

4,000, and include businesses, schools, faith-based organizations, and non-governmental organizations. OSAC serves as the U.S. Government's primary platform for assisting the U.S. private sector to confront and mitigate security threats overseas. Information is shared via OSAC's Web site and through individual consultations between OSAC analysts and its constituency. OSAC's original reports are posted on their Web site, sent to embassies around the world, and have been requested by numerous U.S. and foreign government agencies.

Through its Country Council program, OSAC provides a mechanism for the U.S. private sector to gather information and share best practices among the world's leading security experts. Country Councils are present in over 140 cities and serve as a forum for the discussion of time-sensitive and country-specific security concerns. Around the world, the London Country Council is gearing up for the immense undertaking of the 2012 Olympic Summer Games; members of the Lagos Country Council are discussing operating challenges in the Niger Delta; the various Country Councils in Mexico are creating strategies for operating amid the violence caused by the drug trafficking organizations; the Hong Kong Country Council is focusing on deterring cybercrime; the Erbil Country Council is facilitating discussions between the U.S. private sector and Kurdistan government officials.

Over the past 26 years, OSAC has developed into the premier model for public-private partnership. It is the only government-sponsored organization specifically designed to address the private sector's global security concerns. Founded by Secretary of State George Shultz and a handful of CEOs in 1985, OSAC has expanded to include over 4,000 constituents and looks forward to a robust partnership with the U.S. private sector and ensuring the safety of American entities abroad. Congratulations to the OSAC cochair, Diplomatic Security Service Director Jeff Culver and John McClurg from the Dell Corporation, and the Executive Working Group: Jim Snyder from Conoco Phillips; Brad Brekke from Target Corporation; and Jim Hutton from Procter & Gamble. I also want to thank OSAC's executive director, Peter Ford, and from OSAC, Jackee Schools and Marsha Thurman.

IT'S TIME TO STOP RELYING ON FOREIGN OIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, with gas prices skyrocketing to over \$4 and \$5 a gallon, threatening our fragile economic recovery, let me retrace the history of U.S. economic recessions and unemployment since the 1970s and their relation to global oil markets and

oil prices. Both in 1973, during the Nixon administration, and then during 1978, during the Presidency of Jimmy Carter, America's economy was subjected to serious harm by global oil kingdoms on whom our Nation already had become too dependent. When gas prices eventually doubled, with the unemployment that followed, President Carter described that major oil price squeeze as the "moral equivalent of war."

This chart very vividly shows, how rising unemployment, which is the blue line, follows every major oil price increase since the 1970s. Yes, every spike of gas price increase creates a path to high unemployment that follows. That certainly was true back in 2008, when in fact the oil prices spiked over \$4 dollars per gallon and unemployment shot up, triggering our current recession as well. President Carter lost his reelection to Ronald Reagan, who won on a campaign of blaming Carter for a "misery index." Back in those days the misery index was explained as the sum of unemployment and inflation rates but that sum actually was due to gas price sticker shock. When gas prices rise above \$4 a gallon, that very fact triggers major unemployment here at home. How many times does our American economy have to be hit over the head with a baseball bat before we recognize our conundrum? We should be working full steam ahead to become energy independent here at home rather than coveting our neighbor's goods.

If we look at the continuing use of petroleum inside our economy—other than the recession we're now in, where we've had a little bit of a dip in imports due to decreased demand—all the way going back to the 1970s, every year, we've consumed more imported petroleum. The red lines show how much more is imported each year. Rather, why don't we invest those trillions and trillions of dollars we are spending in the Middle East and around the world to import that oil right here in our own country?

□ 1030

We literally could rebuild energy production capacity, and much more, from one end of our country to the other and create millions of jobs doing it.

America's chief strategic vulnerability is our dependence on imported energy. How many more Americans have to die to keep those oil lanes open? It is no coincidence we have sent our soldiers to fight where the greatest global oil deposits are located.

My oath is to protect our Nation against all enemies, foreign and domestic. America's petrol dependence is an enemy on both fronts: foreign and domestic. It is no secret that there are some big business interests, including many global oil companies, oil speculators, and financiers trading in those petrodollars, that are making a killing, in many ways, off of America's dependency.

In 2008, rising oil prices tripwired the Great Recession we are currently en-

during. And we know recent price hikes threaten our recovery just as our Nation and our people are struggling to get back on their feet. Look at the profits that the major oil companies are ringing in from gas prices at over \$4 a gallon. Just in the last quarter, Exxon raked in \$10.7 billion, BP brought in \$7.2 billion, Chevron earned over \$6 billion, and the list goes on and on—in one quarter. One quarter. These huge profits at the expense of our people and nation.

The American people suffer great hardship every time this petroleum addiction rears its ugly head, and it has done so every decade, consistently. The situation keeps getting worse, if anyone is paying attention. In effect, our American Republic becomes a gasoline hostage and a sticker cash cow anytime the global oil markets need an infusion of oil cash or raise prices due to supply aberrations. We simply can't leave America and our people this vulnerable. And we can't keep killing our soldiers to keep those oil lanes open.

The biggest force in the world is inertia. People don't want to change, or don't know how to change our predicament, or don't want to change this losing strategy for our Nation. It's no secret that some interests are making a whole lot of money off the present equation: "I win, you lose."

Mr. Speaker, if these economic interests aren't tamed and aren't enemies of our Republic, I don't know what is. Bill Greider wrote a book, it's time to "Come Home, America." Let's do that by restoring energy independence here at home and, indeed, our very liberty.

THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION COMPETITION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it was my great privilege to spend a major portion of the weekend watching young constitutional scholars from Portland's Grant High School compete in the national Constitution competition here in our Nation's Capital.

