

THE GREAT RULER PAGE II

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the country cannot afford the great ruler, his administration, and especially his policies.

He costs too much.

He spends too much.

He blames others too much.

He violates the Constitution too much.

He blames George Bush too much.

He infringes on religious liberty too much.

He ignores our border security too much.

He divides the people too much.

He refuses to assume responsibility too much.

He misleads the poor too much.

He sues States too much.

He refuses to compromise too much.

He blames the rich too much.

He subsidizes failed green energy projects too much.

He encourages people to depend on the government too much.

He vilifies capitalism too much.

He preaches government intervention too much.

He regulates too much.

He campaigns too much.

He blames businesses too much.

He blames George Bush too much.

He taxes too much.

He punishes people who pay taxes too much.

He promises "free stuff" to non-taxpayers too much.

He likes the word "debt" too much.

He regulates our lives too much.

He likes big government too much.

He blames oil companies too much.

His budget hurts veterans too much.

He likes high gasoline prices too much.

He blocks offshore drilling too much.

He stonewalls domestic energy too much.

He gambles taxpayer money on unproven energy projects too much.

He sends money to countries who hate us too much.

He despises the Keystone XL pipeline too much.

He apologizes for America too much.

He blames George Bush too much.

He cuts benefits to our veterans too much.

He blames the Tea Party too much.

He blames Congress too much.

He preaches America's best days are behind us too much.

He blames conservatives too much.

He likes the word "czar" too much.

He turns his back on Israel too much.

He treats our enemies better than our friends too much.

He blames our problems on Greece too much.

He blames our problems on the Europeans too much.

He ignores individual freedom too much.

He is anti-free market too much.

He cuts defense spending too much.

He infringes on personal liberty too much.

He has to have it his way too much.

He tramples on states' rights too much.

He blames Congress too much.

He blames George Bush too much.

And he really, really, really despises Texas too much.

Mr. Speaker, we no longer can afford the great ruler, his administration, and especially his policies.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING SHERRY STINEBISER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sherry Stinebiser for decades of service to the communities of northwestern Pennsylvania.

On June 25, 2011, Sherry was elected to a 1-year term as president of the ladies auxiliary to the Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars, the VFW. Like every task Sherry has taken on in her long career of service, her primary goal as president has been serving others.

Joining the Ladies Auxiliary in 1996, Sherry is a life member of Cleo Bargerstock Auxiliary 1424 in Marienville, Pennsylvania, which is located within the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District.

Outside of the auxiliary, Sherry has worked for more than 30 years as a licensed practical nurse. She has volunteered her spare time as an emergency medical technician and serves as a board member of a group called Experience Incorporated, a local organization in Warren and Forest Counties dedicated to providing services to elderly citizens.

Albert Einstein once said: Only a life lived for others is worth living.

A model citizen who has committed her life to serving others, I believe Sherry would agree.

Thank you for your service, Sherry.

KEYSTONE UPDATE

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give the American people an update on the Keystone XL pipeline.

Monday, President Obama took the first step to get out of the way and bring tar sands oil from Canada to my home, southeast Texas. It's the yellow pipeline line here on this chart.

The administration agreed to build the first segment from Cushing, Oklahoma, right here, to southeast Texas, the Port of Houston and the Port of Port Arthur. In announcing the administration's changed position, White House spokesman Jay Carney said:

Moving oil from the Midwest to the world-class, state-of-the-art refineries on the gulf

coast will modernize our infrastructure, create jobs, and encourage American production.

Amen.

430 miles down, 1,223 to go. But there is no new oil with this pipeline being built. None. So, Houston, we still have a problem. And that problem is exploding prices for gasoline.

Since the day President Obama took office—and he took office on January 20, 2009—since that time, gasoline prices have doubled, from \$1.84 per gallon to over \$3.70 per gallon. Doubled. This hits Texas families hard. If you have a pickup truck with a 24-gallon gas tank and fill it up every 2 weeks, that's a \$90 increase in gas expenses per month. There goes the \$1,000 every American got by the payroll tax cut extension, something we fought for 2 months here in Congress, just thrown away.

