

gas is going to go up by some \$350 next season. At the same time that that is happening, we hear that Big Oil has done rather well.

For example, Exxon-Mobile recently reported that its profits in this past quarter, the third quarter, increased 75 percent.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Wow.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Not a bad quarter. In one quarter, Exxon-Mobile had a net profit of \$10 billion. Simultaneously, today in the Budget Committee, there was a motion, a motion to increase the so-called LIHEAP program.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, can the gentleman explain who offered that motion, what party?

Mr. DELAHUNT. It was a Democratic motion. It would have increased the funding for that particular program, which allows low-income people, primarily elderly people, to benefit from a purchase of discounted energy, whether it be oil or gas, but primarily oil.

While Exxon-Mobile is making \$10 million, in the Budget Committee today, Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority said, no, we are not going to increase that program. And, by the way, the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee said no to any rescission of the \$16 billion that this Republican-controlled Congress passed in the form of subsidies for Big Oil this year. If you are investing in oil this year, it was reminiscent of the gold rush back in 1849. You really scored well. Now, is that what we are about as a people? Are we not violating a social compact, a covenant, where we all come together and get through the hard times?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, there is a certain amount of corruption within the system, is there not, when that happens? There is just a certain amount of corruption and incompetence in the system.

Now, I know our friends, they like to say, well, all the Democrats, all they want to do is spend, spend, spend. But they have borrowed and spent over \$1 trillion just in the last 4 years from foreign countries, more than the past 42 Presidents.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Record breaking.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Record-breaking spending, record-breaking deficits. The party of fiscal conservatism has become an absolute joke. It has become a caricature of itself.

Here is a conservative that we may disagree with on many, many issues, Cal Thomas of the Washington Times, a conservative newspaper, a conservative columnist, one of the most conservative in the country who tries to provide a little advice to the Republican majority: "Here is a suggestion on your budget cuts: Don't start with the poor, start with the rich."

Mr. DELAHUNT. The oil companies are a good place to begin.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. A good first step, \$16 billion in subsidies to them. They have not done anything with trying to

reduce the cost of prescription drugs, allow for reimportation, allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate down the drug prices of a \$700 billion bill that we were told that night was \$400 billion.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Can someone explain to me, anybody, why the oil companies, that had revenues in the last quarter of some \$100 billion, each and every one of them saw huge increases in terms of their net profits, why they need subsidies?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I will tell the gentleman why. Because according to the Republican leadership, they do not want an ownership society; they want an own-everything society. That is why. Because they fall into the category of groups and individuals that the Republican leadership in this country clearly believes should own everything.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I think the Republican Party, after they give the \$16 billion in subsidies, will head out to shakedown street, K Street, where all the lobbyists are, and they will say, hey, we just gave you \$16 billion in public taxpayer money, and average people, middle-class people, people who need LIHEAP, who have high heating costs and everything else, they took that public money, they gave it to the oil companies, the oil companies are going to make tremendous profits and have made tremendous contributions to the Republican Party.

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Mr. MEEK of Florida. I want to say quickly just today, news flash from the Budget Committee, happened over there in the Cannon Building, really nice building named after Speaker Cannon, who used to walk around here smoke cigars and all and is well known.

But I can tell you this. There is a heating program that is out there to help poor people. Since we are talking about these big companies that are making all of these big profits, it would have increased the funding to provide for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program from \$1 billion to \$3.093 billion. That would impose a temporary windfall profits tax on the oil companies to assure that the amendment is deficit neutral.

Now I am going to tell you something. You want to talk about this budget is keeping not only everyday Americans in the cold but is definitely keeping poor people in the cold.

But I cannot tell you, when you say, can you explain it to me, well, I cannot explain to you the reason why we have CIA agents being outed, not only one but a number of them.

I cannot explain to you the reason why we still have Michael Brown on the Federal taxpayer dollars, on the dole, at the same salary he was making pre-Hurricane Katrina, and why the Secretary of Homeland Security extended not only the 60-day contract they had with him but another 30 days,

saying we have to learn something from him.

I cannot explain to you why the majority side puts together a report talking about cutting, and I am going to tell you, we gave the Web site out earlier. This is third-party validators, cuts to Medicare, cuts to Medicaid, cuts to student loans, cuts to food stamps, cuts to school lunches for poor kids. I cannot explain to you why.

I cannot explain to you why veterans have to wait so long for assistance. I cannot explain to you why that was the case.

I cannot explain to you why this administration, after this Congress acted, with many Members on this side pushing for military families to be reimbursed for equipment they had to buy for their loved ones while they were in theater to save their lives, to give them the Kevlar and the vests that they needed, I cannot explain to you why the Defense Department waited for the regs for that program for them to even get the money back, back in February. Senator DODD from Connecticut had to write the Defense Department, who is a Democrat, had to threaten them to write the regs, and they finally wrote it. I cannot explain to you why.

This is to reimburse military families for equipment they bought, husband, wives, what have you. I cannot explain to you why.

But one thing that I can tell you, that it is important that we illuminate these issues so not only the Members know that we know what they are doing on the majority side but the American people know.

Now I am going to say back for the one Republican that voted with Democrats on this budget, on the backs of the American working class, on the backs of retirees, on the backs of those that wake up every day and try to provide for their children, provide for their family, I am glad that he voted with us. Maybe, just maybe, this hour is working on the conscience of some.

Real quick, since we are going out of time, you want to give the site out? Then we can close out.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, with that, we would like to yield back the balance of our time and thank the Democratic leader for the time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the special order of the gentleman of Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) given earlier this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLES of South Carolina). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.