

market power, of criminal antitrust violations; and it is occurring not just in electricity, Madam Speaker, but in natural gas also. The front page of my hometown newspaper today says: "Market for Natural Gas Was Rigged, Firm Bought Control of Pipeline to Manipulate the Price, the Federal Energy Commission Was Told." Last November this commission declared that the electric rates being charged in San Diego and California by this energy cartel were unjust and unreasonable, and therefore illegal; but the commission refused to act. They basically said rob the State blind, and boy did the cartel do it.

The FERC has issued some findings of market manipulation, but the prices are criminal that we are paying today. Madam Speaker, we in California, like those in Oregon and Washington and the rest of the West, we are being bled dry by this energy cartel. California is paying \$2 million an hour for electricity, \$45 million to \$50 million a day, sometimes \$80 million, over \$1.5 billion per month. This cannot keep up if our economy is going to survive.

What we have is a situation in which a mere handful of private companies control the market and use that power to artificially drive up the prices. This is market manipulation. This is a violation of antitrust laws; and yes, this is criminal behavior.

Madam Speaker, I say we in California know we need more capacity and more generation, and we are doing that. We need more conservation, and we are doing that. The Governor of California has taken steps in these areas to do the maximum that can be done, but still the prices that we are paying today, and will pay in the future, unless FERC acts, are criminal.

I have a bill, H.R. 268, which would direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to set cost-based rates for electricity in this situation where the rates are illegal and provides for the refunds to the consumers and to the utilities of California the \$20 billion that they have stolen from our State in just the last 10 months.

Madam Speaker, many seem to think that this is only a California problem. Many people say California brought it on themselves, let them dig themselves out. But the reality is this is everybody's problem. That is why the vast majority of Western governors have urged that cost-based rates be imposed by FERC. This disaster is affecting the entire Western region already, and it is going to spread quickly. According to the New York Times, State agencies from New England, the Midwest and the Mid-Atlantic have filed complaints about the high prices with FERC. The Energy Secretary of this Nation warned that New York may face similar problems next summer. This is a national problem. We had better act now.

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

tleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FILNER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 27, 2001, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1322. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter in response to Senate Report 106-292; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1323. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter in response to the reporting requirement of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2001, which is anticipated to be completed by April 2001; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1324. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Consumer Protections for Depository Institution Sales of Insurance; Change in Effective Date [Docket No. 2000-97] (RIN: 1550-AB34) received March 16, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1325. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Savings Association Bylaws; Integrity of Directors [No. 2001-15] (RIN: 1550-AB39) received March 16, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1326. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Liquidity [No. 2001-13] (RIN: 1550-AB42) received March 16,

2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1327. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medical Devices; Reclassification of the Shoulder Joint Metal/Polymer/Metal Non-constrained or Semi-Constrained Porous-Coated Uncemented Prosthesis [Docket No. 97P-0354] received March 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1328. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Toxicology Devices; Classification of B-Type Natriuretic Peptide Test System [Docket No. 00P-1675] received March 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1329. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food [Docket No. 00F-0789] received March 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1330. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Ferroalloys Production: Ferromanganese and Silicomanganese [FRL-6955-8] (RIN: 2060-AF29) received March 16, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1331. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Part 70 Operating Permits Program; State of Missouri [MO 112-1112a; FRL-6956-9] received March 16, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1332. A letter from the Acting Administrator and CEO, Bonneville Power Administration, transmitting the 2000 Annual Report of the Bonneville Power Administration, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1333. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, "Analysis of the 1st Quarter Cash Collections Against the Revised FY 2001 Revenue Estimate"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1334. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule To Remove the Aleutian Canada Goose From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (RIN: 1018-AF42) received March 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1335. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Shark Management Measures [Docket No. 010112015-1015-01; I.D. 120500A] (RIN: 0648-AO85) received March 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1336. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic