

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

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

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Crime Victims Rights Week with my colleagues from the Congressional Victims Rights Caucus.

Recently, the Judiciary Crime Subcommittee examined the issue of crime victims where we discovered that one violent crime occurs every 6 seconds in this country, one rape or sexual assault occurs every 2½ minutes.

The issue of how crime victims are treated within the criminal justice system has been of paramount importance to myself and many of us throughout our tenure in Congress. I was the sponsor of the Crime Victims Rights constitutional amendment back in the 106th, 107th and 108th Congresses. That legislation would have given crime victims the right to be reasonably protected from the accused, to be heard at all court proceedings, to receive full and just compensation in the form of restitution and, most importantly, to be treated with fairness and dignity and respect.

Unfortunately, despite numerous hearings and attempts by Senators KYL and FEINSTEIN, it was bipartisan, myself and others, we did not have the votes to pass a constitutional amendment. However, the Crime Victims Rights Act was included as title I of the Justice for All Act.

We need to recognize and support all crime victims in this country.

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WELCOME TO STUDENTS AND PRINCIPAL OF ST. JOSEPH'S AT SACRED HEART SCHOOL

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

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to welcome a special group to the Capitol this morning. It is the season where so many students come to Washington to see their government in action and to visit the historic sites in Washington. This week the students of St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, California, are here.

The school is over 100 years old. It was founded by the religious of the Sacred Heart, the beloved religious of the Sacred Heart, and the traditions and their mission of excellence in education and the formation of the character and the spiritual formation of students continues today. How proud I am that they are here; how proud I am of the teachers; how proud I am of the principal of St. Joseph's at Sacred Heart, my daughter, Karen Eshoo.

Welcome, students, and enjoy your memorable and historic visit to our Capitol. May what you see and what

you experience remain with you for a lifetime.

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ADVANCE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, the statistics say it all: two-thirds of the oil we consume today is imported. Sixty percent of our trade deficit, the increase, is as a result of oil imports, and today we are paying \$3 or more per gallon of gasoline. The message is clear: we need independence from imported oil.

Last year's energy bill was a good start. In the district I represent, we are seeing new jobs created and much investment in wind energy, ethanol production, and a doubling of biodiesel production at the local plant, but we need to do more. I urge this House to take up and advance comprehensive legislation to replace oil with renewable fuels.

Would you support legislation that would replace 1.6 million barrels of oil a day? I would hope so. We have that opportunity with the Biofuels Act, H.R. 4973, legislation that would increase the amount of ethanol and biodiesel we produce from 4 billion gallons a year today to 25 billion gallons by the year 2025. This legislation will reduce our oil imports, create energy independence, and it is home-grown fuels.

"DO-NOTHING" CONGRESS REPUBLICANS HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH FROM TRUMAN'S TIME

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, back in 1948, President Truman dubbed the Republican-led House the "Do-Nothing Congress." He came up with the name because the House barely ever met.

Would you believe that as bad as the 1948 Congress was, the Republican-led Congress of 2006 is worse? So far this year we have only been in session 22 days, and we are only scheduled to hold votes on a total of 97, which is 11 days less than the "Do-Nothing Congress" of 1948.

There is so much to do, gas prices and all the rest, but here in Washington the House Republicans seem content just to ignore our Nation's problems. Maybe they are satisfied with the work they have already done on behalf of their special interests for the election.

There is another thing this group has in common with the 1948 Republican "Do Nothing Congress." Consider this comment from President Truman in 1948: "Something happens to Republican leaders when they get control of the government. They have a hard time

hearing what the ordinary people of the country are saying, but they have no trouble at all hearing what Wall Street wants."

It is time for the 2006 Congress to do something about the problems of the people in this country.

DEMOCRATS' HYPOCRISY ON ENERGY

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the Democrats sure do like to have their cake and eat it, too. Over and over again they complain about something, then turn right around and oppose any commonsense solutions offered by Republicans.

Democrats whine about our deficit, but vote against slowing the growth of spending. They complain about our President's plan in Iraq, but they offer no alternatives. They say we need to increase border security, yet vote against the bills that would do just that. The list goes on and on.

The Democrats' latest case of hypocrisy: they hold a press conference, complain about our rising energy prices, even though their actions have contributed directly to the problem. For a party that claims it is looking out for the best interests of the American people, it has a funny way of showing it.

For decades the Democrats have fought to stop production of all forms of energy. They voted against increasing domestic energy supplies, which would not only lower prices, but create more jobs here at home. The Democrats have opposed Republican efforts to lessen the tax burden at the pump. They have opposed nuclear energy and renewable fuels. They have opposed cracking down on price gouging.

Madam Speaker, Republicans have been working hard to address rising energy prices, yet all the Democrats do is vote "no."

GAS CRISIS

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, if you liked the administration and the Republican Congress' response to Hurricane Katrina, you are going to love the response to this gas crisis. Because while folks said they could not anticipate that the levees would be topped, when you do what the administration has done, you should have been anticipating \$3 plus, \$3.25, and \$3.35 gasoline at the pump.

