

your competitor gets a freebie in the national security realm or a freebie when it comes to climate change impact, or a freebie when it comes to, say small particulates, when it comes to coal, nuclear doesn't develop, and alternative energies don't develop because you have got this freebie.

Why not continue on with the cheap old technology, the one that really doesn't take a lot of rocket science? You stick pipe in the ground, out comes some crude, you refine it, stick it in a car and you run it. Not real rocket science. But how about some rocket science of hydrogen, for example? Well, you have to internalize some externals in order to make that work for a profit-making venture.

Until then, we will be talking science projects. I'm on the Science Committee. I'm happy to do science projects. But what I really want to have happen is to have people making money selling the competing technology. Here is a way to do it. We are just hearing about how we don't want more taxes. So let's start with a tax reduction. What if you reduce taxes on something, say payroll or income, and then in an equal amount, apply a tax to carbon-based fuels? Then we will see what happens. What would happen then is all kinds of exciting things. The new entrepreneurs in the energy field, the Bill Gates of the world in energy would suddenly do for energy what Bill Gates at Microsoft and Steve Jobs at Apple did for the PC and the Internet. America would break free. It would be no additional intake to the government, and Mr. Speaker, we would be on our way to energy independence.

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

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

SUPPORT H.R. 1245, HOMEBUYER TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2009

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to do something novel tonight. I am going to reach out to my Democrat colleagues. And I'm glad to see some of them, like DON, over there tonight to listen to my exhortations.

Mr. Speaker, the \$8,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers was one of the reasons why home sales went up by about 5.1 percent last month. That was an indication that we are probably moving in the right direction as far as stimulating some economic growth in the housing industry. But the housing industry is in a depression right now. And we need more than just the \$8,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers.

Now, back in 1975, Congress passed the Tax Reduction Act of 1975, which

included a tax credit not just for first-time homebuyers, but for all homebuyers, up to \$2,000 in a tax credit. As a result, they increased within the next year by 400,000 the number of houses that were sold, and in 2 years they were back up to the 2 million house level.

So we need to stimulate economic growth in the housing industry across the board, not just for first-time homebuyers. Now KEN CALVERT of California, our colleague, has introduced a bill, H.R. 1245. I'm a cosponsor of it. And it will give a 10 percent credit, 10 percent of the home price, up to \$15,000 for all homebuyers for 1 year. Now if we did that like they did back in 1975—and this was sponsored mainly by Democrats back in 1975—if we did that across the board for homebuyers up to \$15,000, we would stimulate a huge movement towards home purchasing. Twenty-five percent of the people in this country say they want to buy a home within the next 10 years. We can move that up pretty rapidly if we extend the tax credit to \$15,000 and allow everybody to get it for 1 year. And if we did that, I think that would go a long way toward solving the economic problems we are facing right now. Right now, what we are doing is we are throwing money at the problem, and we are hoping that that will solve it. It is probably going to help a little bit in the short run. But in the long run, if we really want to stimulate economic growth and activity, we have to get the free market working again. And the best way to do that in my opinion, and I'm saying this to my Democrat colleagues as well as my Republican colleagues, is to give an incentive for people to buy homes, not just first-time homebuyers, but everyone who would like to buy a home or move into a better one.

So if we allow, say, a 10 percent tax credit up to an amount of \$15,000 for just 1 year, I think you would see a huge movement in the purchase of homes in this country, and it will really help the economy.

Now the realtors of this country and the homebuilders of this country really need help. They want this bill. They think it is extremely important. They are out here this week and they are going to be talking about it. So I would like to say to you, DON, and all my Democrat colleagues and my Republican colleagues, let's get together on this one. We can fight on something else. But right now we have an opportunity to really stimulate home purchases in this country and get this economy moving more rapidly in the right direction.

So I hope you will join with me in cosponsoring KEN's bill, H.R. 1245, and I'll be glad to sign any of you up tonight.

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

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

JORGE LUIS GARCIA PEREZ
"ANTUNEZ," CUBAN FREEDOM
FIGHTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. This last Friday, I had the honor of being able to speak by telephone with five brave human rights activists, pro-democracy leaders, inside the totalitarian nightmare that is Castro's Cuba.

