

vote was made public that she was absent and in possession of her voting card. Since then, the Clerk has received that confirmation. For that reason and the statistical improbability of the recurrence of that anomaly, the Chair and the Chairman of the Committee on House Administration believe that it is proper to immediately correct the RECORD and the Journal.

As stated in Volume 14, Section 32 of Deschler-Brown Precedents:

Since the inception of the electronic system, the Speaker has resisted attempts to permit corrections to the electronic tally after announcement of a vote. This policy is based upon the presumptive reliability of electronic device and upon the responsibility of each Member to correctly cast and verify his or her vote.

Based upon the explanation received from the Chairman of the Committee on House Administration and from the Clerk, the Chair will continue to presume the reliability of the electronic device, so long as the Clerk is able to give that level of assurance which justifies a continuing presumption of its integrity. Without objection, the Chair will permit the immediate correction of the RECORD and Journal under the unique circumstances certified by the Clerk.

There was no objection.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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GAS PRICE SPIKES

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this evening I would like to expose the Republicans' attempt to make a campaign issue out of the Nation's gas price spike crisis and Democrats' efforts to solve this crisis and continue working to protect our long-term energy security.

Higher gas prices should not be a partisan issue, but the Republicans are making it into one. On the other hand, the Democrats are trying to come up with bipartisan solutions. For instance, Democrats have called on committee chairmen holding hearings on this topic in the coming days to invite oil executives to testify so that these hearings are balanced. Democrats insist on exploring why the oil companies are showing record profits and why, when an investigation was announced, prices dropped immediately. Yet, the Republican leadership instead is making a sham of these hearings by using them as a forum to attack the Clinton-Gore administration. Moreover, the Republicans also do not want to invite the oil executives to testify, because they are in the pockets of big oil.

GOP presidential candidate George W. Bush is one of the worst offenders. He has raised 15 times more money from oil and gas interests than Vice President AL GORE, and at least 25 of his top fund-raisers are connected to the oil industry. Last year, one of the first bills he signed bailed out the oil industry with a \$45 million tax break.

Let us look at other dilatory tactics by the Republicans. The Senate Republican leadership has held up reauthorization of the President's authority to draw down the strategic petroleum reserve and the Northeast heating oil reserve. These reserves would provide additional supplies for the gasoline and heating oil markets and would, in turn, bring down prices. The Clinton-Gore administration has supported both of these reserves. Yet, the Senate majority leadership has delayed action for too long, so even if both of these reserves were authorized today, the action is already too little, too late. As a result, Americans unfortunately are again to experience heating oil shortages in the Northeast this winter, and they have the Republican Congress to thank for it.

While the Clinton-Gore administration is trying to provide tax credits for energy efficient vehicles, buildings, homes and equipment, the Republican leadership is cutting funding for alternative energy sources and energy conservation measures. They have slashed

funding for these common sense programs since they have been in the majority, which has resulted in a \$1.3 billion shortfall. As recently as last week, the Republican leadership voted again to cut funding substantially below current funding levels for renewable energy programs in the Energy and Water funding bill. Tomorrow, the Republicans will have a chance to restore some of this funding. If they are serious about resolving this crisis, they will literally put their money where their mouths are on this vote.

The GOP leadership also wants to repeal gas taxes and jeopardize our Nation's transportation infrastructure. In addition, they want to gut environmental protections that cost only 2 to 3 cents per gallon.

Just in case anyone out there thinks a few pennies are too much to pay for clean air, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. BALDACC) and I introduced a bill on Friday, H.R. 4739, that would enable the patent for blending cleaner, reformulated gasoline to be made available to all refiners. This would level the playing field for all refiners and, in turn, would bring down the price of reformulated gasoline.

If the Republican leadership is serious about working together in a bipartisan fashion to develop true solutions to this crisis, then they will work with us to bring legislation such as the bill my colleagues and I introduced last week to the floor quickly. They also would find common sense programs that promote alternative energy options, ensure that oil executives are present at this week's hearings, and work with us to resolve this crisis as quickly as possible.

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PRIVATIZATION OF ENRICHMENT INDUSTRY MISTAKE BY CONGRESS

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, in the early 1950s, this Nation constructed two large uranium enrichment facilities, one in Paducah, Kentucky, and one in my district near Portsmouth, Ohio. In the early days, those facilities were used to create the materials that enabled us to create a nuclear arsenal; and I believe, as a result, we were able to win the Cold War. In more recent years, those facilities have enriched uranium so that we can create fuel for our nuclear power plants. Nuclear power provides more than 20 percent of all of the electricity generated in this country, and most of that fuel comes from the Paducah and the Portsmouth facilities.

A couple of years ago, this Congress unwisely, I believe, decided to privatize the enrichment industry. The CEO of the public corporation was a gentleman by the name of Nick Timbers. He had come to that position from Wall