

□ 1015

REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES ARE NOT
WITH AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, the disparity between the wealthiest Americans and the poorest continues to grow fostered by the failed economic policies of this Republican administration and Congress. Despite huge cost-of-living increases and gas prices, health care, and higher education, Americans who work full time at a minimum wage job have not received a pay raise in over 9 years.

While these hardworking Americans struggle to support their families on just \$10,700 per year, Republicans in this body are fighting to give millionaires and huge corporations tax breaks. They have even taken their misguided priorities to a new level. After voting in committee to allow a modest increase in the minimum wage, now they don't want to bring it to the House for a vote.

Democrats plan to hold a vote on the minimum wage later today because we believe that expanding economic opportunity to 7 million Americans who have been ignored should be a priority. Republicans, please make this a priority.

DOMESTIC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

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

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, as we head into the 4th of July holiday, millions of Americans will feel the pinch of high gasoline prices as they travel to see family and friends. We are watching gas prices climb higher and higher, and it has become readily apparent that America is too dependent on foreign crude oil.

Earlier this year, the House passed legislation to allow drilling in a tiny portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge of this frozen tundra of Alaska's north slope. Despite the fact that oil from ANWR could supply my State of Georgia's energy needs for 54 years and that drilling would be conducted under the strictest environmental standards, many Democrats still oppose this legislation.

This week, we have another chance to support domestic energy production when we vote on legislation to use America's massive energy resources in the deep seas on the Outer Continental Shelf. The bipartisan legislation is one way we can start weaning America off our foreign oil dependency.

Madam Speaker, the American people are tired of paying high prices at the pump. They demand action, and this Republican majority is delivering. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting the

development of domestic energy sources.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERTO V.
SANCHEZ, JR.

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I lost a constituent this last week in Iraq. Staff Sergeant Alberto V. Sanchez, Jr., had planned to celebrate his fifth wedding anniversary next month while on leave from Iraq. "It takes a piece of my heart," his mother, Olga Sanchez, said in Houston, through tears. "Nothing we can say or do will ever bring him back."

Sanchez, 33, a Milby High School graduate, died Saturday from wounds he suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Balad, about 50 miles north of Baghdad.

Sanchez was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry out of Fort Carson. Alberto Sanchez chose the Army so he could earn money for college tuition, but the military became his career. He chose to be in the Army, and his mother, Olga Sanchez, said he always said, "This is just a job. I've got to do what I've got to do."

His parents, Alberto, Sr., and Olga Sanchez, moved to Houston from Reynosa, Mexico, when their son was an infant. The family is in disbelief, Mrs. Sanchez and the other adult children said. "We never felt worried," his mother said. "If he felt worried, he never showed it. Like I said, all the pictures we have of him, he always had a big smile."

Madam Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence to celebrate this American hero, Alberto Sanchez, Jr.

CONDEMNING LEAKS OF
NATIONAL SECURITY SECRETS

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

Ms. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express outrage and disgust over United States officials who continue to leak national security secrets during wartime.

Most recently, someone leaked information to the media regarding the SWIFT program, which tracks financial transactions of al Qaeda associates.

Someone in the United States Government is subverting the war on terror, thereby putting our troops at greater risk and, in essence, prolonging the war.

Americans have the right to know who this person is and what their intentions are. In the words of the New York Times, it is "in the public's best interest to know."

I have introduced a resolution expressing that U.S. officials who leak sensitive information of national security secrets should be vigorously investigated and, if need be, brought to justice. If after a thorough investigation these officials are found to be disloyal to our country, they should be tried for treasonous acts.

While al Qaeda and the terrorists may appreciate these leaks, Americans certainly do not.

SUCCESS WITH TROOPS ON THE
BORDER

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, sending troops to control our borders has already proven to be successful. Instead of being buried on page eight, this should be front-page news. The press should know that the story is no longer about what is happening here in Congress, but what is happening at the border.

During the first 10 days of June, total detentions of illegal aliens declined by 21 percent compared to the same period a year ago. That is pretty good for just 55 National Guard troops who didn't arrive on the border until June 3.

While the National Guard is certainly not the final answer, their presence clearly demonstrates that added resources on the border is pivotal to controlling our illegal immigration emergency. Strong enforcement decreases the influx of illegal aliens. Promises of amnesty only encourage illegals to storm our borders in greater numbers.

