

So the Outer Continental Shelf, which are Federal waters, are from 3 to 200. Then you are in international waters.

Now, our proposal, the new amendment we have added, would say, all right, States can control oil and they can choose to opt out of both the legislative and the Presidential moratorium. They have the right to do that. So that would mean a State legislature, house and senate, would have to pass it. Their Governor would have to sign it. They then have to petition the Department of the Interior to open it up. That is going to take some time. At best it would be several years.

I was in the legislature for a number of years. It is hard to get a house and a senate to agree on the fine prints of the bill. I can hear those arguments in the States as they happen.

I am willing to concede 20 miles. When you are producing, you can see 12 miles. On a clear day after 12 miles they claim you cannot even see a pimple on the horizon. So let us give them 20. Now, there is lots out there so we are not giving away the store totally. So now nobody on the beach or the east or west coast or the gulf would not see a rig. They would not know it was there.

We will say we will give the States the first 20 miles for both oil and gas, but on natural gas from 20 to 200 that is Federal waters and that is open for production. To me that would send a clear message. We will deal with some other proposals that will tinker with this thing, but they do not really fix it. If we open up the Outer Continental Shelf as we have talked, that is where the gas is close to the population. Where is the population in this country? They are in the gulf. They are on the east and west coast. The majority of this population is not in the Midwest where there are other reserves. The problem with getting to those reserves is getting it to the people. But on the Outer Continental Shelf, you are close to the population centers. You can bring that gas right in to where it is needed in our largest cities, our largest populations, our largest factories and make this gas affordable.

I believe we can send a message to the chemical companies. We can send a message to the polymers and plastics companies, the fertilizer companies. Bear with us, because the statistic that I saw the other day really scared me. Petrochemical people have been talking to me for 3 or 4 years. I said, Why did you come to me 3 or 4 years ago? They said, Some people said you understand our looming natural gas problem. It is hard to get people around here to deal with it. I said, Yes, I have been speaking about natural gas, and I was wondering why you came to me. You are not from my district. You are not even close to my district. They were the big companies. And they said, Well, we want to solicit your help. We have to get natural gas if we are going to stay here.

The statistic I wanted to mention was the Manufacturing Association

chairman said the other day in the hearing there are 120 chemical plants being built in the world; 119 in the rest of the world and one here.

Those are jobs that American men and women can work at and have a nice home, have a nice vehicle, have a savings account for their kids' education and have the American Dream. Those are really the best jobs left in America, and we are not going to lose them to cheap labor. We are going to lose them because we have not dealt with the natural gas issue that they just cannot afford to pay.

I talked to three or four companies this week that went from \$7. They do not buy from the distribution system that our homes buy from. Most companies buy direct. They pay the distributing company a flat line fee, but every company I talked to was currently buying gas at the \$14 price because this spring when their contracts were up, the price was higher than expected and the consultants told them, do not buy yet, it is going to get cheaper. Well, it did not get cheaper. Now they are paying \$14. And when you use millions of dollars of gas a month and you are paying twice as much, how do you make that up? You do not. That comes right out of the bottom line.

ALCOA, a Pittsburgh corporation, a month ago said the following on a Monday morning, AP story: if energy prices in America persist high like they have been, especially natural gas, in parentheses, we will have to reconsider if we can produce here. Do we want to say good-bye to ALCOA Aluminum? Do we want to say good-bye to U.S. Steel?

Not only the steel and aluminum makers, but those who bend it, those who shape it, those who heat treat it. I have potted metal companies in my district who make parts for cars and parts for everything that moves. Now, after they make those through the presses, then they run through them through heat treatment. That is natural gas. So it is just utilized so much; and like I said, chemicals and fertilizers, it is almost beyond comprehension what a major part of our success of America has been clean, affordable natural gas.

□ 2350

So I want to thank the gentleman for joining me in this discussion. I know he is going to join me in the debate because we are going to debate this. When all of us Members of Congress can get this message out to the American people, they are going to vote to open up the OCS, to get adequate supplies of natural gas, so we can heat our homes, so we can run our businesses, and so we have a strong economy.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HIGGINS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal business.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. MEEK of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of Hurricane Wilma.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 26 on account of official business in the district.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of Hurricane Wilma.

Mr. SHAW (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today and October 26 on account of hurricane damage in his district.

Mr. FOLEY (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today on account of travel delays on account of Hurricane Wilma.

Mr. GINGREY (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today on account of attending a wake.

#### 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 Mrs. MCCARTHY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SOLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today and October 26.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today, October 26 and 27.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, October 26, 27, and 28.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today, October 26 and 27.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, October 26 and 27.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, October 26.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, October 26.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows: