

But there is another factor that I want to talk about tonight. And that is not only the fear of inflation and future inflation, but the fear factor dealing with our foreign policy.

And in the last several weeks, if not for months now, we have heard a lot of talk about the potentiality of Israel and/or the United States bombing Iran. And it is in the marketplace, and it's being bid up. The energy crisis is being bid up because of this fear. It's been predicted if bombs start dropping, that you're going to see energy prices double or triple. It's just the thought of it right now that helps to push these prices, the price of energy, up. And that is a very real thing going on right now. But to me, it's almost like *déjà vu* all over again, as has been said.

We listened to the rhetoric for years and years before we went into Iraq. We did not go in in the correct manner. We didn't declare war. We're there. It's an endless struggle. We're in Iraq. We're endlessly struggling there, and I cannot believe that we may well be on the verge of initiating bombing of Iran.

Leaders on both sides of the aisle and the administration have all said so often that no options can be taken off the table, including a nuclear first strike on Iran. The fear is, they say, maybe some day they're going to get a nuclear weapon, even though our own CIA and our NIE, National Intelligence Estimate, has said they have not been working.

The Iranians have not been working on a nuclear weapon since 2003. They say they're enriching uranium, but there's no evidence whatsoever that they're enriching uranium for weapons purposes. They may well be enriching uranium for peaceful purposes, and that is perfectly legal. They have been a member of the nonproliferation treaties, and they are under the investigation of the IAEA, and Alberidy last verified in the last year there have been nine unannounced investigations and examinations of the uranium nuclear structure, and they have never been found to be in violation. Yet this country and Israel are talking about a preventive war starting bombing for this reason without negotiation, without talks.

Now, the one issue that I do want to mention tonight is a resolution that is about to come to this floor, if our suspicions are correct, after the July 4th holiday. And this bill will probably be brought up under suspension, it will probably be expected to pass easily, and probably will be, and it's just more war propaganda, more preparation to go to war against Iran.

And this resolution, H.J. Res. 362, is a virtual war resolution. It is the declaration of tremendous sanctions and boycotts and embargoes on Iran. It's very, very severe.

Let me just read what is involved in this, if this bill passes, what we're tell-

ing the President he must do. This demands that the President impose stringent inspection requirements on all persons, vehicles, ships, planes, trains, and cargo entering or departing Iran and prohibiting the international movement of all Iranian officials. I mean, this is unbelievable. This is closing down Iran. Where do we have this authority? Where do we get the moral authority? Where do we get the international legality for this? Where do we get the constitutional authority for this?

This is what we did for 10 years before we went into Iraq. We starved children. 50,000 individuals that were admitted probably died because of the sanctions on the Iraqis. They were incapable at the time of attacking us, and all of the propaganda that was given for our need to go into Iraq wasn't true.

And it's not true today about the severity. And they say, Yeah, but Ahmadinejad, he's a bad guy. He's threatened violence. But you know, us threatening violence is very, very similar. We must look at this carefully. We just can't go to work again under these careless, frivolous conditions.

SOLUTIONS FOR HIGH ENERGY PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, tonight I rise because my constituents in my district are sick and tired of paying record-high gas prices while Congress does nothing to increase domestic energy production. Imagine for a moment that you are a regular working mom struggling to make ends meet. You need to get the kids to and from school, you need to get to work, you need to buy groceries, you need to do all of the things that millions of working parents do every day. Then at the end of the week, you stop by the gas station only to find that prices are so high that you can't even afford to fill your tank. What do you think she would want from her representative in Congress?

I know what my constituents want us to do. Everything. We should allow exploration of America's own energy reserves in places like ANWR and the Outer Continental Shelf waters. We should bring new carbon friendly nuclear reactors online and begin the reprocessing of nuclear energy. We should invest in clean coal plants with carbon sequestration technologies. We should invest in research and development of alternative energy technologies, be that wind, hydro, geothermal, solar, and we should provide the tax incentives necessary to accelerate their deployment.

