

this morning. It has been in the hopper for almost 12 hours now. It has been called a sham. It has been called a farce. But let me tell you, it's a bald-faced lie to the American people. This so-called energy bill is not going to produce one drop of oil, not the first one. We don't know all that is in this bill because we were just presented it last night.

There are some things that are not in this bill, and I can guarantee you there is no nuclear energy. We're not going to even be able to drill for oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf. There is no way to stop in this bill the endless lawsuits by the radical environmentalists. This is a nonenergy energy bill. It's a lie to the American public. It is a cover to try to look like the Democratic majority is trying to do something. They say they represent the poor, the elderly and the underprivileged. But that is a lie, too, because the underprivileged and the poor are being hammered by increased energy costs. And we cannot afford to continue on this process.

#### A NEW DIRECTION ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, it is true: The Bush-Cheney energy plan has been a giant success, but for big oil companies, not the American people. America is still addicted to foreign oil, and gas prices are through the roof.

It's time for a new direction in our energy policy. This week, House Democrats are bringing up that legislation. I was proud to work with a bipartisan group of Democrats and Republicans to craft a piece of legislation. Many of those ideas are incorporated into this plan. It invests in renewable energy, responsibly increases domestic supply by opening up the Outer Continental Shelf for drilling and releases oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

One thing it does that is very good, it eliminates unnecessary tax breaks and subsidies to Big Oil and asks them to pay their fair share of royalties so we can invest in renewables.

All Americans, Republicans and Democrats, who believe it is time for our country to move in a new direction towards energy independence should join us and move this ball forward. This legislation will create millions of good-paying American jobs in the renewable energy industry, and it will begin to break the stranglehold of foreign oil over this Nation.

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#### STOP PLAYING POLITICS WITH AMERICA'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the American people are hurting. They are struggling under the weight of record gasoline prices, and in that cause Republicans have been fighting for a comprehensive energy bill that includes more drilling. Three-quarters of Americans agree with us.

Just last week, the drill-nothing Democrat Congress announced they are going to bring an energy bill to the floor that includes more drilling. And now they say Republicans have to take "yes" for an answer.

Well, I would suggest to my countrymen, Mr. Speaker, that they look at the fine print. The drill-nothing Congress has brought a bill that actually includes basically drill-nothing provisions. They say "yes" to drilling, but not in Alaska, not in the eastern gulf, and not within 50 miles.

They say "yes" to drilling, but States can decide, even though they get absolutely no revenues for choosing to drill. I guess States are going to just allow drilling out of the goodness of their hearts.

They say "yes" to drilling, but litigation rules will allow environmental lawyers to tie up all leases from the very day they are filed.

I say to my House Democrat colleagues from my heart, on behalf of our constituents who are struggling under record gasoline prices, end this charade. Stop playing politics with America's energy independence. Bring us a full and fair debate to this floor and you will see a bipartisan result.

#### CONTRACTOR ACCOUNTABILITY

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, one year ago today, Blackwater contractors opened fire in Baghdad's Nisoor Square, killing 17 Iraqi civilians. This wasn't the first time private security contractors used excessive force.

It has now been 21 months since the Christmas Eve murder in the Green Zone, and 3½ years since a Blackwater helicopter dropped CS gas on a traffic jam in Baghdad. Yet there have been no arrests, no charges, no trials and no conviction. In fact, the Blackwater contractor responsible for the Christmas Eve shooting is now employed as a prison guard in Washington State.

Instead of holding Blackwater accountable for violating the law, last April the State Department rewarded Blackwater by renewing their billion dollar contract. Before we even consider giving Blackwater another penny of U.S. taxpayer dollars, we should hold private security contractors accountable under the law.

On the 1-year anniversary, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Stop Outsourcing Security, SOS, Act, H.R. 4102, to begin phasing out the use of private security contractors. The

longer we wait to fix this problem, the worse the situation is going to get, not only for Iraqi civilians, but for our troops on the ground.

#### DO-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. Mr. Speaker, this is indeed the do-nothing Congress. The Speaker of the House and the majority leader in 2006 made many, many promises. Among them was to bring down the price of gasoline, to have the most open Congress in the history of the Congress, to have the most bipartisan Congress. Every single one of those promises has been broken, and broken many, many times.

It is important that the American public understand that the Democrats are in charge of this Congress. The Democrats have the capability of bringing up a bill to allow us to vote to bring down the price of gasoline. But the bill they are going to bring up today is bogus, a sham, an illusion, a charade. All of those words that have been used are appropriate.

The Democrats are proving that they are anti-American energy. Republicans are pro-American energy. Republicans want to increase the supply. We want to increase our efforts at conservation. We want to increase alternatives.

The Democrats are totally out of touch with the American people. From August 1 until the end of December, they plan to work 14 days for the American public.

#### MCCAIN'S ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMY SHOWS HE REALLY IS NOT AN EXPERT ON THE ECONOMY

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year Senator MCCAIN said he needed to study up on the economy because it was not his strong suit. You can certainly say that again. Yesterday Senator MCCAIN once again said, and I am quoting now, "The fundamentals of our economy are strong." His comments came on a day when the stock market fell 500 points, its worst drop in 7 years, and Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy.

What fundamentals is Senator MCCAIN referring to? It certainly can't be the fundamentals of ensuring more Americans have a job. Every moment this year, the Bush-McCain economy has shed tens of thousands of jobs. To date, more than 600,000 jobs have been lost.

