

been talking about the lack of a GOP energy policy, but I could just mention briefly here for maybe a few minutes or so that the administration, the Clinton-Gore administration, for the last 7 years has been trying to get the Congress to enact a really positive energy policy. Of course, for 6 of those 7 years they have had to deal with the Republican leadership that has simply not been willing to adopt it.

Just to give an example, because I keep hearing the Republicans saying they want to open up ANWR, they want to do drilling offshore, but earlier this year when we passed an appropriations bill in the House, the President had come forward with his budget proposing major initiatives for energy efficiency, energy conservation, alternative sources of energy.

The House bill that passed, the House appropriations bill that passed I guess in July or so, had \$201 million less than the President's request with regard to energy conservation and \$71 million below the existing appropriations level for energy conservation. This was at a time when we were already starting to experience higher prices and less ability to get foreign oil from OPEC.

Just to give an idea of these cuts and how they cut what the President had proposed, it was a \$143 million cut, a complete elimination of applied research and development at the Department of Energy for certain conservation programs. They canceled 400 R&D projects in 33 States by 15 Federal labs, 22 universities, and others. There was a \$14 million cut in the Low-income Home Weatherization Assistance Program, which would mean about 7,000 fewer low-income families would have their energy bills reduced. There was a \$2 million cut from industrial co-generation, which funds R&D.

Then, in that appropriations bill, there was \$67 million less than the President's request for solar and renewable energy. There were cuts in biomass fuels and biopower R&D, reductions in solar electricity R&D, cuts in R&D for wind power, which if adequately funded would be competitive just within a few years.

I could go on and on here, and I will not because I am running out of time.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield before he runs out of his time, when I hear people start to politicize this and say that it is a national security issue to swap oil out of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, one thing we have to remind people is that it is a swap, and the oil will come back with additional oil.

Secondly, the very people who are making that acquisition now are the people who in 1995 filed a bill that was known as H.R. 1649, the Department of Energy Abolishment Act.

As part of that act, it would ask to eliminate the reserve totally and sell off 571 million barrels of oil. Now, there are 35 people on the other side of the aisle that signed onto that, including three of the very highest members of

their leadership, who are the same people now who have the audacity to go on the floor or elsewhere and start to say that a swap is somehow affecting national security.

So not only is it totally wrong and it is not affecting national security in any adverse way, and it is what our allies and what other foreign countries think is a good thing to do, as well as business and others, but it is absolutely contradictory to their past behavior and their past comments.

I think the public can pretty much get in line as to whether people are acting as statesmen or politicians when they make assertions like that. I am going to let it go at that message and defer back to you, but I think it is important for people to know that this was a good move. People in the Northeast and New England, and Massachusetts in particular, are very pleased that the LIHEAP money has gotten relieved. Our people and low-income seniors will have that relief.

We are pleased there is a Northeast reserve being set up so the gap can be addressed, and hopefully keep the supply up and the prices somewhere within the stratosphere. We are very pleased that the President indicated he was going to release from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and already we have seen the prices drop on that, except for a slight rebound when Members on the other side of the aisle indicated they would try to block it.

The psychological effect, already a month before it hits the market, has shown it is bringing prices down. That is going to help our seniors, people in our districts generally, and our small businesses, who cannot stand the kind of high prices that are going on and still be productive and get their business done in a way to support their families.

Again, I thank the gentleman for allowing me to address this on the floor. I think it is important to get this information out.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for coming down and joining us during this time.

I think we have a couple of minutes left, so I would just like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that all the Democrats are really asking is that instead of trying to reverse the positive steps that the administration is taking and making these false accusations, that the GOP adopt a sound energy policy and pass the measures that the Democrats have been advocating and that have been proposed by the Clinton and Gore administration in its budget request.

Above all, we should be implementing measures that sustain our natural resources, practical measures that would conserve energy, promote our long-term energy security, and promote international competitiveness and alternative energy resources, all without sacrificing our economic growth.

For example, before we adjourn, the GOP leadership should pass the admin-

istration's request for funding and tax incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, efficient energy research and development, weatherization, and alternative fuel vehicles and mass transit.

I also urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to pass legislation banning the export of Alaskan oil. Earlier last week, one of my colleagues on the Democratic side introduced a bill promoting wind energy. This is the kind of creative thinking we need to reduce our dependence on domestic and foreign fossil fuels.

Unfortunately, the Republican majority has done the opposite. It has vastly underfunded programs for the past 6 years that my Democratic colleagues and I and President Clinton and Vice President GORE have promoted, programs that would have conserved energy and prevented the situation we now face.

The Republican majority has an opportunity in the waning days of the Congress, we have a couple of weeks left, to reverse their course and help us pass sound legislation to avert an even greater energy crisis this winter. I would certainly urge them to do so.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4578) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes."

#### ISSUES REGARDING OIL PRODUCTION AND CONDITIONS IN RURAL AMERICA

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I came down here to talk about rural issues, but I feel a little compelled to talk a little bit about what was just discussed.

I come from Pennsylvania, and in fact 5 miles from my home the first oil well in America was drilled, Drake's well. So I come from an area where my district had four refineries, we only have three now, but an area that has been in the oil business since it started. It is where all the major oil companies in America started, in western Pennsylvania, because that is the first oil field that was developed.

It is interesting to talk to people about these simple ways to fix this problem when it is obvious they have never been in a refinery and they certainly do not understand the oil business.

I am going to just back up a little bit and talk about the problem we have