, Safety, Environment and Emergency Response. That would be people regarding safety and environment and emergencies. They probably dealt with the company she was with on blowout preventers, things that would prevent emergencies, since she was the director of safety and environmental emergency

responses. Oh, yes, that was for British Petroleum of London.

Well, what other experience did she have? Well, previously she had also been a vice president for Health, Safety and Environment. Environment like preventing oil spills? What company would she have gotten her training? Oh, yes. That was British Petroleum of North America in Los Angeles.

But 1995 to 2001 when the Bush administration came in and let her go, she served as the assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management at the Department of the Interior, where she was the principal policy adviser to the Secretary of the Interior for environmentally responsible stewardship. Isn't that special?

So, once you hear the chief executive of the land talking about chief executives of big oil companies being too cozy with his administration, well, it bears looking into. And you don't have to go very far to see there is a very serious problem here. And the person that worked for British Petroleum that may have worked with MMS officials from the British Petroleum side is now the deputy secretary or assistant secretary with MMS, working with these same people, of which she used to be one. Interesting.

Now, we know that the jobs have not come as was promised. We were told a year and a half ago that if we would move in a socialist direction, give \$787 billion more on top of the ridiculous Wall Street bailout from months before, that if we add another \$787 billion in a so-called stimulus package, that that would prevent the unemployment rate from ever going above 8. We were told if we didn't pass that \$787 billion of a stimulus package, the President said unemployment might reach as high as 8½ percent. Well, doesn't that sound good now?

□ 2250

Wouldn't it have been nice not to have passed that \$787 billion porkulus bill and have unemployment not go beyond 8.5 percent? Because what happens is the government is sucking all the air out of the capital in the country. I keep hearing my friends across the aisle talk about banks not making loans. Well, there are a couple of problems.

Number one, the Federal Government is using up all the capital to build new buildings, hire new people, 60,000. The biggest sector of hiring in the last month was from Census workers. Well, that's not long-term help for the economy. It is a job that needs to be done. I am glad it is not ACORN. Of course, these may be ACORN employees that are now working for the Census Bureau. But that's not good news. How in the world can anybody go out, as the Speaker and the President have, saying: Great news, the unemployment rate went from 9.7 to 9.9. Isn't that great news?

If you talk to the people that are out of work, it is not good news, which is

one of the reasons we have set up a couple of job fairs again to try to marry up people who have jobs open with people that are looking for jobs. We plan on doing one on June 2 in Marshall and then another down in Lufkin July 8. That will be in Nacogdoches, Stephen F. Austin University; and the one in Marshall will be the East Texas Baptist University, and we are going to be trying to marry up people that have some job openings with people that are looking for jobs. The two we have done in the past ended up with hundreds of people having employment that didn't before; but, sadly, not nearly enough people found the employment they needed.

So what is going on? I mean, obviously this government is spending tons of money. We know that Goldman Sachs had the best year they have ever had last year. But then, when you get to scratching, we know the Federal Reserve is refusing to open its books, refusing to be audited. The same people that are demanding that the Intelligence Agency, the FBI, all these other folks, the Department of Defense need to have complete transparency, not demanding the same thing of the Federal Reserve. We have got to keep that secret for some reason, when the truth is we need to know how much trouble the Federal Reserve continues to get us into.

But we were able to pull one contract between the Federal Reserve and New York with someone called Goldman Sachs SF Management, and they got a sweetheart deal here. But it does allow them to basically act on behalf of the Federal Reserve, just do whatever the Federal Reserve could do on their behalf, including hiring people to manage their assets. But in order to be hired to manage assets of the Federal Reserve, the manager, Goldman Sachs, acting on behalf of the Federal Reserve, is restricted to only hiring those outside entities that are listed in Exhibit C of their contract.

So you know that at least restricted them. They couldn't line their own pockets. Except that Goldman Sachs Asset Management LP is the manager acting on behalf of the Federal Reserve; and, lo and behold, Goldman Sachs & Company is an authorized counterparty with whom Goldman Sachs Asset Management can cut a deal as Goldman Sachs Asset Management LP sees fit on behalf of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Well, isn't that special. Isn't that convenient.

Those are the kinds of things we are talking about, I guess, when someone here on the floor or the President talks about these cozy relationships between his administration and others that are not good for America, because that sure doesn't sound good for America.

But you know, there was a time in America when people had a conscience. There was something in this country called morality. And when morality was such an important thing in this

country, if someone was greedy and they through greed, avarice, neglect, ran their car off in a ditch, and even though it was their own fault, their own greed, that got them in trouble. If their neighbors came out and helped them get their car out of a ditch, well, there was this conscience, this still small voice that spoke within the greedy person to say, Gee, I am so sorry. I am so sorry. I will never be able to thank you enough for helping me get my car out of the ditch. I owe you. What can I do for you?

