

There are many positive steps, Mr. Speaker, we can take to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, steps that will include clean energy, renewable energy, and efficiency in our vehicles. That's the path we need to take if we are going to reduce our reliance on foreign oil and achieve genuine energy independence.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Jane Wood, Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, Rockville, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

O Lord our God, God of our past, present, and future, we look to You today as we begin this session of the United States House of Representatives.

We thank You this afternoon for those who are assembled here. They have been given a great privilege and an awesome responsibility.

Bestow upon them the wisdom, discernment, and knowledge they need. Be very near to each of them, and may this day be a day of accomplishment.

By Your grace, enable these Representatives to continue on the "path to a more perfect Union."

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 Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair an-

ounces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the whole number of the House is 432.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 9, 2011 at 10:05 a.m.:

That the Senate has added additional conferee H.R. 658.

Appointments:

United States Capitol Preservation Commission.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PUTTING THE GULF BACK TO WORK ACT

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I have said many times on this floor and in meetings with constituents, this country does not have an energy strategy, and the only thing worse than not having an energy strategy is having bad energy policy. Yet the answer lies right here in our own backyard. We have the resources, but this administration continues to block access.

Today we're voting on H.R. 1229, the Putting the Gulf Back to Work Act. It is crucial to restoring our own capabilities to produce energy by moving forward with permit applications in a sensible amount of time.

It's deplorable that businesses, like Leed Petroleum in Lafayette, Louisiana, with 22 employees, cannot get back to work and have no options unless we hold these regulators' feet to the fire and force them to do their jobs. These independent producers and service companies, the backbone of American energy production, deserve answers and real solutions.

With oil and gas prices skyrocketing, there is no excuse for any delays to offshore energy production. The people of this country are tired of uncertainty. They are tired of dependence on foreign oil, and they're tired of record gas prices.

The bottom line is we must begin the path toward a solid energy policy to get Americans back to work. There's no excuse for delay.

HONORING ISRAEL ON HER 63RD BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and to celebrate the State of Israel on her 63rd birthday.

Sixty-three years ago, Israel was founded against all odds, through enormous courage and after a difficult struggle. Now she is the beacon of freedom and hope throughout the region.

As the only true democratic society in the Middle East, Israel has built a technologically advanced and thriving economy. Israel's a world leader in biotechnology research and is home to some of the world's great entrepreneurial success stories. Her people enjoy freedom of expression in all forms, and she boasts one of the strongest records on human rights.

The United States, as the first country to recognize Israel's independence, forged an unbreakable bond with Israel through our shared values and goals, and the partnership and cooperation between our two countries has never been stronger. The United States is committed to ensuring Israel's ability to defend herself and will continue to provide the most advanced assistance in security and the most robust economic aid.

In 63 years, Israel has persevered against all odds, against foreign armies, terrorism, and those who deny her right to exist.

Today we reaffirm the bond between the United States and Israel, that it will not be broken. And today the United States stands firmly with our great ally Israel in true friendship and celebration.

WHOSE SIDE IS PAKISTAN ON?

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after years of funneling money to Pakistan, we still don't know whose side they are on in this war on terror.

We have given Pakistan \$12 billion in foreign aid since 2002. We have reimbursed them \$9 billion for their military operations in the war on terror. It's time we freeze the foreign aid to Pakistan until we get some answers about their knowledge of bin Laden's whereabouts.

We cannot continue to give Pakistan money in the hopes they will be our friend and ally. We did not trust them enough to give them advance notice of the bin Laden operation. We even had detailed plans to fight the Pakistanis if they interfered with the capture of bin Laden.

Bin Laden was able to live in a mansion right under the nose of the Pakistan military academy for years, but government officials say they didn't know where bin Laden was. That statement defies the evidence, and that "dog just won't hunt."

And that's just the way it is.

BOEING BEING BULLIED BY UNIONS AND THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the National Labor Relations Board has filed a complaint against the Boeing Corporation to stop thousands of jobs at the currently built 1.2 million square foot production facility in South Carolina. This is the second line for 787 jetliners which are so popular due to 20 percent less fuel use than any other airplane of its size.

Manufacturing employees locate in South Carolina due to the welcoming climate provided by the right-to-work laws, with trained workers educated at world-class technical colleges. Boeing has a right to contract to work where it's in the best interest of its shareholders and workers.

