

soybeans or a bushel of wheat. With soybeans, by the way, you need less nitrogen here because they are a legume and they have little nodules on their roots and they get nitrogen from the atmosphere. But this is corn. It is going to be typical of wheat and rice.

Nearly half of all the energy that goes into producing corn comes from nitrogen, and nitrogen today comes almost exclusively from natural gas.

Mr. Speaker, before we knew how to get nitrogen from natural gas, we only got it in three places, nitrogen fertilizer. We got it from barnyard manures, and they were pretty limited. The farmer might have a good garden if he concentrated his manures on the garden. But for his fields he had to rely on what we called rotation farming. You planted grass and legumes, the legumes fixed nitrogen and put it in the soil, and after several years you plowed up the sod and you planted corn for one year. That sucked most of the nitrogen out of the ground, so you were back in grass and legumes again until you stored enough nitrogen to get another corn crop.

Today we use natural gas to get nitrogen and without natural gas to get nitrogen, I will let you, Mr. Speaker, draw your own conclusions as to how difficult it would be to feed the world, because you see the enormous amount of energy that comes in through natural gas and nitrogen.

Then there is hauling, that is oil; purchased water, you probably pump that with maybe some oil and gas for energy. Chemicals. Many of the chemicals that are used in farming come from a petroleum base.

By the way, there is something we have not talked about, Mr. Speaker, very important. There is an enormous petrochemical industry out there. In a very real sense, oil, and particularly gas, are too good to burn. We live in a plastic world, and all of these things, lipstick, all of these things, come from oil. There are other sources, but they are not as convenient and nowhere near as cheap. So many of the chemicals come from oil.

Custom work. His tractor was built with oil. It ran on oil. There is a lot of oil there. Natural gas, that is all fossil fuels. Electricity, that could have been produced with oil or gas. Liquid propane gas to dry the corn probably. Then gasoline itself, diesel.

We are not even free of the need for oil when you come to lime and phosphate and potash, these nutrients you have to put on the soil in addition to your nitrogen to grow the crop, because we had to mine those, and haul those. We needed energy for all that, and a great deal of that energy came from oil.

So you can see how much our food, in a very real sense, Mr. Speaker, the food you eat is oil. And in our country, just a word about agriculture in our country. We brag we have the most efficient agriculture in the world. That is because we spend fewer man-hours to

produce a ton of this or a bushel of that than perhaps any other country in the world. But we do that because we have these very large tractors that burn a lot of oil.

There is a trade-off here. The fewer man-hours you use, the more energy you are probably going to have to use. So although we have the most efficient agriculture in the world in terms of man-hours of effort needed to produce a crop, we may have close to the most inefficient agriculture in the world in terms of energy in and energy out.

As a matter of fact, the food you eat, which, by the way, each helping traveled an average of 1,500 miles before it got to your plate this evening, the food you eat is quite literally energy because of all of the energy that it took to put in to that food.

The next chart looks at some of the alternatives. We need to come back, Mr. Speaker, and spend more time, because we really need to spend a lot of time on this chart, because if these dire predictions that we read earlier are not going to come true, we have got to pay attention to this chart.

There are finite resources. We mentioned the tar sands and the oil shales. A lot of oil there that is not very good, very expensive to get out. You may spend almost as much energy getting it out as you get out of it, so there is not a big energy profit ratio there.

Then coal, we have talked about coal.

Nuclear, we really need to look at nuclear. There are three forms of nuclear. Fusion is one that will get us home free. I do not think that is very probable. In spite of that, I support all the money, about \$300 million a year I think we spend in that sector. Because if we really are able to get fusion, energy, and that is what the sun does, by the way, and most of the energy we use comes from the sun. All of the gas, all of the oil, all of the coal if you believe in a biogenic source, of that, and most people do, came from the sun, which shone a while ago.

Hydropower comes from the sun. The sun lifts water, it falls on the mountain and runs through the turbine and produces power. Direct solar, the wind blows because of differential heating. Ocean energy, differential temperatures in the ocean. Of course, you have some ocean energy from the tides. The only potential source of energy free from the sun is the moon; very diffuse, hard to harvest that.

Fission. Two kinds of fission. We have light water reactors, 20 percent of our electricity. The French produce about 70 to 80 percent of their electricity with nuclear and they have breeder reactors.

At another time, Mr. Speaker, we need to talk about breeder reactors. If we are going to get serious about nuclear, we are going to have to go to breeder reactors, because there is not much fissionable uranium in the world. If we all need to go to nuclear it will run out quicker than coal, quicker than oil, quicker than gas. So we need to talk about breeder reactors.

Well, we will come to the floor another hour and spend most of that time talking about these renewable sources. I hope to have with me then, we had five people here last evening, this is a getaway day, they have gone home. The next time it will not be, and we will have a number of people here, and we will have a good time talking about all of these renewables, the challenges and the opportunities there.

CORRECTION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF MAY 11, 2005, AT PAGE H3197

By Mr. HENSARLING (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. COX, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CANNON, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. FLAKE, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Ms. HART, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KLINE, Mr. MACK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. OTTER, Mr. PENCE, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. TURNER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. HAYWORTH, and Mr. BACHUS):

H.R. 2290. A bill to reform Federal budget procedures, to impose spending safeguards, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse, to account for accurate Government agency costs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, for a period ending not later than July 11, 2005, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, Ways and Means, Appropriations, and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BERMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Ms. SOLIS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 1:00 p.m.

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to: