

almost a generation for those unintended consequences to come home and to come back around and work their effect. But we're in a time now where the effect of unintended consequences can be felt very, very quickly.

We heard in the last hour the discussion about the reauthorization of higher education and student loans. Well, remember, we did something to student loans in September of last year. Then we had to turn around and undo it in April or May of this year because of the unintended consequences and the fact that we were driving up interest rates at the same time that availability of credit was coming down. And we were worried that no student loans were going to be available when this summer's crop of students went to apply for those loans in June, July and August.

Unintended consequences have a way of coming around extremely quickly, and the unintended consequences of increasing the renewable fuel standard that this Congress undertook in December of 2007 has very quickly come home and the repercussions and reverberations are being felt around the world, and it's leading to instability in governments in this hemisphere.

Is that something we want? We always talk about the world that we want to leave for our children. Is that the type of world we want to leave for our children where worldwide hunger and worldwide deprivation lead to instability in developing countries? I don't think so.

I think it is time that this Congress needs to take action. After all, part of this crisis is of our doing. We should understand, this Congress should understand, the leadership of this Congress should understand about unintended consequences.

Now a lot of people who serve in this House are politicians, and that's not a great surprise. And politicians have the urge to respond to public opinion and try to mold their policies to reflect public opinion. But we need to be careful when we respond like that. As policymakers, we have an obligation to enact, well, responsible policy. That's what we're sent here to do. We're sent here to find sensible solutions.

Now Congress can't control foreign demand. Congress, I don't think, can control the weather. There may be some in this body who feel that they can, but we can address the effect of unintended consequences of our biofuel policy which diverts a quarter of our

national corn supply to ethanol production, a quarter, a quarter of our annual national corn supply to ethanol.

Congress and our President have nothing but good intentions—we care so deeply about people—nothing but good intentions in promoting the expansion of renewable fuels, but ethanol is not the energy security silver bullet that many people believe it to be.

Last year, we burned 24 percent of our national corn supply as fuel, and we reduced our oil consumption by almost 1 percent. Unintended consequences are almost always unenvisioned consequences as well. If you lack the vision to look over the horizon and see what's coming next, unintended consequences are likely right around the corner.

Obviously it was not the intent to cause distress both at home and abroad, but good intentions are not sufficient cause for Congress to plant its head in the sand and ignore what is becoming increasingly obvious.

Our renewable standard is creating problems with food prices here at home and food shortages abroad. It's leading to destabilization of world governments because of the effect of hunger and deprivation in developing countries. It is time for this Congress to get it right. It's time for this Congress to reexamine those renewable fuel standards, back off for a while until the price situation stabilizes in the world market. And we have to get serious about increasing energy supply to run this economy, to run what Ronald Reagan described as the last best hope on Earth for democracy.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CARTER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today after 3 p.m. on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. COBLE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today until 4:30 p.m. on account of attending the graduation ceremony at the United States Coast Guard Academy.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today until 4:30 p.m. on account of a doctor's appointment.

Mr. TIAHRT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a funeral in the district.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LANGEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TANCREDO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CALVERT, for 5 minutes, today and May 22.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 79. Concurrent resolution congratulating and saluting Focus: HOPE on its 40th anniversary and for its remarkable commitment and contributions to Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

#### BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on May 20, 2008 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 2419. To provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 22, 2008, at 10 a.m.

#### EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the fourth quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows: