

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, as gasoline prices throughout the United States go from \$2 a gallon and even towards \$3 a gallon, I think it is instructive for this Congress to review the profits of the major oil companies even before this round of increases in the price of gas.

Listen to this, the profit increases over the last year: Texaco, 473 percent increase in profit. Phillips Petroleum, 257 percent increase in profit. Conoco, 371 percent increase in profit. Chevron, 291 percent increase in profit. BP Amoco, 296 percent increase in profit.

I do not know of anyone in America who is getting a raise of a few hundred percent. The American people are struggling to survive and the oil companies are ripping them off. We need a windfall profits tax. We need to make sure that there is some balance brought back in this economy. It is time to go after the oil companies.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR WELL-BEING OF CITIZENS INJURED IN MEXICO

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend my colleague the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) for sponsoring a resolution that expresses the concern of the Congress for the safety and well-being of United States citizens injured while traveling in Mexico and calls for the President to begin negotiations with the government of Mexico to establish a humanitarian exemption to that country's exit bond requirements.

No American should have to live through the nightmare faced by Michael and Lorraine Andrews, a couple from my congressional district, on a recent trip to Mexico. What was supposed to be a peaceful vacation cruise became a life-and-death situation after a serious car accident required Michael's immediate transfer to the United States to receive adequate medical treatment for a spinal cord injury. The Andrews couple was delayed by Mexican authorities and had to pay off several individuals in order to board the plane to head home.

Humanitarian considerations should be allowed to supersede any regulatory bond that may delay an American's departure to receive proper medical care so that emergencies like that of Michael and Lorraine Andrews will be prevented in the future.

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS RULES AT SUPREME COURT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. The Supreme Court says pornography is okay and it is okay to burn the flag, that Communists can work in our defense plants, that it is okay to teach witchcraft in our schools and that it is okay for our students to write papers about the devil.

But the Supreme Court says it is illegal to write papers about Jesus, it is illegal to pray in school, and now the Supreme Court says it is even illegal to pray before a football game.

Beam me up. I thought the founders intended to create a Supreme Court, not the Supreme Being. Think about that statement.

I yield back a Supreme Court that is so politically correct they are downright stupid, so stupid they could throw themselves at the ground and miss.

SUPPORT LINDER-COLLINS AMENDMENT TO VA-HUD APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of an amendment the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and I plan to offer later today to the VA-HUD appropriations bill. The amendment would simply ensure that Federal, State and local governments do not waste precious taxpayer dollars on air quality standards that have been rendered unenforceable by a Federal appeals court.

This would not be the first time the Congress has done this. In 1998, the 105th Congress passed TEA-21 which included language that extended the designation time line for a year because the matter was in court. That time line has now run out. Two hundred ninety-seven Members of this House supported that language. This change recognized both the burdens placed on States and localities by these standards and the need to stop any process that would interfere with litigation surrounding the standards.

The gentleman from Georgia and I bring our amendment before the House today in the same spirit. We have no interest in preventing reasonable clean air standards from being enforced. We just want to make sure that the Supreme Court has an opportunity to rule in the case first. Continue the congressional tradition of holding harmless our constituents while the lawyers and bureaucrats debate the merits of policy. Support the Linder-Collins amendment today.

SUPPORT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would think that America would want its leadership to make the right kind of statement to the world. I do not know why we have not been able to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999, and now 2000. The other body vigorously debated Senator KENNEDY's legislation yesterday and today they vote. I think it is very important that today the Senate takes the first step to tell the world that America abhors hatred.

Just yesterday, I met with the relatives of James Byrd, Jr., and they told me that even today people are desecrating on his grave, trying to intimidate the community. Hate crimes are not individualized. It is a statement that says, We don't like you because you're different. Because you're African American, Hispanic, you're a woman, you are disabled, you have a different life-style, you are Asian, you practice your religion differently.

Can America not come under the umbrella of the Statue of Liberty that encouraged all of us to come to this free land? It is important that we stand up as legislators and denounce hatred in this Nation by voting for the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999 and 2000.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded it is against the rules of the House to urge action in the other body.

PRESIDENT'S SCHOOL REFORM TOUR NEEDS GEOGRAPHY LESSON

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has often used bus tours and the like to promote his latest proposals for new government programs. As you recall, his most notable tour advocated the First Lady's massive Federal health care plan. The President's latest road trip involves his school reform tour which will take him to four different cities in the United States. But before the President leaves for his tour, he may want to consult with a geography teacher. Apparently, the President's first official school reform tour website showed the State of Kentucky relocated to the area currently known as Tennessee. The White House, justifiably embarrassed by the incident, has corrected its website. However, it begs the question, should a White House that cannot even correctly identify which States are which be mapping out key education reforms that will affect our children? This concerns me and it should concern the American people.