

NATURAL GAS CONSERVATION

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, demand for natural gas is expected to rise by as much as 50 percent over the next 25 years. Currently the Nation's inventory of natural gas lags behind past inventories of the popular fuel, and rising demand illustrates the need for consumers to become mindful of energy use.

During a press conference yesterday, Secretary Abraham unveiled the Department's new energy saver Web site, www.energysavers.gov. From tips on insulating a home, to heating and cooling, to buying new windows, the Web site serves as a consumer resource to start cutting home energy prices.

In addition, a number of energy associations such as the Alliance to Save Energy, the American Public Power Association, the American Gas Association and the Edison Electric Institute have teamed up with the Department to further educate their members and consumers in methods to help save electricity and in turn positively affect our Nation's natural gas supply situation.

I encourage my constituents, as well as Members, to review this material on this Web site as it provides a number of useful tips for consumers to begin to reduce their energy use and in turn lower their annual costs as we work to address the supply needs for this country.

WHY DID THE U.S. GO TO WAR AGAINST IRAQ?

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, why did the U.S. go to war against Iraq? The day after 9/11, according to this book, Secretary Rumsfeld raised the possibility that the administration could take advantage of the opportunity offered by the terrorist attacks to go after Saddam immediately. This, even though there was no evidence connecting Iraq to 9/11.

Why did the U.S. go to war against Iraq? On September 18, 2002, Mr. Rumsfeld told Congress, "Hussein has at this moment stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and is pursuing nuclear weapons." There was no evidence of that either.

Why did the U.S. go to war against Iraq? Yesterday Mr. Rumsfeld told Congress it was not because we had discovered dramatic new evidence of Iraq's pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. "We acted because we saw the evidence in a dramatic new light through the prism of our experience on 9/11."

Why did the U.S. go to war against Iraq? 9/11 was an excuse, no imminent threat, no weapons of mass destruction.

Now, the administration keeps changing its story, but they cannot change the facts. They led this Nation into war against a Nation that had not attacked us, that had no intention or capability of attacking us. Congress must hold public hearings because the truth and our democracy is at stake.

CONGRATULATING MERCY HOSPITAL AND RECOGNIZING TERESA A. ZUBIZARRETA

(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, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mercy Hospital, located in my congressional district, for its recent fund-raiser to help the destitute.

I would also like to recognize Teresa A. Zubizarreta, Zubi, the 2003 Mercy Foundation Gala honoree. Zubi is a beautiful example of someone who has overcome tremendous adversity to achieve the American dream.

After fleeing the horrors of the Castro regime in 1960, Zubi has risen to own one of the most successful advertising agencies in our country. As president of Zubi Advertising, one of the Nation's top five Hispanic advertising agencies, she serves as an inspiration to Hispanic women as to what one can accomplish through hard work and unwavering dedication.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in thanking Teresa Zubizarreta and the Mercy Foundation for their profound contributions to our south Florida community.

PROVIDING A CHILD TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in yesterday's testimony, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld noted that our reconstruction costs, providing health care, education, transportation and housing needs in Iraq have cost the American taxpayers \$2.3 billion, and projected over the year, \$2.3 billion, that is equal to the amount we could provide in a child tax credit to the 12 million children, the 6½ million Americans who were left out of the tax cut the last time we provided a tax cut.

In the middle of July, the first set of tax cuts will begin to hit the mailboxes all over America, and yet 12 million children of American families, 6½ million families of working parents who get up every day to provide for their children and do right will not get a tax cut. Now we are going to be providing the same amount of dollars for Iraq's reconstruction, for their housing, their health care, their education, for their children's future.

I would hope that before we go home for our August break and our summer break to be with our families, our con-

stituents and our neighbors that we would provide these working American families the same types of educational opportunities, the same type of economic security, that tax cut and an economic interest we are providing Iraq.

MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM IS IN PERIL

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a great concern about a development that occurred here on the Hill. Yesterday the failure to close debate on medical liability reform, the important legislation that this body passed in March to address this crisis, is in peril.

The House passed H.R. 5 to control the unsustainable medical liability premium increases and preserve patient access to important medical specialists. Based on a 1975 California law that has held down premium increases in that State, H.R. 5 would place a cap on noneconomic damages in medical liability cases.

This bill would not limit access to the courthouse. This bill would not limit damages to those who have been injured by negligent actions. This bill would not reward bad doctors. This bill would not protect HMOs.

This bill will increase access to important specialists such as neurosurgeons, perinatologists and trauma surgeons. This bill will return a degree of sanity to a system that now resembles a Las Vegas gaming device.

Today the trauma network in the Dallas-Fort Worth area is on the brink of crisis as good doctors are driven from the practice by increasing liability premiums. Mr. Speaker, how could they do that?

WHY ARE PEOPLE CONTINUING TO DIE IN IRAQ?

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, on May 1, the Commander in Chief of the United States military forces declared the war was over. Since that day, 65 people have died. The last three who died were Craig Boling, Elkhart, Indiana; Barry Sanford, Aurora, Colorado; Robert McKinley, Kokomo, Indiana.

Huge questions have arisen about whether we were misled about this war. In Great Britain, the Prime Minister, Mr. Blair, faced 2 hours of questioning by the British Parliament. It is time for this Congress to have a bipartisan select committee to look into the reasons why we are in Iraq and why people continue to die there.

□ 1015

We must not let them be forgotten, as they were in my era of the Vietnam

War. There is a wall with 50,000-some people on it. Their names were never read on the floor. They ought to be read here and not forgotten.

LOCAL HEROES

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the American people saw on national television this morning, the Indiana flood of 2003 moves forward at a heart-breaking, record-setting pace. The St. Mary's River in Decatur, Indiana, crested last night at nearly 28 feet, an all-time historic high for that river, and the Wabash River as well. But because of the work of local heroes, like Decatur Mayor Fred Isch, Fire Chief David Brinneman, State Police Master Sergeant Rodger Popplewell, and National Guard Unit Leader Sergeant Mike Hiester, thousands of volunteers filled more than 176,000 sandbags in Decatur, Indiana, alone. And when the St. Mary's River crested, it did not break the levee.

There are so many to be commended, but I remember two in particular, Decatur Police Officer Mark Cook, who organized the sandbag filling at the Wal-Mart parking lot, and even 13-year-old Melanie Vergary, who went out and worked and stuffed bags.

The Chaplain said today, "unless the Lord watches over the city." Surely, Mr. Speaker, we would ask the Lord to watch over this city and all the cities in Indiana affected by the flood of 2003 and all those who labored to protect it.

LABOR-HHS BILL SHORTCHANGES
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today this House will consider the appropriations bill for education. As the only former State schools chief serving in Congress, I think I know better than anyone the impact education cuts can have on teachers, our students, our schools, and the future of this great country. This bill contains Draconian education cuts.

Last Congress I voted to pass the bipartisan No Child Left Behind Act for education reform. I supported it because the President and the Republican leadership promised to provide the funding needed to make this reform work. But today's bill shatters that promise by cutting \$8 billion below the authorization level of this new law. Educational cuts of this magnitude will devastate morale in our schools and doom our children to an educational system that is designed to fail. Our children and our schools deserve better.

I have introduced legislation to require full funding of the No Child Left

Behind bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill and vote against this appropriation bill.

LAW NEEDED TO BAN CLONING

(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, recently scientists in a lab in Chicago took a female human embryo and injected into it cells from a male human embryo, creating what they called a mixed-sex embryo.

In the name of progress, some scientists are pushing the limits of medical ethics with their experimentation and toying with human life, and this is what happened in Chicago last week. But the fact that it happened opens the door to even further laboratory experiments in manufacturing human life.