It was an amazing experience watching these young men and women debating the fine points of our Constitution. While I had a personal interest with one of the students there, it became clear, watching the competition, that everybody was a winner.

As I was watching the finals, where they were one of the top 10 teams in the Nation, it was fascinating to contemplate what was going on in the much broader context in terms of what this represented. Everybody was a winner—the student constitutional scholars, their dedicated coaches and teachers. Most important, America was winning.

They were part of tens of thousands of students across the country who dove into the intricacies of the Constitution over the past year. They

delved into its antecedents like the Magna Carta and the Articles of Confederation. They deal with the Civil War and the challenges to our constitutional ideals and the practicality of governance in a time of war. They pondered the struggle to give all Americans the promises embedded in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. They explored the conflict between the rule of law and its too often flawed implementation.

It was really heartwarming to be able to witness the discussion between the judges, who were all skilled professionals—professors, lawyers, judges volunteering their time—and these terrific young citizens. Indeed, some of the exchanges were riveting. I found myself reflecting on how much easier would be our job in Congress if there were more Americans who were part of this extraordinary experience.

These young people have been part of a program making a difference for a quarter century now. We've got data that show its effectiveness. These young people score a third higher than adult citizens on their knowledge of the Constitution and civic affairs. And good news for America: looking at this experience over a quarter century, they are five times more likely to run for public office.

The bad news is that thousands of young people in every State, the District of Columbia, and some of the territories will lose as a result of the inability of Congress to figure out how to finance a small portion of the participation that comes from Federal money. They are a casualty this year of the inability of Congress to figure out how to provide that support. I find that ironic because these young people could give Congress lessons about the congressional power of the purse, the separations of power, to give us a roadmap to make sure that these programs are not sacrificed.

It's particularly important because the flawed "No Child Left Behind" bill that's up for reauthorization doesn't place a premium on civic education. I see my good friend, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, a senior member of that committee, who has fought for years to redirect it.

Well, the least we can do is to restore the money lost this year as we deal with the budget for the next year. Any Member of Congress who takes the time to meet with the outstanding young men and women from their State who are in our Nation's Capital today in the aftermath of that contest would be hard-pressed to explain to them why they wouldn't and, indeed, should be inspired to do all they could to make sure this outstanding program continues.

POST-BIN LADEN: A MOMENT TO RE-THINK OUR NATIONAL SECURITY APPROACH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Yes, indeed, just to follow up on the gentleman from Oregon, we are, in our efforts to reauthorize elementary and secondary education, expanding to the whole child, we hope, including civics and art and music.

Mr. Speaker, my first thought when watching the news last Sunday night was about the many people, the many people, who have a hole in their hearts and in their homes because of the senseless, brutal violence perpetrated by Osama bin Laden. There was 9/11, of course, but also the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the Embassy bombings in East Africa, the attack on the USS *Cole*. Bin Laden is responsible for so much evil, and I hope that the families of his victims can now find some measure of peace and hopefully some closure.

He is dead, but the terrorism threat he represents remains alive and well. The network he created continues to thrive. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, that al Qaeda will remain strong as long as we, the United States of America, continue our policy of aggressive militarism in the Middle East.

□ 1040

The war in Afghanistan remains an epic failure that is bankrupting us morally and fiscally. Our nearly 10-year occupation has emboldened those who hate America instead of defeating them. It has created more terrorists than it has killed. It is undermining our national security interests, not advancing them. It is making us less safe, not more.

None of that changes with the news of Osama bin Laden's death. Just last week, a retired Army lieutenant colonel from my district just north of the Golden Gate Bridge, James McLaughlin, Jr., of Santa Rosa, California, was killed while working as a contractor training military pilots in Afghanistan. He died along with eight others when an Afghan pilot turned on his allies and went on a shooting spree during a meeting at the Kabul airport. Bin Laden's death won't bring Jim McLaughlin back, nor will it bring back the 1,500-plus Americans who have lost their lives in Afghanistan. The horror of this war continues unabated.

So with Osama bin Laden's death, I believe that it is past time for somber reflection—reflection about the policies of the last 10 years and about where we might go from here. It is time to rethink our entire approach to national security.

We can save so much in lives, in money, in global credibility, and in moral authority with a smart security platform that puts diplomacy and development aid before guns and tanks: a platform that uses American power for humanitarian ends, a platform that empowers and invests in the people of Afghanistan instead of invading and occupying their country.

We have a chance now to change course. The trauma of 9/11 was profound, but it also led to some disastrous choices, from the war in Iraq, to roving wiretaps, to waterboarding, to the surge in Afghanistan. Now that the 9/11 mastermind is gone, it is time to turn a new page.

It has to begin with a swift move toward military redeployment out of Afghanistan. We cannot continue down this road of permanent warfare. The costs are too great. I've never ever felt more strongly, Mr. Speaker, that it is time to bring our troops home.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Alan Kieran, Office of the U.S. Senate Chaplain, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Most Holy God, Creator and sustainer of the universe, we come to this Chamber today with humility and expectation.

In humility because we know that You have appointed our elected Members and Capitol Hill staff for such a time as this.

In expectation because faith in You brings untold blessings to hearts, homes, and nations.

You say, O God, that from those to whom You have given much, much is expected.

Endow our leaders with good health. Strengthen them in body, mind, and soul for the busy days ahead. Grant them Your wisdom, peace, and joy in this season of fruitful labor.

And may we all reap a harvest of righteousness as we serve You and our Nation's citizens.

I pray in Your everlasting Name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr.