

in this country knows, she will tell you, and she's told people all across the country when she speaks, that they have a huge amount of oil in the ANWR and other parts of Alaska, and because of the radical environmentalist groups in this country, they can't drill up there.

Now, I've been up there. I was up there with DON YOUNG. We saw the oil pipeline. If you look at the ANWR, there's nothing up there. You're not going to hurt any of the animals. There's a lot of bugs. There's a lot of vermin up there. But you're not going to hurt the animals by drilling up there, and it's certainly not going to hurt the environment. But it would help if we could bring that oil—millions of barrels of oil—down to the lower 48 States. It would have a tremendous impact, in my opinion, as well as you've said, off the Gulf of Mexico and off the Continental Shelf. We could really move toward energy independence over a period of the next 5 to 10 years. Like you said, it wouldn't happen immediately, but it would be a giant step in the right direction.

Mr. POE of Texas. If the gentleman will yield, as you mentioned about ANWR in Alaska, years ago we came up with this idea of a pipeline from Alaska bringing crude oil into the United States, and the same people that opposed that pipeline still exist today and are opposing the Keystone Pipeline. It took years for the vetting of the environmental lobby to finally be put to rest. They were concerned about the caribou. Of course, I think the caribou are doing quite well now. Finally, Congress decided not to wait on that administration and go ahead and make an approval. But Congress went ahead and approved the Alaska pipeline on its own, which became law in spite of the administration. It didn't wait for its approval. And now we know the rest of the story—it's a success 25 years later. And that's what Congress needs to do with the Keystone Pipeline.

No one has ever accused Canada of being environmentally insensitive. Their regulations are as tough as the EPA's—or even stronger. But yet they've developed a way that they can bring crude oil through a pipeline down to southeast Texas—Port Arthur, my district—in a safe, environmental way, and also one of the newest and finest pipelines. But the administration says, Not so fast. And it's unfortunate because the jobs will stay in America. Create that pipeline. Canada is not a Middle Eastern dictatorship. They're kind of a normal country.

We should approve that as soon as possible. I understand the concern in Nebraska. I'm glad to see the folks in Nebraska are working with Trans-Canada to reroute that 60 miles so there are no environmental issues and get this pipeline approved and start shipping that crude oil down to southeast Texas so we can use it in the United States.

It would seem to me that the United States should maybe think about this

type of energy policy: we should drill safely in the United States for oil and natural gas. And I say "safely" because that is important. But we should also partner with the countries next to us—the Canadians to the north, who have natural resources, and the Mexicans to the south, who have an abundance of natural resources—and the three of us work together on a North American OPEC-type philosophy and be energy independent. Not just energy independent, but it will help out our national security.

And if we do that, if we work with Canada, Mexico, drill in the United States, where it's safe, we can make the Middle East irrelevant. We can make that little fellow from the desert, Ahmadinejad, and his threats about closing the Strait of Hormuz, we can make him irrelevant. We don't care what he does. We don't need to continue to send our money to other nations over there that don't like us. So maybe that's something we need to do in the United States.

Lastly, and then I'll yield to the gentleman, because of American technology, because of those folks that know how to drill safely for oil and natural gas, the United States now suddenly is becoming an abundant Nation with natural gas. And we could, if we developed it the way that we can, the United States—primarily Texas, but other States—we could become the Saudi Arabia of natural gas. We could export natural gas, we have so much of it, and bring that money into the United States, rather than constantly sending money throughout the world, all because we don't take care of what we have and use what we have.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Well, T. Boone Pickens said—and everybody knows he's one of the big advocates of natural gas, which is a very clean-burning fuel. He said, if we would convert the tractor-trailer units that bring commerce to all of us, we could lower the cost for all those tractor-trailer units, as far as energy consumption is concerned, by 50 percent—cut it in two—and that would have a dramatic impact on things that are transported by tractor-trailer units.

I would just like to say that the President, when he took office—and I'll conclude with this, because you've done such a good job tonight. You've covered it very well. When the President took office, he said that his energy policies would, of necessity, cause energy costs to skyrocket. Well, as Ronald Reagan would say, "Well, he did, and energy prices have skyrocketed," and we've got to do something about it.

