

bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

#### BIG OIL SUBSIDIES

Mr. REID. Madam President, as we learned today from articles around the country—I will refer briefly to one in USA Today:

As gas prices hover near \$4 a gallon, nearly seven in 10 Americans say the high cost of fuel is causing financial hardship for their families, a new USA TODAY/Gallup Poll finds.

More than half say they have made major changes to compensate for the higher prices, ranging from shorter trips to cutting back on vacation travel.

For 21 percent, the impact is so dramatic they say their standard of living is jeopardized.

It goes on to indicate that the situation involving gas prices is very focused and, in the lives of some, drastic.

The other issue the American people face—and they should—is we have to do something about raising the debt ceiling. We can only do that—Democrats, Republicans, Independents agree—by doing something about bringing down the deficit, and it has to be something that is meaningful. A place to start in that regard would be to focus on these gas prices, how concerned people are and, in addition to that, the deficit.

We have a bill we will vote on this evening that says these subsidies given to oil companies, the five big oil companies, which in the last quarter made \$36 billion; that is net profit—we are saying those subsidies are no longer necessary.

We have had over the years a number of executives from these companies say they are not necessary. They are now trying to justify these: Well, if we don't do this, it is going to cause gas prices to go up.

We had a report by the Congressional Reference Service, an independent body, which said in three different places in that report that it will not affect gas prices at all. They said it in different ways, but they said it.

No. 1, of course, we have to do something about the exorbitant gas prices, and the best way to start with that is to do something about the five big oil companies getting subsidies they do not need. The other thing we have to be concerned about is the huge deficits we have had. We can accomplish both of those to some degree today by doing something this evening when we vote on taking away those huge subsidies that the oil companies no longer need.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### ENERGY POLICY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, last week, as gas prices continued to

climb, squeezing family budgets and putting more pressure on already struggling businesses, Democrats here in Congress sprang into action. Instead of actually doing something about high gas prices, our Democratic friends staged what one of my Republican colleagues accurately described as a dog and pony show. They rounded up what they believed were a few unsympathetic villains whom they could blame for high gas prices, hoping nobody would notice they do not have a plan of their own to deal with those high gas prices.

That has been the Democratic strategy from the beginning: Blame this crisis on somebody else, and see if they can't raise taxes while they are at it. They have been so shameless about it, in fact, that they have not even pretended they are doing anything to lower gas prices, readily admitting the bill we will vote on today will not lower gas prices by a penny. As the Democratic chairman of the Finance Committee put it last week: "That's not the issue."

Well, I would submit that for most Americans, high gas prices are in fact, the issue. This week, Democrats will show once again how little they care about it when we take up an energy plan that several more of them have admitted will do absolutely nothing to lower the price of gas at the pump. One Democratic Senator, a member of their own leadership team, called the bill a "gimmick." Another Democratic Senator called it "laughable."

I would also argue that with Americans looking for real relief, symbolic votes such as this that aim to do nothing but pit people against each other will only frustrate the public even more. Americans are not interested in scapegoats. They just want to pay less to fill up their cars.

That is why this Democratic bill to tax American energy is an affront to the American people, and so is the President's announcement over the weekend that he now plans to let these same energy producers lease lands throughout the United States that his administration had previously blocked off.

The administration knows perfectly well that leasing—the act of leasing—is just the start of the development process, which is why its only hope is that the American people do not pay close attention to the details of the plan.

Permits, Madam President—permits—are what matter, and by refusing to issue permits in any meaningful way, the administration is showing its true colors in this debate. If the administration were serious about increasing domestic energy production, it would increase leases and, most importantly, it would increase permits.

In the end, the only thing Democrats will actually achieve this week is to make Republican arguments for comprehensive energy legislation seem even stronger than they already are. By pretending to want an increase in

domestic energy production, the President is not only acknowledging that the United States has vast energy resources of its own waiting to be tapped, he is also acknowledging that tapping these resources would at some point help drive down the price of gas at the pump.

That is what Republicans have been saying all along. Now the President is acknowledging that: Supply matters. And American supply matters even more.

So the only thing that seems to be standing between Republicans and Democrats at this point is the Democrats do not seem to have the political will to follow through on their conclusions. And in this, today's Democrats are no different from their predecessors. Literally for decades, Democrats from Jimmy Carter to President Obama have sought to deflect attention from their own complicity in our Nation's overdependence on foreign oil. Every time gas prices go up, they pay lip service to the need for domestic exploration while quietly supporting efforts to suppress it.

But President Obama's energy policy puts the current administration in a whole new category. Over the past 2 years, the President has mounted nothing short of a war on American energy, canceling dozens of leases, imposing a moratorium off the gulf coast, arbitrarily extending public comment periods, and increasing permit fees. On the crucial issue of permits, the administration has held them up in Alaska, the Rocky Mountain West, and particularly offshore. Every one of those decisions has had a major impact on future production—and on future jobs, since every permit the administration denies is another job creation opportunity denied.

So the truth of the matter is, the Obama administration has done just about everything it can to keep our domestic energy sector down and to stifle the jobs that come along with it.

Until now, the President has stuck to attacking Republicans for being stuck in the present without preparing for the future. But this has always been a disingenuous argument. It ignores history, since we have repeatedly supported alternative fuels and renewable energy, as well as comprehensive energy legislation that commits us to the development of cleaner technologies. It ignores science, since even if a million electric vehicles are sold here by 2015, they would still only account for less than one-half of 1 percent of the entire U.S. vehicle fleet. However much we desire it, the transition from oil will take decades, and serious energy policy must account for that.

