

the gavel to the words that she said that we're going to define this Congress, define this Nation. And the words that she spoke that rang to me that I applauded, I stood up and said "yes," was this was going to be a Congress of partnership, not partisanship.

It's sad to say that today this is not a Congress of partnership. We may be from different sides of the aisle, we may be Republican, we may be Democrat; but first and foremost, we are American. We are Americans with a desire to have an American energy independent policy, and it's sad to say that this bill does not. This bill, created in the middle of the night.

And when you think about where you sit and what part you're a part of, that the Chamber, that this dome that we're under today was built during the Civil War confronting the challenges that face America. We can meet that challenge, but we can only meet it with partnership, and we need to come together and vote against this bill today.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EXPECT BIPARTISANSHIP

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, the American people believe that Washington, DC, is broken. And this process and this legislation that we are considering today is proof positive of why Washington and this Congress is broken.

The American people expect some bipartisanship on this energy issue. My colleague, JOHN PETERSON of Pennsylvania, just discussed a bipartisan proposal. NEIL ABERCROMBIE of Hawaii, a Democrat, and JOHN PETERSON of Pennsylvania have put together a good bipartisan compromise that we should be considering as part of this discussion today. It will advance American energy and American energy jobs.

The bill we're dealing with today says no nuclear, no clean coal—and I'm from Pennsylvania; we care about that. And there's really no oil and gas. That really limits our options as a nation. We want to create American energy jobs, and we want to use the revenues to transition to alternative and renewable energy as well as conserve and realize efficiencies.

The American people expect better. They expect bipartisanship. And what we are considering here today, unfortunately, does not meet that test.

THIS BILL WILL NOT SOLVE THE ENERGY PROBLEM

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

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today we have before us an energy bill, an energy bill that was presented to us at 9:45 last night, 260 pages long, and very little time to digest

what is probably one of the more important pieces of legislation that we will address in this century. I will tell you this is extraordinarily important.

People in my district ask me all the time, "Rob, we see this issue, it's an important issue for our Nation, why can't we come together and use some commonsense to solve it? Why can't Congress work together?"

Well, folks, this is not the way to work together. This is not an inclusive process. When we are given the opportunity to make sure that the best and brightest ideas come forward for a policy that's so important to the future of this country, we need to make sure the opportunity is there to bring forth the best solutions to this.

We will not solve this energy problem with this bill. This will not happen. It doesn't provide for nuclear energy, it doesn't unlock the resources that we have here. We're the only nation in the world that refuses to use its own resources to solve its own problems.

Folks, we have got to make sure that everybody's ideas make it into this bill. This bill does not provide for that. It's not acceptable to the American people. We should not have this going forward.

NO-ENERGY SOLUTION

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are wasting more time on a no-energy solution for our energy crisis. This bill says "no" to actually increasing American-made energy and relieving energy costs for the American people. No new refineries, no provisions to cut redtape and increase American refining capacity of American-made energy. No lawsuit reform to prevent frivolous lawsuits from radical environmental groups intent on playing political games.

The only thing they're saying "yes" to is an \$85 billion tax increase. It would include unfair penalties for States that simply can't adjust to federally mandated one-size-fits-all renewable electricity standards.

America deserves an all-of-the-above energy solution. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote down this bill.

REPUBLICANS GOT AMERICA INTO THIS MESS

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

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side have finally found the forum perfectly equipped for their ideas: one 60-second burst at a time filled with rhetoric and no new ideas. This is the perfect forum for the Republicans in Congress now.

We know that because when they controlled Congress, they passed their own energy bill, signed into law by the

President, we got into this mess. This is the President whose idea of an energy policy is holding hands with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, embracing him with a big smooch.

If my colleagues want to do something interesting, go to opensecrets.org. Look at the donations of ExxonMobil, look at Texaco, look at all of those, and look at the "Rs" next to all of the people who got it.

I gotta tell you something. The status quo is perfect. We govern over here, and on that side, 60 seconds of bluster at a time, 60 seconds of rhetoric at a time, 60 seconds of "drill, baby, drill" at a time.

If you want to govern the country, you had your chance and you blew it. Look at the energy bill you passed.

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WE DON'T NEED A SHAM POLITICAL BILL

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, since the Democrats took control of the House, prices at the pump have increased 75 percent, I would say to my friend from New York. Their response, take a 6-week vacation while the American people suffer.

Then they come back and, in the dead of night, present us with a 240-page nonenergy bill, no amendments, no substitutes, no committee hearings. Is this democracy? No. Is there any difference in NANCY PELOSI's America and Hugo Chavez's Venezuela? I think not.

This is a sham. This is a fraud. This is a bill designed to ensure Democrats' reelection, not designed to ensure affordable energy in America.

No new refineries in their bill, no clean coal, no ANWR, no nuclear and, if you read it, no Outer Continental Shelf; 85 percent still off limits.

Democrats look at our oil and gas reserves and say these are toxic waste reserves. Republicans look at our oil and gas reserves and say valuable natural resources to ease the pain at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, we need American energy made in America for Americans. We don't need a sham political bill.

