

WE'VE GOT TO WAKE UP AND DRILL

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I was privileged enough to go with a number of Congressmen two weeks ago to the Middle East and went to Saudi Arabia. We had some great meetings over there. We met with the Minister of Petroleum and many of the other people who are directly involved with the oil situation, and here is their response to us as we complained to them about the high price of gasoline. Now, keep in mind America imports 60 percent of its oil. This is what these guys said to us: "You have the nerve and the audacity to come here, all the way to Saudi Arabia, to complain about your oil prices when you won't even drill yourself, when you won't even build refineries."

President Bush was there a month earlier, and they increased the capacity to 300 million barrels a day. And we can't even buy it because we don't have the refineries. We've got to get our head out of the sand.

China right now, with Cuba, is drilling 45 miles off the coast of Florida. We've got to wake up and drill and use our own resources.

HONORING THE PEOPLE OF HUGO, MINNESOTA

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of Hugo, Minnesota.

It was just several weeks ago that the people of Hugo encountered a terrible tragedy; it occurred at 5 o'clock on a quiet Sunday afternoon. A tornado touched down in Hugo, and within 30 seconds over 50 to 60 homes were completely flattened, between 150 and 200 homes were uninhabitable. But the wonderful spirit, Madam Speaker, among the people of Hugo, the fire department, the police department, the State Patrol, almost instantaneously had a wonderful textbook outpouring of rebuilding.

Within one week, the community of Hugo had so many volunteers they had to turn them away. They completely removed all the debris from the city within one week, and now they're on the road to rebuilding.

I congratulate Mayor Fran Miron. I congratulate City Administrator Mike Ericsson. And I congratulate all the people of Hugo who have exuded the spirit of Minnesota, the loving experience of loving a neighbor. And that's what people in Hugo do best, they love each other.

So congratulations to the people of Hugo. You will rebuild. You will be back. And I'm so honored to represent you here in this great House.

THE DRILL-NOTHING CONGRESS

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the drill-nothing Congress. I wish I had thought of that phrase, but it's the headline in Investor's Business Daily, Monday, June 9.

The average price for regular gas at \$4 a gallon over the weekend. Gas prices have risen 75 percent since NANCY PELOSI took over. Where is the energy independence Democrats promised 2 years ago? That's the subheadline.

Now I am going to quote from the article. In November, 2006, House Speaker-Elect NANCY PELOSI issued a press release touting the Democrats "common-sense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices." She accused the oil companies of price gouging. The price of gasoline, when the Democrats took control of Congress, was around \$2.25 per gallon. The average price of regular gas crept over the \$4 per gallon barrier over the weekend, as measured by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service.

This represents a more than 75 percent increase in the retail price of a gallon of gasoline on Pelosi's watch. Call it the Pelosi premium we are all now paying.

Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the rest of the June 9, 2008, article of Investor's Business Daily.

A Gallup poll released in May showed that 57% of the American people wanted the U.S. to drill in coastal and wilderness areas. The percentage of Americans who bought Pelosi's line about price gouging fell from 34% in May 2007 to 20% in May 2008. It could be a winning issue for the Republicans and John McCain.

More than 15 billion barrels of oil have been sent down the Alaskan pipeline from Prudhoe Bay, some 60 miles to the west of ANWR, over the past three decades, much more than the six months' supply expected in the beginning by those who predicted a similar environmental disaster there.

The local caribou and other critters have thrived. Yet, Pelosi and the Democrats want to keep ANWR's estimated 10.6 billion barrels of oil off the market and out of our gas tanks.

Buried in a Department of Interior Appropriations bill passed in December 2007 was an amendment proposed by Rep. Mark Udall, D-Colo., passed by a 219-215 vote in June, that prevented the establishment of regulations for leasing lands to drill for oil shale.

The Western U.S. is estimated to have reserves of a trillion barrels (yes, that's the real number) trapped in porous shale rock, an amount three times the oil reserves of Saudi Arabia. On May 15, 2008, the Senate Appropriations Committee in a 15-14 party line vote rejected an amendment by Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., to allow oil shale drilling and overturn the Udall moratorium.

The U.S. Congress has voted consistently to keep 85% of America's offshore oil and gas off-limits, while China and Cuba drill 60 miles from Key West, Fla. The U.S. Minerals Management Service says that the restricted areas contain 86 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

There are 3,200 oil rigs off the coast of Louisiana. During Katrina, not a single drop was

spilled. More than 7 billion barrels have been pumped from these wells over the past quarter-century, yet only one thousandth of one percent has been spilled.

A study by Louisiana's Sea Grant college shows that there's 50 times more marine life around oil platforms that act as artificial reefs than in the surrounding mud bottoms. Some 85% of Louisiana fishing trips involve fishing around these offshore rigs.

The Flower Garden coral reefs lie off the Louisiana-Texas border. They are surrounded by oil platforms that have been pumping for 50 years.

According to federal biologist G.P. Schmahl, "The Flower Gardens are much healthier, more pristine than anything in the Florida Keys. It was a surprise to me. And I think it's a surprise to most people."

We would suggest that John McCain revisit his reservations about ANWR and run against the drill-nothing Congress. Energy development and the environment are not mutually exclusive.

In fact, we would suggest that the first joint town hall meeting with Barack Obama proposed by McCain be held on one of those offshore Louisiana rigs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY). The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the resumption of legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

RETURN SOVEREIGNTY TO IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I have believed for a long time now that the best way to bring peace to Iraq is to launch a diplomatic surge to encourage regional and international partners to get involved in addressing Iraq's problems.

The first step in this process would be to withdraw all of our troops and military contracts, which would create a positive climate, a climate that would allow diplomatic efforts to actually begin. But today, the administration is taking our country in quite the opposite direction. It is negotiating long-term security arrangements with the Iraqi Government, arrangements that could actually keep us bogged down in Iraq for decades and destroy Iraq's sovereignty.