Madam Speaker, our laws must be taken seriously by both those who would violate them and those charged with their enforcement. Thanks to our National Guard troops for their vital work in bringing order out of chaos.

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, you know, "freedom isn't free" is a saying that we hear a lot. Sometimes we think it is a little bit trite. But I will tell you, Madam Speaker, this weekend I have seen the embodiment of that phrase, as I have met in Iraq with some of our 101st Airborne troops and our National Guard men and women. They understand their mission, they are dedicated, and yes, indeed, they are getting the job done.

I have also seen the embodiment of that phrase this weekend as I have met with some of the Iraqi parliamentarians. I joined three of my colleagues there. We were led by Congresswoman KAY GRANGER, who did a masterful job in continuing to mentor some of the Iraqi women parliamentarians. We

have watched them struggle and put energy into their fight to achieve democracy, to achieve freedom, and to join us in saying, yes, indeed, we understand freedom isn't free. It does come with a price.

COMMENDING CENTURY-OLD BUSINESSES IN NORTH CAROLINA'S EIGHTH DISTRICT

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

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise before you today to congratulate 13 distinguished businesses in North Carolina's Eighth District that have served their communities and their country for more than 100 years. Not only do these businesses provide valuable jobs in our community, but they also illustrate North Carolina's rich tradition of entrepreneurship and the importance of family-owned businesses.

I congratulate the following businesses for their many contributions: Norton Doors, Moose Drug Company, Eaton Corporation, Mt. Pleasant Hardware & Milling, Efir Marble and Granite, Dunn Manufacturing Company, Coffing Hoists, Woodmen of the World Insurance, Miller Lumber Company of Mt. Pleasant, Wall Safety Products, Pass & Seymour/Legrand, Tuscarora Yarns, Incorporated, and Bonsal American.

Small businesses like these remain pillars in our community because of their commitment to producing quality products and advancing award-winning customer service. I commend the owners and employees of these firms for their contribution to the American economy and their pledge to producing and selling quality and innovative products.

SAFETY AT INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

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

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on this House to pass legislation of major importance to my constituents in New York's Hudson Valley. The Indian Point nuclear power plants are located within 35 miles of New York City, making it the largest population in the country that lives within the vicinity of a nuclear power plant.

I visited the plants on January 30 with a nuclear safety engineer from the Union of Concerned Scientists. Afterward, I requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission authorize an independent safety assessment at Indian Point.

As I saw on my visit, there are many people working at Indian Point who are fully dedicated to ensuring a safe and secure plant. They deserve our sincere

appreciation. But Indian Point is an aging plant with a history of problems, and an ISA is the best way to identify areas of weakness before they become serious issues.

My Hudson Valley colleagues and I have introduced legislation to call on the NRC to commit an ISA at Indian Point. Additional colleagues here in Congress have joined me in this. This would ensure the utmost safety at Indian Point for our surrounding communities.

The NRC needs to put the safety of the residents of New York's Hudson Valley first, and I urge the House to promptly consider and approve our legislation.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4973, FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 891 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 891

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4973) to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, my friend, Congresswoman MATSUI, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

This structured rule provides 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. It waives all points of order against consideration of the bill and makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution.

It provides that the amendments printed in the report may be offered only in the order printed in the report and offered only by a Member designated in the report. They shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. These amendments shall not be subject to amendment and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

Finally, the rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report, and, as always, it provides the minority with one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and the underlying legislation brought to the floor from the Financial Services Committee under the leadership of Coach MIKE OXLEY and Chairman RICHARD BAKER.

Yesterday evening, despite inclement weather, the Rules Committee met and took testimony from Members regarding their thoughts on how to improve this legislation. The committee determined that many of these amendments should be considered and made two-thirds of those amendments submitted to the committee in order, including seven Democrat and bipartisan amendments.

This legislation follows upon sensible reforms of the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, which also sought to update and modernize the National Flood Insurance Program. Although this previous effort at reforming the program was well intended, a number of provisions included in the 2004 act have yet to be implemented.

Also, this earlier effort is currently incomplete because it was passed by Congress before Hurricane Katrina and Rita devastated the gulf coast and, therefore, did not incorporate the lessons learned from these storms and how best to administer the NFIP.

The Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act makes a number of commonsense changes to current law. Among other things, it does the following: it requires the Comptroller General of the United States to study the effects of extending the mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements to all properties located in flood hazard areas and report back to Congress within 6 months on the findings.

□ 1030

It increases the fine levied against federally regulated lending institutions