

Romania, what he used to do. He would put people who committed crimes in with peaceful activists, political prisoners, and political prisoners of conscience with the hope and the thought that these men of violence would commit violence against these peaceful activists, and God forbid that that happens. We will continue to speak out, and, hopefully, nothing will happen as a result of this emplacement of this thug in with Dr. Biscet.

Let me just point out to my colleagues that in the spring Dr. Biscet, and this just shows the heart of this great man, stated "I am innocent of the charges for which I was condemned, which is why I will maintain my ideological position. A true man cannot betray himself, so I can only appeal to the living God and pray to our Lord. And he is not neutral and never abandons his flock." What a faith. Here is a man crying out from prison, praying to God above, asking that he not be forgotten in a way that is reminiscent of our Lord when he said, why have I been abandoned? Well, in this case he is saying despite his ordeal that God will not abandon him.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot abandon him, and that is why we are speaking out and speaking out so strongly tonight. We cannot allow this prisoner of conscience, and there are hundreds, as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) said so ably earlier, hundreds who live likewise in Castro's gulag. His wife, Elsa Morejon, has said his crimes are honoring the universal declaration of human rights: Opposing abortion and the death penalty and organizing civil rights movements through nonviolent civil disobedience to reclaim the rights of fellow Cubans that he believes are being violated. For that, 25 years being mistreated and being treated in a way that we would not even treat our animals.

Let me just conclude, Mr. Speaker. After months of brutal treatment, his health is very poor. We have to speak out. There are Members who take to the floor here and say we need to have an expansion of travel and trade and the like. Well, not until these individuals, starting with Dr. Biscet, are released. Otherwise, the blame and the crime of complicity rests at your doorstep.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

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#### ENERGY BILL LEAVES NO ENERGY COMPANY BEHIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it has been a great week for the most influential, the most well-heeled lobbyists in Washington. Earlier in the week the House passed an energy bill which one very prominent leader of this country called the "no lobbyist left behind" bill. This energy legislation was full of benefits for oil companies, for natural gas companies, and for electric utility companies. As I said, it was a great week for some of the most well-heeled, most influential lobbyists in Washington.

The energy policy started with bad process as Vice President CHENEY convened a secret group of energy lobbyists to draft the administration's energy plan. Citizen after citizen, group after group have tried to find out who attended these meetings with Vice President CHENEY, what was discussed, and what they were all about. Vice President CHENEY refused; but we should not be surprised that he would bring energy executives into the Vice President's office to secretly write an energy bill. After all, Vice President CHENEY himself was an oil company executive, or should I say still is. He still receives \$3,000 a week from Halliburton, one of the major energy companies in the United States. The Vice President is meeting secretly with energy company, oil company executives, and is still receiving \$3,000 a week from Halliburton, that company that is making billions of dollars in unbid contracts in Iraq given by the administration, and kicking back or contributing large numbers of dollars to the Bush reelection campaign.

So CHENEY is meeting with the energy companies to draft legislation that one prominent Republican said was a no lobbyist left behind bill. It was an early Christmas present for the energy industry, and for oil, gas and utilities, and some have estimated as much as \$100 billion.

Some of the corporate giveaways that harm consumers in this bill were granting Enron's last wish to repeal the consumer-oriented, Public Utility Holding Companies Act, making taxpayers rather than corporate polluters pay to clean up leaking underground storage tanks, even when we know exactly which corporation is responsible for the pollution; allowing power companies to charge consumers more, ostensibly to finance system upgrades without any assurance that the resulting changes will actually benefit consumers; making taxpayers pay to clean up nuclear accidents and compensate

victims even when the accidents result from a private contractor's intentional misconduct; deleting bipartisan provisions to ensure the safety and security of crosscountry nuclear shipments. All of those provisions were in there as gifts to the oil and gas and electric companies that Vice President CHENEY still represents, amazingly enough as Vice President.

At the same time, that energy bill was loaded up with all kinds of tax breaks, all kinds of tax provisions helping those energy companies. At the same time this legislation, this early corporate Christmas present for which they give great thanks, included all kinds of harm to the environment. It allows oil companies to pump diesel fuels and other toxics underground and expand their operations without regard to the Clean Water Act groundwater runoff requirements, opening Federal lands to powerlines and mineral developments, and exempting significant segments of our communities and our industries from Clean Air Act requirements.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Congress earlier in the week passed one major corporate giveaway to the energy industry, to oil, gas and electric utilities. Tomorrow Congress is going to attempt, Republican leadership is going to attempt to do their second major corporate giveaway of tax dollars, and that is the so-called prescription drug Medicare bill. This is not a prescription drug bill; this is a Medicare privatization, insurance company/drug company giveaway bill.

The prescription drug companies under this legislation stand in the next few years to profit \$139 billion more than they already have. And already for 20 years running, the drug industry has been the most profitable industry in America, by any measurement: return on investment, return on sales, return on equity, while enjoying the lowest tax rate of any industry in America.

Mr. Speaker, the second part of this bill gives a \$20 billion gift, \$8 billion this year, \$12 billion in 2006, to the large insurance companies and HMOs in order to get them to offer private drug insurance.

What most of us say is let us do the Medicare bill right, give the drug benefit directly to seniors; do not do it by enriching the drug companies and enriching the insurance companies.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a good week for big business in Washington and for corporate lobbyists, and a bad week for America's consumers.

#### INHUMANE TREATMENT OF DR. OSCAR E. BISCET GONZALEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to speak on an issue dear to my heart. At the same moment