In short, we should do all of the above and more. America can neither

drill nor conserve its way to cheaper energy. We must have a comprehensive approach that does have both short- and long-term solutions.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Science and Technology Committee, I have been a long-time advocate for research development for energy technologies like hydrogen, cellulosic fuels, solar, wind, and green buildings. In my own district, scientists at Argon National Laboratory are leading the way on the development of specialized batteries for special hybrid vehicles. They will allow motors to drive 40 miles before using a drop of gas. That's more than enough to cover Americans' commute to work and back. Then they can just plug the car into a regular electric socket and recharge it for another 40 miles.

I believe that the significant advances in these energy technologies are just around the corner, but in the meantime, we must provide relief to hardworking Americans being squeezed by soaring gas prices, and that means increasing the domestic supply of energy.

America is the only industrialized Nation in the world that prohibits oil and glass exploration in its Outer Continental Shelf waters. Foreign nations, like Cuba, are permitted to drill closer to our shores than the American companies; and yet instead of opening America's vast energy reserves, Congress forces us to rely on expensive oil from the Middle East.

I agree that examining futures markets for excessive speculation and exercising proper oversight is fine and good, but if we want to effectively curb speculation in the oil market, we should show that we are serious about developing our own energy reserves. When more supply is on the horizon developing our own energy reserves, speculators will have much less incentive to invest in oil commodities.

This debate isn't just about the price that Americans are paying at the pump. It's about the growing threat to our economy and our security. Last year alone, America increased its dependence on foreign members of OPEC by an additional 7 percent. How much more money and control are we willing to turn over to nations in these unstable regions of the world? And yet despite this growing threat, Congress is still debating legislation that holds zero potential to increase domestic energy production or help break our addiction to foreign oil.

Madam Speaker, I'm glad that the House leadership has finally realized that we need to bring bills to the floor to address America's energy needs. I just wish the legislation considered today was up to the task.

□ 1845

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, you know, Americans are beginning to pressure the Democrats to face up to the basic law of economics: supply and demand. They understand that, despite all the rhetoric on the part of the Democrats, what we need is more supply to meet the demand for petroleum products.

The Democrats refuse to respond in the appropriate manner. What they continue to do is bring up sham bills, avoid the issue, and try to take away people's attention from the real issue.

So what they did today was bring up a bill under suspension of the rules, H.R. 6251, which they called use-it-or-lose-it. This has been their mantra for the past few days, trying to say again that the oil companies—and they love to beat up on the oil companies—have all the means at their disposal to meet the supply needs in this country.

However, the American people understand that's not true. Even 19 Democrats understood that that's not true, and thankfully, the bill did not pass because it required a two-thirds majority vote, and it didn't get that.

What H.R. 6251 would have done was threaten increased American energy production. It would do nothing to lower the price at the pump, and it would breach existing oil and gas contracts. But of course, what we've seen from this Democratically controlled Congress, they don't care much about the law. They don't care much about contracts, the basic part of our law in this country.

I want to share with you some editorials that have been written about this harebrain scheme on the part of the Democrats, but it's not just the Republicans who feel this way, and as I've said, 19 Democrats voted against the bill today. I'm very proud of them for standing up to their despotic leadership and voting "no" on this bill.

But here's some of the editorials that have come out about this legislation. The Charleston, West Virginia, Daily Mail, the hometown paper of Congressman NICK RAHALL, one of the main sponsors of the bill: "Now comes a new wrinkle, another attempt to dodge sensible policy—this one from West Virginia's Representative NICK RAHALL. He proposes to give big oil companies an ultimatum: Unless they drill on the 68 million acres of inactive land they now lease from the Federal Government—or give up those leases—they would be barred from getting new leases.

"Oh, for pity's sake. It may not be possible to produce from some reserves at the current price. Huffing and puff-

ing around that American companies shouldn't have access to any new reserves until they have made full use of the reserves they have would unnecessarily delay the identification of new domestic sources, and production from those sources.

"Rahall's bill is yet another pitiful attempt to avoid doing what clearly needs to be done—make more U.S. reserves available to U.S. companies." That's in the Charleston Daily Mail editorial, 6/18/08.