Now we are in a day when greed of an entity like Goldman Sachs, I think they gave 4-1 to help the President get elected over McCain, they ran their car into a ditch during the end of the Bush administration. And since the former chairman was the Secretary of the Treasury and he could see his friends were in big trouble, he decided to scare America, tell them the financial sky was falling, to convince the President that the financial sky was falling, and that the only remedy was to give him, Hank Paulson, \$700 billion to play with so that maybe he could keep things from getting too bad.

Well, he kept things from getting bad for Goldman Sachs. That's why it was necessary to bail out AIG. Most of AIG's departments were doing great. It was the credit default swaps that got them in trouble. But, unfortunately, credit default swaps were deals that were done with Goldman Sachs, an awful lot of them. So they had to bail AIG so that of the billions that were paid to AIG to bail them out, most of that would go to Goldman Sachs. So the American taxpayers were on the hook to pull Goldman Sachs' car that their greed drove into the ditch; and once they had it out of the ditch, they run over the rest of America, their neighbors.

There used to be morality. There used to be a conscience. And morality ensured that we could have economic stability. And when you lose morality, you lose economic stability.

There are so many brilliant theologians and philosophers that have talked about this. Chuck Colson was talking about it in a Bible study a little over a year ago, and what he said was true: if you have got morality, you can have economic stability. When you lose economic stability, then throughout history people have always been willing to give up liberty to get economic stability.

But to preserve liberty, wouldn't it have been better just to refine this Nation's morals, our moral foundation? Then we don't lose liberty to get economic stability. You get it by having a moral Nation.

You know, the Miss USA pageant got some notoriety before the pageant this week because the contestants were required to take pictures scantily clad. What was that about? It is about greed. Greed. Figuring, if people saw how thinly clad the contestants were, more people would tune in, which means

more money for the pageant. It is about greed. It is about greed. It keeps coming back to that. So if you get back to morality, you can get economic stability.

One of the things that George Washington warned about, he tried to warn us in his farewell address. Washington said:

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness. Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

So, to be moral, Washington said we need to be a religious people. The Nation once was. In fact, when Washington resigned from the leadership as commanding general of the Revolutionary military, he at the end of his resignation had these words, and this is not the whole thing but I'm shortening it here:

I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in His holy protection; and, that He would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the Characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation.

Of course, he was talking about the divine author of our blessed religion is how he referred to Jesus.

□ 2300

But to be moral under Judeo-Christian beliefs, we would need to be tolerant and allow the expression of opinions, even those opinions that we happen to disagree with, even when those opinions disagree with our lifestyle. And, Mr. Speaker, when people become so intolerant that they do not allow people to speak their mind even when it is to say, I believe your lifestyle is immoral, then we've lost the liberty that so many have fought for and so many have died for and that the Founders pledged their lives, their liberty, their sacred honor.

You see, there was a time during the revolution and for about 150 years after that where people were taught in school—I was taught in school in my early days that this quote from Voltaire—some say Voltaire, some say Cicero, hundreds of years earlier, but that “I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.” Now it's become, I'm so angry at you because you have said that you disagree with my lifestyle; therefore,

I'm going to get you fired. Not only am I not going to fight to the death for your right to say it, I'm going to get you fired. I'm going to see that you lose all your assets. I'm going to see that property is taken, hopefully, and the government comes after you and hopefully puts you in jail and that you die alone and miserable. What happened to the principles that people fought and died for, “I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it”?

There are friends from across the other side of the aisle who I disagree with profoundly on many issues that are extremely important to me, but I know them and I know their heart, and I know they really, honestly believe that what they're saying is right. And I would fight to the death. I was in the Army 4 years, active duty, took an oath, willing to fight and die for their right to say what they say even though I disagree.

Now we've come full circle. Those same things that the Pilgrims depicted in the scene in the big mural down in the Rotunda, having a big prayer meeting, praying to God for his protection and guidance, and lo and behold, they ended up in Massachusetts, not where they had intended. But they came to this land to get away from discrimination because of their Christian beliefs, and now we've come full circle to where Christian beliefs are the only ones that it's okay to discriminate against. It's a sad time in America.

You know, we had a recent survey that indicated 70 percent of American adults believe their children will not have it as good as they have had it, will not have the opportunities, the liberties that we have had. And the fact is, if we got back to a national morality—and I'm sure not pointing the finger across the aisle because there's plenty of finger-pointing to go around, but we need to do it. It's wrong no matter which side of the aisle, and we need to not be afraid to stand up and say it and say the immorality needs to be addressed, and we need to protect this country, its liberties, its prosperity, its opportunities, and that can only be done if we do as George Washington suggested.

