

Now, let me ask each Member of Congress, is there any connection between high oil prices and the growing monopolies within the energy industry? The fewer oil companies we have it seems the prices keep going up and up.

Now, what are the oil companies afraid of? They are afraid of alternative energy. They are afraid of energy from the sun, from wind, geothermal, biomass, green hydrogen, because the oil companies know that it will cut into their profits. So, naturally, the oil companies want to keep on drilling. They so badly want to keep on drilling that they are going to drill in Alaska, or in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, if the Defense appropriations bill passes.

Every American should know that that is not going to mean lower oil prices; it is going to mean higher oil prices because it will once again show the domination of the oil companies on our political process.

We could talk about our economy, and we should. High oil prices are bad for our economy. Is that not a message that we should be going towards alternative energy? Reliance on nonrenewable resources inevitably will lead to war. Is that not an argument for renewable energy? Is that not an argument for breaking up the energy monopolies? Oil companies do not want alternative energy. They want us to keep on drilling. They want to grab access to oil whether it is in Iraq or ANWR or anywhere else.

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Wherever we are depending on more oil, they get more profits.

This is a time for us to take a direction towards conservation. In that way I consider myself a conservative. Waste not, want not. It is time for us to take a stand for protection of the environment. The administration has spurned any efforts to cause America to join with the world community in signing the Kyoto Climate Change Treaty, and at the same time we see billions of dollars wasted because of the tremendous suffering that has been caused in our gulf coast region, but I would say that we have wasted the gulf coast region because we did not have an alternative energy policy years ago. We act like there is no connection between climate change and our energy consumption patterns.

Wake up, America. Understand that all these things are interrelated, that we are interdependent and interconnected, that the choices we make today on our energy policy will echo through the years as to the direction the country will go in.

It is time for us to take a stand today for the protection of human rights. The Gwich'in Tribe is this humble tribe that depends on the porcupine caribou for its subsistence, and drilling in that Alaskan refuge is going to destroy the calving grounds of the porcupine caribou.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, while I would love to engage the gentleman in

his theory that big oil companies caused Hurricane Katrina on the rule about consideration of legislation on the same legislative day, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that I urge my colleagues to reject this blanket martial-law rule. Members should have adequate time to review the bills before they vote for them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, these are unusual times as we struggle through the important deliberations of this Congress to make sure that our troops are cared for through the Department of Defense appropriations process and that our gulf coast friends and neighbors receive the assistance that they need and have been promised and are owed by their countrymen in the wake of the devastation wrought by these hurricanes.

This rule lays the foundation for us to move that important legislation in a timely way. And martial law around the world means troops on the streets, tanks on the streets, the military setting mandatory curfews where people cannot act in a free and virtuous way.

Only in America would the opportunity for 535 elected representatives to come from around the country to haggle and debate and fight and compromise over ways to help their fellow countrymen and move forward with an agenda for liberty and prosperity and security, only in America do we take for granted our liberties such that we would call such a process "martial law."

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). The question is on the resolution.

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ARREST OF SANJAR UMAROV

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 545) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the arrest of Sanjar Umarov in Uzbekistan.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 545

Whereas the United States supports the development of democracy, free markets, and civil society in Uzbekistan and in other states in Central Asia;

Whereas the rule of law, the impartial application of the law, and equal justice for all courts of law are pillars of all democratic societies;

Whereas Sanjar Umarov was reportedly arrested in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on October 22, 2005;

Whereas Sanjar Umarov is a businessman and leader of the Uzbek opposition party, Sunshine Coalition;

Whereas Sanjar Umarov was reportedly taken into custody on October 22, 2005, during a crackdown on the Sunshine Coalition that included a raid of its offices and seizure of its records;

Whereas Sanjar Umarov was reportedly charged with grand larceny;

Whereas press accounts report that representatives of Sanjar Umarov claim that Mr. Umarov was drugged and abused while at his pretrial confinement center in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, but such accounts could not be immediately confirmed, and official information about the health, whereabouts, and treatment while in custody of Mr. Umarov has thus far been unavailable;

Whereas the United States has expressed its serious concern regarding the overall state of human rights in Uzbekistan and is seeking to clarify the facts of this case;

Whereas the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have expressed concern about the arrest and possible abuse of Sanjar Umarov; and

Whereas the Government of Uzbekistan is party to various treaty obligations, and in particular those under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which obligate governments to provide for due process in criminal cases: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the law enforcement and judicial authorities of Uzbekistan should ensure that Sanjar Umarov is accorded the full measure of his rights under the Uzbekistan Constitution to defend himself against any and all charges that may be brought against him, in a fair and transparent process, so that individual justice may be done;

(2) the Government of Uzbekistan should observe its various treaty obligations, especially those under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which obligate governments to provide for due process in criminal cases; and

(3) the Government of Uzbekistan should publicly clarify the charges against Sanjar Umarov, his current condition, and his whereabouts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.