

While the United States has spent \$29 billion to help rebuild Iraq, and Congress has approved an additional \$16.5 billion, it is troubling that some of the countries that may benefit the most from a secure and stable Iraq—particularly its neighbors in the region—are not providing the money they pledged to help achieve that goal. It's not as though these nations lack the economic resources to meet their commitments; in fact many of Iraq's neighbors are running record surpluses as a result of the windfall profits flowing into their government coffers via their national oil companies.

Madam Secretary, I have no doubt that you and others in the Administration are working to make sure those who promised money to rebuild Iraq actually make good on those promises. Therefore, I respectfully request that you provide me with a written update of the Administration's efforts in this regard. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

WALTER B. JONES,
Member of Congress.

I look forward to hearing the administration's response and an update on what steps they are taking to insure the Arab countries fulfill their pledges to aid Iraq. Our government should be working to make sure that those who promised money to help rebuild Iraq actually make good on those promises.

While oil is at a record high of near \$104 a barrel, American taxpayers are facing prices of more than \$3 at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, out of fairness to the American taxpayer, it is time that the administration tell these Arab countries that they are running record surpluses, that they need to pay their bills in Iraq. Again, they pledged \$15.8 billion. They have only paid \$2.5 billion. And the poor taxpayer of America is having to foot the bill to rebuild Iraq. It is not right, and it's time that we ask those rich Arab countries to meet their responsibilities.

LET'S THINK ABOUT THE NUMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, when asked about the possibility of gas going up to \$4 a gallon, the President of the United States and leader of the free world said, "That's interesting. I hadn't heard that."

Yes, gas prices are predicted to top \$4 a gallon, and the leader of the free world doesn't even know? Something is clearly wrong.

Mr. Speaker, with an economy based on the fuel of yesterday, America needs new vision and leadership. We cannot rely on leaders who don't know what most Americans understand and are living every day, that our oil economy is based on borrowed time that is fast running out.

Let's think about these numbers. A recent Congressional Research Service paper summarized the point clearly. Researchers predict that a 10 percent

increase in oil prices lowers economic growth in our country by a quarter point to a little over a point over the next four quarters, compared to a flat growth rate for oil prices.

When President Bush took office, gasoline cost 1.45 a gallon. Today gasoline averages \$3.17 a gallon, with some analysts saying the price could reach \$4 a gallon. Californians already know that.

The American people don't need the Congressional Research Service to do the math to understand what this means, but let's run the numbers just for the sake of argument.

During Bush's tenure in office, the average price of gasoline has increased over 218 percent; not 10 percent, 218 percent. With researchers predicting that a one quarter increase of 10 percent in oil prices leads to an economic contraction of a quarter percent to 1.1 percent for the following four quarters, the American people can only imagine what a 218 percent increase has meant for the American consumer over the last 7 years. It is profound.

In rough terms, the Bush economic stewardship plan has driven our economy into a tailspin. Our economy is in trouble. It needs rescuing. And our top leader doesn't even know prices could reach \$4 a gallon?

We should have learned something from the first Arab oil embargo of the 1970s when the United States suffered both high unemployment and rampant inflation. President Reagan called it the misery index. Don't we remember that misery? It's being exacted on the American people again.

The rising prices of oil imports in 2006 and 2007 alone accounted for over \$70 billion of our mammoth trade deficit. The global savings glut is being driven largely by the transfer of wealth from our country and western democracies to the oil rich kingdoms of the Middle East, and this imbalance continues to grow, and our people continue to suffer more.

The dollar declines. It's very clear what's happening. Gasoline prices are destroying the economic gains of our economy every day, pushing up our trade deficit and making America less competitive on the global market.

Every paper you open up there are layoffs in community after community after community, coast to coast, and people are losing their homes at greater rates. Without a course correction, the next generation will never be able to compete.

Energy legislation this House considered last week is a step in the right direction, and the other body ought to pass it quickly. But it is only a step.

This is the time for America to redouble our efforts and invest in an energy-independent future that uses geothermal, wind, biomass, solar, advanced vehicle research, new fuels of all kinds and new vehicles, developing the technologies of tomorrow for this new century.

America needs energy independence now, not in 2025, not even in 2015. We

need every single elected official at the national level to be committed to energy independence now. We need a change in this Capitol city. We need a change in the White House, and we need people elected to this Congress who will save America from ruin because of the terrible toll that rising oil prices are having on the innards of this economy, in every borough, in every hamlet, in every city, in every town across this country.

It is high time America moved from the carbon-based economy into the carbohydrate economy, and we can't do it fast enough.

The sun waits to be captured. The wind across our plains needs to be put to new use, and it is renewable. It was given to us as a precious gift. We ought to use it. And we need to have elected officials who are committed to this great American quest in this new American century.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker it is March 4, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,825 days since the travesty called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million children. And all of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. And each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same.

All the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Mr. Speaker, those noble heroes lying in frozen silence out in Arlington National Cemetery did not die so America could shred her own Constitution, as well as her own children, by the millions. It seems that we are never quite so eloquent as when we condemn the genocidal crimes of past generations, those who allowed their courts to strip the black man and the Jew of their constitutional personhood, and then proceeded to murderously desecrate millions of these, God's own children.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."