

missiles and to aim them at the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, beam me up. The American taxpayers are funding World War III, so help me God.

I yield back the fact that the nature of a dragon is not to negotiate with its prey. The nature of a dragon is to kill its prey.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WHO USE WORK COMPUTERS TO VISIT SEX SITES, GAMBLE, TRADE STOCKS AND VISIT CHAT ROOMS ARE UNDERWORKED, OVERPAID AND SHOULD BE FIRED

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago a front page story in the Washington Times reported that IRS employees used about half their on-line time at work to visit sex sites, gamble, trade stocks and visit chat rooms. I know that people say it is dangerous to criticize the IRS, but this is ridiculous.

This article by the Scripps Howard News Service did not come from some enemy of the IRS. This report came from the office of the IRS's own inspector general. No wonder we read that almost half the advice the IRS itself gives out is wrong.

There is no good reason why our Federal Tax Code should be nearly as complicated, convoluted and confusing as it is. For years, liberal elitists have cried, take the politics out of everything, and the people have lost control over their own government.

Federal bureaucrats know they can get away with almost anything, but Federal employees who use work computers to visit sex sites, gamble, trade stocks and visit chat rooms are underworked, overpaid and should be fired.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY CRISIS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in outrage, outrage that the White House is working on a tax cut for the wealthiest people in this Nation, while my constituents in Marin and Sonoma Counties in California are still dealing with rolling blackouts and skyrocketing energy bills; while the greedy power companies are raking in record profits.

The White House can and must take action and they must protect California consumers from runaway prices, but despite repeated and urgent requests from the Democratic California delegation, President Bush refuses to order FERC to impose wholesale cost-based rates in California and the west-end region.

With two oilmen in the White House, it is no surprise that this administration has not turned their back in the direction of the consumer, has instead turned their back on the consumer by siding with the oil special interests.

This is not acceptable. It sets a precedent nationwide and not only threatens California's economy but also threatens our Nation's economy.

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE TO MEN AND WOMEN IN U.S. ARMED FORCES

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of the upcoming Memorial Day holiday to pay tribute to the men and women of the U.S. armed services. For the past 226 years, our military forces have repeatedly answered the Nation's call to protect the freedom we all cherish today.

During our Nation's formative years, brave Americans fought to win freedom for all. World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf saw new generations of dedicated men and women fight to preserve the hard-earned freedom for our Nation and our allies abroad. Today Americans around the world enjoy the security that comes from knowing their freedom is protected by those currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand and recognize the honor, courage and commitment that has defined the men and women of our Nation's Armed Forces and to thank those who sacrificed their lives to ensure that future generations may enjoy the blessings of freedom.

WE NOW KNOW WHO IS IN CONTROL HERE IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, we now know who is in control here in Washington, D.C. In the House, the Republicans are in control. In the Senate, the Democrats are in control. In the White House, the oil and gas industry is in control.

The fact that this line came from a famous talk show host does not mean it is any less true because while wholesale electrical rates from the energy industry have gone up 500 to 1,000 percent on the west coast, while my constituents' energy costs have doubled, this White House has done nothing, absolutely nothing, to help the energy crisis in the short-term in the Western United States.

This White House should listen to the people they ought to be working for,

the people whose hard-earned money is going to these energy costs. I will say, every single dollar any American may get from this tax cut in the next 2 years, I will say exactly where it is going, it is going to the energy costs and enormous spikes in these costs that this White House is doing nothing about.

We call on this President to adopt a cost-based system. We call on this President to not sit on his hands. We call on him to do something with FERC.

H.R. 1954, THE ILSA EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday along with 200 of my congressional colleagues, I introduced H.R. 1954, the ILSA Extension Act of 2001, which extends the provisions of the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act for an additional 5 years.

This measure is aimed at dissuading foreign companies from investing in Iran and Libya and does not affect any of our American companies. In Iran, we are confronted with a regime which continues to threaten the national security of the United States and the destruction of Israel. The Libyan government has failed to take responsibility for its actions in a terrorist attack in bringing down Pan Am Flight 103, killing Americans, British and others. ILSA has been effective in slowing down any investment in Iran and in Libya. The ILSA Extension Act will enable our Nation to continue our efforts to pressure Iran and Libya to conform to acceptable standards of behavior within the international community. I invite our colleagues to join us in this important issue.

REAL TAX RELIEF IS NEEDED

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, House and Senate conferees are grinding away on a massive budget reconciliation act, rushing to try and complete business before we leave for the Memorial Day recess.

I believe there are three questions we can appropriately raise about the tax relief proposed in this act. Is it fair? Is it timely? Does it allow for other priorities?

First, is it fair? In the Senate version, the top 1 percent of wage earners in this country get 35 percent of the relief. The top 10 percent, most affluent 10 percent, get half, 54 percent, of the relief. The lowest paid 40 percent of us in this country get 7 percent under this

tax bill. The bottom 20 percent get a single percent of the relief.