Now, there is another country around the world, halfway around the world, called Israel that is under threat. Iran has made clear through its leader, Ahmadinejad, that it needs to be wiped off the map. That leader has also made clear that the great Satan—America, in his mind—also needs to be completely destroyed. How do we ignore that? You ignore those kinds of threats by people who are pursuing the means to carry them out at your own peril, and they seem to be getting ignored.

I was at an APAC dinner recently where I heard a great orator, Senator SCHUMER from New York, and he was pointing out all the things that I agreed with about how Iran was running amok, trying to develop nuclear weapons, and it could not be allowed. It

must not be allowed. It must be stopped. I was thrilled that he was taking that strong position. And he got to the end, and he basically said, So we need sanctions. Sanctions?

We've been trying to have sanctions for years. And while sanction talk continues to go around this administration and Russia and China and others in the U.N. who despise Israel and would also like to see it wiped off the map, the centrifuges in Iran continue to spin. They continue to enrich uranium. Oh, and now we hear that they may be cutting a deal with Turkey to trade some enriched uranium. I mean, there's plenty of bad news to go around, but that has to be stopped. When you have an enemy who has sworn to wipe you off the map, as Iran's leaders have us and Israel together, and he is working as fast as he can to develop the weaponry to do that, then you sit idly by twiddling your thumbs, talking about sanctions at your own peril.

Now, it is true that before the end of last year we began working on a resolution that basically would run through just a small fraction of some of the comments that Ahmadinejad has made. Apparently he has indicated that he believes the Mahdi is coming, will rule over the world, but that he can speed his return if he simply utilizes nuclear weapons. Then the end and the Mahdi's rule comes that much quicker. And yet we've had so-called journalists who have interviewed him, and the man has talked about wiping out this country, including the journalist asking him questions, and yet they don't have the nerve or the sense to ask him, What about your comments about wiping us off the map? What about your comments about bringing about the end of the world as we know it? What about those things? The journalists have become lapdogs. How sad is that? Not all of them. There's some excellent journalists, and apparently they're the ones that this administration is pursuing vendettas against, the way it sounds.

But somebody needs to do the work because we're at risk, as is our dear friend Israel on the other side of the world. And not just Israel, not just the United States, but our Muslim friends who are moderate Muslims that don't believe that jihad means to destroy all your enemies, that they believe that the jihad is within. Well, those are the very people that will also, with us, be wiped out if Ahmadinejad has his way, gets his nuclear weaponry, because he has no use for moderate Muslims. He'll kill them with the rest of us that he considers infidels. How can we allow those centrifuges to continue to spin?

I have been reluctant to come to the floor and talk about this because I wanted to make it a very bipartisan thing—it's gone on for over 6 months—hoping that we would quietly be able to have Democrats take the lead, because I didn't care who took the lead. Take the lead, whoever wants to. But it is

time to step up and stop Iran from developing and acquiring nuclear weapons that pose a threat to Israel, to moderate Muslims, and to the existence of this country. It's time to step up, and sanctions are not doing it.

We know from the Iraq sanctions when Saddam Hussein was in charge that we had dear friends—France, Germany, Russia—cheating on the sanctions. France's friend Joseph Wilson—not Congressman WILSON, but Joseph Wilson started throwing around allegations about the Bush administration. As his wife said, he has dear friends in France.

Well, France was about to come under fire for cheating on the Oil-for-Food Programme, but Mr. WILSON was able to turn the discussion and focus away from France and their cheating on those sanctions to the Bush administration successfully, and the willing allies in the mainstream media went right with him. But it didn't change the fact that cheating went on and that there will be people who are willing to cheat with Iran as long as they're willing to pay money to get what they want.

□ 2310

I think it is actually to China and Russia's credit that they haven't said, Okay, sure, we will agree to sanctions, knowing that they are going to cheat and sell things to Iran and not have competition because sanctions are in place. I think it is to their credit that they have been honest enough to say we don't think sanctions are a good idea. And all of the while the centrifuges continue to spin, and uranium continues to be enriched, and they move toward a bigger and bigger and bigger bomb that poses such a threat to Israel, to our way of life, to our liberties, because even though our liberties have allowed what the jihadists, the radical Islamists see as nothing but corruption, that our liberties have allowed us to move into complete immorality from their way of seeing it, and therefore need to be destroyed. The fact is our liberties allow us to move forward and progress and become what has shown the world the greatest Nation in the history of mankind right here in the United States of America. The greatest ever in the history of the world.

