

was pending for twice as long as a normal application. The President's argument about not having enough time to make a decision to approve the project is weak, at best. The application was filed more than 3 years ago, and a final decision on whether to let the pipeline go forward was long, long overdue.

Unfortunately, I believe the wrong decision has been made. And if he didn't want to approve it for environmental reasons, I wonder if thought was given to the fact that China wants the oil if the United States does not get it, and that means putting the oil on tankers, which we know would have a much more negative impact on the environment than pipelines.

Mr. Speaker, the United States needs the XL Keystone pipeline. In his first term in office, the President has loosely talked about the need for energy independence. Keystone XL could help provide the United States with the certainty of almost a million barrels of oil a day, and that oil comes from our friend and largest trading partner, Canada, not the Middle East. At a time when the price at the pump continues to fluctuate—in part due to uncertainty in the Middle East—I cannot understand how the President justified denying the transport of friendly Canadian oil to our gulf coast refineries.

When the President took office in January 2009, the average cost of a gallon of gas was \$1.83. On January 23, 2012, AAA reports that the current average is \$3.83 per gallon. The record for the highest annual average price for a gallon of gasoline ever in our Nation's history was set in 2011. A major factor in recent high prices is continued political tension in the Middle East and North Africa. These events have threatened or disrupted huge quantities of oil, causing great fear among investors. It is beyond evident that America needs relief.

The President has struggled with turning the economy around since taking office 3 years ago, and his speeches often center on the subject of jobs. Mr. Speaker, I hope that the President realizes that his denial of the Keystone XL application is costing our country tens of thousands of jobs. An analysis by the Perryman Group, an economic consultant in Texas, has demonstrated the tremendous job-creating potential of this project. It is the reason that six major labor unions have signed project labor agreements to construct the pipeline. These are good-paying American jobs that union members are eager to fill. However, instead of issuing the necessary permits to begin construction of the pipeline and put Americans to work, the administration drags its feet for over 3 years and at the end of that time denied an estimated 120,000 Americans jobs to provide a way to support their families.

Pro-business groups like Americans for Prosperity and the Chamber of Commerce support Keystone XL as a way to give a much-needed boost to the economy. Pro-labor groups support

Keystone XL because they know it will create jobs. Americans across the country asked President Obama to approve this project. They realized its importance but were clearly ignored.

The Keystone XL pipeline is just one example of how House Republicans have been working to promote job creation without the need for "stimulus" money. While the President decided to pander to his extreme environmentalist supporters in a campaign year instead of keeping the best interests of the American people at heart, I do not believe that this battle is over.

Our country needs the pipeline. We need these jobs. We need cheaper gas at the pumps, and I'm committed to working towards alternative ways to get it back.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE WILL CREATE JOBS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, unemployment is still at an all-time high; and the high cost of energy is having a significant negative impact on my district's economy as well as on the economy of the entire country.

But when President Obama had the opportunity to help job creation and lower energy costs, he turned his back on hardworking American taxpayers. And as my colleague from Mississippi has just spelled out, we have just seen the highest energy costs ever in this country last year, and the cost of gasoline itself has more than doubled under this President.

President Obama has done all he can to stand in the way of businesses that can help get Americans back to work. The Keystone XL pipeline is a \$7 billion private sector infrastructure project that will create 20,000 jobs with its construction and an estimated 100,000 indirect jobs during the life of its operation.

For the 3 years that President Obama has been in office, he's delayed this project for political benefit in order to placate his liberal base. Liberals who oppose this project say that these jobs are "temporary" and somehow of less value. This is not just misguided, but insulting. All construction jobs, by their essence, are temporary. No construction project is permanent. It's a dangerous precedent these groups are setting by denigrating hardworking Americans for the type of work they perform.

The President is in full campaign mode. He's more interested in protecting his job than allowing the private sector to create jobs.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to import energy from Middle Eastern countries. North American energy will lead to energy security, lower energy costs, and more jobs for Americans.

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 20 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 at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this people's House. They face difficult decisions in difficult times, with many forces and interests demanding their attention.

In these days, as the second session is poised to be fully engaged, give wisdom to all of the Members, that they might execute their responsibilities to the benefit of all Americans.

Bless them, O God, and be with them and with us all this day and every day to come. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory. 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.

OBAMA'S ACTIVIST EPA MUST BE STOPPED

(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, here is the simple truth: the Obama administration is driven by a far left liberal ideology rather than the facts. This administration says it wants to put America back to work, but through its policies is doing the exact opposite. For example, because of the EPA's new train wreck of regulation, up to 160 direct jobs will be lost with the accelerated closure of Beverly, Ohio's Muskingum coal-fired power plant.

This train wreck of regulation is the most expensive regulation that the EPA has ever mandated. These costs will ultimately be passed on to hard-working families in the form of higher utility rates. This new disastrous regulation will also cost southern Ohio many indirect jobs related to the coal industry. No matter how you look at it, the President has declared war on the coal industry and the jobs that go with it.

It is time for this administration to get serious about creating real jobs, creating an energy policy that puts America first, and ending its war on coal.

