

But Reliant and Enron and Dynegy and Synergy and Exxon-Mobil and all the others, they are downtown eating caviar, popping very expensive champagne, and having a good old time with the President, and the Americans are being told, do not worry, there is a tax bill moving through Congress that will help you pay for a tank of gas.

□ 2100

Now, of course, you buy more than one tank a year. You are going to be kind of netted out on this issue.

Well, we cannot do anything about that. That is the free market. It is not the free markets. It is market manipulation. It is price gouging. It is lack of action against the OPEC cartel.

It is lack of action by the Bush Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reign in what their own staff has said are unjustifiable prices in the wholesale energy.

The pattern here just runs through everything and it all comes back to follow the money. The money runs straight down to 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, or whatever the address is at the White House there. That is where it is going and that is where it is flowing.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). The Chair must caution Members against casting personal innuendo toward the President or the Vice President of the United States.

The gentleman may continue.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, I thank the Chair.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly did not impugn any motive to them. I am just stating a fact. The fact, and I can read the facts here of the contributions, Exxon-Mobil, \$1.2 million to the Republican Party in the last election cycle; Chevron, \$770,000; Enron, \$1.7 million; these are all from the Federal Election Commission, El Paso Energy, \$787,000; Arco Petroleum, \$439,000; Edison International, \$503,000; Williams Company, \$288,000; Reliance, \$642,000; Dynegy, \$305,000.

Those are facts that that money went to Bush-Cheney for their election. It is a fact, and I would regret if anybody found that that was somehow impugning pecuniary motives to this administration.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will clarify.

Remarks in debate may fairly criticize the President's positions or policies, but they may not level personal characterizations or accusations of impropriety.

To imply a cause-and-effect relationship between political contributions and actions by the President or the Vice President is not in order.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, I would certainly be chastened by the Chair, and I just listed the millions of dollars that flowed to candidates CHENEY and Bush.

I would just observe that they are at a \$25,000 plate fund-raiser downtown where they are going to collect a minimum of \$15 million, and many of these same companies that are doing so well in this energy policy will be present tonight.

However, I certainly would not link in any way those contributions to policy decisions by this administration. Any such linkage is merely certainly beyond the bounds of this Member to impugn.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would agree with the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), it is hard to imagine that the millions and millions of dollars that come in have any influence in public policy.

It is probably that the oil companies are concerned about the quality of our democracy and just want to get more debate and political interest out there.

We are running out of time here, and I just want to say a few words in closing, and, that is, I think what is very sad about what is going on in this country is we are, in fact, a very great Nation of great people.

We have enormous productivity. We have great wealth. We have great energy. Given that reality, this Nation today has the capability of providing a good quality of life and a decent standard of living for every man, woman, and child.

It is no longer Utopian to talk about every American having good quality health care through a national health care system as a right of citizenship. That is not Utopian. That, in fact, exists in virtually every other major country. We are the only Nation on Earth that does not guarantee health care to all people as a right of citizenship.

It is not Utopian today to say that every person in this country, regardless of income, should be able to get all of the education that they are capable of absorbing, rather than seeing so many of our young people going deeply into debt as they have to figure out a way to pay for the high costs of college education. That is not Utopian.

It is not Utopian to say that we can do, as France does, for example, and have universal high-quality child care for all of our people. It is not Utopian to say that we can provide the health care that our veterans who put their lives on the line defending this country are entitled to. That is not Utopian.

It is not Utopian to say that we can produce the energy that this country requires in an environmentally sound way rather than contributing to global warming or to acid rain or to other environmental degradation. That is not Utopian. The technology is here today.

It seems to me that what we as a Nation have to do is revitalize American democracy, get people actively involved in the political process, get people to stand up for their rights, for the

rights of their children. If we do that, we can, in fact, take back this country for the big money interests who have so much power over us today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, if I can make a quick sentence on the energy policy. What we are putting forward is a really grand 1953 energy policy, dig, drill, burn, build, and profit, profit, profit. I would just reflect, it is time to move beyond that. We have the technology and the capability of becoming the most energy-efficient and most well-fed, housed, clothed and heated Nation on Earth with new technologies.

We just need to invest in it. The Stone Age did not end because they ran out of rocks. They evolved. We need to evolve here in the United States of America.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), my friend, for joining me this evening.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BONIOR, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. HINOJOSA, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SOUDER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. EMERSON, for 5 minutes, May 24.
Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 27. An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform; to the Committee on House Administration, in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill