

banks and caused massive damage in Iowa during this period.

I have gone to every one of the counties. I have seen the damage, from urban areas to rural areas. We have probably close to \$10 billion worth of damage, if not more, in the State of Iowa.

We did get an initial \$2.65 billion package that included Iowa and other States affected by the flooding. But, Madam Speaker, it's time to do more.

It has been 2 months and 5 days since this disaster struck our State. Next month, I have flood assistance meetings set up in all of my flood-related counties, and I am going to do everything I can obviously to help my constituents. I am committed to working every hour of every day to get the necessary assistance to my constituents.

I am, of course, disappointed that this Congress has yet to move forward on a second disaster package, and indeed it looks as though we are not going to move forward before this weekend. That has caused me great disappointment and displeasure. But I am also committed to working with the leadership on both sides of the aisle, and the President, to provide them with any information they need for us to move forward.

As I said before, I am committed to working with my colleagues in the House and in the Senate from Iowa, and others in the Disaster Working Group, which my office helped to create, a bipartisan working group that includes 19 Members of the House of Representatives. I know that, working together, we can provide the relief that Iowa and these other States deserve.

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

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LOWER THE PRICE OF GASOLINE AND OIL

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Well, it's 9 o'clock, it's a Wednesday night, and 2 days from now we will all be home for 5 weeks and Congress will not have acted on many pieces of legislation that deal with the energy crisis. While we are home talking to our constituents and doing things that we have to do back in our districts, the people of the United States of America will continue to pay \$4, \$5 a gallon for gasoline. They will have to take money away from other important areas of their homes; food, clothing, whatever it might be, so they can put enough gasoline in the car to get to and from work or to take the kids to school. I think that is tragic, Madam Speaker.

This Congress should be doing something immediately to lower the price of gasoline and oil. A few days ago, I think last week, the President of the United States removed the executive moratorium on drilling offshore. As soon as he did that, the price of oil per barrel dropped. Likewise, just in the last couple of days, the price of gasoline dropped. If the Congress of the United States were to act likewise to remove the moratorium on drilling offshore on the Continental Shelf, the price of gasoline would drop I believe dramatically in a very short period of time.

But we are not going to do that. We are going to leave here in the next 2 days without doing a darn thing. The American people sit at home, 70, 75 percent of them saying, Why in the world don't you drill? Why don't you drill here in America. Why are you sending all that money overseas, \$700 billion a year to the Saudis and to others who aren't really our best friends? Why not keep that money at home; why not drill here; why not become energy independent so we don't have to worry about the rest of the world and what they are doing. But we are not going to do that.

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We are going to leave here without doing a darn thing. Now, there are a number of bills pending before the Congress that have been introduced that would solve the problem, but none of them have seen the light of day and none are going to see the light of day between now and when we leave.

Today, a bipartisan group headed by NEIL ABERCROMBIE of Hawaii and JOHN PETERSON of Pennsylvania, about 15 or 20 Members, bipartisan, introduced a bill that had a lot of compromises in it that would have dealt with this problem of energy independence and would have helped lower the price of energy and gasoline.

It was a multifaceted bill. It dealt with solar energy. It dealt with wind energy. It dealt with cars that use all kinds of fuel, the hybrid cars, the hydrogen powered cars. It gave tax credits to encourage the people around this country and the industries around this country to move on wind-driven energy and solar energy and other forms of energy that we are not dealing with right now.

In particular, it dealt with the drilling off the continental shelf. It did not talk about ANWR, because that was one of the areas where there was some disagreement. So in order to go ahead and move forward with an energy bill, this bipartisan group decided they wouldn't put the ANWR issue in there, but they would go ahead with the continental shelf exploration. They said that 25 miles off the continental shelf from the shore would not be explored, and 25 to 50 miles offshore the States would have the right to decline to drill should they want to do that.

But it was a giant step forward, and they moved this bill today to the com-

mittees of jurisdiction and we should be acting on that. If we don't act on it between now and when we leave on Friday, we should certainly be acting on it in September.

Now, today we had a vote up or down on whether or not we should adjourn for 5 weeks starting this Friday until September. The vote passed by one vote. Democrats, many Democrats, and almost all the Republicans voted not to leave this body until we dealt with the energy crisis, and it failed by one vote. So the people of this country saw today that a large number of the people in this body that represent them in the Congress want to deal with the energy crisis, but the majority, the Speaker of the House, once again blocked this effort, and I think that is very unfortunate.

It is extremely important that we move on this before we leave in September. The people in this country are going to suffer for another 2 months, and we really need to do something about that before we adjourn for the rest of the year at the end of September, as has been told to us is going to be the case.

We have enough energy in this country to be energy independent. We have enough oil to be energy independent. We have enough gas to be energy independent. We have enough coal shale to be energy independent. We are not doing anything to deal with the problem, and the American people know it.

So I would just like to say tonight, Madam Speaker, before we leave, that this is intolerable, what we are doing. The American people want action. They want the gas prices down, they want the energy prices down, and it is within our power to get the job done, but we are not doing it.

So I would like to urge the leadership in this House, the majority in this House, as well as the minority in this House, to move rapidly; to move rapidly on an energy bill between now and when we leave on September 30th. This is one of the most important issues, it is the most important issue that we are dealing with this session. Madam Speaker, I think it is unconscionable that we have not yet dealt with it.

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IMMEDIATE RELIEF FROM RISING FUEL PRICES NEEDED

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, my constituents in Maine and millions of Americans nationwide face an unprecedented crisis as they agonize over how