In a speech in Miami, our President said there was "no magic bullet" to lower gas prices, and there's some truth to that statement. The President is limited in what he can do to lower gas prices, but there's a lot a President can do to increase gas prices. Unfortunately, President Obama's policies have put us on a path to the worst summer for gas prices in our country's history. We enter this summer with the highest gas prices in our country's history at this time of the year. They're only going to go up. And the President had a knee-jerk reaction to the Gulf of Mexico spill. He shut the gulf down for nearly a year. That's at least 10 American rigs that left the gulf for overseas, taking American energy with them, and American jobs.

□ 1100

He chose Hollywood elitists and radical environmentalists over American unions and the American people by putting the Keystone pipeline in limbo. And while a small portion of the 20,000 jobs the full pipeline would have created are going to be kept by this new decision—4,000 of them—we still have no new oil. Eighty thousand barrels a day flowing through the Keystone XL pipeline is not going to happen. We're just basically building another lane on the freeway.

The most alarming thing to me is that the Obama administration has spent 3 years watching Iran export terror and develop their own nuclear weapons to destroy Israel. Now that the House and Senate, followed by the European Union, have imposed sanctions on Iran over their nuclear ambitions, the Iranians are threatening to shut down the Strait of Hormuz.

This is a map of the Strait of Hormuz, and as a former naval aviator who deployed for 6 months to the region in 1994 and flew low-level missions through the strait, I can tell you that the Iranian threat to shut it down is real—very real. It's a narrow body of water, 30 miles wide at some points. It's worse because, as you can see, the sea lanes where the ships go through

and commerce goes through are very close to Iran. This island over here, Abu Musa, that is an Iranian military base.

There is an old saying that “a picture is worth a thousand words.” And this is our President as a candidate in 2008 at a gas station in Indianapolis. What’s missing? Action to support low gas prices at that time.

I urge the President to listen to the American people and to fully approve the Keystone XL pipeline. Do it now, and put America back in business.

PRESIDENT OBAMA ENERGY MYTHS AND FACTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I know I’m going to repeat some of the things that my colleague from Texas has gone over as it relates to energy in our country and the response of the Obama administration. But, Mr. Speaker, these facts bear repeating because the media has been complicit with the Obama administration in hiding the facts from the American people about the extraordinarily negative impact that the President and his administration have had on the American people as it relates to energy prices.

Let me say, again, that on his inauguration date in 2009, the average price of gasoline in this country was \$1.84. The average price of gasoline today is \$3.73. That is a 102 percent increase. By spring, the estimates by Barrons are that the price of gasoline will be \$4.50. This is a tremendous burden on the hardworking American taxpayers. We hear the President and his people in his administration talking about how they want to be fair—fair to the middle class. Well, what’s not fair to hardworking American taxpayers is the President’s inability to see how the price of gasoline is hurting those hardworking American taxpayers.

A 1-cent increase in the cost of gas equals \$1 billion out of our economy and is a \$4 million per day cost to consumers. A 50-cent increase in gasoline equals a \$70 billion yearly loss to the U.S. economy. Again, how does it affect the average family? In 2009, it cost them \$173.80 more; in 2010, \$281.06; in 2011, \$368.09.

The Republicans have a plan to do something about this, but again, we have to explain to the American people we’re only one-half of one-third of the Federal Government. We’ve passed five bills in the House to increase energy production from the abundant supply of natural resources we have in this country.

Mr. Speaker, we could be energy independent in this country, but the President and the people who work for him and the Senate are stopping us from being that way. We’ve passed legislation to ensure construction of the Keystone pipeline. Together with the

Keystone pipeline and the other bills we’ve passed, we’d decrease our reliance on Middle Eastern oil and stabilize gas prices. They will create hundreds of thousands of good American jobs and make our Nation more secure.

