

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 EXECS 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

support you have, someone will always stand in your way, regardless of paying lip service.

Contrast that with the choice made by Senator JOHN MCCAIN. He chose a strong woman to join with him to bring real change to Washington. From the PTA to the city council to the mayor of Wassilla to the Governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin has broken down the Old Boy Network, rooted out corruption, cut taxes, reduced spending, and brought real change to government. And now we see Senator OBAMA and his Democratic allies trying to tear her down and destroy another strong woman.

But the women of America will not be fooled and they will not be held back any longer. JOHN MCCAIN and Sarah Palin will bring change and reform to Washington and will finally shatter that seemingly unbreakable glass ceiling.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS AND BIG OIL

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, despite the disaster of the Bush-Cheney energy plan, House Republicans continue to insist on the same old energy policy that favors bigger profits and more breaks for Big Oil. Rather than working across the aisle to provide much-needed relief at the pump, House Republicans have blocked every effort to responsibly invest in renewable energy and take the one action that would have brought down gas prices immediately, releasing oil from the government's own stockpile.

This week House Republicans will have an opportunity to prove that they really do support all-of-the-above energy strategies. We hope to bring a comprehensive energy package to the House floor that promotes efficiency, conservation, invests in renewable sources of energy, and responsibly increases domestic supply by opening portions of the Outer Continental Shelf to drilling.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have a choice to make this week. They will stand by their own words by supporting this legislation or they will once again support Big Oil.

WITHOUT "HONOR"

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, there has been another tragic misapplication of the word "honor." In Pakistan a 17-year-old girl was killed by her parents last week because she wanted an annulment from an arranged marriage, a marriage that she was forced into when she was 9 years old. That's right, 9 years of age, the age when most girls still play on the playground, enjoy cartoons, stickers, and still play with dolls, the age

when little girls are still just little girls. Instead, at 9, Saira Bibi was robbed of her childhood and compelled to become the bride of a 45-year-old male.

After turning 17, Saira wanted out of her shotgun wedding and marriage; so she filed a legal suit, and eventually a judge granted an annulment. Unfortunately, Saira was only able to enjoy her newfound freedom for moments because the very same parents who stripped her of her youth stripped her of her life. These parents hired killers who gunned down their daughter Saira as she was walking out of the courthouse in Pakistan.

This is only one example of many so-called "honor killings" in Pakistan recently.

Mr. Speaker, there is no honor in killing your children or murdering women in the name of religion.

And that's just the way it is.

REPUBLICAN FAILURES ON THE ECONOMY—AMERICA CANNOT AFFORD MORE OF THE SAME

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, with 8 straight months of job losses, the Bush economy has now shed 605,000 jobs this year. The state of our Nation's economy is a direct result of economic policies Washington Republicans have been waiting decades to implement. But it wasn't until they had control of all levels of power from 2001 to 2007 that they fully implemented their strategy. Middle class families are now paying the price.

For 7 years now President Bush and congressional Republicans have been looking out for the wealthiest few while 2.5 million more Americans are unemployed and nearly 5 million more Americans live in poverty. While the price of groceries, gasoline, and health care have all gone up, the purchasing power of a middle income salary has fallen over the last 7 years. Real wages have only grown .3 percent since 2000, compared to 7.7 percent growth during the Clinton years in the 1990s.

Mr. Speaker, middle class families fair much better economically when a Democrat inhabits the White House. The American people should support real change in November.

ASKING FOR AN UP-OR-DOWN VOTE ON ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY PLAN

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, when you sit here and listen to what's been talked about, you wonder who's in charge of this House of Representatives. Well, the Democratic Party is in charge of this House of Representatives. They have the majority.

We have heard today that the Republicans blocked the Democrats' plan.

How did that happen? Democrats have the majority. It must have been some of the folks on their side of the aisle thought their plan wasn't very good or else they would have passed their plan. They can pass anything they want to. The majority rules in this House.

But the reality is those things that were brought forward were brought forward without any input from the Republican side at all.

Now we hear we are going to get an energy plan today. I would be willing to bet my whole life that there is not one person who has checked with our committee chairman or anybody else. This plan is NANCY PELOSI's plan written while she was on vacation selling her book, and she has come back to deliver it to us, take it or leave it. No wonder the Republicans wonder what in the heck is going on on energy.

We ask for an up-or-down vote on the all-of-the-above energy plan that has been discussed for the last 5 weeks.

REPUBLICAN FAILURES ON THE ECONOMY—AMERICA CANNOT AFFORD MORE OF THE SAME

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, Americans everywhere are feeling the pain of 8 years of Republican economic policies. Since President Bush took office in 2001, American taxpayers have witnessed the largest increase in spending under any President since the Great Depression. Thanks to a tax policy that has overwhelmingly favored the wealthiest 1 percent, President Bush has been forced to borrow more money from foreign nations like China and Japan than all 42 of his predecessors combined. Through their recklessness, the Republicans turned a healthy budget surplus left by President Clinton into one of the most dismal economic records in history.

Last week we had another reminder that the Bush economy is not producing any new jobs. In the year 2000, the Clinton economic plan created 1.4 million jobs in the first 8 months of that year. During the same period of this year, President Bush's policies have led to our economy losing over 600,000 jobs.

Middle class workers in my State of New Jersey and around the Nation are not only worried about job security, they are concerned about how to get by, when the median household income has fallen by \$1,000 since President Bush took office.

We must change and turn this around.

A START TO LOWERING GAS PRICES

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Last week a powerful hurricane hit southern Louisiana.