

Richmond  
Rothman (NJ)  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Schwartz  
Scott (VA)

Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Stark  
Sutton  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Tierney  
Tonko

Towns  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Velázquez  
Walz (MN)  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watt  
Waxman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth  
Young (FL)

## NOT VOTING—11

Davis (IL)  
Denham  
Filner  
Hinojosa

Labrador  
Moore  
Paul  
Rangel

Schmidt  
Visclosky  
Woolsey

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1837

So the amendment was rejected.  
The result of the vote was announced  
as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILER. Mr. Chair, on rollcall 106, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.  
The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) having assumed the chair, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3606) to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies, had come to no resolution thereon.

## HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

□ 1840

ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL:  
100 YEARS OF CARE AND SERVICE  
TO THE COMMUNITY

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

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Arkansas Children's Hospital, which is celebrating 100 years of service to Arkansas' children and families. Since it was founded in 1912 as an orphanage, Children's has grown to become one of the largest pediatric hospitals in the Nation. Children's is the only Level 1 pediatric trauma center in Arkansas, and they provide care to all 75 counties. For the past 3 years, it has been included in Fortune's 100 Best Companies to Work For.

Medical breakthroughs, intense treatments, unique surgical procedures, and forward thinking have led to Children's international reputation. This is due to Children's more than 4,000 employees.

I congratulate Arkansas Children's Hospital on their contribution to the health and well-being of our children

and families, and to Arkansas' economy.

## GAS PRICES

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as we do here in Congress every time that gas prices rise, Members from both sides of the aisle are quick to blame each other. The reasons we find ourselves with high gas prices today aren't simple, and we should be wary of anyone who's offering an overly simple, one-stop solution to this crisis. We can take some steps to try to calm these prices today, but the real fixes are going to take years—and a willingness to lower the partisan rhetoric around this issue is going to be part of the equation.

One thing we can do now in the short term is to make sure that our commodities markets are functioning rationally. That means empowering Federal regulators to ensure that oil prices can't be driven simply by financial speculation. We need the Commodities Futures Trading Commission to enforce strong trading limits to police speculation in energy markets, and we here in Congress have to give them the resources they need to do that. The problem we face today isn't one of supply and demand. Demand is at its lowest in 17 years. Supply is at its highest in 3 years. This is a question of making sure that speculation isn't running the price up too fast and too quickly. It's our job to put some speed bumps along the road.

## GAS PRICES

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, as of today, the price for a gallon of regular gasoline in my hometown of Jonesboro, Arkansas, is \$3.55. Just a year ago, that same gallon of regular gasoline would have cost \$2.96. We've all heard the news reports that gas could hit a record of \$5 a gallon this summer. The rising cost of gas not only affects my constituents at the pump, it will also drive up the cost of good and services.

Congress can lower gas prices. We can require approval of the Keystone XL pipeline within 30 days. President Obama's rejection of the Keystone project will hit working families at the pump this summer. The American West is primed for oil shale development to provide oil and natural gas. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates we have the equivalent of more than 1.5 trillion barrels of oil in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. That's enough to provide the United States with energy for 200 years.

The Obama administration recently announced plans to restrict offshore drilling. After the BP oil spill, strict regulations were put in place to allow

## NOES—236

Adams  
Aderholt  
Akin  
Alexander  
Amash  
Amodi  
Austria  
Bachmann  
Bachus  
Barletta  
Bartlett  
Barton (TX)  
Bass (NH)  
Benishke  
Berg  
Biggert  
Bilbray  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Bonner  
Bono Mack  
Boren  
Boustany  
Brady (TX)  
Brooks  
Broun (GA)  
Buchanan  
Bucshon  
Buerkle  
Burton (IN)  
Calvert  
Camp  
Campbell  
Canseco  
Cantor  
Capito  
Cardoza  
Carney  
Carter  
Cassidy  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Coble  
Coffman (CO)  
Cole  
Conaway  
Cooper  
Costa  
Cravaack  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Cuellar  
Culberson  
Davis (KY)  
Dent  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Dold  
Dreier  
Duffy  
Duncan (SC)  
Duncan (TN)  
Ellmers  
Emerson  
Farenthold  
Fincher  
Flake  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Foxy  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Gallegly  
Gardner  
Garrett  
Gibbs

Gingrey (GA)  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (MO)  
Griffin (AR)  
Grimm  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hall  
Hanna  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hastings (WA)  
Hayworth  
Heck  
Hensarling  
Herger  
Herrera Beutler  
Himes  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurt  
Issa  
Jenkins  
Johnson (IL)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jordan  
Kelly  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kingston  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kline  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Landry  
Lankford  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Latta  
Lewis (CA)  
LoBiondo  
Long  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
Lungren, Daniel  
E.  
Mack  
Manzullo  
Marchant  
Marino  
Matheson  
McCarthy (CA)  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McCotter  
McHenry  
McKeon  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
Meehan  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Miller, Gary  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Myrick  
Neugebauer  
Noem  
Nugent

Nunes  
Nunnelee  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Pearce  
Pence  
Peterson  
Petri  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price (GA)  
Quayle  
Reed  
Rehberg  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rigell  
Rivera  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rogers (MI)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross (AR)  
Ross (FL)  
Royce  
Runyan  
Ryan (WI)  
Scalise  
Schilling  
Schock  
Schweikert  
Scott (SC)  
Scott, Austin  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuler  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Southerland  
Stearns  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Sullivan  
Terry  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Turner (NY)  
Turner (OH)  
Upton  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walsh (IL)  
Webster  
West  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Wolf  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Young (AK)  
Young (IN)

for safe, responsible drilling. Now we need the Obama administration to lift the ban on drilling.