When you go into secret energy meetings, as the Vice President did, to devise an energy strategy and come out with a giveaway to the energy industry; when you have a President who refuses to act when Enron was stealing billions of dollars from the economy,

telling the oil industry you can go ahead and do the same thing because I will not act; when three times Democrats stood proudly to have a bill to allow the FTC to investigate this price gouging and the Republicans voted in lockstep against it, you could anticipate the levees would be topped, and you could anticipate that the oil companies would run rampant with the price of gasoline.

Now, how has this President responded? He wants to do this thing with a slow one-half of one-third of 1 percent increase in production to do something about it. If your house is on fire, the President would bring you a thimbleful of water, and that is the only assistance we are getting. We need real action, not these baby steps.

REFINING CAPACITY

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, we all know that gas prices are very high right now, but one of the reasons that gas prices are high is that we haven't built or expanded a refinery in this country for 30 years, and the reason is because the environmental extremists won't allow that to happen. That is one of the reasons there is not enough supply for the demand out there. It is very simple. That is what it is, supply and demand.

Our refineries right now are operating at maximum capacity. They can't pump out any more gas to the people of this country. So we need to expand domestic production. We need to expand refining capacity in this country. It is critically important we do that, and that in return will help to reduce gas prices in this country.

So we need to build these around the country and to build them with geographical diversity as it relates to the refining capacity. Katrina underscored that, because 40 percent of our refining capacity is down in the gulf, and it was affected by Katrina. We saw gas prices go up when they were affected. So one of the things we need to do is spread refining capacity around the country.

One of the best places to build a refinery in this country is Cushing, Oklahoma. I say that not only because I am from Oklahoma, but because nine major oil pipelines intersect in Cushing. We have the infrastructure in place already and the supply there. It is about a near perfect place to build a refinery in this great country. We need it desperately. Let's make it a megarefinery producing 500,000 barrels a day.

GAS PRICES

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is breathtaking what President Bush and

congressional Republicans will say or do when it comes to skyrocketing gas prices. In discussing tax breaks for oil companies, the President said yesterday, and I quote, "RECORD oil prices and large cash flows also mean that Congress has got to understand that these energy companies don't need unnecessary tax breaks."

Coming from the single greatest champion of tax breaks for oil companies that the Oval Office has ever known, that is rich. The President has spent the last 5 years fighting for these tax breaks that he now disavows. Last year's energy bill, which he signed, had \$8 billion of corporate welfare for oil companies. For him to suggest now that he opposes these tax breaks is, in my opinion, dishonest, cynical, and the height of hypocrisy.

When it comes to solving the energy crisis, President Bush and his Republican Congress have no credibility. Had they spent the last 5 years working to reduce demand by raising fuel standards, rolling back the billions of dollars in tax breaks and royalty relief to the big oil companies; and if he were about promoting alternative fuels, as Democrats have proposed, we might now today be on the road to energy independence. Instead we are bracing ourselves for \$4 gas prices.

The American people expect leadership from their President and Congress, Madam Speaker. They are not getting it from either.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from referring to the President in personally offensive terms.

COMMONSENSE APPROACH TO BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about a commonsense approach to border security. I recently conducted three town hall meetings throughout central Florida. The message I received from my constituents was loud and clear: our first priority must be to secure our borders and enforce the law. After that we can then determine for ourselves how many workers we need for construction, agriculture, landscaping, and other jobs.

It is really a matter of common sense. For example, imagine there was a bucket of water sitting next to a wall. Just above the bucket is a faucet turned on full blast. Your job is to take a ladle and remove the water from the bucket. You could do that job for the rest of your life, or common sense would tell you to first turn off the faucet, then it would be much easier to decide what to do with the remaining water.

Let's use our common sense and make securing our borders and enforcing the law our top priority in Congress.

NINETEEN DAYS UNTIL BUSH RX DRUG TAX TAKES PLACE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, when are House Republicans going to stop being a rubber stamp for President Bush and join us in being on the side of seniors and the disabled instead of the pharmaceutical companies?

House Republicans don't have too much time left to make the right decision. As this calendar shows, Congress has only 19 days left to act on behalf of millions of American senior citizens who have still not chosen a drug plan. Despite a multimillion-dollar campaign and months of heavy promotion by the administration, only 8 million uninsured Medicare beneficiaries have voluntarily signed up so far for a private drug plan, leaving 14 million seniors still without any drug coverage.

Well, some of these seniors have simply determined that the new prescription drug plan will not help them and their prescription drug bills. Others are still navigating through dozens of different plans hoping to find one that will help them. House Republicans should not add to this pressure by supporting the President's unreasonable May 15 deadline.

House Republicans should join the Democrats in extending the deadline until the end of the year. As we mark off another day, the countdown continues.

DEMOCRATS CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, you know, as we are talking about energy, and as we are talking about fuel prices today, it is quite amazing to watch selective memory and revisionist history take place within this Chamber. To my liberal colleagues I would simply say: you cannot have it both ways.

And I hope we are learning a lesson from what we are hearing in this Chamber and from what we are seeing in the papers. Thirty years of environmental extremist policies on energy consumption in this Nation leads to the situation that we have today. For 30 years we have not been able to build new refineries because of environmental regulations. For 30 years we have not been funding exploration and development of new sources. Couple that with what has happened with Katrina and Rita, and, yes, we have a painful situation with energy prices.