

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KIRK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6456. An act to provide for extensions of certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes.

WELCOMING THE MOST REVEREND JAMES A. TAMAYO

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Most Reverend James A. Tamayo, the Bishop of the Diocese of Laredo.

Bishop Tamayo has admirably served those of Catholic faith in the community of Laredo, Texas, for the past 10 years at San Agustin Cathedral, the oldest Catholic Church in south Texas. His passion for helping the religious community and his dedication to his calling has made Bishop Tamayo an essential part of the community in Laredo.

Bishop Tamayo came to heed the call of religious service by attending St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, Texas. From there, he graduated magna cum laude from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. After that, Bishop Tamayo became the Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston in 1993, and then went on to become Bishop of the Diocese of Laredo in 2000.

Bishop Tamayo currently serves on the Texas Board of Directors in the Texas Catholic Conference as well as the Texas Conference of Churches. He is a member of the Boy Scouts National Hispanic Initiative Committee, building upon the great relationship he has established with the youth in the interfaith community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Bishop James A. Tamayo for his service to the Diocese of Laredo. Words cannot express how much he has done for the people of the city of Laredo and the surrounding communities. His quest to serve others and his desire to better the lives of those in Laredo is truly commendable.

I thank you for your time.

IT'S TIME FOR BALANCED AND FAIR TRADE

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the country's attention something devastating that is happening in northeast Wisconsin. Our paper industry, the very industry that grew the jobs and grew the future of northeast Wisconsin, is being devastated because of unbalanced and unfair trade with Communist China, who continues to export illegal paper.

Just recently, a corporation called New Page closed the Kimberly Mill. You've heard of Kimberly-Clark and Kleenex. Well, Kimberly has had a mill since the 1890s.

I am going to present every morning and every evening the stories of real people and their real damages. And one of the families is Don Wendel and his wife, Ann, with their two children, Kathleen and Anthony. He worked there for 30 years. "Our daughter is a junior in high school, and the thought of paying for college with this uncertain future is daunting. We may have to sell our car we bought in March. It is shocking and disheartening that the owners, instead of researching options to make this mill profitable, made a quick decision to shut it down. It's causing such great devastation for everyone in Kimberly and throughout the Fox Valley in northeast Wisconsin."

Mr. Speaker, it's time we had balanced trade deals, not free trade.

SUPPORT NATO

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, our country rises to its potential when we support NATO, especially when an ally asks for help.

In August, the missile threat to our allies grew. Russia invaded Georgia and fired over a dozen ballistic missiles at her people. And Iran also tested its first space-launched rocket. In response, our Polish allies signed an agreement calling for a U.S. missile defense base. It will not only defend Europe, but also us.

Poland is a good ally, having sent 18,000 troops to Iraq, covering five provinces, and now surging support for U.S. troops in Afghanistan. But in July, the House gutted funding for the base in Poland. Without a Polish agreement, the House cut \$400 million. But now that agreement has been signed. Poland's foreign minister has asked for U.S. support, especially after Russia's President Putin threatened both Poland and Ukraine.

Tomorrow I will offer a defense appropriations amendment to refund the cuts made against Poland. If the les-

sons of the last century are clear, we know that America has fewer problems later if we support a friend like Poland now.

A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PROGRAM

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for far too long our country has suffered from the effects of this administration's lack of an energy plan.

This New Direction Congress has worked hard to set new standards for energy efficiency and independence. We enacted into law the first new vehicle efficiency standards in 32 years. These standards will actually save the average family \$1,000 a year.

We created a diverse portfolio of alternative fuel standards that, when combined with traditional energy sources, puts us on the right track to becoming less dependent on foreign oil. And we helped lower prices at the pump by pressuring the administration to suspend the deposit into the government reserve.

With these efforts we have made important steps. Much more needs to be done. We must come up with a more responsible energy policy that will provide relief for working families.

I believe that the solution to this problem requires Congress to focus on the Nation's efforts of encouraging innovation, while still using the abundant resources we have, like coal. I look forward to working on a comprehensive energy program this week and to make real progress for our Nation.

WE NEED AN ENERGY VOTE ON THE HOUSE FLOOR

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the dismal approval ratings the American people have given Congress. And who can blame them? My goodness, they have really grown so ill and fatigued of all the excuses they hear from our leaders. And that is why over the past 5 weeks, 137 Republicans have spoken here on the House floor in favor of American energy and in favor of solving this problem for the American people.

Although Congress was in recess and the lights were turned out and the microphones were off and the TV cameras were quiet, we brought our constituents onto this floor to demonstrate that we are willing and ready to go to work. And still, there is no vote, no vote scheduled on legislation to increase American energy development and to decrease our reliance on foreign oil.

Should Congress promote increased production of American energy? Should

we promote conservation and efficiency? Should we encourage the use of alternative and renewable fuels? The answer to all of the above is yes. That is why we need an “all of the above” energy strategy. We need a vote, Mr. Speaker. We need a vote on the House floor.

