

We are hemorrhaging. Our seniors should not have to choose between electricity and food. Our schools and factories should not have to suffer or close their doors.

This is about children in San Bernardino crosswalks. This is about protecting jobs, having the lights turned on. This is about working families. This is about individuals who are suffering because President Bush has failed to take on the responsibilities.

It was said earlier that it was Governor Gray Davis. No, deregulation was started by Pete Wilson who actually had the State of California deregulate. We are suffering because the Republican Party thought there would be enough energy. We do not have the energy. We need the President to step up to the plate. A tax cut will not make up for the skyrocketing bills. Let us put on a price cap.

#### FUTURE HOLDS EXPLODING EXPENDITURES AND DEFICITS

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, in 1981, we ushered in a decade of profligate spending and exploding deficits. In 1990, we passed a budget bill that was tough and it helped bring down those deficits and bring us a surplus. In 1993, we took another action which was tough and helped bring down those deficits and create the surpluses. In 1997, in a bipartisan way, we passed a bill that was tough and helped bring down deficits and create surpluses. We now wait on a conference report that will again, as we did 20 years ago, usher in a decade of exploding expenditures and exploding deficits. That is irresponsible.

We passed a personal bankruptcy bill that said we expected each citizen of America to be personally responsible. Mr. Speaker, it is equally important that we be collectively responsible and reject this bad policy for America.

#### PRESIDENT BUSH SHOULD STOP SUPPORTING BIG OIL AND SUPPORT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, hand-picked by President George Bush, Mr. Hebert, has chosen to turn a blind eye toward the price gouging and market manipulation which is enriching a few huge energy companies, several of which happen to be based in Houston, Texas, at the expense of tens of millions of people in the Western United States.

It is not only Californians who are suffering. We are paying a higher aver-

age price in the wholesale market in Oregon and Washington than they are in California, and it is not necessary. It is manipulated.

Let us look at one company, Reliant Power. Profits up by 1,800 percent in one year. Is that not grand, from \$27 million to \$482 million. But on Sunday, the San Francisco Chronicle revealed that they are blatantly manipulating the market. They have phone lines between their traders and their trade rooms and their plant operators in California, and when the price of energy drops, they shut the plants off and turn the lights out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DEFAZIO. And then when the price skyrockets, they turn them back on. They are destroying the plants, they are destroying the economy, and the Bush administration and their hand-picked chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are refusing to take the actions required under the law to stop unjust and unreasonable price gouging and market manipulation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DEFAZIO. It is past time for the Bush administration to stop supporting the energy companies and support the American people.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would appreciate it if the Members would abide by the 1-minute time limit.

#### FERC MUST INSTITUTE PRICE CAPS

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, at a time when my home State of California and more and more States in this country are dealing with the most severe energy crisis in the past several decades, I believe it is really the height of irresponsibility to pass huge tax cuts for the very wealthy while, at the same time, not even providing any assistance in the budget for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Also, cutting funding for renewable energy research and also neglecting to get a national energy policy in place to help consumers. This is the height of irresponsibility.

The LIHEAP program helps low-income Americans pay their utility bills. It is severely underfunded, so we must fight for an increase in LIHEAP funding this year for our senior citizens and our low-income residents.

Finally, this energy crisis has gotten so bad that many of our California

State legislators and the city of Oakland have joined together to file a lawsuit to make sure that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission establish just and reasonable prices. It is unconscionable that the price gouging continues to go on, and that our residents in California are going to face a very serious hot summer.

Mr. Speaker, we must move forward with price caps. We must insist that our Federal Government insist that the FERC do this, and we must do this right away.

#### BLIND CHOICES

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the spirit of Tiananmen Square, blind and extreme, has invaded decisions about energy policies in California. The same spirit of the tanks in Tiananmen Square has invaded the latest decisions with respect to Vieques in Puerto Rico. Both the Navy and a Federal judge are blindly pursuing a policy which rules out the choices of the people, refuses to recognize the choices of the people, and have resorted to measures like putting people in jail for 90 days.

One New York leader, Al Sharpton, has now been sentenced to 90 days in jail in Puerto Rico, and several other political leaders have been sentenced to 40 days in jail.

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This kind of extremism will only make martyrs of people and also will call for an invasion of Vieques. The Navy does not need Vieques that badly. We should listen to the will of the people, not have a blind eye similar to the tanks that rolled over the will of the people at Tiananmen Square.

Mr. Speaker, judges have done enough harm also in this generation and should stop seeking their 15 minutes of fame. This judge is wrong. These sentences are wrong. Vieques should be set free.

#### RISE IN ENERGY PRICES

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have been enjoying some of the rhetoric I have been hearing from some of my friends on the other side of the aisle today. Clearly, when it comes to a rise in energy prices, the policies of my friends on the left side of the aisle is very simple, and that is called pass the buck.

They talk about the California energy crisis. Who has been in charge in California? A Democratic governor, a Democratic State legislature. Who prevented the power plants from being

built over the last decade? A Democratic governor, a Democratic State legislature.

Of course, we at the national level in Chicago are seeing over \$2 gasoline. Why? Because a Democratic administration in the White House failed for 8 years to do anything about energy.

We have a new President that has been in office now for 4½ months, 5 months. He inherited clearly serious energy problems. He has now come forward with an energy proposal which deserves bipartisan support.

The bottom line is we need to conserve. We need to find new domestic sources, and we must reduce our independence on imported oil.

#### ENERGY CRISIS REQUIRES ACTION

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

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, we definitely have an energy crisis in this country. There is no question about it, and it is time for us to find a solution.

It does us no good to try to blame each other. The President and the Republicans put forth their energy policy last week. It calls for more production. We agree with that. It is a partial solution.

