

today stands as one of the few justifications for passage of the law to still hold much truth or credibility.

Then supporters said it wouldn't cost a dime; yet last week, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office stated they now expect the law to cost \$1.76 trillion over 10 years. That's nearly double the \$940 billion originally claimed.

Supporters said it would bring down costs; yet these new mandates have helped result in premium increases of up to 9 percent in my home State of Pennsylvania.

Today we remain committed to repealing and replacing this costly and dangerous law, piece by piece, if necessary. We take a great step today by repealing a provision that would otherwise cede the responsibility of Congress to an unelected and unaccountable Medicare rationing board. This measure is yet another facet of that commitment.

THE PRESIDENT NEEDS TO GET WITH THE PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last week President Obama was in an oilfield in New Mexico, and the President said:

Under my administration, America is producing more oil today than at any time in the last 8 years. That's a fact. That is a fact.

He went on to say:

You have my word that we will keep drilling everywhere we can, and we'll do it while protecting the health and safety of the American people.

And he said:

A recent independent analysis showed that over the last 36 years, there's been no connection between the amount of oil that we drill in this country and the price of gasoline.

"There's no connection," he went on to say. And then the President added:

Even if we drilled every square inch of this country, we'd still only have 2, 3, or 4 percent of the world's known oil reserves.

That's just not true. It's just simply not true. Today, on television, the former president of Shell Oil, John Hofmeister, said—and he ought to know, he was in the oil business. He says that there is a trillion—a trillion, get that; not a billion, but a trillion-plus barrels of oil in America, more oil than there is in Saudi Arabia, and it's not counted by the President, and he's misleading the American people.

The reason he said that is because when the President talked about the increase in oil production, he was talking about the increase in oil production on private land outside the Federal Government's grip.

When you talk about the Federal lands, where we know there's tons of oil, oil production fell by 11 percent

last year. It went down. So we're not drilling for that oil. We're not drilling off the Continental Shelf. We're not drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. We're not drilling in Alaska and the ANWR. We're not using coal oil shale for oil.

And so we could have another trillion barrels of oil, much more than we'll ever need, more than in Saudi Arabia, if we just did what the President says that we're already doing. But we're not doing it.

I'm going to be down here on the floor next week, and I'm going to show that the applications for permits to drill in this country have gone down, gone down by 36 percent since President Obama took office in 2008. So he says we're drilling everywhere. The permits that have been requested by the oil companies and those who will produce gasoline in this country have gone down by 36 percent since the President took office.

Now, let me just end up by saying this: the price of gasoline, from 2000 to 2009, was an average of \$2.09 a gallon. The average retail price of gasoline when President Obama took office was \$1.85 a gallon. And the average price of gasoline today is \$3.88 a gallon, and everybody in America knows that. That's an increase of 86 percent.

So when the President goes on these trips around the country to make statements to the American people about the great things they're doing for energy production in this country, he should get his facts correct. Either he's misleading us intentionally or somebody's giving him the wrong information. But we have an abundance of energy in this country that's not being tapped.

I have no problem with us looking at alternative energy sources like solar, wind, geothermal, all those things, nuclear, but those things are going to take a long time, and we're still going to have to depend on oil and fossil fuels for many years to come. And the President needs to tell the truth and get with the program.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, let me just say, if I may, that I try my best not to direct any comments to the President. When I speak on the floor, I usually say, "If I were talking to the President." So I always qualify that.

Thank you very much. With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE 21ST CENTURY BATTLEFIELD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEST) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, throughout the history of the world, there has al-

ways been conflict between nations and among people. Wars have been fought to conquer land. Wars have been fought to acquire resources. Wars have been fought to spread ideas.

What is constant is that with each succeeding battle, both the tools and the techniques of warfare have progressed. From the earliest days of using rocks and sticks to the advancement of bows and arrows to flintlock and then automatic weapons, to TNT, atomic and nuclear bombs, man has continued to find ways, new ways of inflicting greater destruction on each other.

My father served in World War II. My older brother served in Vietnam. I, myself, served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom, and my nephew continues to serve in the United States Army and has already been deployed to Afghanistan twice.

The only thing we know for sure is that the enemies my nephew has faced and will face in the future are altogether different from the enemy my father found in Europe and my brother found in Southeast Asia. Unlike any conflict this Nation has ever undertaken, from Lexington and Concord to Gettysburg and Antietam, from Belleau Wood and the Marne to Normandy and Iwo Jima, from the Chosin Reservoir to Khe Sanh, to the Persian Gulf, this 21st century battlefield is not defined by columns, fronts, uniforms, or borders but, rather, about one ideology against another.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I want to speak about this 21st century battlefield, one that is vastly different from any we have faced before. If we are not as prepared to fight in this new virtual environment as we would be to fight in unfamiliar physical surroundings, it will be just as likely to effect our downfall as the jungles in Indochina were to the colonial French troops.

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Mr. Speaker, it is clear the United States Congress, the media, and Americans are truly focused on the dire economic situation here at home, and I share those concerns.

I also recognize the importance of not turning our backs on the principal obligation vested in us as elected leaders to protect and defend the United States of America against enemies, foreign and domestic.

The wars that my father and brother fought in and the Cold War we were engaged in when we first put on those uniforms 30 years ago, all of them were clearly defined. We knew our enemy. We knew his tactics. We knew his weapons and the uniform he wore. We even, at times, Mr. Speaker, laid down our arms temporarily to observe religious holidays like Christmas and Tet. But with the advent of the 21st century battlefield, that paradigm no longer exists. If we are going to achieve our objectives, we must be ready to adapt to changing circumstances. We cannot