

Every time the oil cartels raise the price about two bucks a barrel, well, they take that plus another 10 percent for profit. So the higher the price, the bigger their profit.

If you look at the quarterly statements of the largest oil companies in the world, ExxonMobil and others, they are awash in tens of billions of dollars of cash extracted 10, 20, 30 cents at a time in excess profits from the American people at the pump.

Now, this is hurting real people. But this administration says they are powerless. This Republican Congress says they are powerless. They cannot take on the OPEC cartel. They cannot take on the price-gouging oil industry. They pass so-called energy legislation that says maybe 10, 12, 15 years from now, if there is any oil in ANWR, and if we can pump it, and if they do not take too big of a markup or price gouge on that, it will provide some price relief. That is their answer.

Today, in this bill there was nothing. They could not even adopt the minimalist study of what the OPEC cartel is doing to the American people. That was not allowed by the Republican majority. And they certainly could not allow the amendment that would stop the United States Government from buying from the oil companies at this extortionate price and pumping that oil into the ground for a future crisis.

This is a crisis now, today, for working American men and women, people who have to commute to work in my district by car. Small businesses across this country and big businesses and the airlines are going broke. But this administration says they are powerless, they can do nothing.

Well, guess what? The United States of America can do better, but we just have to get rid of the oil cartel. Not the OPEC oil cartel, but the oil cartel running the United States Congress and the White House and the Vice President's office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to assume the Special Order time of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

U.S. SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, criticized the U.S. in a graduation speech in Boston on Sunday. He said the U.S. had "the power and hence the responsibility" to get involved in Afghanistan even before the tragic events we refer to as 9/11. President Karzai said because the U.S. did not get involved sooner, the result was "horrible suffering for the Afghan people."

This is a man who was given a hero's welcome at the White House, the State and Defense Departments, and the World Bank just yesterday. This is a man who was a special guest at two joint sessions of Congress. This is a man who probably would not be president today if not for the U.S., and to whom our taxpayers have given billions of dollars since September of 2001.

It takes a lot of gall for President Karzai to come to the U.S. and blame us for the horrible suffering of the Afghan people because we did not get involved in Afghanistan in a big way before 2001.

Since 2001, U.S. taxpayers have sent billions to Afghanistan for economic, humanitarian, and reconstruction assistance. We have sent several hundreds of millions of dollars each year, in addition to what the military is spending, and most of what the military is doing in Iraq and Afghanistan is pure foreign aid. No country in the history of the world has even come close to doing as much for other countries as has the United States. No country in the history of the world has even come close to doing as much for Afghanistan as has the United States. Yet President Karzai comes here and makes a major speech and instead of thanking the American people over and over, as he should have, he criticizes us for not getting involved sooner.

Just yesterday, the front page of The Washington Post carried a story about the parents of Pat Tillman who was killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan. The parents bitterly attacked the Army for lying and covering up the details of their son's death, and they have every right to do so. Pat Tillman's dad said, "They blew up their poster boy" and then lied about it to create a "patriotic fervor" in the U.S. I voted to go to war in Afghanistan because I and everyone but one in Congress felt we had to respond to 9/11, but we should have gotten out of there after 3 or 4 months; and if we had, Pat Tillman would still be alive today.

I voted against going to war in Iraq because, among many other reasons, Saddam Hussein's total military budget was only a little over two-tenths of 1 percent of ours, and he was no threat to us whatsoever. It is no criticism of the military to say this was a totally unnecessary war.

Unless conservatives now believe in massive foreign aid, huge deficit spending, world government and placing almost the entire burden of enforcing U.N. resolutions on our taxpayers and our military, all things that conservatives have opposed in the past, then conservatives should want us to get out of both Iraq and Afghanistan.

William F. Buckley, Jr., the godfather of conservatism, wrote a column a few days ago saying it is now time to exit Iraq. Many leaders of our military will want us to stay in Iraq and Afghanistan for many years so they can get higher and higher appropriations. But in a few months, our national debt will reach \$9 trillion. By the end of this fiscal year, we will have spent over \$300 billion in Iraq and Afghanistan and probably another \$100 billion in the coming fiscal year which starts October 1.

Mr. Speaker, seven more Americans were killed in Iraq yesterday. Our colleague, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR), just told me that four guardsmen from his State were killed today. Already this month has been one of the bloodiest of the entire war. The headlines on the front page of the Washington Times says: "Car bombings kill scores across Iraq."

Our Founding Fathers did not intend for us to run Iraq or Afghanistan or any other country. Our first obligation should be to the American people and no one else. We should be friends to other countries, but we cannot afford to continue spending hundreds of billions all over the world.

In just a few years we will not be able to pay our own people all the Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, drug costs, military and civil service and private pensions that we have promised. To stay any longer in Iraq or Afghanistan goes against every traditional conservative position. We can no longer afford it in either blood or treasury.

PASS H.R. 2560, THE ELAINE SULLIVAN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation, H.R. 2560, that is specifically designed to save lives and reduce suffering. It is a small, but significant, measure to protect the voiceless and the vulnerable.

In an instant, a wrong turn, a sudden fall, a missed step, someone, indeed anyone, can find himself or herself in a crisis and in need of emergency medical care.

In California alone, nearly 10 million people require emergency room care every year. And of those, 1.5 million arrive in critical condition. In fact, nationwide, nearly 1 million people arrive in emergency rooms each year unconscious or physically unable to give informed consent to their care.