

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OIL COMPANIES REPORT RECORD PROFITS

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to replace Mr. EMANUEL.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, today was a big day on Wall Street. The oil companies, the three biggest oil companies, have reported record profits. They are up an average of 30 percent over this quarter last year. They are making \$200 million a day in profit.

Now, you would think if the price of crude oil went up, it might squeeze their margins a little bit. No, they are working hand in glove with OPEC and the other producers around the world, and they actually get a premium. For every dollar a barrel it goes up, they add on a little bit more at the pump.

They have closed down a large number of refineries across America at the recommendation of the American Petroleum Institute. They had a memo 10 years ago that they sent out to all their members in the oil industry saying there are too many refineries; the profits aren't there. If you close down some of these refineries, you could claim there was insufficient capacity and you could drive up your profits dramatically.

In the last year, profits for refineries are up 60 percent in 1 year. Now, that is \$200 million a day out of the pockets of American consumers, American business, stifling our economy, causing families to cancel vacations or change their plans, and people are having a hard time filling up their tank that live in rural areas in my district just to get to work.

But the oil company execs and their stockholders, why, they are doing just fine. Exxon Mobil has so much cash on hand they don't know what to do with it; over \$20 billion of cash. They are not investing in new production, new sources of energy, or new refineries. Hey, they like it the way it is with the so-called refinery shortage. It is a good excuse to gouge people at the pump.

No, they are just plowing it back into their execs pockets and hanging onto cash and then buying back stock to drive up the value of their stock options. The recently retired CEO of Exxon Mobil, Lee Raymond, just retired a couple of months ago, they gave him a \$400 million retirement. And now, Mr. Raymond, Americans are struggling to fill up their gas tanks; right? It is hard to afford 50 bucks if you are driving an SUV.

But Mr. Raymond, well, he isn't too worried about that. He is out buying

oil fields and gas fields in the Middle East and in Africa. An individual, one guy, got so much money from ExxonMobil from them bleeding extortionate profits out of the American people, that he can afford to buy his own oil and gas fields. And certainly, I am sure, he will sell the capacity to his former employer, ExxonMobil, who will then mark it up handsomely, and they all come out ahead. The only losers are the American consumers.

We need both a short-term and a long-term plan. We need a short-term plan to stop the profiteering and price gouging. We need to regulate oil trading like we do other commodities. We need to put a windfall tax on these companies unless they are investing their ill-gotten gains, their excess profits in new refinery capacity, in new production, and in alternate fuels.

And then we need a long-term plan to make America energy independent and energy efficient. The so-called Bush energy plan will have us importing more oil from the Middle East. Imagine that, more oil from the Middle East 10 years from today than we are today. That is a great place to be dependent upon.

The Iranians are profiting tens of billions of dollars from these high prices. Aren't they part of the axis of evil? The Bush policy is facilitating billions of dollars to the mullahs in Iran.

It is time for America to get smart, and it is time for our government to lead the way to energy efficiency, energy independence, and clamp down on big oil. But we know that won't happen, because 85 percent of the contributions of the oil and gas industry went to the Republican Party. And they were incredibly generous to the President in his last election. And, of course, both he and DICK CHENEY are from that industry.

But with a change in Congress and a change in direction, all those things could happen here and, hopefully, they will, in the interest of our country and not a treasured few of the President's friends.

CHANGING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I might speak for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing Camp Lejeune Marine Base and also Cherry Point Marine Air Station, and for 3 years this House of Representatives, in a bipartisan way, has offered and accepted and passed legislation that would create the opportunity to rename the Department of Navy to be Navy and Marine Corps.

I do not need to speak today on the history of the great Marine Corps, just like the United States Army, the United States Navy, and the United

States Air Force, but, Mr. Speaker, I will say that I am hoping this year in the conference between the House and the Senate that the Senate will accept the House position.

Let me just take a couple of moments to read a comment. Again, this bill has been introduced for 3 years and the bill number has changed for 3 years, but this statement I want to read is from the Honorable Wade Sanders, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs from 1993–1998. This is what the Honorable Wade Sanders said.

“As a combat veteran and former Naval officer, I understand the importance of the team dynamic, and the importance of recognizing the contribution of team components. The Navy and Marine Corps team is just that, a dynamic partnership, and it is important to symbolically recognize the balance of that partnership.”

Mr. Speaker, there has been an Internet site that has been established, not by me or by my office, but by an independent entity. Today, I went on that Internet site and I want to read, again for the record, a statement from First Lieutenant Marine Corps Retired General Merna.

He said, “I am one of five brothers who served in the military: Three Marines, all Korean War veterans; I am also a Vietnam veteran; two Navy brothers, one a Korean War veteran and the other paid the supreme sacrifice in World War II when his LST-577 was sunk by a Japanese submarine. Our uncle was a World War II Marine, and even our Dad spent a brief time in the Army Air Corps in World War II. It may be difficult for non-Marine families to understand why this long overdue legislation is such a burning issue for Marines; it is of paramount interest to our community of Marines.

The reasoning for this legislation comes close to explaining why this needs to be done. Simply put, Marines have earned the right to their own identity, while loving and recognizing our brothers and sisters in arms from all of the military services who already have this distinction.”

The point that he was making is, if you think about it, we have a Department of Army and a Secretary of Army. Think about it, we have a Department of the Air Force with a Secretary of the Air Force. You think about the Department of Navy, which the Navy and the Marines are a team, and yet it is a Department of Navy and a Secretary of Navy.