We continue to move forward and advance because of the liberties and encouragement of entrepreneurship. But what are we doing now? Now we are moving more and more of the entrepreneurship into the Federal Government and say the Federal Government is going to take over and take care of things. But the truth is if we allow someone like a modern day Hitler named Ahmadinejad to develop a nuclear weapon—and apparently he may have enough fuel now to make a small bomb, if we allow him to get a bomb, Israel is at risk, we are at risk, and it would take a miracle of God to protect us because we have pulled down our own defenses.

I never seek to push my religious belief on others, but it is my belief, and since people have fought and died so I can express my opinion, it is my belief that God does allow us to have freedom of choice. And when we turn from God in our freedom of choice, and we walk away from his direction, teachings, and become the immoral Nation we have moved into where greed and avarice take over, eventually God turns his back, and you go to the dust heap of history. It has happened over and over. And now we seem to be moving ever so quickly in that direction.

Well, the great news is that this incredible experiment in human liberty and democracy does not have to go away, but it is going to have to take a recommitment to the morals, and of course George Washington, as I read, he said you cannot have morality that will sustain this Nation in exclusion of religious principle.

We know that Benjamin Franklin, I have said it so many times, but because there are still people out there saying Ben Franklin was a deist who believed that a deity created the universe and never involves himself in the things of man, it is important for people to know his own words, because he himself said, in 1787 at the Constitutional Convention, I have lived, sir, a long time. And the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: That God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it possible an empire could rise without his aid?

Franklin said, We are assured in the sacred writing, sir, that except the Lord build a house, they labor in vain that build it. He went on and said, I also firmly believe that without His, the Lord's concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel. We shall be confounded by our local partial interests, and we ourselves will become a byword down to future ages.

And that is what scares me now in America.

We, as Franklin said, have forgotten our powerful friend. That is the question that he asked the Constitutional Convention: Have we now forgotten our powerful friend?

If he were here in this body today asking that question, we would have to answer him "yes." There is a judge in Wisconsin who said you couldn't call upon your powerful friend as a Nation on a National Day of Prayer. We have had a Supreme Court say previously that despite the fact that the Constitution came about after Franklin moved that we begin to have daily prayer in Congress, we had a Supreme Court that was so miseducated that they felt like it was improper to have prayer in public places. How did we get so far off base? Well, we have had people that were miseducated.

There was a lady in Mount Pleasant where I grew up, Ms. Milum, she got into her 90s and she could still cook.

And she would call my mother and say, Tell Louie I have some rolls. Her daughter was my mother's best friend, Emma Lou. And one day Emma Lou was talking about a man there in Mount Pleasant. And Ms. Milum said, He's a fool. Emma Lou said, Mother, he has his Ph.D.

And she said, I don't care, he is still a P-H-U-L. Well, I think we have a lot of Ph.D.s and other degrees who are still P-H-U-Ls. They are fools still because they have been educated beyond their means. Or they have become, as scripture refers to them, wise in their own eyes.

As a result, we have people in this country who think that while a madman is spinning centrifuges, developing uranium, and saying that he is going to use it to destroy Israel and America, and of course that will also include destroying moderate Muslims, we are just talking over here about sanctions and can't even agree on them.

We took an oath in this body to support and defend the Constitution. We are supposed to provide for the common defense against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and we have a self-announced enemy to this country that wants to wipe us off the map and he stands there taunting us, developing nuclear weapons, and we are not living up to our oath to provide for the common defense.

I was in West Africa with Mercy Ships, a wonderful charitable institution that helps the lame to walk, the blind to see, provides surgeries for those who do not have health care in Africa. In the country of Togo with around 6 million people, two hospitals, this Mercy Ship is truly a ship of mercy.

But West Africans on the ship wanted to meet with me the last night I was there. I don't know how well educated those folks were. They had hearts of gold, and they were people of prayer. They were Christian brothers and sisters. The oldest gentleman there, Ebenezer said, in essence, it is so important that you understand what America means to the rest of the world.

□ 2320

And to Christians around the world, and those who want to be free, who have freedom, those who want to be free, if you let your country fall, there is no one else in this world, other than God, to help us. You must keep your country strong in order for the rest of us to have hope of protection.

There were so many words of wisdom from that group, one from a young man who said, yes, but we must not only pray for their leaders—in fact, they said, we're excited that you have a Black President. We're concerned about some of his policies. We're concerned some of them will weaken America. And if you become weak, we have no protection from the forces of evil. Our protection of this country means so much to so many.

As this young man said, we need to also pray for the people around their

leaders in America because they all have people whispering and giving them advice and giving them information. We need to pray for them too. I was struck by the wisdom of that young man because he understands.

