

strangely the melting of the polar ice cap may so dilute the waters in the Gulf Stream that they do not become dense enough to drop down to continue this conveyor belt on back down to the tropics.

The Gulf Stream could stop. If the Gulf Stream slows down appreciably, or if it stopped, the climate in the British Isles and in Europe would be very, very different than it is today.

Now, if we were in Siberia talking about global warming and so forth, we may have a very different view of it. It might be hard to convince me that a little global warming might not be good if I lived in Siberia. But noting that just this 9-degree Fahrenheit, 5 degrees Centigrade change from the Ice Age has produced the incredible climate changes that we see from that time to this, you see the potential for really devastating climate changes as a result of very modest changes in temperature. Congressman GILCHREST.

Mr. GILCHREST. If the gentleman would yield just for a second on the issue of the Gulf Stream and the conveyor belt. As Mr. BARTLETT described the conveyor belt, it is part of this whole system of the climate that we are used to, because it creates this heat balance that humans over the last thousands of years have become used to in North America and especially Europe and England.

Mr. BARTLETT talked about Ireland being just about on the same latitude as northern Labrador, but has a much warmer climate. That is partly based on the fact that ocean currents bring warm air to that particular region.

With global warming, the ice cap on Greenland, which is about 600,000 square miles. The ice cap about 20 years ago was melting at a rate of about 20 cubic miles on an annual basis. About 5 years ago, it was melting at the rate of about 50 some cubic miles.

Today, it is 80 cubic miles of free water flowing into the northern part of the north Atlantic Ocean, putting what Mr. BARTLETT described, more fresh water, less likely to sink or drop and create the pump that drives the conveyor belt.

So the unexpected climate changes, instead of the potential for a much warmer climate in Europe, especially northern Europe, there is a slight chance because of global warming that you could have a much colder climate in northern Europe, the British Isles as a result of the fresh water pouring into the north Atlantic from the melting of the glaciers to stop this conveyor belt from functioning, the unpredictability of this climate change as a result of our dependence on foreign sources of oil and burning fossil fuel.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, Congressman GILCHREST and I have both been twice to Antarctica. One of those trips we made together. We are on the Science Committee. We have a large experiment station down there right at the pole. When you go to

Antarctica, that is a continent that nobody owns. I think Argentina claims they own it, and Russia claims they own it, but nobody honors those statements. It is an international area.

It has got ice piled nearly 2 miles high. So high and so heavy that it has actually pushed the continent down a little bit under it. 90 percent of all the world's ice is in Antarctica, and 70 percent of all the world's fresh water. You take our Great Lakes and all of the relatively thin ice at the North Pole and Greenland, that is relatively thin compared to nearly 2 miles in Antarctica.

So we have 90 percent of the ice down there and 70 percent of the fresh water. And Congressman GILCHREST mentioned that the oceans would rise maybe 3 feet with the melting of the glacial cap in Greenland and so forth and in the Arctic. If all of the ice melted, that would take a very long time, that is not going to happen tomorrow because there is a whole lot of it there.

But if all of the ice melted in Antarctica, I am told that the oceans would rise 200 feet.

□ 1800

Now, that would really, really change our world because I don't know what percent of our population lives within 200 feet altitude of the ocean. I suspect it is more than 50 percent, if you look around the world of the people that live at less than 200 feet altitude.

Now, there is an interesting ocean current that goes around Antarctica, talking about ocean currents and their affect on climates, that is the circumpolar current. And what it does is it keeps the, like our gulf stream, it will either let the cold air down if it is further south or keep it from coming down if it is further north. This circumpolar stream around the Pole keeps the northern, down there, of course, it is northern waters that are warm, it keeps the northern waters from coming down into Antarctica. And if something happened that stopped that circumpolar stream, the Antarctica polar ice cap might melt much more quickly than we anticipate that it might melt.

As an indication of how much these ocean currents affect climate, about 5 years ago, I guess it was, an iceberg broke off down in Antarctica, which was the size of Delaware. And in spite of the circumpolar current, some northern warm waters do get through it and down there to temper the climate a little, and that usually melts the sea ice enough so that they could get a boat in that is full of diesel fuel to McMurdo, which is where the main station is. You fly from there to the Pole. And because that big iceberg the size of Delaware blocked the flow of this water that year, and that was 4 years ago, it was so cold there that the sea ice didn't melt, and the closest they could get, with the help, by the way, of a Russian ice-breaker, the closest they could get was 3 miles out, so they laid a hose 3 miles across the ice to fill their tanks at McMurdo.

By the way, Congressman, one of the things that amazed me there, when I was down there the sun was shining all day long and the wind blew incessantly. I didn't see any solar panels down there, and I didn't see any wind machines down there. In the summer down there, in their summer, our winter, they could clearly make all of their energy from the wind and from solar. It just reflects the President's wise observation that we are hooked on oil. We are so hooked on oil that we are really quite irrational in our use of it. You had a comment?

