

\$3.6 million and yet, he is willing to lay off thousands of hard-working Americans without giving them due consideration.

Mr. Speaker, privatization of our enrichment industry was an unwise decision. That is why next week I plan to introduce legislation to have the Government renationalize this vital industry. It provides 23 percent of the electricity output in this Nation, and this privatized company is destroying not only the enrichment industry, but the mining industry and the conversion industry as well.

Mr. Speaker, if we are not careful, if we as a Congress do not take appropriate and immediate action, it is possible that 3 or 4 or 5 years from now, this country could find itself totally dependent on foreign sources for 23 percent of our Nation's electricity. We know what dependency on foreign sources for oil does to prices. We know what gasoline is selling for today. Can we imagine how we could be brought to our knees if we were totally dependent on Russia or other countries to provide us with the vital fuel that it takes to operate our nuclear power plants.

I do not know where the Vice President is today, but I hope he is watching C-SPAN. I do not know what the Secretary of the Treasury is doing today, but I hope he is watching C-SPAN. These individuals and others have an obligation to protect this Nation and to keep their word to these communities. I fought privatization and I lost that battle, and as a result, we find ourselves in these dreadful circumstances. But it is imperative that the Congress pay attention to this matter. We cannot let this situation continue as it is.

People who are a lot smarter and better well-informed than I am say that we ought to repurchase this industry and, thereby, protect the energy security and the future of this Nation.

SEND EDMOND POPE HOME

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make sure today that everybody in this body understands a serious problem for a family in State College, Pennsylvania; and a problem for, I think, the security of this country.

On my left is Edmond and Cheri Pope. They are a couple who have lived for many years in State College, finished raising their family there, highly regarded and respected there. Edmond Pope was a businessman who traveled the world, often went to Russia to do business. Eleven weeks ago, Edmond Pope was arrested and thrown in a Russian prison. For 11 weeks, Cheri, his wife, had no communication, could not

get a letter to him, could not get a phone call to him, could not get any kind of communication from him; really did not know what was happening to her husband. Visas were canceled. Finally, last week, I helped arrange a trip where two of my staff went with her. She went to visit her husband for the first time in 11 weeks. I will just read to my colleagues a little bit of a news story on that.

"On Tuesday, they met for the first time in 3 months, just a few feet from a watchful prosecutor in a Lefortovo prison. Edmond and Cheri Pope hugged and belatedly wished each other a happy 30th anniversary. Then Cheri Pope said the first thing he said to me was, 'Cheri, I didn't do anything wrong. I didn't,' and I said to him, 'I never thought for a minute you did.'"

In an emotional interview on Tuesday after that reunion, Cheri Pope said that her husband, whom the Russians had accused of spying, was strikingly thinner, and he had a rash. He had lost a lot of weight, and he has a pallor about him and some skin problems. She said, "Even though he didn't look well, he still looked beautiful to me."

The last time she saw her husband was March 14 as he was leaving their home in State College, Pennsylvania on what seemed to be another routine trip to Russia, his 27th. While Edmond Pope remained cut off from the world in one of Russia's most infamous maximum security prisons, Cheri Pope struggled through months of anguish, grasping morsels of information while trying to cut through an international maze of red tape to visit him. Over the weekend she was minutes away from boarding a plane for the long-awaited meeting, when her son called her to tell her her 74-year-old mother had passed away. What a decision Cheri had to make. She knew that she had to go and encourage her husband, and that is what she did.

Edmond Pope needs to come home. He needs to come home to his wife, to his children, to his seriously ill father of 75 years; he needs to come home so his health can be monitored and maintained. He has had cancer that was arrested, he has Graves' disease, but he needs to be monitored closely. He is not a spy. His itinerary was printed and available, his visa explained why he was there. It was his 27th trip. In fact, his friends and neighbors tell me that he spoke fondly of the Russians. He wanted to help build a business relationship between these two countries. He was helping take Russian technology and helping them commercialize it.

Edmond Pope is no spy. He does not belong in a Russian prison. I will be sending a letter to be delivered to Mr. Putin the first of this week, and it will say, President Putin, if you value our friendship, send Edmond Pope home. It will say, President Putin, if you value

the growing business relationships beneficial to both of our countries, send Edmond Pope home. It will say, President Putin, if you value the many ways we aid you financially, send Edmond Pope home.

I will be asking this body, Mr. Speaker, next week to get unanimous consent to pass a Sense of the Congress resolution, again, for this Congress speaking to Mr. Putin and the Russian leaders that it is time to send Edmond Pope home.

Edmond Pope is a man who was there on sound financial business reasons. He is not a spy. He needs to be home with his family to help his grieving wife. He needs to be home to visit his father, who is seriously ill. He needs to be home to have his own health monitored, and he needs to be home so that the relationships between Russia and America continue to grow and prosper to the benefit of both.

Edmond Pope is no spy. Edmond Pope does not belong in a maximum security prison in Russia where he got very little care. Edmond Pope needs our help and our support. Mr. Putin, send him home.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN NEEDED NOW FOR OUR SENIORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, we will be considering a prescription medication plan very shortly, and there is a great need for assistance with our seniors for prescription drugs. I hope that as we do that we will consider a meaningful prescription drug plan that looks at affordability, looks at accessibility, and also looks at simplicity.

Both in rural America as well as urban America, we know there are a large number of our seniors who are making decisions about whether they can afford to buy their prescriptions, pay their rent, or buy food. They are making decisions between acquiring very basic needs. So hopefully, as we craft a bill to speak to these critical needs, we are not playing politics with the needs of seniors, that we are really designing a meaningful bill that will be helpful, easy to assess, and affordable by seniors, both in urban America as well as rural America.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak a little bit about rural America, because that is where I come from. There is a difference. The difference comes primarily because of economies of scale, and therefore, we do not have the infrastructure that depends on the market-driven economy. We do not have large hospitals because we do not have a large accommodation of patients to support that. We do not have a mix of sophisticated specialists in those areas. So we rely on a combination of regional hospitals or tertiary hospitals