WE NEED ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, America is threatened by four securities: Family security which finds itself hurting to pay for gasoline, food and heating costs; job security which sees our jobs going overseas, not only for manufacturing, but where other countries are drilling for oil, we can only sit back and watch; economic security, when we see our trade deficit improving in every area except for energy, when we see OPEC spending so

much money to buy our national debt and \$700 billion of our money goes overseas every year; and our national security, when we see what other countries do with oil dollars, Iran buying missiles, building nuclear weapons, Venezuela sending terrorists to attack Colombia, the Saudis paying off al Qaeda, and Russians attacking Georgia, threatening Ukraine and Poland.

We have to have energy independence, and the means to energy independence is to drill for our oil and use that money to fund vast conservation efforts and innovative fuels so we can get off of oil. We have got oil to do that, and the oil is off of our Outer Continental Shelf and out in Colorado in the shale oil and out in the Arctic shores, and we can't get to it if we put a lock on it and turn the key and throw away the key.

We need energy independence, and this is a means towards the end.

THE SOLUTIONS TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE ARE THERE AND AVAILABLE TODAY

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I agree that we need energy independence. All Americans agree that we need energy independence. There used to be bipartisanship on this issue. In fact, it was the first President Bush who proposed an executive order banning drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf.

We've had eight budgets sent here by President George W. Bush, who's his son. Every one of them, including this February when we got the budget for fiscal 2009, included language banning drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Somebody got a poll this last spring, and the prices went up because they're being manipulated by oil companies and OPEC, and we wind up with a situation where it becomes a campaign issue that was made into a partisan issue by, I believe, the party that had originally supported these things, whose President sent us eight budgets with banning the Outer Continental Shelf language.

So I would just say calm down. We are working on a genuine, all-of-the-above, bipartisan—we hope it will be a bipartisan bill. It's up to my colleagues and my friends on the other side of the aisle, but the solutions are there. They're available today. The renewables are in front of us, and they hire more people than fossil fuels.

ALLOW A VOTE ON THE AMERICAN ENERGY BILL

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the most pressing, the most urgent issue facing the American people today is energy policy, gas prices. Yet the

strongest Nation, the greatest Nation in the world is 70 percent reliant on foreign oil.

Now, the good news is that there are wonderful and incredible alternatives and opportunities to create American energy for Americans. The problem is that this Democrat bill today will not, will not allow any new supply.

The reason the American people are so disgusted with Congress is because of this style of leadership: closed, unfair, un-American. This is most frustrating and concerning to the American people because they know that there are positive alternatives.

Madam Speaker, fulfill your duty. Allow a vote on the American energy bill. Honor your oath.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY ACT

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, it's great to be here this morning to talk in favor of a Comprehensive Energy Act that we're going to bring up on the floor today.

My friends on the other side have been complaining for weeks that we don't have a comprehensive energy bill. We've passed bill after bill really designed to focus on new ways to power America. We can't be hooked on just one commodity anymore. We're hooked on oil. We are beholden to eight countries, most of which don't like us, and five oil companies. So we're always sort of at risk, and we've seen that this year with the price going straight up.

So we've got a bill that talks about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and incorporates domestic drilling all over the place, quite frankly, coal, a whole variety of things.

It's going to take our coming across the board with new policies with respect to energy to break our dependence on foreign oil. That's what this bill does.

And I always say, is it any wonder with two oilmen in the White House that the price of oil went straight through the roof?

PEOPLE NEED HELP IN AMERICA

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I just came back from a weekend of being with my constituents that were hit by a hurricane. They don't care about Republican or Democrat, and they cannot find a generator that's a hybrid generator. They need help.

And when I went and was dealing with sheriffs that were trying to get help for their people in the middle of the night, one of them said, You know I'm a Democrat. I said, You know I don't care.

People need help in America, and this bill that's been put on the floor will provide none of the above. The litiga-

tion has stopped 68 million acres from being drilled, and now once we find that out, we find out that's their ace in the hole to keep this bill from producing anything.

People want hope. People need gasoline. They need diesel. They don't need a joke that is turned into a mean, mean, hurtful bill.

THE REPUBLICANS DON'T WANT TO FIX THE ENERGY PROBLEM

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, our Republican colleagues are saying that H.R. 6899, the Comprehensive Energy Policy Act that this House will debate and pass later today, is a sham.

Let me remind them, H.R. 6899 contains essentially the same drilling language they demanded a vote on in June and July. Yet, they will vote against it today just as they did in June and July when they voted against requiring drilling in the already leased National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, against cracking down on speculation, and against releasing a small portion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

The truth is, they don't want to even begin to fix the problem. They only want to distract public attention from eight disastrous years of the Bush administration.

A failing economy, a failing foreign policy, a clearly failed energy policy, and no new ideas.

THE WORKING CLASS ARE GETTING STIFFED BY THE DEMOCRAT ENERGY BILL

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, back in the Fifth Congressional District in Florida, I tell people I came from a dysfunctional family. My father was a Democrat. My mother was a Republican. But let me tell you, my father was a Democrat because he thought that the Democrat Party was for the working class.

Ladies and gentlemen in this Chamber, the working class are getting stiffed by this bill. It's interesting because since the Democrats took control of both the Houses, gasoline has gone up over \$1 a gallon. Now you know what that means? That means that the working class and the middle class are really getting hurt.

The bill that we have before us today is not one that's going to produce any kind of energy. Let me tell you why. First of all, lawsuits will stop any drilling. There's no consolidation or method to consolidate any lawsuits that may be brought by numerous environmental groups. Certainly, we want to protect the environment, but you know what, this bill does not produce one ounce of any kind of petroleum product.