

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, June 12, 2008

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 12, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ELLEN O. TAUSCHER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

It would seem, Lord, that peace can come to both sides of any wall that divides people. Only four conditions are required of the human spirit for peace to be achieved: Truth, justice, love and freedom. So Lord, we pray:

That truth will build peace as every individual sincerely acknowledges not only his or her own rights but also one's duty to protect the rights of others; justice will build peace, Lord, if everyone respects the rights of others and actually fulfills one's duties toward all others; love will build peace if people feel the needs of others as their own and share what they have with others, especially the values of mind and spirit which they possess; freedom will build peace, Lord, if in their choices people act according to sound reason and are willing to accept the consequences of their own actions.

Therefore, Lord, we pray that Your people will speak the truth, act justly, love faithfully, and live freely, and so find peace not just here and now but forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PALLONE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING ARVERN MOORE ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. CHILDERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Arvern Moore for his 41 years of outstanding service as executive director of the Institute of Community Services Head Start Program in Mississippi's First District.

Arvern Moore began his work in 1967 with the ICS Head Start Program and had the vision to build a successful program to prepare children and families for the future. He served terms as president of the National Head Start Association and is known to many as "Mr. Head Start."

Arvern has established vital Head Start partnerships with businesses and stakeholders but has always remained focused on the families of Mississippi. Today, the ICS Head Start Program, headquartered in Holly Springs, Mississippi, serves more than 3,600 Head Start children.

It is my honor to recognize Arvern Moore for his 41 years of service to Mississippi's children and families. Please join me on the occasion of his retirement in wishing him a rewarding life in the community he has worked so hard to support. We offer heartfelt congratulations to Arvern for a life of service as we wish him and his family a joyous celebration of this milestone.

WHAT ABOUT AMERICAN OIL?

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Oil prices are climbing to record highs, gasoline is over \$4 a gallon and climbing towards \$5, food prices are up and rising, and family budgets stretch their limits.

And how do we handle this? We beg OPEC to produce more oil. The Saudis say they will call a meeting. Venezuela says they want \$200-a-barrel oil. For-

eign speculators say let's hope the market will fall.

Americans say, what about America? What about American energy? Why not explore for the trillions of barrels of America's oil off our coast, America's shale oil? Saying "no" to Americans is not an energy policy. Begging other nations is not an energy policy.

Americans get it. Congress needs to get it too. American oil, American jobs, American control of its own destiny and returning America to be the greatest Nation on Earth and not a nation that has its hat in its hand saying please help us.

WHY SHOULD WE OPEN LAND FOR DRILLING WHEN BIG OIL ISN'T EVEN DRILLING WHERE THEY HAVE LEASES

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

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, it is no wonder that the only Republican solution to our record high gas prices is more drilling. Who would expect anything less when two former oil executives occupy the White House?

The problem is that this has been the Republican energy plan for the last 7 years. It was created in secret by Vice President CHENEY and oil executives. And it is responsible for the record high oil prices that we all face at the pump today.

Republicans claim that we could lower the price at the pump if we would only approve more and more drilling leases. That is their rhetoric. Here are the facts. Oil companies do not need new areas to drill. They need to focus on areas that are already opened to them. Of the 42 million acres of Federal land currently leased by oil and gas companies, only about 12 million acres are actually being drilled to produce oil and natural gas.

Madam Speaker, if the Republican claims about more drilling are correct, why aren't they demanding Big Oil explore drilling on the 30 million acres of Federal land that are already open to them but that they refuse to explore?

THE LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, 2 years ago, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle told the American people they had a commonsense plan to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

bring down gas prices. Unfortunately, we still haven't seen this commonsense plan, so I would like to offer my own.

This is a drill bit. The drill bit goes into the ground. Oil comes out of the ground. Oil goes to a refinery. Gasoline comes out of the refinery. More gas, price comes down.

Let me repeat that for those on the other side who seem not able to understand that.

This is a drill bit. The drill goes down into the ground. Oil comes out of the ground. Oil goes to the refinery. Gasoline comes out of the refinery. More gas, price comes down.

THE HIGH COST OF GASOLINE

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today for the weary Americans who are working harder than they ever have but still find themselves falling behind. I rise today for Americans all across this country and especially those in my home State of Georgia who are hurting. I rise for those whose wallets get thinner each time they go to the gas station.