The effect of unethical research is that it turns human life into a commodity to be bought and sold to the highest bidder or to the most advanced laboratory. The more scientists do this type of experimentation, the more likely we will face a situation described in science fiction books where humans are mass produced in laboratories. We should not go down that road.

What can Congress do about it? We can start by sending the President a cloning ban to sign into law. The other thing we can do is to fund good ethical research.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION/
SPECIAL PROSECUTOR NEEDED

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, two more soldiers, as reported by national news, lost their lives in Iraq this morning. The war continues.

Yesterday, the Secretary of Defense said to the United States Senate, as reported in the Los Angeles Times, "Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said yesterday that the United States' decision to go to war with Iraq was based not on the evidence that Saddam Hussein's regime had chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons, but on old evidence reinterpreted in the wake of September 11, 2001."

Mr. Speaker, what was told to the American people is that we were to be under imminent attack by Saddam Hussein. What was told to the American people was that we were in the line of fire. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is imperative that an independent commission and a special prosecutor be set up, and I believe that it is not frivolous for us to address the question of why the President of the United States addressed this body and suggested there was uranium being bought from Niger on the continent of Africa.

I believe the American people need the truth. More importantly, I believe

the mothers and fathers who have lost their sons and daughters need the truth. We have a responsibility to the American people—tell the truth!

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 341, nays 64, answered "present" 1, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 346]
YEAS—341

Ackerman	Case	Galgely
Akin	Castle	Garrett (NJ)
Alexander	Chabot	Gerlach
Andrews	Chocola	Gilchrest
Baca	Clyburn	Gillmor
Bachus	Coble	Gingrey
Baker	Cole	Gonzalez
Ballance	Collins	Goode
Ballenger	Conyers	Goodlatte
Barrett (SC)	Cox	Gordon
Bartlett (MD)	Crenshaw	Granger
Barton (TX)	Crowley	Graves
Bass	Culberson	Green (TX)
Beauprez	Cummings	Green (WI)
Becerra	Cunningham	Greenwood
Bell	Davis (AL)	Grijalva
Bereuter	Davis (CA)	Hall
Berkley	Davis (FL)	Harris
Berman	Davis (IL)	Hastings (FL)
Berry	Davis (TN)	Hastings (WA)
Biggert	Davis, Jo Ann	Hayes
Billirakis	Davis, Tom	Hayworth
Bishop (GA)	Deal (GA)	Hensarling
Bishop (NY)	DeGette	Herger
Bishop (UT)	Delahunt	Hill
Blackburn	DeLauro	Hinojosa
Blumenauer	DeLay	Hobson
Blunt	DeMint	Hoefel
Boehert	Deutsch	Hoekstra
Boehner	Diaz-Balart, L.	Holden
Bonilla	Diaz-Balart, M.	Honda
Bonner	Dicks	Hooley (OR)
Bono	Doggett	Hostettler
Boozman	Dooley (CA)	Houghton
Boswell	Doolittle	Hoyer
Boucher	Doyle	Hunter
Boyd	Dreier	Inslee
Bradley (NH)	Duncan	Isakson
Brady (TX)	Dunn	Israel
Brown (SC)	Ehlers	Issa
Brown, Corrine	Emanuel	Istook
Brown-Waite,	Emerson	Jackson (IL)
Ginny	Engel	Janklow
Burgess	Eshoo	Jefferson
Burns	Etheridge	Jenkins
Burr	Evans	John
Buyer	Farr	Johnson (CT)
Calvert	Feeney	Johnson (IL)
Camp	Ferguson	Johnson, Sam
Cannon	Flake	Jones (NC)
Cantor	Foley	Kanjorski
Capito	Forbes	Kaptur
Capps	Ford	Keller
Cardin	Frank (MA)	Kelly
Cardoza	Franks (AZ)	Kennedy (RI)
Carson (IN)	Frelinghuysen	Kildee
Carter	Frost	Kilpatrick