

(Mr. PAUL 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 gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHEN WILL GOUGING ON OIL PRICES STOP?

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the outrage of the week in energy is that finally we know how much some of these companies have been charging. During a brief time last winter in a desperate attempt to keep the lights on, California paid \$3,880 per megawatt hour to Duke Energy of South Carolina who now owns plants, thanks to deregulation, in California. Of course, they do not feel much of an obligation to keep the lights on. What they are trying to do is maximize profits. Price gouging, it is open season on price gouging in the western United States. Yet, the Bush administration says there is nothing and they will do nothing about this. They will not even investigate whether price gouging is going on.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is charged with determining whether or not there is a market, a functional market, and prices are fair and reasonable. The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the staff, the professionals, has found that in fact what is going on in the western United States is not fair; it is not reasonable. But guess what? The chairman, Mr. Hebert of Louisiana says he is just not going to do anything about that. He will pray for us, he has told us, but that is it.

Now, this is extraordinary. This is the chairman appointed by President Bush. Now, we might wonder about the motivation. Well, there are others other than Duke Energy involved, and perhaps that is the motivation. Many of these companies that are making profits up to 1000 percent over last year's profits are based in Texas, many in Houston, Texas. Many are very large contributors to the Bush administration.

The CEO of one of these energy monoliths, the Enron Company, the chief architect of much of the legislation that has brought about this disaster, has personally, personally, one individual contributed in his lifetime more than \$2 million individually, personally, to George Bush as a candidate for many different offices; \$2 million.

His company, of course, is in for many, many times that but, hey, they make it back in about a minute in these energy markets so it is a really

good investment on their part. The same gentleman is now hand picking other people to go on to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. So we cannot expect that we are going to see much relief there.

So then we turn to the Bush energy plan. Does this offer us relief? Well, I do not think so. If we look at the Bush energy plan, we had Secretary Norton before the Committee on Resources today, it is dig, drill and burn. We are not going to conserve.

I asked her, I said if we went into the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, if we went every place you want to go, if we went to the most sensitive coastal areas off Florida, which I doubt will happen because we have another Bush as governor, but let us say we went to the most sensitive areas off California, who this administration seems to be willing to stick it to every day, and off Oregon and Washington and other parts of the country, and found all the oil, went into Alaska and found all the oil, I said can you envision that we could increase possibly our supply of oil by a factor of ten, that is, instead of having x number of years, 100 years' supply, we would have 1,000 years?

She said, oh, no, we would never get there.

I said, let us just say you did. Let us just say there is a heck of a lot more oil out there than you thought. People want to talk about we are going to become oil self-sufficient. If we continue to increase our consumption at the current rate, we do not conserve, if we found a thousand-year supply of oil in the United States we would use it up in 79 years; the miracle of compound interest, of compound increasing demand.

Conservation has to be a robust part of this plan. But guess what? Conservation does not put profits in the pockets of the oil companies based in Texas and Louisiana and elsewhere, and the new energy companies based in Texas, Louisiana, South Carolina and elsewhere, but price gouging at the gas pump, price gouging in the wholesale electric markets does. So that is the energy future that is being promised in this plan.

Now one can turn to Congress. Are we going to get relief out of Congress? Luckily, today the so-called Emergency Energy Relief bill being offered by, strangely enough, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), backed by the chairman from Louisiana, strangely enough, can I see something going together with this crowd here where they produce this stuff as the people who do not want to do much about it?

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Their bill finally came crashing down today. That is good, because it would have done nothing for the consumers in the Western United States, nothing for us at all. It would have done nothing to rein in price gouging.

They did not want to have to consider a price cap amendment to rein in

what has become publicized more and more in recent weeks as outrageous manipulation of the market by some of these energy companies. The Reliant Company, putting their floor traders, their commodity traders, on the phone to the people who actually operate the plants in California; and when the price drops in the national markets, they tell them to shut the plants down. They do not care if the lights stay on. They are just trying to maximize their profits.

The American people know this. They know they are having it stuck to them every day at the gas pump. They see the facts, that Exxon-Mobil is the most profitable corporation in the world, with profits of \$15 billion last year. They see those prices going up and on and up and know they are being had. This administration is engaging in inaction and stone-walling real relief, at its peril.

WITHDRAWAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1271

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 1271. My name was added in error.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

AN ODE TO THE SIXERS

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker,

“It hasn't happened in 18 years, But it's the NBA Finals and the Sixers are here.

It's been a long time since Moses and Dr. J., But the Sixers are playing like the good old days.

Shooting and defense, both ends of the floor, They've shown every team in the East the door.

First we took out the Pacers, without breaking a sweat, Then we clubbed the Raptors, and cut down the net.

The Bucks from Milwaukee took us the full seven, But the final game was a rout, and we're in hoops heaven.

We have the Answer, Alan Iverson, the league MVP,

The best little scorer you ever did see. No one can guard him, he's just too quick, No team of five can do the trick.

We have the Coach of the Year, the great Larry Brown,

A man who has been around many a town.

A strategist, a motivator, a leader of men, He's the best coach since . . . I don't know when.

Big Dikembe Motumbo is the Defensive Player of the Year,

His swats in the paint make grown men fear. Aaron McKie, the league's best super sub, Has joined the NBA's Best Sixth Man Club.

Short-handed, banged-up, backs against the wall,

The Sixers bandwagon refuses to stall.
Owner Pat Croce is on the edge of the seat,
Waiting to hand the Lakers a monumental
defeat.

The Lakers await, after their sweep,
But they can put away the brooms and get
ready to weep.

They played well, blowing through the West,
But they will need every minute of their
long 10-day rest.

Shaq and Kobe can play with the best,
But we will not be denied in our champion-
ship quest.

The Staples Center will be the place,
Just as in the Presidential race.
The Dems crowned Al Gore there,
While George W. was nominated, do you re-
member where?

That race turned out exactly right,
So when the day turns into night,
The Sixers will turn out the lights,
And it won't be from a rolling blackout,
But rather from the Philadelphia Sixers
knockout."

Go Sixers.

FREE TRADE COMMUNITY RELIEF ACT

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

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, recently I introduced H.R. 1819, the Free Trade Community Relief Act. The bill has 68 cosponsors, Democrats and Republicans; and we represent large cities, small towns and rural counties. Our districts are diverse, but we all have something in common: We have lost jobs because of the impact of NAFTA since it was implemented in 1994.

Since then, factories have shut down across the country, including my district in Mississippi, and moved to Mexico, exploiting cheap labor and leaving thousands of dedicated American workers in trouble. Our once vibrant communities suffered immeasurably. Countless Main Street businesses have closed their doors.

My own county which I represent in Jefferson Davis County, Mississippi, has nearly 11 percent unemployment. Virtually no manufacturing jobs are left.

NAFTA included a job retraining program, that is what it is supposed to be called, to cope with the NAFTA-related job losses. However, not only has this program been underfunded, it completely misses the point that in many rural and inner-city areas, when a factory shuts down, there are no jobs to retrain the people for.

People who live in these communities do not need to be retrained for jobs that do not exist, they need actual jobs. The Free Trade Community Relief Act tackles this problem. It authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate NAFTA-impacted communities, similar to enterprise zones. They will get business tax incentives to locate in each community and hire local workers.

We have to give them a reason to want to go there. They need the tax in-

centives. These rural areas cannot survive like they are going right now.

This is not an anti-trade measure or a statement against NAFTA. Indeed, NAFTA has earned at least passing grades for its overall impact on the American economy. But as we hear more and more about new trade agreements, such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas, we must be mindful of their potential and what they can do for jobs that leave our part of the country. We must protect the people and communities that might lose jobs if we do not build in protections for them.

The Free Trade Community Relief Act acknowledges the damages done by NAFTA and will serve as a model for community protection provisions that must be included in any future free trade agreements. The Free Trade Community Relief Act bill is a win-win for business and labor. It needs to become law, because there are so many unemployed Americans who are counting on us to act quickly.

If you look at the economies across not only Mississippi, but a lot of rural parts of the country, we find that jobs have left, and they are not being replaced. We need to act quickly, Mr. Speaker.

THE WOMAN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue that is critical to women's health: direct access to OB-GYNs. Too many women are denied access or forced to jump through numerous bureaucratic hoops before they can see their OB-GYN. This is simply unacceptable. A woman should not need a permission slip to see her doctor.

OB-GYNs provide basic critical health care for women, and every woman deserves direct access to her doctor. A recent American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists/Princeton survey of OB-GYNs show that 60 percent of all OB-GYNs in managed care reported that their patients are either limited or barred from seeing their OB-GYN without first getting permission from another physician. Nearly 75 percent also reported that their patients have to return to their primary care physician for permission before they can see their OB-GYN for necessary follow-up care. Equally astounding is that 28 percent of the OB-GYNs surveyed reported that even pregnant women must first receive another physician's permission before seeing an OB-GYN.

After meeting with women, obstetricians and gynecologists, health plans and providers in the State of California, I wrote a State law that gives women direct access to their OB-GYN. That law was a good first step. However, it still does not cover over 4.3 million Californians enrolled in self-in-

sured, federally regulated health plans. In March, I introduced the Woman Act to close this loophole and ensure all women in California have direct access to their OB-GYN.

Clearly this problem is not unique to California. There are still eight States that do not guarantee a woman direct access to her OB-GYN. Equally important to remember is that even if a woman lives in a State with direct access protections like California, she may not be able to see her OB-GYN without a referral if she is covered by a federally regulated ERISA health plan. This means that one in three insured families are not protected by State direct access to OB-GYN laws.

The time has clearly come to make direct access to OB-GYN a national standard. I urge you, Mr. Speaker, and all my colleagues to pass this critical legislation quickly into law.

REMEMBERING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, this is June 6. Fifty-seven years ago today, June 6, 1944, a day that we now refer to as D-Day, was the day that the American and Allied Forces invaded Normandy, France and began the arduous task of winning Europe back against the Nazi tyranny. And they did this, and they did it well. World War II in Europe came to a close, beginning with the Normandy invasion on June 6.

I wonder how many people across our country remember today? There are those that were there, those that parachuted in, those that landed at the beach and fought their way through France and Belgium into Germany. But many hardly know the word "Normandy" or what it stands for.

Mr. Speaker, we think of our veterans and those that were lost in the conflicts of yesteryear on Memorial Day; we honor the veterans on November 11, Veterans' Day; but, in between, we do not seem to remember them. There seems to be a gap between civilian America and military America, whether they be veterans or whether they be the active duty and National Guard and reservists who wear the uniform at the present time.

I hope that we can pause for a moment and pay tribute to the valor of those who stormed the Normandy beaches, who parachuted into France that day and began to end the tyranny of Hitler's rein. And I hope that in the days ahead we can pay tribute to those, not just the veterans of yesteryear, but those who are serving in the Armed Forces, Guard and Reserve today, for without them we would not have nor be able to celebrate the freedoms that we enjoy.