RECORD GAS PRICES ARE A RESULT OF BUSH AND CHENEY—TWO OIL EXECES IN THE WHITE HOUSE

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, the two people most responsible for our Nation's failed energy policy are the two oilmen in the White House—President Bush and Vice President CHENEY.

From their earliest days in the White House, they surrounded themselves with other executives from Big Oil. As Newsweek reported in 2001, “not since the rise of the railroads more than a century ago has a single industry placed so many foot soldiers at the top of the new administration.” And when it came to actually creating an energy policy, Vice President CHENEY met in secret with oil executives in Big Oil in the Vice President's home.

This administration admits that 95 percent of its energy policy has now been enacted, so let's take a look at exactly what it has produced. Over the past 7 years, gas prices have more than tripled, while for 5 straight years now the major oil companies have amassed close to \$600 billion in profits. Meanwhile, our dependence on foreign oil has increased by 753 million barrels a year.

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats have rejected this failed policy and instead are working to pass legislation that will provide consumers relief while ending our dependence on foreign oil.

PROMOTING THE PARTNERSHIP OF INDIA AND AMERICA

(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. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, an organization consisting of 45 nations working to reduce proliferation of nuclear weapons, announced that they had successfully implemented an agreement allowing for peaceful civilian nuclear cooperation with India. This is a great achievement for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Ambassador to Washington Ronen Sen. There were individuals of good faith on both sides of this issue whose concerns were heard, and this latest step ends 3 years of negotiations.

The time to finalize the agreement is now. And we should recognize what a civilian nuclear agreement would mean for our Nation, for our energy needs,

and for our economy. The agreement will produce stable, clean power for the people of India, promoting the strong partnership with America. This nuclear agreement will mean more prosperity through new jobs and economic growth for India and America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

RECORD GAS PRICES ARE A RESULT OF AN ENERGY POLICY WRITTEN BY AND FOR BIG OIL

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, for 8 years now Washington Republicans have allowed Big Oil to run our Nation's energy policy. The result: record profits for oil companies and record gas prices at the pump for consumers.

All summer long, this Democratic Congress offered real solutions to provide drivers some relief. We proposed legislation to curb excessive speculation which would have reduced oil prices by \$20 to \$30 a barrel. House Republicans said no. We proposed legislation to tap the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. When the President's father took this action back in 1991, the price of oil immediately dropped \$8 a barrel. But again, House Republicans said no. We also proposed legislation that forced Big Oil to begin drilling on the 68 million acres of land they already have leases for. House Republicans once again said no.

Mr. Speaker, the record gas prices of last year are a direct result of failed Republican policies. It is time they face the facts so that we can work together and fashion some real relief at the pump.

AMERICANS WANT TO DRILL HERE, DRILL MORE, DRILL NOW

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, 5 weeks ago, Democrats adjourned this Congress for a 5-week paid vacation without ever giving the bipartisan majority in this House that supports comprehensive energy legislation and includes more drilling a vote. But House Republicans never left. Republicans stayed here on the House floor because we know the American people are hurting. Senior citizens, school systems, working families, small businesses and family farmers are struggling under the weight of high gasoline prices. In fact, the American people know the high cost of energy is costing American jobs.

And so now today along comes the latest iteration of a Democrat energy bill. And as Congress awaits the unveiling of their latest effort, a plea to Speaker PELOSI and the House Democrats: No gimmicks, no fig leaves, no

half measures. The American people won't stand for it. The Democratic leadership must allow the bipartisan majority in this Congress that supports more drilling, more conservation, more alternatives, a fair up-or-down vote and debate.

Speaker PELOSI, respectfully, you can turn off the lights on the House floor, you can shut off the microphones, but you cannot silence the majority of the American people that want a comprehensive bill and want to drill here, drill more, drill now.

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DEMOCRATS LOOK TO JUMP START THE BUSH ECONOMY BY PASSING SECOND ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the news about the Bush economy gets worse each passing day. Just last week we learned that 84,000 more Americans lost their jobs in July, bringing the total number of job losses this year to a stunning 605,000.

Despite all this bad news, President Bush seems content to ride out the next 5 months without any action.

House Democrats recognize that middle class Americans can simply not afford to wait until next year for some real help. For 8 years now they have been forgotten by Republican economic policies that have overwhelmingly favored the wealthiest 1 percent. This month Democrats will work to enact a second economic recovery package that will help Americans who have lost their jobs or are barely making ends meet and give another boost to our economy.

Mr. Speaker, for too long Republicans have rubber-stamped the Bush economic policies that have put America in an economic hole. This month Republicans will once again have a choice: stand with the Bush/McCain plan for more of the same or take action to aid families who are struggling.

MCCAIN-PALIN WILL BRING REAL CHANGE TO AMERICA

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 weeks, we have seen both parties' commitment to change on full display.

BARACK OBAMA had the opportunity to make an historic choice and choose HILLARY CLINTON to join his ticket. But, oh, no. The “Old Boy Network” won out and Senator OBAMA went back on his commitment to change and reform by choosing a Senator who has been in Washington for over three decades.

Women understand this because we have seen it before. Sometimes no matter how hard you fight or how much