We are blessed to live in a land with abundant natural resources. We need a Federal Government that will get out of the way so that we can develop those resources. Not only will these projects help American families meet our energy needs, they will also help create thousands of jobs in the process.

#### HONORING CAPTAIN ROBERT C. GRANT

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Captain Robert C. Grant, who has dedicated his life to serving our Nation and protecting the residents of south Florida. Captain Grant is retiring after a distinguished career with the United States Coast Guard Reserve, where he served as the deputy chief of staff of the Seventh Coast Guard District.

His selfless work has included providing support to Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, assisting in relief efforts after the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and building strong bonds between the Coast Guard and the Cuban and Haitian communities of south Florida through dedicated public outreach.

In his capacity as a congressional liaison, he was instrumental in this body's work on combating maritime smuggling and other threats. He has received numerous military awards and unit citations, and is capping a career that has also included service in the United States Air Force Reserve and the United States Treasury Department.

On a personal note, I can't thank Captain Grant enough for his friendship over the years. I know I speak for my staff as well as the greater south Florida community when I say, Captain Grant, we are all so proud of your career and your accomplishments, and you will be sorely missed. Thank you for your service.

#### INCOME TAX REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, here we are 5 weeks from the time that we all have to file our income taxes—April 17 this year. It's 99 years since this House enacted the progressive income tax that we now all know by its familiar names that we all use for it. I thought it might be appropriate to spend some time this evening talking about our Tax Code and talking about what might be possible in fundamental reform of the Tax Code.

I have long been a proponent of what is known as a flat tax. I think that is something that is worthy of this House taking up and debating. There is legislation that has been introduced, H.R. 1040 for people who are keeping score at home, and I think this would be a rational approach for people who want to be treated fairly by the Tax Code—our President does talk about fairness in the Tax Code—and for people who are wanting to get out of the tyranny of having to live with a shoe box full of receipts every spring, because I know this weekend when I go home, I'm going to be spending some time with that shoe box of receipts.

The flat tax is an idea that was promulgated by my predecessor here in this House, the former majority leader, Dick Armey. He wrote a book about the flat tax in 1995. I've read it, I embraced it, and I thought it was some of the smartest economic policy I had ever read because I had just lived through what I described as the Clinton paradox.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton, in his first year of office, earned almost an identical amount of money that I earned in my medical practice back in Texas. Now, when the taxes were filed and the reports were given on how much Mr. Clinton had paid that year, he returned about 20 percent of his income in the taxes that he paid. We had earned an identical amount. When I did the same calculation on myself, it was 32 percent. Why should two people who had an identical earning level pay vastly different amounts on their income tax?

The fundamental unfairness of the system as it existed—better accountant, just simply differences in math, why should it account for that type of discrepancy?

So this is a concept that I came to Congress and wanted to push. I have been anxious for this Congress to enter into the debate on fundamental tax reform. I am somewhat encouraged during the Presidential debates that we've heard over the past several months that Presidential candidates have been talking about fundamental tax reform, and the President himself has mentioned creating increased fairness in the Tax Code.

□ 1850

I'm all for that. I think that this is one way that this House could entertain at least having the debate and perhaps provide a way forward for a more sensible structuring of the payment of income taxes in this country.

I'm so very happy tonight to be joined by another Member. ALLEN WEST of Florida has agreed to speak with us during this hour and share with us his thoughts on fundamental tax reform.

I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEST).

Mr. WEST. Well, thank you, my dear colleague, Dr. BURGESS of Texas, for allowing me to be here and talk about the reform of our Tax Code.

When you sit back and you look at the progressive Tax Code system that we have here in the United States of America, we hear a lot of talk today about fairness and fair share and economic equality and shared sacrifice. But one of the things we have to come to understand is, when you look at the top 1 percent of wage earners in the United States of America, they're paying close to 40 percent of the Federal income taxes. When you consider the top 5 percent of wage earners in the United States of America, they're paying close to 58 percent of those Federal income taxes. The top 25 percent of wage earners in the United States of America pay 86 percent of the Federal income taxes.

But of course now we're coming to understand that you have a large percentage of Americans—some say it's between 47 to 49 percent—that are paying absolutely nothing in Federal income taxes. It kind of reminds me, my dear colleague, of that movie, "Ben-Hur," when Judah Ben-Hur was sent off to be on the Roman galleys. Of course the commander came down and he said very simply, "Row well and live, 41." Of course we remember that beating.

Well, what happens on that Roman galley if only 25 percent is rowing? That's the situation that we have here in the United States of America. We will never get to ramming speed. We will never fully recover this economy so that we can have the capital that is necessary out there, so that Americans can be able to pay for these exorbitant gas prices, so that small business owners can expand their business.

So I think that now is the time to do exactly what you are talking about: Look at fundamental Tax Code reform so that we can eliminate things such as the death tax; we can eliminate things such as the dividends tax, which a lot of the seniors that I represent down in south Florida and pre-seniors, they depend upon those dividends. Why are we having these exorbitant taxes upon tax?

So I think that this is a great opportunity to have this conversation. I am so honored that you allowed me to stand here and spend some time with you this evening.

Mr. BURGESS. Well, very good. I hope the gentleman will stick around. I've got a few points I want to make, but at any point you feel like you want to expand upon something, please feel free to join back in.

We often hear the saying that there's nothing in this world that's certain except death and taxes; they're both unavoidable. I will tell you, as a practicing physician for 25 years back in Texas, sometimes death seems a little less complicated than our Tax Code.

But again, I draw your attention to H.R. 1040. This is an optional flat tax bill that I have introduced this year—and really for several Congresses now. It does have a number of cosponsors. We are yet to get to ramming speed, as the gentleman pointed out, but I think