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. BARTLETT and I have been down there twice, the first time I went was probably about 10 years ago, and the supply ship to get to McMurdo station had to break ice. I believe it was about 12 miles from open water to McMurdo. And then after the ice shelf or that huge chunk of the glacier broke off about the size of Delaware, it was close to 30-something miles that they had to break that ice from open water all the way to McMurdo station. So a few degrees, a few changes have some pretty significant dramatic events.

On just a lighter note, on one of those trips, I can't remember which one it was, we went to watch the penguins. The first time I was in the Antarctic they didn't have that far to go to get to open water. The Adelie penguins, the second time, as a result of the increasing ice because it was blocked, had to go miles and miles and miles, and unfortunately it really reduced the population of those Adelie penguins in that part of the Ross ice shelf.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. They have a very interesting rookery down there; we enjoyed seeing it. Both times I was down we went out to the rookery to see the penguins. The big Emperor penguins, they didn't like us; they waddled off. And they scoot along on their bellies when they are moving fast, by the way, rather than marching.

I am very pleased to have been joined by Congressman GILCHREST. And again I want to emphasize that we have three groups that have a common cause: those that are concerned about oil and national security, those that are concerned about the excessive use of fossil fuels and the climate change that may very well result from that, and those of us, and I am with all of those groups actually, but I am particularly concerned about the fact that we may muddle through the national security thing and somehow God may save us from the global warming, but nothing is going to save us if there really is a limited supply of oil.

So, I am very pleased to be joined by my colleague, and I join all of those in these three camps. We really do have common cause. Please join and help us do the right thing.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LAMPSON (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. ROYCE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

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. MCDERMOTT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes, today and February 7.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 7, 2007, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

510. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

511. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

512. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report including matters relating to the interdiction of aircraft engaged in illicit drug trafficking, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2291-4; (H. Doc. No. 110-12); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

513. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-677, "D.C. Housing Authority Rent Supplement Temporary Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

514. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-676, "School Without Walls Development Project Temporary Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

515. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-674, "National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Grant Authority Temporary Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

516. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-675, "Fiscal Year 2007 Operating Cash Reserve and Revised Revenue December Allocation Temporary Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

517. A letter from the Deputy Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Use of NARA Facilities [NARA-06-0005] (RIN: 3095-AB55) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

518. A letter from the Director, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, transmitting pursuant to the requirements of Section 4 of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, the Office's annual Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2006; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

519. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Implementation of Title II of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 — Reporting & Best Practices (RIN: 3206-AK55) received December 22, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

520. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Awards (RIN: 3206-AL06) received January 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

521. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Amendment [USCG-2001-10881] (RIN: 1625-AA36) received January 29, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

522. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report entitled, "Fundamental Properties of Asphalts and Modified Asphalts-II" submitted in accordance with Section 6016(e) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), Pub. L. 102-240, and Section 5117(b)(5) of the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21) and the extension of those provisions through FY 2006; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

523. A letter from the American Legion, transmitting the financial statement and independent audit of The American Legion proceedings of the 88th annual National Convention of the American Legion, held in Salt Lake City, Utah from August 25-31, 2006 and a report on the Organization's activities for the year preceding the Convention, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 49; (H. Doc. No. 110-10); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky):

H.R. 833. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on loans secured by agricultural real estate and rural housing; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELLESER:

H.R. 834. A bill to provide permanent relief from the marriage penalty under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ABERCROMBIE (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 835. A bill to reauthorize the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing assistance for Native Hawaiians; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. FORBES, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. COBLE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. PENCE):

H.R. 836. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to better assure cyber-security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. FORBES, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. PENCE):

H.R. 837. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect youth from exploitation by adults using the Internet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself and Mr. CANNON):

H.R. 838. A bill to provide for the conveyance of the Bureau of Land Management parcels known as the White Acre and Gambel Oak properties and related real property to Park City, Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 839. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of enlarging the Arthur V. Watkins Dam Weber Basin Project, Utah, to provide additional water for the Weber Basin Project to fulfill the purposes for which that project was authorized; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. CARSON (for herself, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Ms. LEE, and Mr. RENZI):

H.R. 840. A bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to consolidate the housing assistance programs for homeless persons under title IV of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 841. A bill to amend the Federal charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated, to authorize the corporation to extend eligibility for associate membership in the corporation to the spouse and siblings of a recipient of the Purple Heart; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NORWOOD:

H.R. 842. A bill to provide for enhanced Federal, State, and local assistance in the enforcement of the immigration laws, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, to authorize appropriations to carry out the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program,