We know we are going to have to have increased production. I was disappointed that it did not call for increased production from the OPEC countries on the short term.

We are the greatest economic power on the face of the Earth. And if we can be held hostage by OPEC in this time, then we are not the greatest economic power on the face of the Earth; and we should recognize that and deal with it appropriately.

We know that conservation is the cheapest and quickest way to help our situation. We know that alternative energy sources are important and should be researched and developed as is appropriate. We know that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should do the responsible thing.

#### FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, I like to go around bragging about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the Earth, but freedom is not free.

We paid a tremendous price for it. I try not to let a day go by without remembering with gratitude all of those who, like my brother Bill, made the supreme sacrifice, to remember all of those who, like some of the people I am looking at in this Chamber right now,

were willing to put their lives on the line for all that we hold dear.

As we approach Memorial Day in the year 2001, I am going to try to continue to keep my priorities straight and to do every day what I am doing this morning. I thank God for my life. I thank veterans for my way of life.

#### TRANSPORTATION CONGESTION

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for his diligent work this week in addressing the increasing problem of transportation congestion in our Nation.

As a Member of Congress who represents a suburban district that has experienced a great deal of growth, I see the importance of a well-maintained and modern transportation system on a daily basis.

The residents of the 10th Congressional District of Illinois consistently ranked transportation needs as one of the primary challenges facing our way of life. Our region is gripped by highway gridlock and exacerbated by continued outward expansion of residential and commercial properties.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's transportation infrastructure is critical to our social and economic vitality. We must continue to improve local commuter rail lines that will bring thousands of automobiles off congested roadways.

It will also help us meet the mandates of the Clean Air Act; and, additionally, we need to invest in high-speed rail that will give an alternative to congested airports.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the gentleman from Alaska on this matter and thank him for the commitment this week to fighting congestion.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 336, nays 71,

answered "present" 1, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 147]

YEAS—336

Abercrombie	Edwards	Langevin
Ackerman	Ehlers	Lantos
Akin	Ehrlich	Largent
Allen	Emerson	Latham
Andrews	Engel	Leach
Army	Eshoo	Lewis (CA)
Baca	Etheridge	Lewis (GA)
Bachus	Evans	Lewis (KY)
Baker	Everett	Linder
Baldwin	Farr	Lipinski
Ballenger	Fattah	Lofgren
Barcia	Ferguson	Lowe
Barr	Flake	Lucas (KY)
Barrett	Fletcher	Lucas (OK)
Bartlett	Foley	Luther
Barton	Ford	Maloney (CT)
Bass	Fossella	Maloney (NY)
Bentsen	Frank	Markey
Bereuter	Frelinghuysen	Mascara
Berkley	Frost	Matheson
Berman	Gallely	Matsui
Berry	Ganske	McCarthy (MO)
Biggert	Gekas	McCarthy (NY)
Bilirakis	Gibbons	McCollum
Bishop	Gilchrist	McHugh
Blagojevich	Gilman	McInnis
Blumenauer	Gonzalez	McIntyre
Blunt	Goode	McKeon
Boehert	Goodlatte	McKinney
Boehner	Gordon	Meehan
Bonilla	Goss	Mica
Bono	Graham	Millender-
Boswell	Granger	McDonald
Boucher	Graves	Miller (FL)
Boyd	Green (WI)	Miller, Gary
Brady (TX)	Greenwood	Mollohan
Brown (FL)	Grucci	Moran (KS)
Brown (SC)	Gutierrez	Moran (VA)
Bryant	Hall (TX)	Morella
Burr	Hansen	Myrick
Buyer	Harman	Napolitano
Callahan	Hart	Ney
Calvert	Hastings (WA)	Northrup
Camp	Hayes	Norwood
Cannon	Hayworth	Nussle
Cantor	Herger	Obey
Capito	Hill	Ortiz
Capps	Hobson	Osborne
Cardin	Hoeffel	Ose
Carson (IN)	Holden	Otter
Carson (OK)	Holt	Owens
Castle	Honda	Oxley
Chabot	Hooley	Pascrell
Chambliss	Horn	Pastor
Clay	Hostettler	Paul
Clayton	Houghton	Payne
Clement	Hoyer	Pelosi
Clyburn	Hunter	Pence
Coble	Hutchinson	Peterson (PA)
Collins	Hyde	Petri
Combest	Inslee	Pickering
Conyers	Isakson	Pitts
Cooksey	Israel	Platts
Cox	Issa	Pombo
Coyne	Istook	Portman
Cramer	Jackson (IL)	Price (NC)
Crenshaw	Jenkins	Pryce (OH)
Culberson	John	Putnam
Cummings	Johnson (CT)	Quinn
Cunningham	Johnson (IL)	Radanovich
Davis (CA)	Johnson (SD)	Regula
Davis (FL)	Jones (NC)	Rehberg
Davis (IL)	Kanjorski	Reyes
Davis, Jo Ann	Kaptur	Reynolds
Davis, Tom	Keller	Rivers
Deal	Kelly	Rodriguez
DeGette	Kennedy (RI)	Roemer
Delahunt	Kerns	Rogers (KY)
DeLauro	Kildee	Rogers (MI)
DeLay	Kilpatrick	Rohrabacher
DeMint	Kind (WI)	Ros-Lehtinen
Deutsch	King (NY)	Ross
Dicks	Kingston	Rothman
Dingell	Kirk	Roukema
Dooley	Kleczka	Roybal-Allard
Doolittle	Knollenberg	Royce
Doyle	Kolbe	Rush
Dreier	LaFalce	Ryan (WI)
Duncan	LaHood	Ryun (KS)
Dunn	Lampson	Sanchez