

VETERANS BENEFIT  
ENHANCEMENT ACT

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak today in support of the bill S. 1315, the Veterans Benefit Enhancement Act of 2007, which contains a provision that gives veterans' benefits to Filipinos who fought under the U.S. flag during World War II.

As the only Member of Congress with any Filipino ancestry, I'm pleased to speak today in support of these benefits for Filipino veterans.

Members of the Commonwealth of the Philippines' military were promised full veterans' benefits if they fought for the United States during World War II. Because of this promise, many Filipino soldiers fought tirelessly and courageously for the United States, and they helped us defeat the Japanese empire in the Pacific.

We have failed to fulfill our promise, and these veterans deserve the benefits that they were promised over 60 years ago. S. 1315 provides surviving Filipino veterans, all of whom are now in their eighties, with full veterans' benefits.

In honor of the service of the Filipino veterans, I urge the House of Representatives to act swiftly and to take up and pass S. 1315.

□ 1015

BEST OF THE WORST EXAMPLES  
OF MEDIA BIAS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, by a 5-to-1 ratio, Americans believe the media are trying to help Senator OBAMA win the Presidency. The following partial list of the "Best of the Worst" examples of media bias shows why Americans are right to be concerned.

One, Senator OBAMA has led Senator MCCAIN in news coverage for 12 consecutive weeks, according to the Nonpartisan Project For Excellence in Journalism.

Two, journalists who gave money to Senator OBAMA outnumber those who contributed to Senator MCCAIN by a 20-1 margin, according to Investors Business Daily.

Three, while the media often label Governor Palin "conservative," they rarely call Senator OBAMA or Senator BIDEN "liberal," even though the National Journal ranked Senator OBAMA as the most liberal Member of the Senate and Senator BIDEN as the third most liberal Member of the Senate.

Four, the New York Times opinion editor, a former staff member in the Clinton administration, refused to publish an op-ed by Senator MCCAIN about the Iraq war, just days after publishing

an op-ed on the same subject by Senator OBAMA.

Five, although the media criticize Senator MCCAIN for running negative TV ads, the nonpartisan Wisconsin Advertising Project found that 77 percent of Senator OBAMA's recent ads have been negative, far more than Senator MCCAIN's.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded that when their time has expired, they are meant to end their remarks.

SUPPORT THE BORDER SECURITY  
SEARCH ACCOUNTABILITY ACT  
OF 2008

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6869, the Border Security Search Accountability Act of 2008, which I introduced into the House last week. This bill establishes strict guidelines for Customs and Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement's electronic device seizure policy.

It is important to ensure that Customs and Border agents have the tools necessary to go after potential terrorists. This bill allows for the appropriate search, review, retention and sharing of information on an individual's electronic device, as necessary for security purposes.

H.R. 6869 also ensures that when an individual's property is seized at a point of entry, there is a well-defined procedure in place that will protect their privacy and electronic data, especially the doctor-patient and attorney-client privileges. This legislation also requires the Department of Homeland Security to post information about individual rights related to border searches in visible areas near the search points so that individuals will understand their rights.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to heed the gavel when their time has expired.

GOOD ENERGY BILL NEEDED

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, we have got an investment crisis that seems to be rising and the talking heads were on television last night talking about it. Most everyone agreed that we needed a long-term plan that our investing community could look to as we grow our economy. It needs to be

long-term and it needs to have solutions. Part of that was an energy plan, a plan you could rely upon.

I heard an environmentalist this morning say we need to go to alternative fuels, but we need a transition with carbon-based fuels. Yet we passed an energy plan which purports to have drilling for these necessary oil and gas resources, but there is still in place the availability of radical environmentalists to stop all drilling by filing lawsuits. They have declared 80 percent-plus of the areas off-limits to drilling, and they have set up kind of "gotchas" that will prevent the rest of that drilling.

We need a good energy plan.

ANOTHER CHANCE FOR GOP TO  
STAND UP TO WALL STREET

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, we are going to give the Republicans another chance today. They have been standing up for Big Oil this week and their obscene profits, but we are going to give them a chance one more time. Twice they have killed legislation on the floor of the House to rein in energy speculators. Now they are creating this fantasy that George Bush lifting the moratorium on offshore oil drilling drove down the price of oil.

Well, no. Actually, the price of oil started to drop when we first debated reining in energy speculation on the floor of the House. It had already dropped considerably before Bush lifted the moratorium.

Oil 10 years out is doing nothing for this year's speculation. Going after the speculators by releasing oil from the SPR and breaking their backs, or just reining them in with regulation, which this administration hates, which has brought about the crash on Wall Street, will bring much more immediate relief to the American consumers.

If we rein in speculation, then we won't see these obscene run-ups again next year around Memorial Day. \$600 billion of speculative money flooded into that market. When it started flowing out, the price of oil dropped.

Rein in the speculators. Come on, GOP; stand up with us and take on Wall Street.

DEMOCRAT HOAX BILL WAS ALL  
ABOUT POLITICAL COVER

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, the House had a choice. They could support a bipartisan energy plan that invests in renewable energy resources, supports conservation and expands exploration for American oil and natural gas. It was not a perfect bill. There were additional items like nuclear energy that were not addressed, and should be.