Mr. Speaker, I have to my left orders for a citation of a Silver Star for a Marine that was killed in Nasiriyah during this war in Iraq.

□ 1700

And it is so ironic to me that this Marine, who gave his life for this country, when his family received the letter from the Secretary of the Navy, what does it say at the top, Mr. Speaker, but the Secretary of the Navy, Washington,

D.C., with the Navy flag, recognizing that Michael Bitz gave his life for this country and that Michael Bitz was a Marine, a proud Marine.

Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to do in this House of Representatives, in a bipartisan way, is to say that this is a partnership and has been for the history of the Navy and Marine Corps, and that both should be recognized equally as a team.

And I bring to the floor again to show you what could happen, and would happen if Michael Bitz's family had received this citation of his bravery in Iraq, and that we had a Department of Navy and Marine Corps, what you would have, Mr. Speaker, and what it says here is, the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps, and it has the Navy flag and it has the Marine flag. That is what we are trying to do in this House of Representatives is to pay respect to the team. The team is a Navy and Marine Corps team. And I hope that the Senate this year, after 3 years will accept the House position.

Mr. Speaker, with that, before I yield back my time, I want to please ask God to bless our men and women in uniform, to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform, and to ask God to continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COST OF THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN of New York). Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because in a moment, we are going to have a historical presentation here on the House floor. It is the 165th time that there has been a consistent voice about getting our troops out of Iraq and ending the war in Iraq. And I know that the voice of the distinguished colleague from California, LYNN WOOLSEY, is being listened to because, eventually, we are going to follow her advice. It is just a question of when. I hope it is not going to take another 165 days.

I would like it yield the remainder of my time to the distinguished Congresswoman representing Marin and Sonoma Counties in California for her 165th presentation on the House floor on this issue.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague. Thank you, Congressman FARR, for those nice words and for standing here with me this evening.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I come to the floor again, for the 165th time, to discuss the costs of the occupation of Iraq. Unfortunately, we all know too well the human cost of the occupation. More than 2,550 of our brave fighting men and women have died. Nearly 100 Iraqi civilians are killed every day.

One might be able to justify these losses if the cause were justified, if Americans were safer because of our action in Iraq. Instead, the architect of the September 11 attacks, Osama Bin Laden, is still at large. The Middle East is literally going up in flames. Terrorism is increasing throughout the world.

And when we turn our eyes home to America, we see so many squandered opportunities as a result of the Iraq occupation. If we hadn't been spending nearly \$5 trillion in Iraq, just think of what we could have done to strengthen our economy and our very own people. Think of the investments we could have made in our future right here at home.

Think about the unmet needs of our children. For the cost of 15 days of the Iraq occupation, we could immunize every child in the United States against serious childhood diseases with all recommended vaccines for the cost of \$4 billion.

For the cost of almost 2 months of the occupation in Iraq, we could hire 460,000 teachers across America to lower average class sizes to 18 students, at the cost of \$15 billion.

For the cost of just over 2 months of the occupation of Iraq, we could provide basic health insurance to every American child currently making due without coverage. That cost would be \$17 billion.

For the cost of little more than 2 months of the occupation of Iraq, we could pay 1 year of tuition and fees at a 4-year public university for the 3 million high school seniors who graduated this spring.

For the cost of just over 5 months of the occupation of Iraq, this could provide a 20 percent pay raise to 3 million public school teachers.

Mr. Speaker, when will we learn?

Congress, over my objections and those of many of my colleagues, gave the President the authorization to go to war. We did not give him permission to occupy Iraq, nor did we give him permission to neglect American children and jeopardize their future.

It is time to bring our troops home from Iraq. It is time to focus on the education and health care of our Nation's children. The Congress can do this by passing my legislation, H.R. 5875, a bill to repeal the President's Iraq war powers. Tonight, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation. And I urge the leadership to consider this bill before we head home for the August break, before one more penny is wasted on occupying Iraq.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING MR. JONATHAN STRICKLAND

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an intelligent, gifted and courageous young man, Jonathan Strickland, who is a 14-year-old African American California resident who began his training to fly airplanes and helicopters at the age of 10 at Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum. This museum is located in my district at the Compton Woodley Airport in Compton, California, and is a nonprofit organization that strives to give adolescents the opportunity to reach their goal of flight. All program participants are able to receive free training, as long as they perform local community service. The museum director and an accomplished flight instructor, Robin Petgrave, saw fit to create this program that would serve youth in poverty stricken neighborhoods and provide them with a positive alternative away from the streets.

Jonathan Strickland has clearly benefited from Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum. I am proud to recognize his incredible achievements. He broke four world records in June, including being the youngest person to solo both a plane and a helicopter on the same day, being the youngest African American to solo a helicopter, and to fly a helicopter internationally. He also flew a helicopter round trip internationally.

On July 1, 2006, Jonathan successfully landed back at Compton Woodley Airport and was greeted by his family, friends, the Compton Mayor Perrodin, well wishers, the media, as well as the original members of the Tuskegee Airmen. He was also presented with an application for future employment with the Los Angeles County Fire Department Operations Division.

Ambitious and brave, Jonathan Strickland was able to live his dream because of Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum. I am proud that this wonderful program is in my Congressional district, and that it is changing young people's lives and creating ways for them to reach their potential and excel.

Jonathan's future goals include becoming a test pilot, attending the Air Force Academy, and eventually becoming a commercial pilot. And as already a world record setter, I am confident that he will surpass every goal he sets for himself.

He has recently graduated from St. Francis Cabrini School, and will enter