I rise for those who must decide between \$4 a gallon gasoline or food for their family, those who must decide between \$4 a gallon gasoline or paying the mortgage. Americans will continue to make these choices until we decide enough is enough. Let's change our energy policy.

RECOGNIZING THE WAUBONSIE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to congratulate the Waubonsie Valley Warriors on winning the Illinois State Girls Soccer Championship. In the final tournament, the Lady Warriors won three consecutive games to capture the State title against an exceptionally competitive field.

Despite the loss of Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year, Bri Rodriguez, who suffered a torn ACL in the quarterfinal match, the team notched a 3-0 victory over Belleville Althoff in the championship. This is the second consecutive State championship for the Waubonsie girls soccer team, which this season recorded an undefeated record of 26 wins, zero losses, and 1 tie.

Kiki McClellan, Vanessa DiBernardo, and Megan Green each succeeded in scoring hard-earned goals during the championship game. And Claire Hanold kept her goal-keeping streak alive by blocking five shots and securing her 22nd shut-out of the season. Indeed,

every member of the team stepped up to bring the trophy home through her outstanding play. And guiding them to the championship was Coach Judy Bergstrom.

Madam Speaker, the Warriors' success can be attributed to their determined spirit and strong work ethic. These talented young ladies have made their community and the entire State of Illinois proud. So once again, I congratulate the Waubonsie Valley Warriors on this historic achievement and wish them continued success in the years to come.

H2B VISAS

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of an increasing problem with H2B Visa abuse in my hometown of Houston and elsewhere.

Fraudulent recruiters are increasingly bringing in foreign workers for temporary, low skill positions by claiming there is a labor shortage for this type of work.

These recruiters frequently advertise positions with wages below what they should be paid, and when there are no responses the employers claim there is a labor shortage and bring in foreign workers to do that work.

The Immigration and Nationality Act requires that the hiring of foreign workers will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of U.S. workers working in the occupation in the area of intended employment.

However, these regulations are not being strictly enforced.

The Department of Labor has proposed new procedures based on its contention that its workload, and the workload of State workforce agencies, has greatly increased in recent years due to the H2B visa program and that an adequate rise in funding to meet that increased workload has not occurred.

The proposed changes would cover many aspects of the H2B visa application process, including the moving of filing of State workforce agencies to the National Processing Centers. New requirements for employers to report on the status of their H2B employees should be enforced.

I am extremely concerned about these changes, because current regulations are not being strictly enforced at the national level, or at the State workforce agency level and moving filings to the national processing center along with these other changes will not improve enforcement.

This lack of enforcement is driving down wages, and preventing individuals from gaining experience necessary to move into higher paying jobs.

Congress needs to act and should require recruiters to be certified or licensed to prevent

temporary workers and their U.S. employers from being misled about the nature of their visas being defrauded or victimized by outrageous fees.

This would allow oversight of the recruiting process which is a much-needed addition to the program.

Madam Speaker, I plan to work to see that this issue is addressed, that these rules are corrected, and I urge my colleague to join me in fixing this problem.

ATROCITIES IN BURMA

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today over the comments made by the brutal generals, military dictators in Burma, saying that Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize winner and rightful leader elected by the people, deserves to be flogged. Come again?

These are the generals who stonewalled for weeks and refused to allow desperately needed humanitarian aid to get to the people after the cyclone, who order their military to attack ethnic groups throughout the country, who in 1988 issued a blood assimilation order to their troops to marry or rape the ethnic women in order to "purify" the ethnic's blood line, who forcibly conscript children to serve as child soldiers in their army, who plant land mines around the villages they attack so that returning villagers get maimed or killed, who pillage or plunder the resources of Burma so they can have huge weddings with millions of dollars of jewels around the necks of their daughters.

It is the SPDC generals, brutal dictators with their crimes against humanity and campaigns of ethnic cleansing who deserve to be stripped of power and placed under arrest for many years to come.

BUSH AND HOOVER PRESIDED OVER FALTERING ECONOMIES

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, for 7 years Americans have endured the failed economic policies of President Bush, policies that have favored the wealthiest few and the big corporations at the expense of the middle class and those aspiring to reach the middle class.

Last week for the fifth month in a row, we learned that the Bush economy had lost more jobs than it created. This unimpressive economic record is once again drawing comparisons to that of another Republican President, Herbert Hoover. President Bush has the worst job creation record since Herbert Hoover, who presided over the stock market crash and led our economy into the Great Depression.