

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.

In 2011, our trade deficit with OPEC was \$127 billion. In 2010, it was \$96 billion. In 2009, it was \$62 billion. And in 2008, the last time we had a big oil price jump, it was \$177 billion. That means we're buying more oil from OPEC than they're buying of our own goods. But it goes beyond that. There is also the cost of blood.

In our first Iraq war in Desert Storm, one Army group in my district, the Quartermaster Unit, was hit by a scud missile, and it killed many of those soldiers. How do you put a price on that cost of war? And clearly we are battling Iraq because they also invaded Kuwait and were attempting to control more oil fields in the market. Yes, it was about dealing with Saddam Hussein; but, yes, it was also about dealing with control of oil.

Look what we're doing now with the costs—patrolling the Strait of Hormuz with our 5th and 6th Navy Fleet out there to patrol the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf to make sure Iran doesn't cut off world oil supplies and cause more problems.

But look also at the lives cost in the Iraq war in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sixty-three Pennsylvanians have been killed, including many from my own district, whose lives were lost defending our causes in Iraq. There are also, in Pennsylvania, 553 wounded. But overall, 4,484 have died up to 2011 in Operation Iraqi Freedom—Americans. Pennsylvania has certainly paid a high price on that; but also know between 224,000 and 258,000 civilians were killed in Iraq directly from warfare.

Now, although other countries may have paid us back in dollars for what we spent in first Desert Storm, gulf war, we are bearing the costs of Operation Iraqi freedom. And we can never, ever return to the families the lives of their loved ones, their wives and sons and daughters and mothers.

Let's remember that opening up our own oil fields in America is not just about paying the price for families and what it cost them, but also making sure we know we will never have to pay again the price of blood. That reason and that reason alone is enough to say let's be drilling for our own oil.

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 11 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Gerald Theriot, The American Legion, Schriever, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Most gracious and all-enabling God, awaken within our hearts and minds the ability to reason and discuss differences so that we may realize reasonable, fair, and just solutions to the issues that are before us.

Allow our legislators to meet the desires of those who support them and, at the same time, to do what is best for all in our Nation.

We know that we all must meet the obligations of the trust that is placed upon us, and we therefore come to You in faith seeking courage and strength to perform our tasks well.

Dear God, as I stand here today, I am thankful for and ask for Your continued blessing on this House as they endeavor to perform their duties.

We ask Your blessing on our Nation and the defenders of our freedoms, both civilian and military.

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.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CRAWFORD 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND GERALD THERIOT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LANDRY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. LANDRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank our guest chaplain, Mr. Gerald Theriot, for his dedicated life of public service.

Chaplain Theriot is a retired veteran of the United States Air Force, a cryptologic linguist specializing in French, Vietnamese, and Korean. Mr. Theriot rose through the ranks and retired as a first sergeant. Following his military service, Mr. Theriot served his Louisiana neighbors in the Department of Social Services.

Chaplain Theriot is a loyal member of American Legion Post 513 in Thibodaux, Louisiana, where he has served as a vice commander, historian, service officer, and chaplain. He has also served as Louisiana's department chaplain since 1997. And on September 1, 2011, Mr. Theriot was appointed the national chaplain of The American Legion.

Chaplain Theriot is the proud husband of Mrs. Ethel Theriot, father of four, and grandfather of our State's future leaders.

On behalf of Louisiana's Third Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I applaud Mr. Gerald Theriot for his sacrifice and service and commitment to our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

PRESIDENT FULFILLS PROMISE TO INCREASE GAS PRICES

(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, in his 2008 campaign, during an interview with the San Francisco Chronicle, the President promised energy rates "would necessarily skyrocket" under his policies. Since February 2009, the price of gas has jumped from \$1.92 per gallon to an outrageous \$3.72 per gallon. Hardworking Americans continue to watch as a substantial amount of each paycheck is diverted by rising energy costs destroying jobs.

Although the President claims to have changed his policies, his decision to terminate the Keystone pipeline project from Canada shows that he remains dedicated to his campaign promise. House Republicans are focused on helping Americans feel relief at the pump by supporting legislation that expands supply and allows for the continuation of the Keystone pipeline.

I urge the President to put party politics aside and work with House Republicans to find ways to lower energy costs, which is necessary for American families.

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