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Is it timely? It is not phased in for years. The phase-in on the marriage penalty relief does not even begin until 4 years from now. That is not marriage penalty relief, that is a distant anniversary present, much less than is represented in the tax bill.

Finally, is there room for other priorities? There is not a dollar of additional defense spending as soon to be recommended by the Secretary of Defense contained in this budget. It raises the prospect that we will be raiding the trust funds, and the tax bill should be defeated.

ENERGY CRISIS IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side spoke about the California energy problem. There is a desperate problem in California and all over the West Coast.

However, I want to tell my colleagues, special interests have kept us from building power plants in the State of California for over 20 years. While our population growth has increased, our ability to produce our own power has reduced. They have stopped nuclear power, they have stopped new generating power, and now we are facing the biggest crisis in decades. At a time when most of our power generators in California were forced to be outside the State because of these special interest groups, Governor Gray Davis, exercised no responsibility for the newly deregulated energy market place, and that put us in the situation we are in right now, especially for San Diego, because San Diego Gas & Electric is a private industry and cannot buy inexpensive public power.

There were two natural gas power generators, two different types, built to be environmentally safe. The President offered to help Gray Davis obtain these generators. Gov. Davis said, we do not need them. Another company upgraded its energy plant and went to get the operating license from Gray Davis, our governor said, if you unionize this plant, I will give you your license.

The biggest problem we face in California is the governor of California, he has failed us in his handling of this energy crisis.

CALIFORNIA NEEDS IMMEDIATE RELIEF FROM ENERGY COSTS

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, as a representative from the great State of California, I have to tell my colleagues that my constituents are angry. We have had to sit through blackouts; we have had to see the increase in our gasoline prices, and a loaf of bread, by the way, has gone up as well. People are suffering. They are crying out for this government, for FERC to do something, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. We are waiting for their action. We are not seeing anything.

Last year, California had to pay \$30 per megawatt hour. This time, it is almost \$2,000 an hour. People in my district whose average income is about \$31,000 cannot afford to live through this summer. We need immediate action; we need relief. We do not want to see drilling. We want to see clean water, we want to see our energy restored. We do not have a problem with the supply, as was stated earlier by my colleague. What we see here in California is the very fact that energy producers from out of State, from Texas, who are now making these policy decisions on energy, are the ones that are robbing our consumers in California.

I ask for my colleagues to vote down this proposal on energy and also this infamous tax cut that will not benefit the residents in my district.

SAY NO TO BIG OIL

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, America's families are struggling with high energy costs, but the Bush administration is more interested in catering to the needs of big oil and energy companies, rather than helping the working- and middle-class families that need their relief now.

We need long-term solutions that encourage exploration, increase refining capacity, and help Americans conserve energy. But, in the short term, we need to aggressively protect consumers, investigate price fixing, and consider releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to moderate the effects of price spikes. The administration has rejected these options out of hand.

What is their solution? What does the President say? Drill in the Arctic National Reserve and relax clean water and air standards.

Last week, the President suggested that his tax cut will solve the energy crisis, a bizarre and a disconnected idea. That hard-earned refund, my friends, should not go into the pockets of the energy executives who are already making outrageous profits at the expense of hard-pressed American families.

I call on the President to say "no" to his big oil and big energy friends. Say "yes" to America's families that need help with rising gas and energy prices.

POLITICS AND THE ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, a short while ago Senator JIM JEFFORDS announced he was changing his registration to be an Independent and not be a Republican anymore and, in that statement, he also talked about the differences of opinion he has with the administration in regards to energy and the environment.

I first want to say how pleased I am with Senator JEFFORDS' decision and how well regarded he is as someone who is very thoughtful and fair and very much a public servant, and with the public interests in mind. We in New England appreciate that.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair would remind all Members that debate in the House may not include personal references to Senators. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, we recognize that the interest of the public have not been represented.

If we look at this proposal that has been put forward by the administration where it talks about just the supply, it talks about drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Had this Congress and the leadership in this House not earmarked out raising the fuel efficiency standards, we would not need to be doing that drilling, because we would be getting twice as much oil out of the fuel efficiency and out of the savings we would have gotten from conservation. This administration has eliminated the scientific research and development so that we could be able to better generate more energy efficiency, both in our automobiles and vehicles and in our manufacturing and small businesses.

We must reject this. It represents the special interests and not the public interest, and many public servants throughout this country are signing on.

TAX CUT EATS UP ENERGY COSTS

(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, President Bush and Vice President CHENEY have turned their backs on the people of California. What we need them to do is to step up to the plate and swing the bat.

Millions are suffering because of their indifference, their protection of oil big businesses versus the people of California. We need to protect our consumers. Instead of making out-of-State generators play fair, they are letting them lead America.