

We must reject this. It represents the special interests and not the public interest, and many public servants throughout this country are signing on.

TAX CUT EATS UP ENERGY COSTS

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, President Bush and Vice President CHENEY have turned their backs on the people of California. What we need them to do is to step up to the plate and swing the bat.

Millions are suffering because of their indifference, their protection of oil big businesses versus the people of California. We need to protect our consumers. Instead of making out-of-State generators play fair, they are letting them lead America.

We are hemorrhaging. Our seniors should not have to choose between electricity and food. Our schools and factories should not have to suffer or close their doors.

This is about children in San Bernardino crosswalks. This is about protecting jobs, having the lights turned on. This is about working families. This is about individuals who are suffering because President Bush has failed to take on the responsibilities.

It was said earlier that it was Governor Gray Davis. No, deregulation was started by Pete Wilson who actually had the State of California deregulate. We are suffering because the Republican Party thought there would be enough energy. We do not have the energy. We need the President to step up to the plate. A tax cut will not make up for the skyrocketing bills. Let us put on a price cap.

FUTURE HOLDS EXPLODING EXPENDITURES AND DEFICITS

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, in 1981, we ushered in a decade of profligate spending and exploding deficits. In 1990, we passed a budget bill that was tough and it helped bring down those deficits and bring us a surplus. In 1993, we took another action which was tough and helped bring down those deficits and create the surpluses. In 1997, in a bipartisan way, we passed a bill that was tough and helped bring down deficits and create surpluses. We now wait on a conference report that will again, as we did 20 years ago, usher in a decade of exploding expenditures and exploding deficits. That is irresponsible.

We passed a personal bankruptcy bill that said we expected each citizen of America to be personally responsible. Mr. Speaker, it is equally important that we be collectively responsible and reject this bad policy for America.

PRESIDENT BUSH SHOULD STOP SUPPORTING BIG OIL AND SUPPORT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, hand-picked by President George Bush, Mr. Hebert, has chosen to turn a blind eye toward the price gouging and market manipulation which is enriching a few huge energy companies, several of which happen to be based in Houston, Texas, at the expense of tens of millions of people in the Western United States.

It is not only Californians who are suffering. We are paying a higher average price in the wholesale market in Oregon and Washington than they are in California, and it is not necessary. It is manipulated.

Let us look at one company, Reliant Power. Profits up by 1,800 percent in one year. Is that not grand, from \$27 million to \$482 million. But on Sunday, the San Francisco Chronicle revealed that they are blatantly manipulating the market. They have phone lines between their traders and their trade rooms and their plant operators in California, and when the price of energy drops, they shut the plants off and turn the lights out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DEFAZIO. And then when the price skyrockets, they turn them back on. They are destroying the plants, they are destroying the economy, and the Bush administration and their hand-picked chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are refusing to take the actions required under the law to stop unjust and unreasonable price gouging and market manipulation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DEFAZIO. It is past time for the Bush administration to stop supporting the energy companies and support the American people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would appreciate it if the Members would abide by the 1-minute time limit.

FERC MUST INSTITUTE PRICE CAPS

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, at a time when my home State of California and more and more States in this country are dealing with the most severe energy crisis in the past several decades, I believe it is really the height of irre-

sponsibility to pass huge tax cuts for the very wealthy while, at the same time, not even providing any assistance in the budget for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Also, cutting funding for renewable energy research and also neglecting to get a national energy policy in place to help consumers. This is the height of irresponsibility.

The LIHEAP program helps low-income Americans pay their utility bills. It is severely underfunded, so we must fight for an increase in LIHEAP funding this year for our senior citizens and our low-income residents.

Finally, this energy crisis has gotten so bad that many of our California State legislators and the city of Oakland have joined together to file a lawsuit to make sure that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission establish just and reasonable prices. It is unconscionable that the price gouging continues to go on, and that our residents in California are going to face a very serious hot summer.

Mr. Speaker, we must move forward with price caps. We must insist that our Federal Government insist that the FERC do this, and we must do this right away.

BLIND CHOICES

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the spirit of Tiananmen Square, blind and extreme, has invaded decisions about energy policies in California. The same spirit of the tanks in Tiananmen Square has invaded the latest decisions with respect to Vieques in Puerto Rico. Both the Navy and a Federal judge are blindly pursuing a policy which rules out the choices of the people, refuses to recognize the choices of the people, and have resorted to measures like putting people in jail for 90 days.

One New York leader, Al Sharpton, has now been sentenced to 90 days in jail in Puerto Rico, and several other political leaders have been sentenced to 40 days in jail.

□ 1030

This kind of extremism will only make martyrs of people and also will call for an invasion of Vieques. The Navy does not need Vieques that badly. We should listen to the will of the people, not have a blind eye similar to the tanks that rolled over the will of the people at Tiananmen Square.

Mr. Speaker, judges have done enough harm also in this generation and should stop seeking their 15 minutes of fame. This judge is wrong. These sentences are wrong. Vieques should be set free.

RISE IN ENERGY PRICES

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have been enjoying some of the rhetoric I have been hearing from some of my friends on the other side of the aisle today. Clearly, when it comes to a rise in energy prices, the policies of my friends on the left side of the aisle is very simple, and that is called pass the buck.

They talk about the California energy crisis. Who has been in charge in California? A Democratic governor, a Democratic State legislature. Who prevented the power plants from being built over the last decade? A Democratic governor, a Democratic State legislature.

Of course, we at the national level in Chicago are seeing over \$2 gasoline. Why? Because a Democratic administration in the White House failed for 8 years to do anything about energy.