And in this country, whether it's at the White House, here in the Halls of Congress, we all have people whom we rely on for information and to help us work through and summarize and get information in a nutshell so it can be absorbed and utilized. And if the wrong information is provided, then our leaders have no hope of doing the right thing.

That's what happened with the TARP bailout. We had a good leader in President George W. Bush. He's smarter than people give him credit for. He's witty, one of the wittiest guys to talk with, just a delight to visit with. But the man who was his Secretary of the Treasury was acting in the best interest of Goldman Sachs and his friends on Wall Street, and not for the people across America. And I'll give him the benefit of the doubt and say, okay, through his Wall Street lens he thought, if my friends get rich again and they don't go bankrupt, then everybody in America will do well. Well, we saw that's not the case.

But that's what we've got going on now. Apparently our President, our great President, is getting some very bad advice, just like President Bush did on the TARP bailout. He's got a Secretary of the Treasury that we were told worked with Paulsen in the plan so he'll keep the same things going. I thought that was a good reason not to confirm him, but he was confirmed, and there he is giving the President advice.

And the jobs still are not being created. And as we move toward the end of the year, we see the tax rates are going to go up in every way, capital gains are going to go up, estate tax is coming back with a vengeance. Some people are beginning to make their moves financially. And as Art Laffer said, it's going to make this, the rest of the year, look like we may be moving into a recovery, but it's a false recovery. It's people preparing for the end of the year when the taxes skyrocket in every area. And that's when the bottom will fall out.

So it's not surprising that there are some economic indicators that are going up. It makes sense.

But we've got people giving the President bad advice. We have people in this Congress, the leaders here who are getting bad advice, and we're hurting the country.

And those wonderful West Africans that I met with, who warned me, don't let your country fall; don't let your country get hurt. You're the hope we have in this world because of the way God's used America in the past.

We owe it to so many. Who will come rushing in to the Haitis, to the international disasters once we're too broke?

You know, the Democrats took the majority in November of 2006 I think largely on the promise that we're going to correct, as Democrats, what the Republicans have done in running up the deficit. And unfortunately, Republicans had done that. When Republicans got the White House, had both Houses of Congress, they got giddy and they could run up a couple of hundred billion in deficit. My first 2 years we were still in the majority, and I couldn't believe some of the things that we were doing. That was not Republican. That's not what we were supposed to do.

But the new majority, over the last—well, since January of '07, have run up deficits. This administration has run up deficits like never before in history. And I was embarrassed when Bush was talking about \$160 billion deficit in one year. And we're talking about a \$1.6 trillion deficit in one year, 10 times what the Bush administration was pushing. And yet no outrage from the same people that were so upset about 160 billion. What happened to that?

Our country is in trouble morally, and because morally, then economically, and because we're economically in trouble, people are allowing their liberties to be taken.

And now we find out that 53 percent of Americans are going to carry all of the income tax burden for the whole country?

Now, there are some in this country who want to work, and they're not able to work. There are others in this country who are able to work and they're not. There are those who could do more, but we're moving up to 47 percent that are not going to pay any income tax. And we know historically that when one more than 50 percent of the voters in a country get more benefits from the Federal Government, than they put in, you are very close to the end of your Nation's history. You are very close to the end of your Nation as you knew it. And we are moving far too quickly in that direction. It's got to stop.

We need morality in the Department of the Interior, in the MMS, so they don't just wink and nod on the blow-out preventers, that they will step up and do what is morally correct to protect the environment.

We need people who will step up and say, we are not going to destroy this economy. We're going to use the energy we've got, but we will make sure that it's being used environmentally responsibly.

Apparently my time has expired, so I must yield back with a prayer for America that we will regain our morality, our economic stability and keep our liberties.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BILBRAY (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of

the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. KIRK (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of an illness in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. ETHERIDGE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. CAPPS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. KLEIN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GRAYSON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURTON of Indiana) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, May 21, 24, and 25.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, May 21, 24, and 25.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, May 21, 24, and 25.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, May 21, 24, and 25.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reports that on May 13, 2010 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 2802. To provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5160. To extend the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, to provide customs support services to Haiti, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5148. To amend title 39, United States Code, to clarify the instances in which the term "census" may appear on mailable matter.

H.R. 1121. To authorize a land exchange to acquire lands for the Blue Ridge Parkway from the Town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1442. To provide for the sale of the Federal Government's reversionary interest in approximately 60 acres of land in Salt Lake City, Utah, originally conveyed to the Mount Olivet Cemetery Association under the Act of January 23, 1909.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 29 minutes