

now and in the future. President Wahid should be commended for the steps he has taken to help build a foundation for democracy, and other leaders in Indonesia should be encouraged to build on that foundation.

Unfortunately, there are individuals and organizations who desire to foment violence, bloodshed and destruction in communities in the Malukus, Aceh, Irian Jaya, Padang and other regions. I urge the government of Indonesia to bring to justice those responsible for recent and past criminal attacks against the Indonesian people and to assure that those criminal leaders are prosecuted, especially Malaskar Jihad, who committed violence against Muslims and Christians in the Malukus.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government of Indonesia to ensure that perpetrators of crime in Indonesia are punished for their crimes and brought to justice.

ENERGY CRISIS LOOMS AS REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION DOES NOTHING

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we are today, I think, at about the 120th day of the Republican energy follies play in this House.

When the President became President in January, everybody knew there was a crisis in California and on the West Coast generally. We met with the Vice President, who has been appointed as the Energy Czar, and explained the problems. Republicans and Democrats sat with him. The Vice President looked us in the eye and said, this is not a national problem, this is a State problem. We are not going to do anything.

Now, they have come out with a sort of weak, namby-pamby plan for energy that is going to go on 10 years from now, but does not deal with the crisis now.

The Senate has now entered the stage, stage left or stage right, if you will. They have come on the stage and they have said, we are going to pass tax cuts. The President says we need those tax cuts because we have the energy crisis. What they mean is, we are going to reduce the taxes so that people can pay more to energy companies.

Mr. Speaker, it is wrong. We should stop them.

NOMINATION OF TED OLSON SHOULD PROCEED WITHOUT DELAY

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, just as with Robert Bork, Clarence

Thomas and most recently John Ashcroft, Washington's blood sport of lies, rumors and innuendo is in full throttle.

Aided by their liberal friends at The Washington Post, many Democrats have, once again, cast the truth aside and are focused on destroying the name and reputation of a fine American. In their eyes, Solicitor General nominee Ted Olson is guilty of one thing: He is conservative. The fact that he is perhaps the most qualified and well-respected individual ever nominated for this important post becomes irrelevant. His attackers are intent on punishing Ted Olson for his work on the Florida recount case, on destroying the spirit of bipartisanship promoted by President Bush, and on regaining the majority in Congress through fear and intimidation. They must not succeed.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to have a Justice Department that they can trust to faithfully execute and uphold the laws of the land. We need men like John Ashcroft and Ted Olson to revitalize and restore the luster to this most important department. Let us call off the attack, calm the waters and allow the nomination of this fine American citizen to proceed without delay.

THE NORTHERN MARIANAS DELEGATE ACT

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the House prides itself on being the House of the people and all of the people, and, indeed, all Americans are represented here, most fully through representatives, some 435, and the rest, somewhat, through delegates, numbering five. But there is one group of Americans that is not represented at all, and those are the people of the Northern Marianas.

Today, I am reintroducing the Northern Marianas Delegate Act, an Act to provide for a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives to represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. It is important that the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas be accorded representation in Congress, not just for fair and just representation of an American community, whose interests are directly affected by the actions of Congress, but more importantly, for what the people of the CNMI can contribute to the Nation through their delegate. A delegate for the Northern Marianas will advance their cause and work to resolve situations and conditions as they develop, not subsequently.

We should leave no other citizens behind or alienate them from a law-making and policymaking process. Perpetual denial of a delegate for the

CNMI is a denial of the basic right to represent oneself.

THE TIME IS NOT FOR PARTISAN SNIPING

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, liberal extremists in Washington want to adopt the California approach on energy and make it national policy. That is kind of a head-in-the-sand approach. They do not like coal, they do not like oil, they do not like nuclear power. They want everybody to be driving cars that have windmills on top of them or something like that. I am not exactly sure where their reality lands.

But the reality is, in California, demand for energy exploded over 30 percent, and yet they would not allow new power plants to be built. As a result, they had the same pollution-causing, outdated power plants now owned by the government. Well, does that not make us feel comfortable?

Mr. Speaker, the time is not for partisan sniping. The time is to say, gee whiz, maybe California did make some mistakes. It is probably not good to model national policy after them. Let us be realistic. We do need alternative energy sources. We do need research. We do need conservation. But guess what? We cannot get off of oil tomorrow. We have to keep refineries open.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Democrats will join the Bush administration in looking for a solution.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD ROMERO

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an individual, a friend, and pay tribute to the late Richard Romero from the Inland Empire, a businessman, a philanthropist, a dreamer, a community leader. Richard was a pillar of the Inland Empire. From his humble beginning in New Mexico, Richard received great success in business and in life, but Richard's greatest satisfaction came from helping others.

Recently I talked to his wife, and she said that one of the most important things about Richard was that he cared about people in the community. He felt that it was important for people to learn about reading, writing and arithmetic. Richard touched the lives of many individuals in the community by giving unselfishly.

