

So much did John enjoy giving that he went to a party at the Oasis Center for Children at Christmas time and gave each child a card, a hug, and twenty dollars. He did this again on Valentines Day. These actions represent the very essence of John Joseph Picini Jr.

If we can define a man by the music he loves, we can define John as a peacemaker and a poet. His heroes—John Lennon, Jimi Hendrix, Harry Chapin, Bob Dylan. All peacemakers and poets. All but Dylan, taken from this planet long before their time.

John will be watching and loving us from his new home with the angels. He was, after all, an angel flying too close to the ground as Willie Nelson would say.

We who are left behind have been forever changed for knowing John. And we will be forever changed for having lost him. He is, without a doubt, surrounded with warmth and love and light in the arms of God the father, his son Jesus Christ and the Blessed Mother. They're holding him and keeping him safe. He will live forever in our hearts and he'll have no tears in heaven.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

FUEL PRICES

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, as I travel my district in Nebraska, the number one concern is high fuel prices, and I would assume that is true for a great many Members in this Chamber. The reasons are somewhat obvious. Worldwide demand for petroleum has increased. China and India are using more oil than ever before. We are nearly 60 percent dependent on foreign oil at the present time. OPEC can, to some degree, set oil prices because of that. And of course more recently the hurricanes have shut down some of our refineries.

So we took a good first step last July in passing the energy bill. The renewable fuel standards require 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol or biodiesel by 2012, which nearly doubles the amount of re-

newable fuels. Also the energy bill expedites access to 2 trillion barrels of oil in U.S. oil shale deposits. And also it promotes an initiative for the production of hydrogen fuel cells, which I think in 15 to 20 years can pretty much remove demand for petroleum fuel products.

However, we do need some immediate relief, something quicker than the energy bill passed in July can provide. We have had no new refineries built since 1976. It is almost impossible to get a building permit for a new refinery, and so as a result our refineries are operating at roughly 95 percent of full capacity, whereas most in the industry operate somewhere around 75 percent to 80 percent of capacity. So any slight disruption in the process can put us right over the edge, as happened with the hurricanes.

Many Americans are currently spending 10 percent of their income on gasoline, particularly low-income Americans. The agriculture profits have been eaten up by high fuel costs, so many farmers in my area are losing money because of the high fuel costs.

The Gasoline for Americas Security Act of 2005 will be introduced tomorrow, and we will vote on it. I think there are some tremendous aspects of this bill. Number one, it encourages increased refinery capacity by removing regulatory and permitting roadblocks. We have not been able to build one because of all of the environmental concerns.

Number two, it reduces the boutique fuels from somewhere in the neighborhood of 40 to six. Every time you switch from one type of fuel to another, you shut down the refinery, clean out all of the pipes, very time-consuming and very expensive; and this reduces that process to about six types of fuel. It also removes red tape from pipeline construction.

Above all, one of the most important things, it removes the loan guarantees on the Alaska pipeline unless that pipeline is started within the next 2 years. So far we need that pipeline badly because we need the gas that comes from Canada and Alaska, and that pipeline would provide a very valuable source.

Fourth, it promotes carpooling through education and incentives which will save petroleum.

And last, it prevents price gouging and requires the Federal Trade Commission to draft a standard definition of price gouging, because right now everybody has their own definition, and it will provide some enforcement guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is a good bill. I am looking forward to it. I think it can provide some immediate relief in this country in an area where we can stand some help.

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URGING A "NO" VOTE ON GASOLINE FOR AMERICA'S SECURITY ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that one of the biggest concerns that we hear from our constituents is the unjustified increase in the price of fuels. Just in Ohio today, gasoline is over \$3 a gallon. People cannot afford to take their families for weekend drives or vacations because the cost of gasoline prohibits it. Farmers and other small businessmen face higher fuel costs that are making it nearly impossible for them to make a profit. Individuals are concerned about the cost of home heating this year as heating oil and natural gas prices go up faster than windchill blowing across the Great Lakes, and programs like heating assistance for those that cannot afford to pay their bills, like senior citizens, are facing flatlining by the Republican majority in this House when it is eminently clear that the need will be greater this year than ever in the past. We always seem to be able to find money to send to other countries, but we cannot take care of the people right here at home. What a shame.

So what does this Congress do about all of this? Tomorrow we are supposed to be debating the Gasoline for America's Security Act of 2005, H.R. 2360. The wordsmiths have been busy little elves with this one because not only does it have the right words to make the public believe that this body is really doing something about the problem, but it really is not. They have tucked away goodies for their friends in the oil industry who thought that the energy bill that some people voted here a few weeks ago was not enough for them. In the words of former President Reagan, "There they go again."

They give new regulatory subsidies to the refining industry when those industries' profits are at breaking records. If we look, just in this past year of 2004, the five major U.S. oil companies, Exxon, British Petroleum, Shell, Chevron and Conoco, have almost tripled their profits, taking in more than \$50 billion, \$50 billion, more than they did just 2 years before. How much more do they want when so many in our society are living right at the edge?

In 2005, after months of suspected price gouging, these five major oil companies are on target to pocket over \$100 billion more, nearly \$40 billion more than Congress has appropriated so far to rebuild the entirety of our devastated gulf coast, think about that, which has taken generations to build. That is how much money just those companies are taking in.