

build hydroelectric dams in order to generate electricity.

□ 2350

The limit has been the environmentalists' limit that we would hit there. We need to go back to nuclear and generate a lot more electricity with nuclear. There is a clean coal concept that can be used for baseline, coal-fired plants, and that can be used almost all over this country to produce a tremendous amount of electricity.

All those things need to happen, and as the President said in this chamber just the last day of January, that we need to expand the use of ethanol, and he is very credible when he says that, Mr. Speaker, because a fellow that comes from the oil patch, that is promoting ethanol and renewable fuels, is a person that you know believes in it.

In Iowa, and the congressional district that I have the privilege and honor represent, they will be at nine ethanol production facilities there by the end of this year, perhaps even one more. That will take us to the position where we are producing from corn all of the ethanol that we have the corn to supply. It means we can cannot use all of our corn for ethanol production. We can perhaps use 25 percent of our corn for ethanol production, and ethanol is, of course, going all over the country to be blended with gasoline.

Our markets in Iowa are voluntary. When people go in and pull out the pump and the nozzle and put it in their tank, they choose ethanol 81 percent of the time. It was 42 percent just a few years ago. So it has almost doubled, and that is a voluntary usage because people understand that it is economical, it is environmentally friendly, and it reduces our dependence on foreign oil.

So the President has advocated that within 25 years we reduce our dependence on foreign oil by 75 percent. I think that is a doable goal, especially with some of the technology that is out there, making ethanol out of cellulose. So that would be wood fiber and chips and even weeds and switch grass, and yet corn stalks and all of that kind cellulose that grows up out of the ground is all renewable. We can be energy independent if, in fact, we had to be. It would not take us very long to get there, Mr. Speaker.

We need an overall strategy to grow the size of the energy pie to change the proportions of the size of those pieces so that we use more of certain kinds of energy, and I will advocate, as I said, nuclear and coal and ethanol to be three of those that I would advocate we use a lot more of. We can do some things with solar panels. That is an emerging technology, but change the proportion of the size of the pieces of the energy pie so that we have a prudent, long-term policy that can reduce and, one day, eliminate our dependence on foreign oil.

It also includes not just drilling for oil and gas on the Outer Continental

Shelf, not just bringing a pipeline down from Alaska to deliver the natural gas from Alaska, but it also includes drilling for oil in ANWR. That stretch up there, Mr. Speaker, that is 19.6 million acres. Out of that we are going to tap into 2,000. Only 2,000 acres, .01 percent of that region, used to tap into the oil that we know is there. That could bring 1 million barrels or more of oil down to the lower 48 or actually down to Valdez and out on the tanker. That could happen in a very short period of time if we would just step up here on the floor of this Congress, Mr. Speaker, and have the people in the other body do the same thing. The President would sign the bill, and we would be one huge step closer to energy independence.

All of these things need to happen in a country that should be able to plan its future, in a country that should be able to debate its future and take action on the floor of this Congress.

We have stepped forward and taken on quite a task in this overall war on terror. This place called Iraq is not the war on terror. This is a battlefield in the overall global war on terror, but our military has stepped forward and done their job. We need to stand with them. We need to know and realize that we are in a time of war and that means that we need to tighten our belt. That requires sacrifice. That sacrifice needs to let us find the will in this Congress to move towards a balanced budget, a balanced budget that makes the Bush tax cuts permanent because that fixes this growth rate in place so it has a sense of permanency and a sense of predictability. We need to put those tax cuts in place, move towards a balanced budget, and provide a sense of financial security so that this continuity of this long period of 10 consecutive quarters of growth can go on another 10 consecutive quarters.

I would go further with the taxes, Mr. Speaker. Given the time that is allowed here tonight I will simply tie this back with the energy side of this. So, if good things are happening in the overall war on terror, if we control our spending on this budget, tighten our belt and if we sacrifice the way our military sacrifices, we can keep funds and resources going to them so they can do their job. If we provide for more energy, grow the size of the energy pie, we have laid out a destination for America's future that is an economic and a security destiny, and without going into the social side of this, the constitutional aspects of it, that is most of what we need, Mr. Speaker, to get this country where it needs to go.

So I want to thank the Speaker for the privilege to address this House of Representatives.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HINCHEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and February 15.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week.

Ms. WOOLSEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week.

Mr. CAMPBELL of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of the death of his father.

Mr. GIBBONS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of travel delay.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. WAMP (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

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

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. HERSETH, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEAL of Georgia, for 5 minutes, February 15.

Mr. NORWOOD, for 5 minutes, February 16.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, February 16.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and February 15.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today and February 15 and 16.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and February 15 and 16.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and February 15.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, February 16.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on February 9, 2006, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.