But what is the Obama administration saying? And they are being helped to perpetuate these myths by the lamestream media. They claim they are not responsible for the increased prices and that there’s nothing they can do. But they are trying to take credit for previous Presidents Clinton and Bush pro-energy policies. The reason oil production is up today is because of development on private and State lands. North Dakota alone produced almost 16 million barrels of oil in January 2011 compared to only a little more than 2 million in January 2012, the majority of which is on State and private lands.

The Obama administration is not opening new offshore areas for energy production. The President and the administration claim to be opening more than 75 percent of offshore lands for energy exploration. This is absolutely false.

The Obama administration has blocked energy production on Federal lands, and the Obama administration denies the potential of domestic oil production. So everywhere we turn, the President and the people who work for him are keeping us from becoming energy independent.

Let me give you some quotes from the President. January 2008:

Under my plan of a cap-and-trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket.

We all remember that.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu, December 2008:

Somehow we have to figure out how to boost the price of gasoline to the levels in Europe.

And another one:

Mr. Chu has called for gradually ramping up gasoline taxes over the next 15 years to coax consumers into buying more efficient cars and living in neighborhoods closer to work.

Mr. Speaker, we Republicans have a plan. We need the Senate to act on that plan.

DOMESTIC OIL EXPLORATION

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, while we are all aware of the debt this country has hanging over our heads, over \$15.3 trillion, we have to also be aware of what it takes to grow our way out of this debt. Part of the way of growing us out of this debt is by having jobs. But there is also another burden hanging over our heads, and that is the cost of gasoline to American families, which adds to their own personal debt.

Bear in mind at the last inauguration in 2009, the price of gasoline was \$1.83 a

gallon. Now, it’s approaching \$4 a gallon. Think about what that means to the average family where they’re spending a couple thousand dollars more per year for gasoline and no end in sight. It’s expected that prices will go up to well over \$4, perhaps \$5, per gallon in some States in the coming months. It is a burden that families, unfortunately, have to bear when they find themselves needing to travel to and from work or to and from other important activities and they cannot avoid this, especially in areas where public transportation is weak or not available.

Now, we have put forth a plan in this House to open up some other areas for drilling for our own oil. It has been criticized by some who say it would take too long for that oil to get to market and by others who say it wouldn’t have that much of a price difference on oil. I beg to differ. Four or 5 years ago when I put forth a bill, a bipartisan bill with many of my colleagues, to open up the Outer Continental Shelf for drilling, we had noted at that time the impact that would have upon our economy. It’s anticipated that there’s about \$8 trillion worth of oil and natural gas off our coast, and that would lead, if that were invested in our infrastructure, to over 1 million new jobs per year for the next few years.

□ 1110

The Federal revenue that would come from that over the next 20 years would be about \$2.5 trillion to \$3.7 trillion. Even when you’re talking about our national debt, those are large numbers. If we invest that in America’s infrastructure, noting that for every \$1 billion we invest it’s about 30,000 to 35,000 jobs, that’s a lot of jobs, and it takes care of our many unemployed and underemployed in this country.

Well, for those who say it will not lower gas prices, I beg to differ. Certainly, there are studies in the past that have been flawed when they look at only the impact of Alaska in terms of what that would mean. But I would like to put forth some other numbers that are important and that is, if you open up the Outer Continental Shelf also, it has a big impact.

Right now, we import perhaps 60 percent or more of our oil. Some of that comes from Canada and Mexico, our North American neighbors; but much of that oil also comes from OPEC nations. Further, OPEC has stated time and time again they would like to see gasoline and oil prices go up so much that oil is at \$200 a barrel. It’s critical for their economies. And when OPEC leaders get together, it also includes some countries that are not very friendly to us, such as Iran and Venezuela, and other countries which we have defended with our blood and treasure over the years, which has cost us more. But look at this, in terms of international policy, of using our own oil versus OPEC.