One of the great heroes of the pro-democracy movement inside the Cuban totalitarian nightmare is Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez. A black man now in his 40s, Antunez was first imprisoned while he was in high school because of his support for democracy and his opposition to totalitarianism. For 17 years, Antunez was regularly beaten as a political prisoner in Castro's gulag. He never gave in. He was released from the gulag last year, but since he never surrenders, he doesn't stop denouncing the thugs and pirates who have destroyed, impoverished and oppressed the Cuban people for 50 years, Antunez has been routinely detained, dozens of times, thrown into a dungeon and subsequently released, since his release from the gulag.

Some days ago, Antunez began a hunger strike in his city of Placetas, in Sancti Spiritus province, Cuba, calling for the end of the death threats being leveled against Cuban political prisoner Mario Alberto Perez Aguilera; an end to the physical and psychological torture of all Cuban political prisoners; and the cruel and cynical prohibition by the dictatorship against Antunez's sister, Caridad Garcia Perez, being able to rebuild her own house. They don't allow her to rebuild her own house, which was destroyed by one of the devastating hurricanes that passed by Cuba.

Accompanying the hero Antunez when I was able to contact him by telephone on Friday, March 19, was his wife, the pro-democracy leader, Iris Perez Aguilera, whose brother, Mario Alberto Perez Aguilera, is a political prisoner receiving death threats. I'm sure one of many, but the one specified by Antunez, receiving death threats by his jailers. And I also spoke to pro-democracy leaders, Carlos Michael Morales Rodriguez, Alejandro Tur Valladares and Ernesto Mederos. It was my honor to speak with all of them.

Antunez's house was surrounded by state security thugs while we spoke. And he and his colleagues knew very well that our telephone conversation was being monitored by the thug-regime. The courage of these pro-democracy leaders is simply awe-inspiring. They all explained their human rights work and reiterated their commitment to freedom. I told Antunez that I would be speaking in the U.S. Congress this week about him, about his hunger strike, about his heroic struggle for

freedom and the heroic struggle of the other pro-democracy leaders I spoke to, and about all of Cuba's political prisoners.

Fidel Castro and his brother, who now has some titles because of the dictator's intestinal illness, constitute the historical revenge of the brutal, racist European colonialism that the Cubans fought to overthrow for almost a century. But they ultimately prevailed.

Antunez, Biscet and the other pro-democracy leaders who continue to fight the Castros' dyarchy represent today's version of Maceo, Banderas, Moncada and all the freedom fighters who ultimately obtained freedom for Cuba.

Now one of the disgusting realities of today is that the fight of the unarmed Cuban people doesn't exist for the international media and the press, with very dignified exceptions. Why are the Cubans non-persons for so much of the media? Their racial discrimination is as shameful as it is condemnable. But Antunez, Biscet and the other Cuban freedom fighters will prevail. They are the future leaders of free Cuba. Antunez's last words to me on Friday said it all. "Tell your colleagues, the representative of the American people, Antunez ni se rinde, ni se va." "Antunez neither surrenders, nor leaves."

Some are advocating that the new administration agree to the expulsion from Cuba to the U.S. of Biscet, Antunez and other future leaders of Cuba in exchange for some Castro spies currently in U.S. Federal prisons, serving time for conspiring to murder U.S. citizens. That would be a condemnable act that would violate international law as well as the elemental human rights of Cuba's future leaders.

From the floor of the U.S. Congress, I reiterate my admiration for those leaders who confront the totalitarian monster from within Cuba today and who will lead free Cuba tomorrow.

AFRICA DESERVES PARITY IN OUR OVERALL FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, is proud to anchor this hour. Currently the CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the Ninth Congressional District of California. My name is Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, and I represent the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

CBC members are advocates for families nationally and internationally. We have played a significant role as local and regional activists. We continue to work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress. But understanding that all politics are local, we provide dedicated and focused service to the citi-

zens and congressional districts we serve. The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, to promote the public welfare through legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens, continues to be a focal point for the legislative work and political activities of the Congressional Black Caucus today.