With this latest gambit, the President may have acknowledged the wisdom of our approach. But his plan to allow a few lease sales without corresponding permits falls short. Energy producers might end up with a lot of expensive land, but the rest of us would have nothing to show for it. A better

approach to this crisis is the Republican alternative that we will get a vote on tomorrow.

Our bill would return American offshore production to where it was before this administration locked it up, require Federal bureaucrats to process permits—to make a decision one way or the other: process the permit, make a decision one way or the other—rather than sitting on the permits. And it would improve offshore safety. Our plan not only acknowledges the importance of increasing domestic production, it does something about it, while ensuring environmental safety.

If President Obama and his party are serious about lowering gas prices, making us less dependent on foreign oil, and creating the thousands of jobs that American exploration is proven to produce, they would embrace our plan and stop pretending to care about a crisis they have done so much to create and, their latest public relations efforts notwithstanding, continue to ignore.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2011

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, this week we commemorate National Police Week 2011, and honor the service and sacrifice of the many men and women in Federal, State, and local law enforcement across America.

Washington welcomes thousands of police officers who come to celebrate National Police Week. They will honor their fallen fellow officers and rededicate themselves to their mission of serving and protecting their neighbors and their communities.

Among the visitors are hundreds of officers from my home State of Kentucky. I wish to personally welcome them to the Nation's Capital and express my gratitude to them for bravely laying their lives on the line to protect towns small and large all across the Commonwealth.

Approximately 900,000 peace officers are serving today across our country. Every year, between 140 and 160 of them are tragically killed in the line of duty, and 2011 is already proving to be a difficult year as 69 law enforcement officers nationwide have been lost in the line of duty so far, compared with 59 at this point a year ago. To recognize those peace officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, and their loved ones, I was pleased to cosponsor a resolution designating May 14, 2011, as National Police Survivors Day. This resolution, which passed the Senate unanimously, calls on the Nation to honor the families of fallen law enforcement officers and to pay respect to the courageous men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving to keep our communities safe.

In my State, in the town of Richmond, the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Monument stands as a permanent reminder of the high cost of protecting the peace. At a solemn ceremony last week, 24 names were added to its rolls, bringing the total to 485.

I know my colleagues will join me in saying the Senate has the deepest admiration and respect for police officers in every community across America. We recognize theirs is both an honorable job and a dangerous one. They bravely risk their lives for ours. America appreciates everything they do, and America is grateful to them and to their families.

I have here a list of 24 names that were added to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Monument this year. I ask unanimous consent that the names of those heroes be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### 2011 HISTORICAL ADDITIONS TO THE KENTUCKY LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL MONUMENT

Officer Bryan J. Durman  
Lexington Division of Police  
End of Watch: April 29, 2010  
Chief Jerry Lee  
Frankfort Police Department  
End of Watch: September 18, 1882  
City Marshal Ambrose Wilson  
Sadieville Police Department  
End of Watch: October 13, 1883  
City Marshal Jesse Offut  
Franklin Police Department  
End of Watch: August 19, 1884  
Sheriff Henry H. Winters  
Hickman County Sheriff's Office  
End of Watch: December 31, 1887  
Constable W. F. Deskins  
Magoffin County  
End of Watch: January 3, 1893  
Officer John Horan  
Louisville Police Department  
End of Watch: November 15, 1900  
Deputy Nicholas J. Bodkin  
Kenton County Sheriff's Office  
End of Watch: November 13, 1902  
Deputy Bert Casteel  
Laurel County Sheriff's Office  
End of Watch: March 21, 1903  
Constable William M. Shelton  
Clinton County  
End of Watch: April 17, 1904  
Deputy James F. Day  
Letcher County Sheriff's Office  
End of Watch: May 29, 1904  
Constable J. Martin Wright  
Letcher County  
End of Watch: August 24, 1916  
Deputy Walker Deal  
Pike County Sheriff's Office  
End of Watch: January 10, 1921  
Officer William O. Barkley  
Georgetown Police Department  
End of Watch: April 11, 1922  
Deputy Foster Messer  
Knox County Sheriff's Office  
End of Watch: November 23, 1923  
Jailer Charles A. West  
Knox County Sheriff's Office  
End of Watch: November 23, 1923  
Chief James V. Gross  
Lynch Police Department  
End of Watch: April 1, 1924  
Sheriff James O. West  
Fulton County Sheriff's Office  
End of Watch: April 11, 1925  
Captain William H. Poore  
Paducah Police Department  
End of Watch: November 29, 1928  
Town Marshal J. Wes Perkins  
Williamsburg Police Department

End of Watch: February 24, 1930  
Sheriff John F. Cable  
Pike County Sheriff's Office  
End of Watch: October 2, 1940  
Chief Pryor Martin  
Eminence Police Department  
End of Watch: February 25, 1951  
Chief Ronnie C. Carter  
Carrollton Police Department  
End of Watch: April 8, 1969  
Sheriff William R. Wimsett, Sr.  
Nelson County Sheriff's Office  
End of Watch: May 6, 1972

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF SUSAN L. CARNEY TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Susan L. Carney, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 2 hours of debate equally divided and controlled between the Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY, and the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY, or their designees.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum, and I ask that the time be charged equally to both sides.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today to voice my strong support for the nomination of Susan Carney to serve as an appeals court judge on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, one of our most distinguished