The American people don't want to pay \$4 or \$5 a gallon for gasoline. They can't live that way. It's causing a deterioration in their standard of living.

So if I were talking to the President—and I know I can't, Madam Speaker. But if I were talking to him, I would say, Mr. President, why don't you get with the program. The Amer-

ican people really need your help. And if you don't pay attention to them regarding the energy policies, it's my humble opinion that there may be a big change in administrations next year. So for political survivability alone, you ought to take another look at what you're doing.

And with that, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding to me.

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Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for his participation.

Madam Speaker, it seems to me that the United States can make some decisions and solve some of our own problems. We can start with finding people in the EPA that do not have their own personal vendetta against the oil and gas industry, replace those individuals like Armendariz and get some fair and balanced bureaucrats to make sure we have a clean environment to work with our energy companies rather than against them, and stop the war against the energy companies in the U.S.

We can work and bring down the price of energy in the United States. One way, not the only way, is to make sure that we have a supply. A greater supply, as we all know, of anything, does help reduce the cost of energy, so that people in southeast Texas who have a hard time getting to work and who are paying more for products that they have to buy, just like Americans throughout our Nation are having tough times because of high gasoline prices, we owe it to them to do that, to take care of ourselves and to work with Canada and to work with Mexico so that the three countries can be a strong ally, not just politically, but that we can be strong allies with our energy economy.

With that, I'll yield back to the Chair.

And that's just the way it is.

MADE IN CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 25 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, as I was shopping for some family items recently, I noted how difficult it is to find items that are made in America. While American manufacturing is, encouragingly enough, on the rebound, products ranging from hairbrushes to iPods still carry that "Made in China" label. All the while, many questions about China and its economic policies, foreign policies, and human rights records are left largely unexamined.

For the good of our economy, it is essential that we thoroughly understand China's record and their intentions as a country. Our nations have a complicated and lopsided economic relationship. Americans buy great quantities of Chinese-made products. China finances a great portion of America's

debt. Currently, nearly one-third of our debt is foreign owned with China easily being the largest debt holder at nearly \$1.2 trillion. Other estimates peg the figure at closer to \$2 trillion. The effect of such indebtedness is the shift of our wealth assets into the hands of a foreign nation, losing the market for American-made products to a country with lax labor and environmental standards, which manipulates its currency and creates unbalanced and unfair trading conditions.

China's involvement on the world stage is also of significant concern. While it aggressively pursues its own mercantilistic agenda, China lends little constructive hand to creating conditions for international stability. China is seen as an enabler of North Korea, who is actively pursuing nuclear weapons capabilities; and they continue on their march toward more aggressive missile testing, as well, despite the protest of the international community.

Over recent months, as the U.S. and the European Union have accelerated important efforts to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions, China has been conspicuously absent from the leadership table in this discussion. China continues to be a top buyer of Iranian oil—one of the key leverage points of economic sanctions against Iran. At a discussion I attended, a Chinese official in so many words said the U.S. is to blame for Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons capability. And he went on to say, while China does not desire this outcome, we're going to do business as usual.

Africa is becoming a lost continent, diplomatically and economically, in favor of international players who do not have the same regard for human rights as we do. China's influence in resource-rich Africa is growing rapidly—with disturbing consequences. Direct Chinese investment in Africa has grown exponentially over the last 2 years. One million Chinese nationals now do business in Africa, and Chinese energy and mineral resource companies are quickly acquiring oil fields and mines.

In the process, China has forged strategic alliances with war criminals. According to China's Foreign Ministry spokesman, China shares a "deep and profound friendship" with Sudanese war criminal Omar al-Bashir. I should note there was a bright spot this week. When approached by South Sudanese President Salva Kiir for assistance as Sudan and South Sudan march toward war, China's President Hu Jintao echoed the United States in calling for peace and negotiation between the two countries, rather than continuing to back Omar al-Bashir. The international community will look upon China's new role as a diplomatic figure in this conflict with great interest.

