

But, no. This would have eaten into drug company profits and threatened the friendship that exists between the Republicans and the drug companies.

Mr. Speaker, we can still correct this injustice visited upon our seniors before we recess. Today, we should give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the power to bargain those prices down and permanently close the donut hole.

America needs a new direction.

IN HONOR OF SMEAD MANUFACTURING ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, there has been much celebration this year in the little town of Hastings, Minnesota. I rise today to recognize a small business icon in the State, a document management company with a rich heritage of innovation and quality.

This year, Smead Manufacturing celebrates its 100th anniversary. A cornerstone of the Hastings community, Smead is the world's leading provider of filing and organizational products.

For 100 years, Smead has been committed to one purpose, keeping business organized. For the last 51 years, Smead has been a woman-owned company which now employs more than 2,700 workers in 15 plants. I have enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Hastings facility and meet many of the dedicated employees. On the occasion of this milestone achievement, I want to thank the men and women of Smead Manufacturing for their service to the community and the State of Minnesota. I commend the employees and leaders of this great institution and wish them much continued success.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, this Republican Congress has failed the American people. Nobody can deny that this is the most do-nothing Congress in our history. On every front, from Iraq to Social Security, Republicans have sided with the lobbyists' special interest agenda instead of working for the American people. Time and time again, they have said "no" to the needs and concerns of the American people.

"No" to increasing the minimum wage.

"No" to balancing the budget.

"No" to fully implementing the 9/11 Commission's recommendations.

"No" to filling the donut hole for millions of American seniors struggling with their drugs.

"No" to tough penalties on big oil companies that price gouge.

"No" to finding a new strategy for Iraq.

Republican inaction on issues of critical concern to the American people has led to rising drug costs, higher energy prices than a year ago, and billions of taxpayer money being wasted in Iraq on no-bid contracts for administration cronies like Halliburton.

The American people are fed up with a Congress that refuses to do its job. It's time for a change.

□ 1030

THE NEED FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, as my friend Mr. ENGEL from New York knows, gas prices are coming down. I am glad about it. A friend of mine, a son, actually filled up last weekend for \$1.89 a gallon.

But Mr. ENGEL and I know that the pressure upon the gas supply brought about by new drivers in India and China and all over the world means increased demand with a very limited supply of oil. We have got to wean ourselves off of Middle East oil and foreign oil as much as possible.

Mr. ENGEL and I have introduced H.R. 4409, which moves us toward alternative fuels. Ethanol, hydrogen, biomass, technologies that are already out there. We just need to invest more money and accelerate our commitment towards fuel independence.

Imagine driving through a rural area, cornfields on both sides of you, with assurance that that is your next tank of gas. Would that not be great?

This is something that we can work on as Democrats and Republicans. Mr. ENGEL and I have put the bill forward. We are glad to have a lot of Democrats and a lot of Republicans on it. I hope we can get it to the floor for a vote because I think it is extremely important.

THE WORLD IS LESS SAFE

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, America is less safe today than before 9/11 attacks. That is according to the National Intelligence Estimate that was leaked out over the weekend. According to the report, the war in Iraq is actually fueling terror worldwide, undermining our efforts to fight terrorism, and making Americans less safe at home and abroad.

This is the second report that questioned our efforts in Iraq, by the GAO. The GAO report asked three specific questions that, unfortunately, this do-nothing Congress should be asking if we had not abdicated our role.

First, what are the key political, economic, and security conditions that must be achieved for U.S. forces to begin to withdraw? Americans want to know.

Two, why have security conditions continued to deteriorate in Iraq even though Iraq has reached political milestones and increased the number of trained and equipped security forces? The American people want to know.

And, three, if existing U.S. political, economic, and security measures are not reducing the violence in Iraq, what measures, if any, does the administration propose to end the violence? The American people want to know.

It is time that we make Americans safer and fully implement the 9/11 recommendations. It is time for a new direction.

FAILURES OF THE CONGRESS UNDER REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, we are in the final hours of this Congress. How will historians judge our work? Very harshly.

There has probably not been a more incompetent or corrupt Congress in modern times than this one. Don't take my word for it. Look at the book called "The Broken Branch," by Norm Orenstein and Thomas Mann. It chronicles the failures of this institution under its recent Republican leadership.

Another objective measure is the lack of workdays in this body. Norm Orenstein pointed out only yesterday that we will have worked only 60 real days this entire year. Sixty days, 2 months of work, and yet we draw 12 months of pay.

Where are the hearings? Where are the debates? Where is the action on American priorities? Where is the immigration bill? Nowhere. Where is the defense bill? And we are in the middle of two wars. Crucial, vital pieces of legislation for America, and this leadership says it simply does not have the time.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1045 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1045

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of September 29, 2006, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this resolution.