Nor can it be the fundamentals of ensuring that middle-class Americans are prospering. Over the last 8 years under the Bush-McCain economy, real wages have actually fallen by \$300, while basic necessities like food, gas, health care, and education have skyrocketed.

Mr. Speaker, Senator McCAIN needs to study up more on the economy and reject the failed economic policies of the last 8 years.

#### REPUBLICANS WILL NOT BE SILENCED ON ENERGY ISSUES

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, the American people are not only frustrated; they are absolutely outraged this morning when they wake up to discover that not only has the Speaker of the House decided there won't be any new energy production this year, in 2008, no relief is on the way, she has also decided political speech is not going to be allowed on the floor of this House.

This morning, Republicans were so outraged when they heard what the Democrat Congress had done, that 150 of our Members planned to be on the floor to talk about the outrage of this bill. When the Speaker heard that, she decided to limit us to 30 people being able to speak this morning.

Well, Mr. Speaker, one thing that will not be put under a bushel will be the outrage of the American people over this perceived and actual hoax of a bill, this charade we are going to vote on today.

I have in my hand amendments that I had hoped to offer to give Americans some real energy production. Not only will they not be allowed, but the voices of the American people will not be heard on this floor this morning, because the Speaker of the House has decided it will not be.

I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that Speaker PELOSI has vastly underrated the American people. They will not be squelched. They will be heard. Our voices will be heard on this issue. We will not be silenced.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to heed the gavel and will limit their remarks to 1 minute.

#### COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PACKAGE WILL GIVE MONEY TO TAXPAYERS AND CONSUMERS

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, this week Congress will vote on an all-inclusive energy package that will lower gas prices for consumers and put money back in taxpayers' pockets.

The Democratic energy plan will require oil companies to pay royalties on leases they have had for years but never paid to use. Big Oil has raked in record profits, the largest in American

history this year, while Americans pump hundreds of dollars into their gas tank. It is time Big Oil pay American taxpayers the \$15 billion it owes all of us for drilling on the American people's land.

For years, Washington Republicans have been showering Big Oil with tax breaks and subsidies. With the big oil companies amassing record profits every quarter, they certainly don't need this corporate welfare. The Democratic plan will repeal these giveaways to the big five oil companies and invest money in renewable money and programs, like LIHEAP, that will help Americans heat their homes this winter.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic energy plan helps Americans who have been suffering from George Bush's failed energy policies for far too long.

#### PROPOSED ENERGY BILL IS A SHAM

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, it is a good thing we don't have Pinocchio's working in this House or we would have some noses growing. To stand up and say this is a bipartisan bill when the first Republican saw it, I was present when it happened at 9:45 last night while we were speaking on the floor of the House, ought to make somebody's nose grow.

To call this a bipartisan bill is a sham, and we ought to call it what it is. This is a bill shoved down the throats of the American people, without the voice of the majority of the Members of this House having anything to do with this energy plan.

Look right here and see what it doesn't do: No real offshore exploration; no renewables without high taxes; no real oil shale drilling; off limits permanently, Arctic coastal plain; emissions-free nuclear, no; clean coal, coal-to-liquid, no; new refinery capacity, no. We got five of them out in Texas right now. No energy tax hike, no; no electricity spikes, no; lawsuit reform, no; playing politics with energy, yes.

That is what we have been given today. That is what we have. Meanwhile, on the coast, people suffer. Let's really address energy.

#### DEMOCRAT ENERGY PLAN SIDES WITH CONSUMERS WHILE GOP ENERGY PLAN SIDES WITH BIG OIL

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, while Big Oil rakes in record profits this year, American families are struggling with pain at the pump. House Democrats are working to pass a comprehensive energy plan that lowers prices for consumers, expands renewable energy

and creates good-paying jobs here at home.

The old Bush-Cheney policy, written by and for the oil companies, is the gift that keeps on giving to Big Oil; more land, more public land, more taxpayer dollars and more record profits.

Every Representative in this House has a clear choice this month: Talk about an all-of-the-above plan, or take action. They can join with Democrats in siding with consumers struggling with energy costs, or continue to side with Big Oil. They can support a policy that will create good-paying American jobs and increase our Nation's security, or continue to argue for a drill-only plan. As T. Boone Pickens has said clearly, this is one problem we cannot drill our way out of.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic energy plan will bring down prices at the pump and invest in renewable energy for our future. It deserves strong bipartisan support.

#### ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY ACT NEEDED

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 months we have been telling the Speaker and the Democratic majority that we need an all-of-the-above American Energy Act, and the Speaker has responded by saying any bill that includes drilling is a hoax.

Well, Mr. Speaker, she has presented at 10 o'clock last night a 290-page hoax in regard to the drilling provision. It is absolutely a hoax. It gives absolutely no revenues to the States for any drilling between 50 and 100 miles. We already allow that off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana, and you are going to expect these east coast States or California to let us drill with no revenue sharing? It ain't going to happen, and she knows it.

Now, in regard to the energy proposals that we have made in the American Energy Act, we have 10 up here, and none of these are included in the Pelosi no energy bill. None of the above. NOTA. Think of the acronym, N-O-T-A, not an energy bill.

If she would give us four of these; real offshore exploration, emission-free nuclear, new refinery capacity, who could say we don't need that, and lawsuit reform, so the extreme environmentalists don't destroy every opportunity.

This is not an energy bill. NOTA, N-O-T-A.

#### COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PACKAGE WILL INVEST IN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CREATE JOBS

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, very shortly this Congress,