

## TRADING OUR FREEDOM FOR OIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to speak a bit about trading our freedom for oil.

Imported oil and the politics it attends have reared their ugly heads too often in modern history. Osama bin Laden's vengeance reveals its newest facet. President Jimmy Carter was right when he said that the Arab oil embargoes of the 1970s, and the economic havoc created here at home, constituted the moral equivalent of war. With public consciousness high at that time, our Nation created the Department of Energy to put America on a course to become more energy self-sufficient. Conservation saved millions of barrels per day, more fuel-efficient cars stemmed the growth of rising petroleum usage, and small efforts were made to develop alternative fuels.

But in reality, America was not really committed to a nonpetroleum future. By the 1990s, America had fallen asleep again. Foreign petroleum constituted half of U.S. consumption, with its share of total volume rising each year. Serious work on other fuel alternatives was largely ignored. Billions of dollars of U.S. tax subsidies continued to flow to the petroleum industry. Even the U.S. defense budget grew, including standing forces in Saudi Arabia, our largest supplier, to protect our foreign oil sources. By 2000, the U.S. imported over half of its petroleum, expending billions of dollars annually while foregoing that investment domestically.

The current recession, too, has been triggered by rising prices of imported petroleum. The U.S. engaged in the Persian Gulf War after Iraq invaded Kuwait to take over its oil fields. No longer working through surrogate heads of state like the Shah of Iran, the United States became directly embroiled in Middle East oil politics in that war. Then the subsequent, decade-long U.S. containment bombing of Iraq's no-fly zones ensued. What an irony of modern history, that as our Nation bombs Iraq, we continue to purchase billions of dollars of Iraqi petroleum. Meanwhile, in Saudi Arabia, 5,000 U.S. troops have been stationed to regularly defend the trade path for U.S.-bound oil out of the Straits of Hormuz and into the Arabian Sea headed to our shores.

Now America is at war again. This time our enemies are oil kingdom zealots whose wrath grows out of the very undemocratic regimes that weaned them. In these places, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, even Sudan, oil trade over the decades has not brought freedom nor democracy. Trillions of U.S. consumer dollars have flowed to the oil kingdoms and yielded unrepresentative

governments, some tyrants, great poverty, poor education, gender bias and political instability. Indeed, trade without freedom has yielded a virulent hate towards America, equal to that directed against the oil kingdoms themselves.

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America must remove oil as a distorting proxy for our foreign policy. America can do this. It will take Presidential leadership and the leadership of this Congress, the kind of leadership less allied to the Carlyle Group and more allied to America's independence.

As a consumer, I want to purchase an ethanol-powered car. Even though Detroit makes such a car, I cannot buy fuel for it at the pump. The oil industry has a lock on fuel sold to American consumers. But every time I buy a gallon of gas, I am angry because I know half of my money flows offshore into the pockets of cartels in undemocratic regimes.

The American people must be freed to purchase a broader range of fuels. The lock of the cartels on our gas pumps must be broken. The Government of the United States should employ its antitrust powers to free our consumers at the pump, free us to purchase the fuel of our choice. For me it is ethanol produced by farmers in the Midwest. Let me buy it.

Putting America on a solid energy footing will require national leadership, and our Federal Government must spur America forward, akin to the dawn of the space age and the establishment of NASA.

We must demonstrate will here at home first. Becoming energy self-sufficient makes global economic sense too, because over the next 15 years world oil reserves will begin diminishing, with prices rising even higher with each barrel pumped.

There is no more opportune time for our Nation to get serious. Let us free America from its dependence on foreign petroleum.

#### NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this special order to talk

about a topic of great importance to all Americans, and in particular it has become a great focus of the Women's Caucus here in the United States Congress, and that is October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Breast cancer impacts all of us in America in some way. Whether it is a family member, a friend, a neighbor, an acquaintance, someone who goes to church with us, we have all been touched in one way or another by breast cancer. So we are going to talk a lot tonight about breast cancer and breast cancer awareness and cures for breast cancer.

As a member of the Women's Caucus of the House, I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), who is the cochair of the Women's Caucus.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) as the Vice Chair of the women's conference for leading this Special Order, along with my cochair of the women's conference, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD). I am delighted the two of you could do this tonight. It is so important that we do this and recognize October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

For far too many Americans, no month of awareness is needed to remind them of breast cancer. On a daily basis they and their families and friends are well aware of the existence of this disease. Next to skin cancer, more women in the United States, about 2 million, live with breast cancer, more than with any other form of cancer. This year, some 233,000 women will be diagnosed and more than 43,000 will die of this terrible disease.

I think it is fair to say that we are all well aware, some painfully aware, of breast cancer. But as the American Cancer Society so succinctly put it, our challenge is to turn awareness into action. Let us turn October into breast cancer action month.

What does this mean? Well, first it means breast examinations. Thanks to early detection techniques, breast cancer can be beaten and life can be extended. That is why it is so important for women to have a clinical breast examination at least once a year. Between the ages of 35 and 40, a woman should have at least one mammogram, and then one every 1 to 2 years, until the age of 50. After age 50, women should get a mammogram each year. That is action.

Second, in addition to early detection of breast cancer, we must support research to find a cure for it. Many of our colleagues and I did that when we strongly supported doubling the funding for the National Institutes of Health as well as increasing the funding for the Department of Defense's Peer Review Breast Cancer Research Program. That is action.