As Members of Congress, CBC members also promote legislation to aid neglected citizens throughout the world. We understand that the United States, as a bellwether, has the ability to positively impact our neighbors abroad.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to our chairwoman, the Honorable BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much. And let me thank the gentlelady for yielding and also for your leadership. Once again, thanks to you, we are here talking about the many, many issues which face our country, but also many of the issues which the Congressional Black Caucus is very involved in leading. And oftentimes the public really isn't aware of these issues and exactly what we are doing. So thank you again, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, for your leadership and for staying the course.

As Chair of the CBC, I'm very proud to point out that we are privileged to draw upon the wisdom and expertise of one of our many colleagues on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman DON PAYNE of New Jersey. Congressman PAYNE I must say is more than a member. Of course, he is the Chair of the Africa and Global Health Subcommittee, but he is our resident expert on Africa. And Congressman PAYNE I always say is a Member of Congress who not only understands what our foreign policy should be towards the continent of Africa, but he also understands that Africa deserves parity in our overall foreign policy and oftentimes is in the midst of bringing peaceful solutions to conflicts when others won't go there in many, many dangerous and treacherous situations. He also is on the CBC International Affairs Task Force. And I just want to commend Congressman PAYNE tonight. Thank you for your sacrifices and for your leadership.

We are also represented on the Foreign Affairs Committee by Congressman GREGORY MEEKS of New York, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON of California, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of Texas and Congressman DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

I would like to briefly talk tonight about Darfur and Sudan. I mentioned Mr. PAYNE earlier, and let me just say that he was the lone voice in the wilderness for many years saying that we should declare that genocide is taking place in Darfur, because that is exactly what did take place.

□ 2000

He finally brought bipartisan consensus to that, the policy of desig-

nating this as genocide, and it took a lot. But the country, our country, has in place, as its foreign policy, that genocide is taking place in Darfur. But it is also important to recognize that we haven't been able to go the next step to really help to end the genocide.

The people of Sudan, they have a desire for a just and lasting peace, but it has been crushed repeatedly by one of the most brutal regimes in the world. More than 2 million South Sudanese have died in the 21-year war and have suffered countless atrocities, mostly committed by the same regime in Khartoum.

Darfurian children, born at the height of the genocide, are now 6 years old, and many of them are still in displaced camps in Darfur or in Eastern Chad as refugees.

Fifteen years ago in Rwanda, the international community turned a blind eye with a million civilians butchered. Have we really done more in the case of Darfur, in South Sudan in Abyei and in Nuba? We declared genocide in 2004, but we haven't acted decisively to stop it. If we had, we could have saved many, many innocent people.

And I have visited Darfur on three occasions, and I have just seen the conditions in the camps deteriorate over the years. And so, now it is very important, given what has just taken place, for the United States to raise its role and elevate our work as it relates to trying to help the world community understand that we have got to do the right thing. We need to support the International Criminal Court in its efforts to hold Sudan President Bashir accountable for his crimes against humanity, and for the President, and we support the President, our President, in appointing a Special Envoy for Sudan. Congressman PAYNE and myself wrote to President Obama, and we are delighted that he has appointed an Ambassador or a Special Envoy to be empowered, and we want him to have the resources to focus on Sudan as a whole with special attention to the ongoing genocide in Darfur. We want full implementation of the CPA and to address the humanitarian crisis because, now as General Bashir has expelled the humanitarian workers, we have an even worse crisis emerging on the humanitarian front.

And so our new Special Envoy is Major General Gration. He will be the Special Envoy, and he is uniquely qualified. Some of us met him in Darfur, and we know that he is very qualified to undertake these critically important efforts. As the President said, and I quote, he said that "he knows the region, he has broad experience and has my complete confidence."

Let me also say that we have to work very closely with the Special Envoy. And again, we want the Special Envoy to have a team of people with the resources to be able to do this job so he can bring peace to the long-suffering people of the Sudan.