

Chamber may feel as a "voice crying in the wilderness." Representative of so many Americans, personal opinion often seems not to be heard in such a noisy and busy Nation such as ours. So, Lord, grant perseverance and consistency to Your servants who work in government day after day.

When their words seem to fall on desert land, help them to create a pool of conviction with others that the united effort may soon be recognized. When their efforts seem to be blown away by media winds or opinion polls, enable them to go deeper into where their convictions are rooted and affirm the life there.

In the depths where You breathe forth Your spirit, let them hear the echo of Your revelation and give You thanks and praise now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3180. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

DEMOCRATS TAKE ACTION ON RECORD HIGH GAS PRICES AT THE PUMP

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, the American people are looking to Washington for help in reducing prices at the pump. They don't really have a lot of interest in pointing fingers; they just want us to act in a bipartisan fashion to bring these record prices down. But of course that hasn't stopped the oil company executives from pointing fingers, and of course that is what they do. That is all they can do. Anything but let the American people see where the real fault is, with the oil companies.

Last month, nonetheless, Congress acted in a strong bipartisan fashion to pressure the administration to temporarily suspend the filling of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve which experts agree will help drive down gasoline prices. This bipartisan House also overrode the Presidential veto on the new farm bill that makes an historic commitment to more affordable home-grown American biofuel and increased the oversight of commodity futures in order to detect and prevent market manipulation of energy prices.

Mr. Speaker, as this House prepares to debate more energy legislation this week, I hope we can work together to provide some relief at the pump.

ENERGY DEBATE IS NATIONAL SECURITY DEBATE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our energy policy is tied to our national security. When America is increasingly reliant on foreign sources of energy, we are increasingly influenced by foreign governments who may be hostile to our interests.

Too many Democrats in Congress believe the debate over energy independence is simply about the price at the pump. Some want to try to lower the price by socializing the oil industry or taxing American energy resources, neither of which will lower the price. Meanwhile, House Democrats refuse to expand exploration for American oil and natural gas. They fail to acknowledge that until we find affordable, reliable fuel sources to replace oil, our Nation will be reliant on this form of foreign energy.

When we invest in American resources, we not only add more supply to the market that has seen increased demand, we invest in our national security by ensuring more of our oil and natural resources come from right here at home.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

HOLD THIS ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. When the leadership of this House said back in October of 2006 that impeachment is off the table, what they did is they set the stage for the administration ignoring the subpoenas of the Congress for information. Once the administration understood that they did not have to comply with the law and that Congress essentially took away the one power that Congress has to compel the administration to respect Congress as a coequal branch of government, once that was taken away, the administration basically just decided it wasn't going to appear in front of Congress to answer questions, they wouldn't produce documents or papers that were relevant to congressional investigations.

Congress is a coequal branch of government. It is urgent that we reestablish our coequality, that we create conditions of a check and balance of administrative abuse of power. This isn't a Republican matter, it is not a Democratic matter, it is a matter for our country. We need to have the Congress be strong. We need to hold this administration accountable.

PUBLIC FEELS REPORTERS ARE BIASED

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a new survey has found that 68 percent of all voters believe that reporters try to help their favorite candidate win elections. Just 17 percent believe that reporters offer unbiased coverage of election campaigns. And by more than a 3-1 margin, voters believe the media is behind Senator BARACK OBAMA rather than Senator JOHN MCCAIN.

The survey also found that 76 percent of voters believe the media have too much power and too much influence over elections. And skepticism about the media cuts across income, racial, gender, and age demographics.

Americans are right to be skeptical, and should brace themselves for the most one-sided coverage of a Presidential race that we have ever seen. We need to encourage the media to adhere to the highest standards of their profession. Only then can we restore Americans' faith in news reporting.

ENERGY FACTS VERSUS ENERGY FICTION

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, this morning I inaugurate energy facts versus energy fiction. Today's fact:

In the spring of 2001, Vice President CHENEY met with oil industry executives to develop a national energy policy. Then, before their policy was enacted the average price of a barrel of