When will the Speaker's office hear the cries from the American public?

MEDICARE

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

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, we've been working diligently to improve Medicare for America's seniors. In fact, on June 24, the Democratic-led House of Representatives passed by a large bipartisan margin, 355–59, critical Medicare legislation. Unfortunately, it's being blocked by the White House and Republicans across the Capitol.

I urge the White House and Republicans in the other body to stop siding with private health insurance companies and, instead, join us in standing up for families who rely on Medicare.

Our Medicare bill is critical to the health of our neighbors. It helps ensure that seniors have access to high quality health care and the doctor of their choice.

Health care for our military families and retirees is also linked to our Medicare bill, and the Military Officers Association is calling on the White House and Republicans to end their opposition.

Our legislation cuts overpayments and wasteful subsidies to private managed-care insurance companies and redirects these resources to where they belong: the health of our seniors.

IT'S TIME FOR REAL SOLUTIONS, NOT MORE BROKEN PROMISES FROM THE DEMOCRATS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, more than 2 years ago, then-Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI promised the American people that Democrats had a ''commonsense plan to lower gas prices.'' Well, we're now over $4 a gallon, up more than 76 percent since Democrats took Congress. It's clear that plan never materialized.

American families, truck drivers, and small business owners deserve action from Washington, not more broken Democrat promises. They deserve real solutions, and that's exactly what we Republicans have to offer, initiatives that will make us less dependent on foreign Nations for energy, will create jobs here at home, and will grow the American economy.

In order to put us on a path to energy independence, we must increase the production of our vast amount of resources in an environmentally sound manner, while encouraging conservation. We must continue to invest in renewable energy resources. We must also increase our nuclear capacity, too.

It's time for real solutions, Mr. Speaker, not more broken promises from the Democrats.

RISING COST OF FOOD

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this fall, the rising cost of food will be felt by schools from Massachusetts to Hawaii, an impact that will severely strain the budgets of school districts across this great land.

Today, Chairman GEORGE MILLER and the Education and Labor Committee will hold a hearing on the rising cost of food and the impact on the school meal programs. Sadly, healthier food choices may be scrapped for cheaper, less nutritious food. After-school meal programs may be scaled back or eliminated. Our kids will pay the price.

There is no easy answer to this problem, but we can all agree that we cannot let this food price crisis result in our school-aged children going without food simply because school districts are struggling with these rising prices.

I commend Chairman MILLER for holding this hearing, and I look forward to working with him on this important issue.

LET'S TAKE ACTION

(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, it's good to be back. I had a wonderful week in my Seventh Congressional District in Tennessee, a great district that has rural areas, suburban and metropolitan areas. And everywhere I went, people were saying: What is Congress going to do right now to get the price down at the pump?

Well, my constituents know this affects every family every day, the price at the pump. They also know it is an energy independence issue, and yes, indeed, they do know that this is an issue of national security.

Yet the Democrat leadership of this House doesn't want to do one thing on debating this issue. Well, we have some bills that are in there.

How about, Mr. Speaker, if we debate H.R. 3089, a bill to promote domestic oil, natural gas, and nuclear energy production? Or there's H.R. 5984, to offer incentives for clean energy production and energy efficiency?

The Democrat solution seems to be simple and ill-advised: just drive a smaller car, take the bus, or walk if you can.

These may not be bad things, but they are often impossible for Tennesseans in my Seventh Congressional District. They want real solutions now.

BIG OIL DOESN'T NEED MORE LAND TO DRILL—THEY SHOULD USE IT OR LOSE IT

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Americans continue to suffer pain at the gas pump due to 7 years of missed opportunities and outdated policies. President Bush's energy strategy was literally written by the oil companies—give more public resources to the same oil companies that are raking in record profits while Americans are reeling from record prices.

Every day we hear House Republicans demanding the need for more domestic drilling in order to reduce gas prices. What we don't hear is anyone on that side of the aisle demanding that Big Oil drill on the 68 million acres of land they are sitting on, refusing to develop.

Legislation on the floor today will force those oil companies to produce oil and gas or diligently develop the 68 million acres of public land they already have, otherwise they will lose the leases. Experts estimate that these reserves could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil.

THE COOPER-WOLF SAFE COMMISSION: A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who stood up to the Nazis, said, ''The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.'' And this Congress is failing to serve the American people and failing to serve our children.

We have more than $53 trillion in unfunded liabilities and $9 trillion of debt. China, who violates human rights and religious freedom, holds our debt. The Saudis, who fund radical Wahhabism all over the world, hold our debt.

Standard and Poor's Investment Service predicts loss of AAA bond rating as early as the year 2012.

Is this bleak scenario what the 110th Congress wants to leave our children and grandchildren? If the ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world it leaves to its children and grandchildren, this Congress is failing miserably.

Congressman COOPER and I have a bill, the SAFE Commission Act that has 105 cosponsors, that would put everything on the table, entitlements and tax policies, in order to rein in Federal spending. If we could come together, both sides of the aisle, we can ensure that our children and our grandchildren don't have to worry about the day when China and Saudi Arabia decide to call in our debt.

ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it's amusing to listen to my friends on