The New Hampshire Union Leader: "Of all the dumb ideas to come out of Washington in recent memory, last week Representative CAROL SHEA-PORTER embraced what might be the dumbest of them all. SHEA-PORTER has cosponsored legislation to force oil companies that hold leases on Federal land to commence developing that land or lose the lease. Simply put, SHEA-PORTER hasn't the slightest idea what she's talking about."

Another one. "Furthermore, AAPG's Nation says, current leases already require oil companies to take certain steps to use the land. The premise behind the bill Representative CAROL SHEA-PORTER is cosponsoring—that oil companies have huge reserves of untapped oil wells sitting beneath already leased Federal land, which they can tap right away if only Congress orders it—is unsupported by the facts. Nation called it 'laughable.'"

It is a great day when the American people can prevail, when they will convince the Democratic leadership—and it's important that we say over and over and over and over again that it's the Democrats who are in charge of the Congress. They are the ones in charge of bringing bills to a vote. Republicans have common sense answers to this. We will increase American-produced energy sources, and it's time to bring those bills for a vote.

**IRANIAN CONFERENCE IN PARIS:
2ND ANNUAL WORLD DEMOCRACY
CONGRESS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for those who promote democracy in Iran and stability in Iraq. In Paris, thousands of Iranians have gathered to celebrate a big victory today. It is a great day for the Iranian people and their resistance.

On Monday, the government of the United Kingdom formally removed the Iranian opposition from the U.K.'s Terror list. This happened after many years of campaign by the organization. Legislators approved the decision of the Proscribed Organization Court of Appeal, which ruled in May that the People's Mujahedeen of Iran (MEK) should no longer be listed as a proscribed group.

It is a great day for the Iranian people, for all freedom loving people of Iran who have

been forced to leave Iran, and for their just resistance. It was great to hear that the British government formally removed an Iranian opposition group from the U.K.'s Black list on Monday, after many years of campaign by the organization.

As a Representative of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I have had the pleasure, of working with a strong and vibrant Iranian population in Houston. They have contributed immensely to the cultural diversity, economic and political dynamic of Houston. As a Member of Congress, I find Iran's support of terrorist organizations, pursuit of nuclear weapons, and dismal human rights record to be extremely worrisome. However, I am also concerned by what appears to be precipitous movement by this Administration toward yet another war in the Gulf region, without having first exhausted diplomatic means of addressing any conflicts.

I have long been an advocate of a free, independent, and democratic Iran. I believe in an Iran that holds free elections, follows the rule of law, and is home to a vibrant civil society; an Iran that is a responsible member of the region and the international community, particularly with respect to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. An Iran that, unfortunately, we do not see today.

Today, the Bush Administration announced a set of new sanctions against Iran. The Administration labeled the elite Quds division of the Revolutionary Guard Corps as supporters of terrorism, and stated that the entire Revolutionary Guard Corps was engaged in proliferating weapons of mass destruction. These designations trigger unilateral sanctions designed to impede the Revolutionary Guard, and any who might do business with it. These new sanctions mark the first time that the United States has taken such a step against the armed forces of any sovereign government.

The only effective way to achieve lasting peace and prosperity in the region, along with bringing about reforms in Iran's policy, is to assist the Iranian people in their quest to achieve political, social, and religious liberty. Every government can be judged by the way in which it treats its ethnic and religious minorities, and the current Iranian government gets a failing grade for its treatment of its many and diverse minorities.

Given the government's poor record for transparency and accountability, the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) inability, despite intensified inspections since 2002, to verify that Iran's nuclear program is not designed to develop a nuclear weapon is cause for great concern. While Iran states that the intention of its nuclear program is for electricity generation which it feels is vital to its energy security, U.S. officials challenge this justification by stating that "Iran's vast gas resources make nuclear energy programs unnecessary."

The controversy surrounding Iran's procurement of nuclear energy is cause for great concern, however, the Administration's avoidance of any and all diplomatic relations with Iran are cause for greater alarm. Moreover, the current rhetoric from the Bush Administration regarding war with Iran is both counter productive and highly inflammatory. While full diplomatic,