Beyond this, an honest discussion is necessary about Chinese industrial virtues. A Chinese official has said that in dealing with "differences in corporate

culture and the degree of openness to the outside world, Chinese companies always take the domestic business practices with them." Chinese companies always take "domestic business practices" with them. Those practices, according to witnesses who have given congressional testimony, include fertility monitors on factory floors, invasively examining female employees for pregnancy and reporting pregnant women to the Chinese family planning police. China has practiced the violence of forced abortions. China also has tragically high suicide rates for workers, who use suicide as their only means of collective bargaining against dire and oppressive labor conditions.

As China continues to advance as a world economic power, it has a choice. It can join the responsible community of nations in respecting the dignity and rights of all persons while conducting affairs with other nations in an ethical fashion, or it can stand by current practices that exploit relationships in order to fuel its own brand of corporate collectivism, undermining international stability in the process.

Madam Speaker, it is my belief that it is important to seek reasonable and good relationships with China, a country with a rich cultural history, a country which is rapidly ascending onto the world stage. We must do so ideally and practically for the sake of our own national security. But we must do so with open eyes, fully understanding the implications when all of us buy products with that "made in China" label.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 18 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I thank you for the time and being down here with me. I will set up my charts tonight because I can't commit it all to memory. I'm glad to be here at the end of the leadership hour. We've talked about China, we've talked about U.S. energy, and we've talked about the big issues that are on the floor of this House and that are here in Washington, D.C.

I want to say to folks, I come from a conservative part of the world. I come from the Deep South. I come from the suburbs of Atlanta, Gwinnett County, Forsyth County, Walton County and Barrow County. But I brought with me tonight quotes from President Barrack Obama because, as I have said in town hall meeting after town hall meeting, I disagree with about 80 percent of what the President does, but I believe in about 80 percent of what he says. I think if we can come together on some of those principles that he is enunciating, we might be able to make some real progress.

This is from the President's 2011 inaugural address. He says this:

At stake right now is not who wins the next election. At stake is whether new jobs and industries take root in this country or somewhere else.

That is absolutely true. Folks come down to the floor of this House every day. They say what they're doing, they're doing for job creation. They say what they're doing, they're doing for economic growth. But we have a substantial disagreement about what that means.

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I happen to believe that one of the things that encourages job creation and economic growth is fiscal responsibility. We need fiscal responsibility in our families, we need it in our businesses, and we need it in our government.

The President said this, Madam Speaker, his State of the Union address in 2010. He said:

Families across the country are tightening their belts and making tough decisions; the Federal Government should do the same.

State of the Union address, 2010, "the Federal Government should do the same."

It wasn't just in 2010. I'm not cherry-picking comments. Here we are in the President's State of the Union address in 2011, Madam Speaker:

Every day, families sacrifice to live within their means. They deserve a government that does the same.

He said it in 2010. He said it in 2011. In fact, go back to the beginning of his Presidency. Here we are in 2009, the same State of the Union address:

Given these realities, everyone in this Chamber, Democrats and Republicans, will have to sacrifice some worthy priorities for which there are no dollars, and that includes me.

Madam Speaker, he was right there in front of where you sit tonight. He said:

Given these realities, everyone in this Chamber must sacrifice some worthy priorities for which there are no dollars, and that includes me.

The President of the United States.

But what's the reality, Madam Speaker? We can put the words back up. We can put the words up from 2009, from 2010, from 2011, but what's the reality? The reality, sadly, is this chart, Madam Speaker. You can't see it from where you are, but it's a chart from *The Wall Street Journal*, entitled, "The Debt Boom." It charts the public debt of the United States from the year 2000 to the year 2012.

What we see, Madam Speaker, is that as a percent of GDP, the debt was entirely too high during the Bush years. Don't get me wrong. There is not a party in this town that is blameless in this debate. For Pete's sake, we were having economic boom times and our debt was running 35 percent of GDP. Thirty-five percent of all the economy of the United States of America was being borrowed in debt. But look what