I appreciate Governor Nikki Haley leading the defense of our workers against the Obama administration's attack. I am grateful Attorney General Alan Wilson is recruiting fellow attorneys general across America to protect jobs. South Carolina is fortunate to have America's youngest Governor and America's youngest attorney general energetically standing up for freedom of American workers.

Welcome to Washington Adjutant General Bob Livingston, former 218th commander in Afghanistan, with Legislative Liaison Matt Nichols.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

MASSACHUSETTS FUTURE

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we only need to look at Massachusetts to see a preview of what is in store if we fail to repeal ObamaCare.

Just a few years ago, it was predicted that the Massachusetts health reform would reduce emergency room care by getting patients in to see primary care physicians. But a new survey shows that only half of primary care physicians are able to accept new patients right now. It now takes 48 days to see an internist for a routine checkup. Premiums in Massachusetts remain among the highest in the Nation. Low reimbursements in the Commonwealth Care health plan mean that only about half of doctors accept the State-managed insurance.

Far from solving Massachusetts' health care crisis, the health reform law has created problems of its own. The Massachusetts Medical Society finds that the environment for physicians continues to deteriorate, despite

billions in government spending—just a sample of what awaits the Nation under ObamaCare.

□ 1410

TAXES, PENALTIES, AND FEES IN PPACA

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act, billed as a health care bill, is actually a tax bill. It is riddled with fees and penalties that will drive up the cost of health care by imposing taxes on families and businesses.

Included in the law was a tax increase on nonmedical expenditures from a health savings account. There has always been a 10 percent penalty, but now it jumps to 20 percent.

In addition, beginning next year, employers who have 50 full-time employees for the previous calendar year must offer health coverage that meets the minimum essential benefit coverage requirement of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and that coverage requirement is likely to cost \$52 billion over the next 10 years, hardly the way to foster job creation in an economy that desperately needs jobs.

The individual mandate starts out as a tax; then it is a penalty. Oh, now it's back to a tax again. The administration creatively changed its position when it realized that the mandate was indeed a tax, even though it violated the President's own pledge during the campaign not to raise taxes on middle class Americans to pass his signature health care legislation.

The taxes in the health care law will affect everyone inevitably and cannot help but drive up the cost of health care in this country.

STOP THE PAIN AT THE GAS PUMP

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, with Americans feeling pain at the gas pump, I am so glad that the House remains focused on lowering the cost of energy and creating an environment for positive job growth.

American energy production has been handcuffed by a moratorium that the President has placed on new oil, natural gas, and coal production right here in the United States. Mr. Speaker, there is simply no reason that a country with the largest fossil fuel reserves in the world should be suffering through another energy crisis, a crisis that has already cost America thousands of jobs, forced manufacturers to relocate overseas, and made a gallon of gas unaffordable.

The folks that get hurt the most are our seniors on fixed incomes, small

businesses, and the poor. This administration apparently thinks the best way to help these folks is to raise their energy taxes and then lend Brazil billions of dollars to drill for oil, while our workers and our factories stand idle.

What we need is a dose of common sense when it comes to our domestic energy policy. We have to use our own oil, natural gas, and coal to create jobs and stop the pain at the pump.

GAS PRICES

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with concern over oil prices and the effect these high prices have on the American consumer.

In my district in northeast Indiana, fuel prices are around \$4.10 a gallon. Just this morning, WANE TV reported gas prices in northeast Indiana will be at \$4.29 by the end of today. At \$4.29 a gallon, many of my constituents will not get out of the gas station for under \$80.

The Third Congressional District of Indiana is rural and geographically expansive, causing many constituents to fill up their gas tanks two to three times a week simply from commuting to and from work. For many, this cost makes their total monthly expenditure for gas at or above their rent or mortgage payment.

When President Obama took office, we saw gas prices at a national average of \$1.84. Now we are told gas prices could be as high as \$5 by Memorial Day. We cannot continue the status quo and expect Hoosiers to pay at the pump.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1229, the Putting the Gulf of Mexico Back to Work Act, and H.R. 1231, Reversing the President's Offshore Moratorium Act, sponsored by Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. These bills, along with H.R. 1230, the Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act, that the House passed last week, will help us move away from our dependence on foreign oil by opening restrictions placed on the Outer Continental Shelf, allowing us to tap into our domestic resources. Doing this will provide jobs to more Americans and lower our gas prices.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro