



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011

No. 36

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Latta).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 10, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT E. Latta to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, 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 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

END THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Jones) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, DENNIS KUCINICH, RON PAUL, and I, along with other colleagues, held a press conference to announce House Concurrent Resolution 28, which would require the President to withdraw all United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan by the end of 2011.

Last month's USA Today/Gallup poll, 72 percent of Americans favor congressional action this year to bring our troops home from Afghanistan.

This week the Rasmussen Report finds that 52 percent of voters want our troops home from Afghanistan this year. To quote this poll, "A majority of voters, for the first time, support an immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan or the creation of a timetable to bring them all home within a year."

Fourteen months ago, I asked a retired military general to advise me on Afghanistan. I have asked him for his thoughts, and I will read some of them to you. Back in November, I emailed this general and I said, What do you think about the possibility of being in Afghanistan for 4 more years?

Mr. Speaker, he replied, "I do not believe that 40 more years would guarantee 'victory,' whatever that is; so 4 will do nothing. The war is costing money and lives, all in short supply."

Mr. Speaker, there is a retired lieutenant colonel in Jacksonville, North Carolina, which is in my district, who served in the United States Marine Corps for 31 years. His name is Dennis Adams. He wrote me a letter, and the last paragraph of the letter I would like to read to the House.

"I urge you to make contact with all the current and newly elected men and women to Congress and ask them to end this war and bring our young men and women home. If any of my comments will assist you in this effort, you are welcome to use them and my name."

Mr. Speaker, I want to show the faces. I want to show the faces of war and the faces of pain.

This is a young man whose name is Phillip Jordan. At the time of his father's death—his father was a gunnery sergeant—he was 6 years of age. I wish the people could see the eyes of this young boy, 6 years of age, with a folded flag under his arm and the coffin that is following right behind him. This is war. Children feel war as adults feel war.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to show a poster from the honor guard at Dover walking a transfer case, which most people know is a coffin. It's the remains of an American hero off the plane. This again is war and the pain of war.

Mr. Speaker, this is a beautiful, handsome couple. It's a young marine, his wife, and his child. This young marine had been deployed so much that he developed PTSD. A year ago, on the main drag at Camp Lejeune known as McHugh Boulevard, he committed suicide. He stepped out of the car, he put a gun to his head, and he committed suicide.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Congress would join Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. PAUL, and others in this House and let's have a debate, and let's vote. Let's meet our constitutional responsibility, and let's bring our troops home before we break the military. It is time to bring our troops home from Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, as I always do, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God to love the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq, and I ask God to please bless the House and Senate that we would do what is right in the eyes of God. I ask God to give wisdom, strength, and courage to President Obama that he will do what is right in the eyes of God.

And three times I will ask, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

DIRTY AIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Cohen) for 1 minute.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to Chairman UPTON's dirty air act.

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H1669

In 2007, the Supreme Court issued the *Massachusetts v. EPA* decision, directing the EPA to examine greenhouse gas emissions and their impact on the public health. EPA conducted a highly credible, peer-reviewed scientific analysis under the Bush EPA and the Obama EPA, both concluding that greenhouse gases harm our health.

This was not a political analysis; it was a scientific analysis. But that has not stopped the chairman from trying to legislatively undermine scientific fact. According to the EPA, President Nixon's Clean Air Act will prevent 230,000 premature deaths and result in \$2 trillion in economic benefits in 2020.

But, Chairman UPTON has decided, with much help from corporate polluters' lobbyists, that the fiscal and physical well-being of the American people are less important than Big Oil's importance and Big Oil's billion dollar bottom line next quarter.

The bottom line for America is that undermining EPA science will cost trillions.

PAIN AT THE PUMP

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

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, frustrations are growing as Americans are feeling real pain at the pumps. The rising gas prices are a serious strain on an economy that is beginning to show small signs of recovery.

Right now, the average gas price in Mississippi is \$3.50 a gallon, and I don't think anybody would be surprised if that number continues to rise. Every time gas prices go up by one penny, that costs American consumers \$4 million a day.

Families in north Mississippi have been dealing with tight budgets for the last couple of years, and rising gas prices severely impact an already tightened family budget. We all know that ultimately gas prices will be passed on in higher prices to the consumer through higher transportation costs, increased costs of groceries and other commodities. When there is no extra money in the pocketbooks, there is certainly no padding in the family budget to accommodate this increase in the cost of living associated with higher gas prices.

As turmoil in the Middle East continues, coupled with emerging demand for Third World developing countries that places demand on foreign energy demands, that's going to cause gas prices to further increase. This problem is serious, and it needs to be addressed now. It needs to be addressed through exploring more domestic energy production.

However, President Obama has offered a short-term solution, tapping into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is available for national emergencies at a time of crisis. Mississippians can all

agree that when President Bush tapped into the strategic reserve during the aftermath of Katrina, it was in response to a serious supply disruption and an unforeseeable disaster.

But if we draw down on these reserves when gas hits \$4 a gallon, what will we do if the reserves are depleted and then a real emergency hits? The President's shortsighted answer to our rapidly increasing oil and gas prices does nothing to protect America from future energy prices skyrocketing, nor does it help lead toward American energy independence.

From the beginning, the Obama administration has failed to initiate a serious energy policy. Instead, this administration has actively taken steps to block or delay American energy production, therefore making us more dependent on unstable foreign countries' oil production.

□ 1010

Recently, we remembered the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy's inauguration. Following that inauguration, the President stood in this very Chamber and challenged our Nation to make it a national goal to place a man on the Moon and return him safely back to Earth before the decade is out. Today, we should make it a national priority that before the end of this decade, the United States should achieve energy security and energy independence. By actively producing our own energy resources, America will not only be independent from volatile regions of the world, but we will supply our own energy.

Now there is no single "silver bullet" and Republicans support an all-of-the-above approach that includes more American oil, more American natural gas, coal and nuclear energy. We need to expand U.S. oil exploration immediately in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska. The gulf produces nearly one-third of our domestic oil. Offshore natural gas produced in the gulf region accounts for 13 percent of the total U.S. production. However, a de facto moratorium still exists, even though the official moratorium was lifted last May and October.

Not only has the gulf lost 12,000 quality jobs because of the moratorium, but these rigs are actively leaving that region and moving to foreign countries such as Cuba, Brazil and Mexico.

In February, Federal Judge Feldman gave the Department of the Interior 30 days to rule on seven deepwater drilling permits. As of today, only one of those permits has been issued. That is simply inexcusable. This type of deliberate inaction and negligence fails to meet the needs of a struggling U.S. economy. That is why I'm a proud cosponsor of House Resolution 140, which calls for a streamlining of the permit process for shallow and deepwater drilling in the gulf.

In 2008, President Obama put the entire Pacific coast, Atlantic coast and the eastern gulf coast off-limits to fu-

ture energy production. This includes a large portion of Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf, even though expanding production would ultimately create upwards of 1.2 million jobs and generate \$8 trillion in economic output. That's why we must immediately begin a long-term energy policy and begin to drill today to deal with higher gas prices.

I also believe that it is vitally important to invest in the development of clean coal technologies. Coal is our Nation's most abundant and affordable energy resource, and another way to energy independence is through economically and environmentally sound clean coal technology. President Obama has specifically said that he would bankrupt the coal industry through regulations and impossible standards.

Democrats continue to operate an anti-business agenda and restrict the advancement of domestic energy development through regulations, moratoriums and increased taxes on American energy production. The President's 2012 budget includes over \$60 billion in tax and fee increases on American energy production. This will only add to the burden of families and businesses.

The current unrest in the Middle East only emphasizes the importance for America to develop more of its own domestic resources. American energy production can lower prices, create good jobs and decrease our reliability on foreign oil. We need to start paying Americans and stop funding our enemies.

Our country has been blessed with clean and efficient energy resources. Let's stop putting unreasonable restrictions on our natural resources and allow America to claim energy independence.

FORECLOSURE CRISIS AND GOP GUTTING FORECLOSURE PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, the effects of the foreclosure crisis and economic downturn have had a devastating impact on American families. Because of shoddy business practices and enormous risks taken by big banks, our housing and financial systems have utterly collapsed. And in the wake of this destruction, millions of Americans have lost their jobs, their homes and their quality of life.

As the casualties rose and homeowners clamored for some relief, the government stepped in to do what it could. But with the scope of the problem, government foreclosure relief programs alone just aren't enough. We should do more—more to fix the housing market and more especially to create jobs, because putting people back to work will do more to right our economy, help people pay their mortgages and get the banks back to lending than anything else.

But the Republican House leadership hasn't gotten the message. In the last 10 weeks since the Republicans took control of the House, they haven't created a single job. What's worse, they