

with disruptions in the Middle East that continue to affect production.

I supported the American Clean Energy and Security Act last session because it took steps to immediately reduce demand through improved vehicle fuel economy standards and energy efficient technology in our buildings and homes, while investing in clean energy, including an increased commitment to the research and development of offshore wind.

We should put our money behind those efforts instead of giving billions of dollars in tax breaks each year to oil companies. As we just recently heard, ExxonMobil just reported first quarter earnings of \$11 billion, a nearly 70 percent increase, with other oil companies following closely behind. Mr. Speaker, let's eliminate subsidies for these big corporations that don't need our help.

In the short term, Congress must partner with President Obama and support Attorney General Holder's efforts to monitor oil and gas markets and safeguard consumers against unlawful practices. We also need stricter guidelines for speculators and getting speculators out of the market. We need guidelines for people who buy oil just to sell it at a profit, perhaps by allowing people to buy oil on the market only if they can actually receive product.

Additionally, I urge my colleagues to pressure oil companies to drill on domestic lands where they already have existing leases. The industry right now is drilling on less than a quarter of the 80 million acres where it already has leases approved. While this is not a long-term solution, we need responsible drilling on lands where there are existing leases. Now, this is, I believe, a faster, fairer, and safer path to more domestic production, unlike legislation on the floor this week which will put oil rig workers and the environment at risk by expediting critical safety reviews.

None of this, of course, lessens the urgency of switching to alternative fuels.

□ 1040

The U.S. has only 1.4 percent of the world's proven oil reserves but currently consumes 22 percent of the world's oil.

In the long run, we will remain susceptible to repeats of the current crisis unless we take every opportunity to decrease our dependence on oil. Now I want to highlight one important initiative in my State that involves public transportation. The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority acquired just recently 53 new hybrid buses and is upgrading 10 trolleys to hybrid propulsion, and we should encourage others to follow their lead. RIPTA expects that their new hybrid fleet will save them approximately 20 percent on fuel usage, which will help prevent price increases and route closures.

We should build on the success in Rhode Island nationally by requiring

specific hybrid and fuel efficiency standards for any vehicles involved in Federal grant programs. Complicated problems, like the price of gasoline, often require difficult solutions. But we cannot let this prevent us from moving forward and delivering to our constituents who cannot afford these costs or a slowed economic recovery. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to work together to enact short-term provisions and long-term solutions to bring relief to working families and small business.

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 41 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 at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Kurt Gerhard, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God of peace, Who called all people from every nation to seek reconciliation with each other for the good of creation, inspire in us the will to persevere, through moments of conflict, to seek common ground.

Bless this country and all its leaders in the continued fulfillment of a vision set forth in July of 1776 that all people are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

During this session of the 112th Congress in this, the people's House, may the hearts of these duly elected Representatives be blessed with the integrity of purpose and the steadfast commitment to seek and serve the people of the United States of America for the betterment of this country and the world.

We ask this all in the name of the one God, the God of all nations. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches from each side of the aisle.

GAS PRICES

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the average for a gallon of gas in Ohio is over \$4 a gallon. In eastern and southeast Ohio, this is particularly hard on families who live in rural areas. Farmers, ranchers, seniors, working families who have limited means of transportation—these high gas prices are having a negative impact on everyone. The higher gas prices go, the more of an impact it has on our economy and on our chances for a real economic recovery.

Small business owners are watching money they could otherwise invest in their businesses go to paying for fuel, and working families are anxiously redoing their budgets to account for higher fuel costs and looking for ways to cut back.

We're blessed with an abundance of natural resources in Ohio. We're one of the highest coal-producing areas, and with the Marcellus shale right next door in West Virginia, we're poised to make an enormous contribution to making America self-sufficient in energy. We need an energy strategy that will help us become energy self-sufficient so we stop relying on other countries to meet our energy needs.

Now is the time to levy a "permatorium" on developing American energy resources. Let's open up our American resources and put our country on the path to ensuring our energy security, instead of continuing to rely on foreign sources for energy.

WE MUST NOT PASS H.R. 3

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3 and to remind my colleagues of two key dates.

January 20, 2011, the day H.R. 3 was introduced. Just 3 months ago, the authors of this extremist, offensive bill introduced a version of H.R. 3 that would have redefined rape and incest. They don't want us to remember, but we cannot forget 173 Members of Congress signed their names to a bill that would have redefined rape to exclude women who are unconscious, mentally disabled, or forced into sex by threat.

The authors of this bill would also like us to forget another important date: January 22, 1973. On that day, the Supreme Court ruled that women have the right to make their own decisions about their own bodies and their own lives.

But we will not forget that date, and we will not forget the 173 Members of this body who want to redefine rape and incest, and we will not turn back the clock to a time when women could not make their own choices and access vital care.

We will not forget. We will not go back, and we must not pass H.R. 3.