RECOGNIZING THE 39TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE AND THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BILOXI IN THE MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, today we pause to mark the 39th anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling of *Roe v. Wade*. No other Supreme Court case has so directly affected the lives of millions of American people, both those who have been touched by abortion and the millions of unborn children whose lives have been taken since 1973.

I and many of my colleagues will continue to speak out on behalf of these unborn children by supporting legislation such as the Life at Conception Act. I am thankful we have hundreds of thousands of friends in the fight that have gathered in the streets of Washington this week in memory of so many lives lost. I am especially grateful to the 150 youths with the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi who have made the trip all the way from my district in south Mississippi.

Today I ask my colleagues to join with me and our friends with the March of Life in marking this sad day and resolving to put an end to this murderous practice of taking unborn life. I pray, as Christ did in Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

HONORING CLEON KIMBERLING

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

Mr. GARDNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cleon Kimberling. Dr. Kimberling was recently honored by Colorado State University's Department of Animal Science as the livestock leader of the year.

Dr. Kimberling is now 81 years old and has dedicated his life to improving livestock health. He received a degree in veterinary medicine from Colorado State in 1959 and since that time has made significant contributions to the veterinary science field.

One of Dr. Kimberling's achievements includes developing tests that

contributed to the eradication of brucellosis in the dairy industry. He has also successfully advocated for different nutrition standards for sheep, leading to an overall increase in the health of our sheep herds nationwide.

His dedication to animal health started at a very young age when an outbreak of disease occurred on his farm. Since that point, he has dedicated a lifetime to veterinary medicine, stopping disease outbreaks and advocating prevention.

Aside from his medical successes, he is also an avid cyclist. In fact, his business card states that he specializes in both sheep health and bicycling. At 65, Dr. Kimberling completed a bike trip from Oceanside, California, to Bar Harbor, Maine. This trip was over 3,500 miles long.

His support for agriculture has helped many farmers and ranchers prevent disease and improve our livestock industry. These stories highlight an amazing man, and I am proud to honor Dr. Cleon Kimberling from the House floor.

NATIONAL DEBT NOW EQUAL TO ECONOMY

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, Congress is now back into session and reconvening, hitting a dubious milestone. The national debt is now larger than the entire economy of the United States. Earlier this month, *USA Today* reported on this, and the numbers are daunting. The amount of money the Federal Government owes to its creditors tops \$15.23 trillion. President Obama's own budget from last year shows the debt increasing by \$1 trillion a year over the next 10 years, topping out at \$26 trillion a decade from now.

Put into perspective, other countries have similar situations: Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan—the very countries that are responsible for the European debt crisis. At the same time, the administration, over the last 3 years, has pushed a very aggressive spending agenda which includes a government takeover of health care, government takeover of banks, and \$800 billion in stimulus funding.

House Republicans passed well over 20 jobs bills last year that have yet to come up for a vote in the Senate. I encourage the other body to take up these pieces of legislation. We have got to get our country back to work. We need to grow more taxpayers, not raise taxes.

□ 1410

SENATOR MARK KIRK

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

Mr. DOLD. Madam Speaker, this morning we learned that Senator MARK KIRK suffered a stroke over the weekend. I know all of my colleagues here in the House join me in expressing our thoughts and prayers not only to Senator KIRK but to his family, his friends, and his staff for a quick and speedy recovery.

As many of you know, I succeeded MARK in this body. He served here for 10 years before moving on to the Senate. He has been a friend and a mentor and still is to this day.

One thing that I know about MARK is that MARK is a fighter. MARK fought for 10 years to represent the people of the 10th District of Illinois, battling human rights violations around the globe, battling for a strong U.S.-Israel relationship, battling for the environment, battling for hardworking American taxpayers. As a Senator, he's doing that for the people of Illinois.

As a commander in the United States Navy, he's fought to protect our borders and our way of life. Today he is fighting to make sure that he can come back to the United States Senate to work on the things that he holds dear.

I join with all of my colleagues in hopes that he will be back here shortly, and I welcome the opportunity to walk across the aisle down here across the Capitol and welcome my friend back.

MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome the tens of thousands of people traveling to Washington, D.C., to show their support for the cause of life and give a voice to those who do not have one.

Since the ruling of *Roe v. Wade* 39 years ago, tragically, over 50 million abortions have occurred in this country. There are over 3,500 abortions a day, 146 an hour, and, sadly, one pregnancy is aborted every 25 seconds.

Each year, the March for Life gives Americans who are heartbroken by these tragedies a time to come together and pray for these lost souls and the families and women hurt by the abortion epidemic in this country.

As we renew our efforts to support legislation that will restore the sanctity of life, I thank all of these impassioned Americans who today chose to come together in support of life.

RECOGNIZING DONALD SCHNEIDER

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

Mr. SHUSTER. It is my privilege today to celebrate the life and mourn the passing of Donald Schneider, a pioneer who transformed the transportation industry through his ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit.

Mr. Schneider, who was chairman emeritus and former president of