

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.

First I want to thank all the volunteers and workers who are helping in this recovery effort.

Hurricane Gustav, as Hurricane Ike threatens to do, highlights the importance of American energy production in the Gulf of Mexico. Dangerously, America remains just one major storm or one geopolitical act from another major hike in the price at the pump.

Gas prices affect our food prices, the economy in general, and people's pocketbooks directly.

Throughout August I joined my fellow House Republicans in urging Speaker PELOSI to bring Congress back to session to help American families struggling with dramatically high gas prices. She refused. But now we can act.

We can increase our own energy supply, become less dependent on foreign sources of oil, create good, high-paying American jobs. We can do this. Many of these energy jobs are going overseas, but we can keep them right here in America. By harnessing all of America's vast resources, we can help Americans in the short term and into the future.

Let's do the responsible thing. Let's open up parts of our deepwater coasts for energy exploration, and let's begin to reduce the price at the pump. We can take control of our energy future, which is our economic future. We can lower families' anxiety, but Congress must act to increase American energy production across the board now.

WITHOUT ACCOUNTABILITY, A DEMOCRACY WILL FAIL

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 years I have struggled with the issue of whether the House should impeach a sitting President. Next to declaring war, impeachment is the gravest matter the House of Representatives must consider. I fully understand the gut-wrenching consequences of such a national debate that could precipitate.

Yet there is one fact we cannot overlook or escape. America cannot regain its moral leadership in the world if America cannot hold its leaders accountable for their actions at home.

The allegations that could warrant impeachment keep growing. They have been illuminated in recent books, including "The Way of the World" by Ron Suskind; the book by Vincent Bugliosi; and the new book by Bob Woodward, "The War Within."

Over 5 years ago, I tried to place asterisks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD next to the statements about Iraq the President made to Congress. I was attacked for saying the President would mislead us into the war. But the American people ultimately learned the truth. There seems to be no end to the allegations, and we have a responsi-

bility to investigate their authenticity. That's why I am signing onto a resolution to consider impeachment of the President. Without accountability, a democracy will fail.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CANNOT AFFORD TO WAIT FOR AN ALL- OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY STRAT- EGY

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

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, in August the high price of energy helped cost 84,000 Americans their jobs; 39,000 auto manufacturing jobs in the State of Michigan alone were reported lost.

The response of this Democratic Congress was to take a 5-week paid vacation at taxpayer expense without doing anything on the price of energy.

What we have asked for repeatedly in this Chamber, and even through the recess by taking to the floor, is for an all-of-the-above energy strategy that includes maximum American energy production, commonsense conservation, and free market green innovations. It is time for a vote on this commonsense bipartisan proposal. The American people cannot afford to wait.

Instead, we see a Speaker who had time to write a book now coming to us finding time to write a new energy proposal unilaterally.

All we ask for is a vote on existing legislation. Again, Mr. Speaker, the American people cannot afford to wait.

AMERICA NEEDS TO TAKE OUR FOREIGN POLICY IN A DRAMATI- CALLY NEW DIRECTION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, later this week will mark the seventh anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack on our Nation. In the days after 9/11, Washington and the world united to respond to that attack by going after al Qaeda in Afghanistan. It was a success. But rather than continue that quest, President Bush chose to turn his attention and the attention of our military to Iraq.

This was a huge foreign policy mistake that has stretched our military dangerously thin, left us unprepared for possible threats, damaged our credibility around the world, and allowed al Qaeda to regroup and become stronger along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Rather than focus on the greatest threat of terrorism along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, the Bush administration has consistently diverted resources to Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember the 9/11 attack this week, it's important that we recognize the foreign policy failures of the last 8 years so that we don't repeat them in the future. We must also recommit ourselves to going after the terrorists where they are, and that is

the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, not Iraq.

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"ALL THE ABOVE"

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during August, I traveled throughout my district and heard firsthand from my constituents who are suffering due to high gasoline and diesel prices. Everywhere I went, I heard stories from individuals and businesses struggling to make ends meet. One business owner I spoke with told me, "The recent energy crisis has definitely impacted business in a major way and, unfortunately, will ultimately affect the everyday consumers of our products as a result of higher prices."

Mr. Medford said that significantly higher shipping, transportation, and raw material costs are causing his bottom line to rise in his business, and this causes the consumer, of course, to pay more.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take action now. Any energy legislation we consider should take advantage of an "all-of-the-above" approach to solving our Nation's energy problems. On behalf of Mr. Medford, countless business owners, the American consumers, and the people of the Third Congressional District in South Carolina, bring comprehensive energy legislation to the floor now.

MEDIA FAIRNESS

(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. Mr. Speaker, according to a recent Rasmussen poll, more than half of U.S. voters now think reporters are trying to hurt Governor Sarah Palin with their news coverage, while a scant 5 percent think reporters are trying to help the VP candidate with their coverage.

The encouraging development is that the American people are letting the media, from MSNBC to Us Weekly to Oprah, know that they will not stand for slanted election coverage. By sending e-mails, canceling subscriptions, and contacting advertisers, they are making their voices heard.

This is an important development. The American people know that they do have a say in the media's coverage. For all those who are dissatisfied with the election coverage, I urge you to contact your local and national media outlets and demand the highest standards of journalistic integrity.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair