

my colleagues to join me in heeding their call.

RISING GAS PRICES

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on a very serious problem—skyrocketing gasoline prices.

In the capital district of New York, prices at the pump today average about \$3.50 per gallon. Nationally, the average price is \$3.38 per gallon, and it continues to rise. Due to the continued conflict in North Africa and the Middle East, oil is over \$100 per barrel. There appears to be no end in sight.

For every \$10 per barrel rise in the price of oil, America sends an additional \$40 billion overseas, yearly. How can we expect to turn around our economy and create jobs when we are sending this much money to our enemies?

Plain and simple, we must start thinking outside the barrel—to create jobs and protect our national security. We as Americans are better than the ancient fuel that we put into our vehicles.

Using 19th and 20th century oil subsidies in this 21st century is outdated and foolish. We are literally giving away hard-earned taxpayer money to big oil companies that are setting record profits. What do we get in return? Sticker shock at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, this is unfair to hard-working Americans that play by the rules. We deserve better. Let's stop this sticker shock.

□ 1650

BABY KILLER FLEES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday was just a normal day in Houston, Texas. Seven families left their babies at Jackie's Childcare, and went along to work just as they did every day.

A daycare is supposed to be a place where parents trust caregivers with the safety of their kids. After all, that is what they are supposed to do—keep children safe. The owner, however, Jessica Tata, left the children by themselves and carelessly drove off to Target. Meanwhile, the pot of oil she had left on the electric stove caught fire, and those seven babies burned in a massive fire.

Elizabeth Kojah, Kendyll Stradford, Elias Castillo, and Shomari Dickerson all burned to death. They were all under the age of 3.

It took several days for the authorities to get their act together to file charges. Meanwhile, Tata was able to flee to Nigeria. As the Good Book says: "The guilty fleeth when no one pursueth."

There should be no question in any person's mind that Jessica Tata should be held responsible for this crime. So the long arm of the law needs to capture her and return her to Texas and let a jury decide what to do with that baby killer—because justice is what we do.

And that's just the way it is.

LOSING THE WAR OF COMMON SENSE

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, last week, while most of us were working from our districts, a newspaper article entitled, "Combat Troops To Get Gay Sensitivity Training," was published. The article explains how our combat forces on the front lines in Afghanistan will soon be required to take a time-out from their mission and be forced to participate in the Pentagon's homosexual sensitivity training regimen.

I still maintain the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell will harm recruitment, retention and readiness; but regardless of your opinion on that issue, it is remarkable that the courageous men and women who have voluntarily put themselves in harm's way are being subjected to such insane distractions while the war wages on around them.

Our Nation is at war against an enemy that wants nothing more than the complete destruction of our way of life. For the President and the Pentagon to dangerously distract the attention of our troops in forward operating bases away from the enemy and toward homosexual sensitivity training is outrageous.

To the men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces, I pray to God that you all return home safe and sound to your families. I, for one, believe in your mission and want to win the war on terror because we have certainly lost the war of common sense.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I am glad my colleague came up to talk about high energy prices. We have consistently tried on this side of the aisle to talk about an all-of-the-above energy strategy. We are independent on electricity generation, but we are held captive to imported crude oil.

So what does that mean?

That means we are stuck with a one-fuel technology. In an all-of-the-above energy strategy, we envision a world where you go to a filling station, and you have fuel competing. You have coal-to-liquid technologies; you have liquid fuel by natural gas; you have renewable fuel by biomass. You have all of these issues to help decrease our reliance on imported crude oil. We have

the operability for an oil-sand pipeline from Canada.

We really can be independent on our energy needs based upon North American energy resources. We have to be about that. For the administration to celebrate opening up one permit on the gulf coast is a joke. We ought to get our drilling rigs back and operating.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUINTA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank the Democratic leadership for giving the Congressional Black Caucus this time to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Wisconsin, in Ohio, as well as those in Indiana, and anywhere the rights of workers are being trampled upon. The similarities in what is going on here in the Nation's Capital and in the Wisconsin capital are not only striking, but it's the kind of coordinated attack against working men and women that we have become accustomed to seeing from Republican legislators and Governors.

I don't understand why Governor Walker can't take "yes" for an answer. The unions have agreed to most, if not all, of the concessions he asked for; but rightly, they will not—and should not—give up their right to collective bargaining.

No one knows better than the African American community what unions have done to lift people out of poverty, to ensure them decent jobs with decent wages and protections in the workplace. Not only African Americans, but all Americans have benefited from the work of our labor unions.

What Governor Walker is doing is not about balancing a budget or reducing a deficit any more than the cuts in spending are up here. It's about busting unions, thus making it possible for companies to run roughshod over workers' rights—a place no one in this country should ever allow us to go back to.

For the life of me, I can't understand what Republicans have against children—or is it just poor and middle class children? The Governor and his allies in the State legislature would rather take teachers out of the classroom—killing jobs—and jeopardize the education of Wisconsin's children than raise property taxes just a little bit to help cover the cost of providing a quality education even after the teachers