

We are hanging around here today because we cannot seem to get the President's tax bill through. They cannot figure out how to give it all to the rich.

At the same time, we are failing to deal with energy. Now, the energy prices in my district, in Seattle, are facing a potential 250 percent increase from the Bonneville Power Administration. The estimates are that 102,000 jobs are at risk and that a whole quarter of a million jobs in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana are at risk because of the runaway gouging costs of energy in the northwest.

Seattle City Light has already raised it 30 percent and it is coming up another 30 percent. When will we get down to the issues that matters?

#### SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I again want to salute our veterans. I was in Berlin in the spring of 1990 when the people were out there with their hammers and chisels taking down the Berlin Wall piece by piece, and then I listened to the East Berliners thank our American soldiers for their vigilance through the period of the Cold War.

The following year in September of 1991, I was in Armenia when people went out in overwhelming numbers to vote for their independence from the former Soviet Union. Then I was with them the next day in the streets of Yerevan and they danced and shouted and sang, "Ketse azat ankakh Hayastan," long live free and independent Armenia; and then pointing to the United States of America as their example of what they wanted to be as a democracy.

So it is important for all of us to know that we owe our freedom here in the United States to our American soldiers but also hundreds of millions of people all around the world today are enjoying the blessings of freedom because of the sacrifices of American soldiers. We salute them all.

#### CONSUMERS NEED HELP WITH EN- ERGY COSTS AND THEY NEED IT NOW

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, each and every day all across America families are paying higher energy prices. In my State of Connecticut, a gallon of gas now goes for \$1.82. In Illinois, the price has gone as high as \$2.39.

California citizens are being held hostage by out-of-state generators who

have held down the production of energy in order to increase their own profits. In fact, if the price of milk had increased at the same rate as California's energy prices a gallon would cost \$190. No family would accept such price gouging. Consumers need help with energy costs and they need it now.

What does the President and the Republican leadership do today in the midst of this crisis? They are locked behind closed doors deciding how much of a tax cut to give to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans, while working- and middle-class families spend more of their hard-earned dollars on unfair gas and electricity prices.

Republicans remain focused on passing a tax cut that does little for these families but lines the pocket of people making more than \$300,000 a year.

The Vice President says the energy crisis is only an issue of supply and demand. His friends in the energy issue have the supply, and they are demanding an arm, a leg and family savings for it.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for special order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### IT IS ALL ABOUT ENERGY, ENERGY, ENERGY

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is Memorial Day weekend, and while gasoline prices in my district are among the Nation's highest, at well over \$2.00 a gallon, in fact it was about \$2.22 for regular, it still does not appear that President Bush and Vice President CHENEY have any plans to bring relief to my constituents at the gas pump.

While big oil is getting bigger, consumers in my district and across the country are getting gouged, and the President's energy plan does nothing to address that. Instead, the administration has proposed relief for its oil industry friends.

Big oil hit the jackpot last year, thanks to consumers in Chicago and across the country that paved the way for big oil's record profits. The top oil company profits last year went up over

100 percent on the average from the previous year, combining for almost \$50 billion in profits. Now Exxon Mobile is number one on the Fortune 500 list.

None of us should be surprised at the give-aways big oil is reaping from this administration and the Republicans. President Bush received \$2 million in contributions for his campaign, and the Republican Party received over \$25 million from big oil, with Enron and Exxon Mobile giving the most. It looks like those companies made the right bet.

Mr. President, I am again calling on you to persuade, in fact to jawbone, your friends in the industry to bring these prices down now. I hope you will think about that while you are relaxing at Camp David and my constituents are cancelling their family's summer vacations.

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for yielding.

It turns out that we are talking about a very similar sort of thing.

I wanted to point out to people today that the President's energy plan utterly ignores a key fact; that if we are to put limits on global warming and the inevitable resulting climate change, we must cut back on burning fossil fuels that release carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas, into our atmosphere.

One of the simplest and most effective ways to reduce oil consumption is to increase the fuel efficiency of our cars and trucks. Currently, cars and trucks guzzle 40 percent of all the oil used in the United States and they produce 20 percent of the Nation's carbon dioxide pollution. Improved fuel efficiency would protect consumers from higher prices at the gas pump, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and decrease carbon dioxide emissions.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), from the Republican Party, and I have together introduced, with bipartisan sponsors, a bill that would require light trucks and SUVs to meet the same fuel efficiency standards as passenger cars, gradually, by the year 2007. Once fully implemented, that would save the U.S. 1 million barrels of oil every day, reduce oil imports by 10 percent, and prevent over 200 million tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere every year.

Before we consider drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or other ecologically sensitive areas, which could include the coastline of Florida on the West Coast of Florida in the Gulf of Mexico, we should first use common sense solutions like improving fuel efficiency, by simply improving the gas mileage that our cars and trucks achieve.