He rescued the University of Laverne from the brink of extinction; he turned it around and helped the University of Laverne in southern California. I know, because my son will be graduating from Laverne University on Saturday

of this week, and I want to thank Richard for taking the leadership and helping the University of Laverne, a private institution.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Romero reached out and touched the lives of many individuals in the Inland Empire, contributing to a variety of programs to support education of the disadvantaged. Many times he had events at his dealership. He continued to do that. The Romero dealership continues to provide scholarships for students. The Romero family is here, his son, R.J. Romero is here, and I am sure that they will continue the same tradition to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

INACTON OF BUSH ADMINISTRATION WORSENS ENERGY CRISIS IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) had it exactly wrong. The fact of the matter is that in California, we are using less energy than we did in 1998. In 1998, we paid \$7 billion for that energy and today, we are paying 70, 7-0, \$70 billion, ten times as much. Why? Because the Bush administration refuses to tell the Federal Energy Commission to enforce the Federal law for just and reasonable wholesale prices.

So the people of California who have an energy shortage because of a bad deregulation plan, because we have not built as many generators as we should, and because of a drought in the northwest, are now open to price gouging and profiteering by the energy companies.

The Federal Energy Commission has made that finding. It is not my finding, it is their finding, that these prices are not just and reasonable, but they refuse to enforce the law to put caps on at a just and reasonable price so that the energy companies will get their 15 or 20 percent return. They simply will not get to continue to gouge the people of California, the small businesses, the large businesses, people in hospitals who are having the lights go out, their life support systems turned off because of the Bush administration's inaction.

MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, technology can be a powerful means of increasing student achievement. State and local school districts are already experimenting with promising technology programs from on-line research

services to distance learning initiatives. Such innovations, telecommunications and information technology programs at school libraries, for example, should be encouraged and bolstered by Federal funding.

One of the things that we know is that school districts need flexibility. Later on today as we consider the President's education plan, I will offer an amendment to allow school districts more flexibility to move money between programs. One of the programs that they will be able to move more money into is the technology area.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will support this flexibility for our local school districts.

ELECTION REFORM IS A PRIORITY FOR AMERICANS

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, election reform is a priority for the American people and it should be a priority for this Congress. We should never forget that 180,000 uncounted ballots were cast in Florida last November. Florida has not forgotten.

Unfortunately, election reform is not a priority with the Bush administration. The President's administration has shown no interest whatsoever in the issue of election reform. In fact, the budget that President Bush submitted to Congress provided no funds whatsoever to help States update their voting equipment.

We send people all over the world to monitor elections. If this Congress fails to act on election reform, we will forever lose our standing as the world democracy. Shame on us, Mr. Speaker.

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A CONTINUING ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the energy issue we have before us. Remember back in 1973, when we had long lines at gas pumps? People were very upset. We engaged in a desperate effort to reduce our energy consumption and to do a better job of using our resources, but once the crisis was over, we forgot about it. Today we are facing a similar situation. If we do not get control of it, once again we will have long gas lines and high prices.

It is very important for us to remember a few things. Let me just speak as a physicist for a moment.

Energy is hard to understand. It is intangible. We cannot see or touch it. But two important things we have to remember throughout this crisis.

Number 1, energy is our most basic natural resource. Without energy, we cannot use any other natural resource. We cannot dig iron or copper out of the ground. We cannot smelt it or fabricate it unless we have energy. Energy is crucial to our economy.

The second major point to remember is that energy is our only non-recyclable resource. We must conserve energy. Once we use it, it is gone. We cannot consume all our resources and just assume the problem will go away.

SUPPORTING AMENDMENTS TO RESTORE FLEXIBILITY PORTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S EDUCATION PLAN

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, in just a few minutes the House will bring back up H.R. 1, the House version of the education proposal that was originally proposed by our President. In this document, Leave No Child Behind, it is a good document that the President proposed, a good balance with respect to how we should reform our schools for America.

What the President proposed was school choice, the hallmark of the Republican message on education, and also flexibility, and also, additional testing mandates. All that is left in the bill, however, at this point, as the House considers it, is really the testing mandates and some additional spending.

But today we have a unique opportunity here on the floor. That is to restore the core portions of the President's bill that have been taken out prior to the bill's arrival here on the House floor. We will have a chance to vote on amendments to allow children trapped in failing schools to escape those schools and go to institutions that offer more promise and opportunity, and we will have an opportunity to vote on a few amendments that restore some of the flexibility portions that the President had originally proposed.

I hope those amendments pass, because if we fail to add those important amendments back to the President's plan, we will have delivered him a substantive defeat. I am hopeful that Republicans can pull together and deliver our President the victory he deserves.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Pursuant to House Resolution 143 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1.