

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I do not want to blame Republicans or Democrats for the price of gas. I think perhaps all of us have somewhat to share in it. We need to find a solution so we can become energy independent.

I believe that the scientists, those people who live in our country who won a war, have the capability of creating a situation and doing the scientific research necessary to make us self-sufficient.

But I do have a suggestion. I hear a lot from the other side about the environmental issues. We have passed several trade agreements in this country: GATT and the WTO that regulates environmental issues and labor issues and prohibits the employers in this country from even negotiating issues with those countries. So corporate America is leaving in an exodus from this country to build factories in Asia and other parts of the world. My suggestion to Big Oil is they use part of the \$113 billion that they earned last year just to move south of Padre Island and south of San Diego and build refineries if that is what is causing all of our high gas prices. They can build them there without environmental issues, and certainly no labor issues would be involved. That is my answer.

#### ADDRESSING SKYROCKETING ENERGY PRICES

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

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, we have to stop the partisan bickering here. The American people need our help. I am sure we are all aware of the effects and hardships that \$3-a-gallon gas prices are having on average American citizens and their families. It amounts to a huge tax increase. And the saddest part of this fiasco is that much of this price increase is the result of mere speculation. It is, therefore, preventable.

We, the Democrats, have an answer which will provide immediate relief to American families. It is H.R. 3936 offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK). It would regulate and put an end to the process of price gouging. We have been trying to get this bill passed for some time.

For once we need to forget about the rich oil companies and record profits and tax cuts for the oil companies. That needs to go away. We need to start remembering the American people who need our help. The Republican leadership needs to realize this economy is going in the toilet as a result of this administration's economic policies and millions of American families are suffering. We need to pass the Stupak anti-price-gouging bill.

#### REPUBLICANS TOO COZY WITH OIL AND GAS COMPANIES

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, last year when gas prices hit record highs after Hurricane Katrina, House Republicans called the CEOs of the oil and gas companies to a closed-door meeting for an explanation.

One of the CEOs Republicans met with was ExxonMobil's chief executive, Lee Raymond, who just walked away with a \$400 million retirement package. House Republicans voiced dismay as to why these CEOs did not get the message last fall.

Who was the House Republican leadership trying to fool? Why would oil and gas executives worry about Republicans taking action against them? After all, House Republicans have refused repeated Democratic efforts to allow a vote on tough legislation that would empower the Federal Government to end price gouging.

House Republicans also supported an energy bill last year that did little more than provide \$20 million in gifts to the oil and gas companies.

Madam Speaker, House Republicans have a cozy relationship with these guys, and they have had it for too long to be taken seriously. It is no wonder oil and gas CEOs did not get the Republican message.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 443

In the Senate of the United States, April 25, 2006.

Whereas Francis R. (Frank) Valeo served with distinction as chief of the Foreign Affairs Division of the Legislative Reference Service and specialist in the Far East, before beginning his service to the United States Senate in 1952 on the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations;

Whereas Frank Valeo in 1958 became foreign policy advisor and assistant to the Majority Whip, Senator Mike Mansfield, and then served as Majority Secretary from 1963 to 1966;

Whereas Frank Valeo served as Secretary of the Senate from 1966 to 1977;

Whereas Frank Valeo accompanied many United States Senators on missions to all parts of the globe, assisted the Majority Leader in regularly reporting on conditions in Southeast Asia, and was part of the first congressional delegation to visit the People's Republic of China in 1972;

Whereas Frank Valeo represented the United States Senate on the Federal Election Commission from 1974 to 1977, and in that role participated in the 1976 landmark Supreme Court decision of *Buckley v. Valeo*;

Whereas Frank Valeo helped to modernize and set professional standards for service in the diverse offices that report to the Secretary of the Senate, and served as a member of the Commission on the Operation of the Senate, from 1975 to 1976, where he helped craft its proposals for structural and technological reforms in Senate operations;

Whereas Frank Valeo faithfully discharged the difficult duties and responsibilities of a wide variety of important and demanding positions in public life with honesty, integrity, loyalty, and humanity; and

Whereas Frank Valeo's clear understanding and appreciation of the challenges facing the nation have left his mark on those many areas of public life: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That (a) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Frank Valeo.

(b) The Secretary of the Senate shall communicate these resolutions of the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

(c) When the Senate adjourns today, it shall stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Frank Valeo.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to serve as members of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the Second Session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress:

The Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD).

The Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH).

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to serve as members of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the Second Session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress:

The Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY).

The Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA).

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, and as further amended by Public Law 107-228, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom:

Preeti D. Bansal of Nebraska for a term of two years (May 15, 2006 to May 14, 2008).

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.