We have a new President that has been in office now for 4½ months, 5 months. He inherited clearly serious energy problems. He has now come forward with an energy proposal which deserves bipartisan support.

The bottom line is we need to conserve. We need to find new domestic sources, and we must reduce our independence on imported oil.

ENERGY CRISIS REQUIRES ACTION

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

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, we definitely have an energy crisis in this country. There is no question about it, and it is time for us to find a solution.

It does us no good to try to blame each other. The President and the Republicans put forth their energy policy last week. It calls for more production. We agree with that. It is a partial solution.

We know we are going to have to have increased production. I was disappointed that it did not call for increased production from the OPEC countries on the short term.

We are the greatest economic power on the face of the Earth. And if we can be held hostage by OPEC in this time, then we are not the greatest economic power on the face of the Earth; and we should recognize that and deal with it appropriately.

We know that conservation is the cheapest and quickest way to help our situation. We know that alternative energy sources are important and should be researched and developed as is appropriate. We know that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should do the responsible thing.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, I like to go around bragging about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the Earth, but freedom is not free.

We paid a tremendous price for it. I try not to let a day go by without remembering with gratitude all of those who, like my brother Bill, made the supreme sacrifice, to remember all of those who, like some of the people I am looking at in this Chamber right now, were willing to put their lives on the line for all that we hold dear.

As we approach Memorial Day in the year 2001, I am going to try to continue to keep my priorities straight and to do every day what I am doing this morning. I thank God for my life. I thank veterans for my way of life.

TRANSPORTATION CONGESTION

(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, I would like to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for his diligent work this week in addressing the increasing problem of transportation congestion in our Nation.

As a Member of Congress who represents a suburban district that has experienced a great deal of growth, I see the importance of a well-maintained and modern transportation system on a daily basis.

The residents of the 10th Congressional District of Illinois consistently ranked transportation needs as one of the primary challenges facing our way of life. Our region is gripped by highway gridlock and exacerbated by continued outward expansion of residential and commercial properties.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's transportation infrastructure is critical to our social and economic vitality. We must continue to improve local commuter rail lines that will bring thousands of automobiles off congested roadways.

It will also help us meet the mandates of the Clean Air Act; and, additionally, we need to invest in high-speed rail that will give an alternative to congested airports.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the gentleman from Alaska on this matter and thank him for the commitment this week to fighting congestion.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 336, nays 71, answered “present” 1, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 147]

YEAS—336

Abercrombie	DeLay	Johnson (CT)
Ackerman	DeMint	Johnson (IL)
Akin	Deutsch	Johnson, Sam
Allen	Dicks	Jones (NC)
Andrews	Dingell	Kanjorski
Armey	Dooley	Kaptur
Baca	Doolittle	Keller
Bachus	Doyle	Kelly
Baker	Dreier	Kennedy (RI)
Baldwin	Duncan	Kerns
Ballenger	Dunn	Kildee
Barcia	Edwards	Kilpatrick
Barr	Ehlers	Kind (WI)
Barrett	Ehrlich	King (NY)
Bartlett	Emerson	Kingston
Barton	Engel	Kirk
Bass	Eshoo	Klecza
Bentsen	Etheridge	Knollenberg
Bereuter	Evans	Kolbe
Berkley	Everett	LaFalce
Berman	Farr	LaHood
Berry	Fattah	Lampson
Biggert	Ferguson	Langevin
Bilirakis	Flake	Lantos
Bishop	Fletcher	Largent
Blagojevich	Foley	Latham
Blumenauer	Ford	Leach
Blunt	Fossella	Lewis (CA)
Boehert	Frank	Lewis (GA)
Boehner	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (KY)
Bonilla	Frost	Linder
Bono	Galleghy	Lipinski
Boswell	Ganske	Lofgren
Boucher	Gekas	Lowe
Boyd	Gibbons	Lucas (KY)
Brady (TX)	Gilchrest	Lucas (OK)
Brown (FL)	Gilman	Luther
Brown (SC)	Gonzalez	Maloney (CT)
Bryant	Goode	Maloney (NY)
Burr	Goodlatte	Markey
Buyer	Gordon	Mascara
Callahan	Goss	Matheson
Calvert	Graham	Matsui
Camp	Granger	McCarthy (MO)
Cannon	Graves	McCarthy (NY)
Cantor	Green (WI)	McCollum
Capito	Greenwood	McHugh
Capps	Grucci	McInnis
Cardin	Gutierrez	McIntyre
Carson (IN)	Hall (TX)	McKeon
Carson (OK)	Hansen	McKinney
Castle	Harman	Meehan
Chabot	Hart	Mica
Chambliss	Hastings (WA)	Millender-
Clay	Hayes	McDonald
Clayton	Hayworth	Miller (FL)
Clement	Herger	Miller, Gary
Clyburn	Hill	Mollohan
Coble	Hobson	Moran (KS)
Collins	Hoeffel	Moran (VA)
Combest	Holden	Morella
Conyers	Holt	Myrick
Cooksey	Honda	Napolitano
Cox	Hoolley	Ney
Coyne	Horn	Northup
Cramer	Hostettler	Norwood
Crenshaw	Houghton	Nussle
Culberson	Hoyer	Obey
Cummings	Hunter	Ortiz
Cunningham	Hutchinson	Osborne
Davis (CA)	Hyde	Ose
Davis (FL)	Inslee	Otter
Davis (IL)	Isakson	Owens
Davis, Jo Ann	Israel	Oxley
Davis, Tom	Issa	Pascarell
Deal	Istook	Pastor
DeGette	Jackson (IL)	Paul
DeLaunt	Jenkins	Payne
DeLauro	John	Pelosi