NAVY SEALS 1—BIN LADEN—0

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Osama bin Laden has met his maker, and we appreciate the Navy SEALs for arranging the meeting, but Pakistan gives us some concern. It seems like Pakistan might be playing both sides, and they have a lot of explaining to do.

For all these years, we believed that Osama bin Laden was on the run, living in a cave; but, apparently, Satan's Pawn has been living for years in a million-dollar compound just yards away from a Pakistani military base, but Pakistan claims no knowledge of Osama bin Laden's whereabouts. I just don't buy it.

I've introduced a bill that would require Congress and the American people to get a full understanding of what Pakistan knew about bin Laden's whereabouts and when they knew it, before we give them any more American money. Congress has already appropriated \$3 billion in aid to Pakistan for this year; and unless Pakistan can prove that they were not providing sanctuary for America's number one enemy, they should not receive any American aid.

And that's just the way it is.

OPPOSE H.R. 3

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the majority's attempt to undermine a woman's right to choose, a right that is fundamental to a woman's freedom.

H.R. 3 would raise taxes on any American whose employer-sponsored health care plan provides coverage for an abortion. It eliminates Americans' right to use their own funds in health savings accounts for a legal abortion unless they can prove to the IRS that they were victims of rape or incest. This legislation allows a hospital to refuse to perform an emergency abortion, even if a woman would die without it. It would allow doctors to refuse abortion services, even if a pregnancy threatens a woman's health. And this law makes radical changes to the way

we treat survivors of rape and even how we define rape.

My colleagues say that they are for no new taxes and for preserving life, but this legislation belies that claim.

HAMAS MERGER

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, the news that Osama bin Laden had been killed by U.S. forces on Sunday brought reassurance to many around the world that justice had finally been served. A man responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent people of all races and religions had been located and eliminated. However, not everyone saw it the same way.

Ismail Haniyeh, leader of Hamas in Gaza, called bin Laden a sheikh and said, "We condemn the assassination and the killing of an Arab holy warrior." This comes the same week that Palestinian political parties Hamas and Fatah have reconciled and formed a unity government.

How can the United States provide aid to a unity government if one of its most important leaders praises a mass murderer? How can Israel negotiate treaties with a government composed of a party that is actively seeking its destruction?

There cannot be true peace as long as Hamas holds up Osama bin Laden and other terrorists as heroes. The Palestinian people must recognize that hatred and terrorism will never bring them true peace and true independence.

COMMEMORATING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the rich history of the Jewish American experience in the United States as we mark Jewish American Heritage Month.

It is fitting that the words of the Jewish American poet, Emma Lazarus, are immortalized on the Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," because here in the United States we recognize the powerful impact of the Jewish American experience—people who escaped persecution, arrived here as immigrants and prospered.

Jewish Americans formed strong communities, became involved in their neighborhoods, and have made lasting contributions to our country. Jewish Americans represent some of this country's, and indeed the world's, foremost innovators in health and science, business and industry, politics and government, arts and culture. This spirit is also found in many Jewish Americans

who work tirelessly to seek a better life for future generations.

In celebrating the many milestones of Jewish Americans this month, we honor the lives, work, and rich history of Jewish Americans throughout our Nation. And that's why this month we take time to remember the unique Jewish American identity, steeped in history and faith, and their tremendously important contributions to our Nation.

□ 1210

SHALE NATURAL GAS

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

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the plentiful natural gas reserves that we have in the United States. Many of my colleagues may not be aware of two studies which recently highlighted the abundance of this clean-burning domestic fuel source which holds so much promise.

The first study I would like to draw attention to is the Energy Information Administration's Energy Outlook 2011, which analyzes energy production, consumption, technology, market supply and demand, and the direction those trends may take in the future. The outlook anticipates strong growth in the natural gas development and consumption because of development of shale gas resources. The outlook notes that growth in natural gas would not be permissible but for the combination of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing technologies which have made shale gas economical to produce. The outlook finds that hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling have led to an average annual growth rate of 48 percent in the time period from of 2006 to 2010.

The second study I would like to mention is the American Gas Association's Potential Gas Committee 2010 biennial report.

This report highlights the potential supply of natural gas in the United States. To be specific, the report finds that the United States possesses an untapped natural gas resource potential of 1,898 trillion cubic feet. This is the highest resource evaluation in the Potential Gas Committee's 46 year history.

My Congressional District in New York State overlays a formation known as the Marcellus Shale. This shale play is one of the leading contributors to the rapid growth in estimates of recoverable natural gas in the United States.

By developing and utilizing these massive natural gas reserves, we can begin to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and thus over time, reduce the cost of gasoline. As we all know, American producers and consumers are paying a heavy price as the cost of gasoline continues to rise. Everything costs more to produce, more to transport, and more to purchase.

Reducing our dependence on foreign oil is both a national security issue and an economic issue. I urge my colleagues to consider