

of the parishioners expressed interest in having their pastor to serve as our guest Chaplain and here he is today.

Reverend Casiday received his divinity degree from the Duke University School of Divinity in Durham; and Warren presently serves, Mr. Speaker, as the president of the Thomasville Ministerial Association and the Chair City Toastmasters in Thomasville.

Warren said to me, Mr. Speaker, just a few moments ago, "I am a follower of Christ and I am humbled and honored to be the guest Chaplain today." I say to him, Warren, we are honored and privileged to have you and your family and your congregation in Thomasville back home watching.

WE NEED TO UTILIZE NATURAL GAS RESOURCES

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, everybody here and everybody in America actually knows we are facing an energy shortage; but I ask today, what are we doing about it?

Our demand for oil and gas continually rises, and we seem to diminish our supply of these natural resources at the same time. In times of crisis we have actually drawn from our fuel reserves, but we always fail to replenish them. Right now the demand for gas is outstripping our demand for oil. By 2020, we will consume 62 percent more natural gas than we do today.

But while our demand grows, our production slows. We need to act now; but we cannot, because 40 percent of our natural gas sits under sagebrush protected by Federal regulations.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are paying 20 percent more for natural gas than they did a year ago. What do we tell these people? We need to tell them that we can and will correct this energy problem responsibly and quickly by passing the Energy Security Act proposed by the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this important and necessary piece of legislation.

U.S. NEEDS POLICIES TO END NUCLEAR WEAPONS

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the news from the administration yesterday is that there is an intention to weaponize space, to deploy space-based missile defenses, which would be a clear violation of the 1972 ABM Treaty.

In 1972, the Russians and the United States signed an agreement which provided for the cessation of the nuclear arms race and to take effective measures towards reductions in strategic

arms, nuclear disarmament, and generally and complete disarmament. On May 26, 1972, the two great powers agreed we would get rid of nuclear weapons; yet in the last week we have had the administration have its first test of its missile shield, and now they are talking about the weaponization of space.

We began our session today with a prayer, and the prayer should continue to be. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And I do not think it is the will of the divine to end this world in a nuclear conflagration. We should work towards the elimination of all nuclear weapons, and we should work for an end to policies which cause this country to move towards the weaponization of space.

THE JERUSALEM PLEDGE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Israel has sought a just and lasting peace for its people, who like people all around the world, only want to raise their families and go about their business in peace and harmony.

Last year, Israel offered the most comprehensive concessions to bring a permanent peace to the Middle East. Instead of acceptance, the Palestinian answer has been to set off a campaign of terror against Israel.

Sixty years ago, European Jews stood alone and the world pledged this would never happen again. I, along with many others, have taken The Jerusalem Pledge being spearheaded by the Simon Wiesenthal Center for a World Conference on Solidarity with Israel. This conference summons Jews and friends from all over the world to Jerusalem to stand together in a show of support.

I have already planned a trip to Israel to reaffirm my longstanding support during its time of need. Because terror will not succeed against solidarity.

ABOLISH THE IRS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. The IRS said last year's 81 percent error rate dropped to only 73 percent this past year. Unbelievable. The Internal Rectal Service screws up 73 percent of the time and then brags about it.

If that is not enough to cause your 1040 to crepitate, IRS agents gave the wrong advice to taxpayers only 50 percent of the time last year, according to an investigation.

Beam me up. The IRS does not need more workers; the IRS does not need more money. These stumbling, fumbling, bumbling mistake-prone nincompoops have got to go.

I yield back the need to pass the Tauzin-Traficant 15 percent flat retail sales tax, abolish the income tax, and abolish these nincompoops at the IRS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings, or other audible conversation, is in violation of the rules of the House.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S BALANCED ENERGY PLAN

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for 8 long years, America has ignored energy. There was no energy policy at all under a Democrat administration. So I applaud President Bush for his courage to put forth a balanced energy plan.

The White House plan conserves energy, protects the environment, and increases production. It is time to end our almost total dependence on foreign oil. As my colleagues know, almost over 50 percent of our oil comes from other countries. Not only is that a threat to our national security, but it affects our energy prices.

Just look at California. Since California's Gray Davis failed to enact a plan that encouraged production, they are facing blackouts, high prices, and an uncertain future. Support the President's energy plan. The time is now. It is right for America.

SEND ENERGY BILLS TO THE NAVY

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Well, now we do know what the administration's energy plan is, Mr. Speaker. When my constituents' bills doubled and tripled in the last year, we asked for Federal help to stop the price gouging and refund those criminal overcharges, but the administration turned a deaf ear. But yesterday, when the Vice President's bill was found to be doubled or almost tripled to \$186,000, what did he do? He said the Navy is going to bail me out. I do not have to conserve. I do not have to worry about energy policy; the Navy will pay my \$186,000.

So I am asking all my constituents and people all around the country to send their utility bills, which have doubled or tripled, to the Navy, care of the Vice President. That seems to be what the energy policy is of this Nation. Have the Navy pay our utility bills.

That is better than any energy policy that can serve this Nation.

So send all electricity bills to the Navy, care of the Vice President; and maybe they will listen to what we are demanding for America.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last week we said that we should fund adult stem cell research and we should fund it generously. For diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, or serious illnesses that have no cures, at least not yet, stem cell research holds a lot of promise. But we should be doing ethical stem cell research, and that means not using stem cells from human embryos. Adult umbilical and placental stem cell research holds a great deal of promise, but killing human embryos is wrong.

Look at this picture of Mark and Luke Borden. These brothers were frozen human embryos soon after they were conceived. Some scientists may have liked to have taken them as embryos and destroyed them so they could harvest the stem cells, but the Borden family adopted them instead.

As human embryos, these little boys were implanted in the womb of their adopted mother where they matured into babies and were born just like any other children. Now they are happy and healthy growing boys. Mark and Luke Borden have the same right to live as any other children. No one doubts that now. We should not have doubted it when they were human embryos either.

SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Mr. OSBORNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for the patient's bill of rights sponsored by my colleague, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER).

In evaluating the two bills providing for patient protections before us, I had to ask myself which of these bills will improve health care without creating a crisis. According to the Census Bureau 2000 current population report, in my home State of Nebraska, 179,000 people are currently without health insurance.

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Mr. Speaker, the last thing I want is for this body to pass legislation that will significantly inflate the number of uninsured. I have received many letters and phone calls from small business employers in my district asking for leave from the high cost of providing insurance to their employees. Many employers in my district are facing double-digit increases in health care costs this year. The number of phone calls and letters has tripled in the last

several weeks from these same employers.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of a Patients' Bill of Rights legislation is to do two things: number one, reduce the ranks of the uninsured; and, number two, increase access to health care coverage. Unlimited lawsuits will accomplish precisely the opposite. They will drive up costs and increase the number of people without health care insurance.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in supporting this bill.

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS NEEDED FOR KLAMATH BASIN

(Mr. THOMPSON of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk briefly about a problem, a serious problem, affecting the Klamath Basin in California and Oregon. The Klamath River was once the third largest producer of commercially fished salmon and steelhead in the United States of America. Today, the river's coho salmon are listed under the Endangered Species Act, and other fish stocks are in terrible shape.

Since 1905, 80 percent of the Basin's wetlands have been lost to agriculture. While this has been good for agriculture, it has come at a tremendous cost. Since that time, we have seen massive decline in wildlife. The region's Native American tribes have suffered as a result and so have commercial and sport fishing industries and so have waterlife and waterfowl and those who rely on healthy stocks of the aforementioned.

The commercial fishing industry that relied on the region for livelihood have suffered tremendously all up and down the California and Oregon coast. The region is still an important wetland habitat for the world's largest concentration of bald eagles and migratory birds along and throughout the Pacific Flyway.

Mr. Speaker, we have to work together in a bipartisan manner using the best possible science.

The problems in the Klamath Basin are not about the Endangered Species Act.

The problems are not about farmers vs. wildlife.

We should not derivate the Endangered Species Act.

Instead we should work with the best available science to find a solution to protect our remaining wildlife and at the same time protect the economic viability of the region.

The bottom line is that we have over promised our water in that region.

We need to work together on a bipartisan basis, with the farmers, tribes, fishermen and local communities to form a long-term solution for the Klamath region.

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY FOUNDED ON CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, headlines earlier this month credited widespread consumer conservation with the recent drop in gasoline prices. Those headlines told all of us how much power we really had to reduce the energy demand through conservation.

The Republican energy package introduced next month will include incentives to encourage conservation wherever possible. Conservation is a cornerstone of our energy policy and will be a dominant part of our energy package. We are committed to helping this Nation meet its growing energy needs. We will implement a pragmatic and diverse energy policy that includes greater production of diverse energy supplies. But that package will place an equal reliance on bold and visionary conservation measures. It will include incentives that encourage research into energy efficiency no one has yet dreamed of.

Congress and the White House are committed to a national energy policy founded on conservation, research and the prudent increase in energy production. Together, these initiatives will help us meet our energy needs through the coming century.

TIME IS LONG OVERDUE TO PASS A PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the time is long overdue to pass a Patients' Bill of Rights that puts medical decisions back in the hands of doctors and patients. It is time to put the public's interest ahead of special interests.

We have a bipartisan piece of legislation. Ganske-Norwood-Dingell ensures that medical decisions come before business decisions. It gives every American the right to choose their own doctor, covers all Americans with employer-based health insurance, insures that all external reviews of medical decisions are conducted by independent, qualified physicians and not HMO bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, it is a bipartisan bill which has broad public support endorsed by the American Medical Association and the American Nurses Association. It is in stark contrast to the bill that the House Republican leadership has offered. That bill is an industry-written bill that is designed to stall and kill a real Patients' Bill of Rights. It does not give Americans the right to choose their doctor. It allows the HMO to choose the independent reviewer. That is like asking the fox to guard the chicken coop.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to pass the Ganske-Norwood-Dingell bill now. It provides sound, responsible managed care reforms and meaningful patient procedures.