June 26, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

FINGERPOINTING MAY WIN POLITICAL POINTS AT HOME BUT IT DOES NOT SOLVE OUR NATION’S ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, during this current energy situation, there has been a lot of finger pointing and blame in this Chamber. That may win political points at home, but it sure does not solve the problem.

President Bush has put forth a very responsible plan to solve our energy problem. He has taken the lead. It is a balanced plan that stresses conservation as well as increased supply. We, of course, want to protect the environment and be responsible with the plan. There is no question in that.

We also need to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of supply. It is time that America is in charge of our supply of energy, not Saddam Hussein.

IT IS DEMOCRATS WHO HAVE PUT CALIFORNIA INTO THIS ENERGY MESS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am sick and tired of being sick and tired; sick and tired of hearing Democrats complain about the energy crisis. The last time I checked, the Democrat Governor Gray Davis was in charge of California. The last time I checked, Democrats also controlled the White House for 8 long years and did nothing. Bill Clinton and Al Gore had plenty of time to examine and solve the energy crisis in California while they were out there visiting Buddhist temples, but they did not. Instead, Democrats like Daschle and Gephardt just play the blame game.

Democrats are blaming George Bush and Dick Cheney for the California energy problem. They must have forgotten that in the last administration they were in office. If the Democrats had been wise, they would have been drilling for oil, building new energy plants and building new transmission lines. That is what it takes to solve the problem of finding resources. In short, it is the Democrats who are a major reason California is in its current energy mess because of price controls. Now we have further evidence that the price controls are not the answer.

Last week the Department of Energy released a report indicating that if Governor Davis gets his way and a cost-plus-$25 price cap is implemented, Californians will be literally in the dark. The Department of Energy report concludes that Governor Davis’ price caps would result in the delay or abandonment of about 1,300 megawatts of capacity scheduled to be constructed in the State. What does this mean to Californians? It means that 90,000 additional households could be affected.

As Pennsylvania learned, deregulation can be implemented with success, but price caps and unnecessary government regulations result in shortages and higher prices. We in Pennsylvania know that. The Department of Energy concurs.

HARD-WORKING AMERICANS DESERVE ANSWERS AND THEY DEMAND A SOUND ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, our economy over the last year has showed signs of slowing. Energy prices are already too high, and they are going higher. Much of our country faces either energy shortages, blackouts or both. Major energy shortages are expected throughout the summer for most of the West. Gas prices there top $2.25 a gallon at the pump. Hard-working Americans deserve answers, and they demand a sound energy policy.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation’s energy problems demand multifaceted solutions, including increased supplies of traditional fossil fuels and alternative sources of energy as well as improving energy conservation and efficiency. It will not be easy, and it will not be quick, but we have the technology and the resources to meet our energy needs for decades, even centuries, to come, while ensuring a clean environment as a legacy for our children as well.

We need to work with President Bush to create a balanced, comprehensive national energy policy that meets our energy challenges today and provides for our needs well into the future.

PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The Chair would remind Members that it is not in order to address members of the other Chamber.

PRICE CONTROLS, THE EVIDENCE IS THEY DO NOT WORK

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, wholesale electric price controls do not work. What better example of this than California? Leading energy experts have been saying for months that one major reason California is in its current energy mess is because of price controls. Now we have further evidence that the price controls are not the answer.

In California, price controls have resulted in 80 percent of the energy generated in California coming from a single source, which is the reason we are experiencing such a serious supply crisis.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHARLTON ‘CHEWY’ JIMERSON, THIS YEAR’S OUTSTANDING PLAYER AT UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the University of Miami baseball team and its exceptional coach Jim Morris, and the amazing University of Miami baseball team for an outstanding victory once again.