

is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the urgent need for the House of Representatives to address global warming. As you can see from last week's cover of Time magazine, both popular and scientific consensus indicate that the United States must act now to mitigate this problem.

In fact, a poll released yesterday by Environmental Defense indicates that more than 70 percent of Americans polled believe that global warming is real and a problem that they are willing to do something about.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for a national policy on global warming. America must lead the global effort. As I speak, our colleagues in the other chamber are holding a day-long conference on this issue. They have also debated legislation and had several votes on bills designed to curb greenhouse gas emissions. It is time, in fact it is long overdue, for the United States House of Representatives to join the debate.

In my home State of New Mexico, we may already be seeing the dramatic effects of global warming. In the drought seasons of 2002 and 2003, we had major die-offs of our State tree, the pinon. Scientists predict that this major die-off is only the prelude to life in a warmer future. Also, as seen in this picture, dramatic melting has already been seen in icecaps, glaciers and sea ice on both poles and in high mountain regions across the globe. Scientists are in almost unanimous agreement that these events are directly related to the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels.

Mr. Speaker, last week the Honorable TOM PETRI and I introduced H.R. 5049, the Keep America Competitive Global Warming Policy Act. Our bill will help America curb our emissions and spur innovation to keep us in the global technological lead. The bill is an economy-wide, upstream, cap-and-trade policy that covers all greenhouse gas emissions.

However, to provide some certainty to the economy, the bill provides for an unlimited number of additional safety valve allowances. These allowances will be sold by the Treasury Department at a fixed and reasonable price, which will escalate over time. The escalation of the safety valve price is tied to the emissions-control activities of the five largest developing country greenhouse gas emitters. This will ensure that the rest of the world joins us in this effort. In that way, our policy will not put America at a global disadvantage.

We know that there may be less emissions reduction with a safety valve than without one. However, the cost certainty and the modest starting up cost of the safety valve allowances provide assurance this policy will not result in undue economic harm. We believe it is better to have a policy that

works slowly yet surely rather than one that might prove economically unworkable.

Many companies, including the largest utility in my home State of New Mexico, have expressed the need for a safety valve in any mandatory greenhouse gas emissions control legislation.

While the safety valve and a cap-and-trade program are critical to the short-term success of curbing emissions, conservation, research and technology are some of the long-term solutions of global warming. Our bill creates an advanced research projects agency inside the Department of Energy. The goal of the E-ARPA is to explore the truly out-of-the-box, high-risk, high-payoff research that will be necessary if we are to get to a low or no carbon dioxide or greenhouse gas world.

Mr. Speaker, we know that despite our best efforts some will probably be negatively impacted by this policy. That is why our legislation allocates allowances to those people, entities and localities that may incur dislocations because of this legislation.

Finally, we also set aside allowances for auction that will be used to ensure that the legislation is revenue neutral.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is modest, certain and efficient. It commits America to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by having emitters internalize the costs associated with global warming. This monumental step of putting a price on all greenhouse gases will stabilize emissions and eventually reduce them and finally put the United States on the road towards curbing the effects of global warming.

I urge my colleagues in the House to cosponsor this comprehensive and economically rational legislation and help break the stalemate that exists on the global warming issue.

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#### NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Public Health Week. Since 1995, national, State and local public health professionals highlight an important public health issue every April to raise awareness about leading health problems affecting our Nation.

This year, the theme of National Public Health Week focuses on what is called the "built environment," which refers to building healthy communities to protect and enhance our children's life.

The built environment is any infrastructure with which children come in contact on a daily basis including homes, schools, parks, roads, walkways and businesses.

Enhancements to the built environment include access to primary health services, regular physical activity, safe

places to play, and safe routes to walk or bike to school, smoke-free communities and homes, and toxin-free schools.

Health challenges include the quality of and access to schools and housing, economic opportunities, social capital, air and water, and opportunities for physical activity.

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am particularly concerned about how the built environment affects communities of color, native communities, and linguistically isolated communities.

Members of these communities are more likely to live, work, and play in environments which have detrimental health effects, often vastly disproportionate to their percentage of the population.

For example, asthma is one of the major causes of illness and disability in the United States. Although asthma is only slightly more prevalent among minority children than among whites, it accounts for three times the number of deaths.

Low socioeconomic status, exposure to urban environmental contaminants, and lack of access to medical care contribute to the increase of deaths in minority communities.

African Americans living in low-income neighborhoods have particularly high rates of asthma, as do Native Hawaiians living in Hawaii.

America must invest more resources and be more creative in order to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities.

We need to provide access to health care for the 45 million uninsured, more than half of whom are racial and ethnic populations.

We need to provide linguistically and culturally competent services, and we need to stop gutting the health care safety net.

Neighborhoods and communities across the United States are segregated by race and socioeconomic status, which exacerbates the underlying social and economic inequities that perpetuate health inequities. Without significant investment in the built environment for children and underserved communities, these health inequities will continue.

I am pleased to see that the American Public Health Association, the leading public health organization in the United States, has been able to disseminate the message about the interconnectedness between health and the built environment, and hope that this reality is integrated into the public health debate.

I look forward to working with all those involved with National Public Health Week to ensure policies to promote all children's health.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God of the Jewish-Christian scriptures, You call forth Your people to move out from blood-stained doorways into the wandering freedom of the desert, until they found a promised land.

By the spirit You led Jesus into the desert to discover Your living presence through fasting and prayer.

Guide Your people in these days of grace in and through the political ways of Congress. May the trials of argumentative discussions and the discipline of compromise lead Your people across the barren land of uncertainty. Shape within them new resolves of faithful service, and open for them paths of greater justice and new-found peace.

Help us, O Lord, to renew the covenant of old which makes us Your own, even now and 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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

#### DEMOCRATS AND CONFUSING SENIORS ABOUT MEDICARE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. Under this historic program, seniors are receiving the drugs they need at reduced cost. So far, more than 27 million Medicare beneficiaries are now getting coverage and saving money on their prescription drugs. Even more amazing is that 380,000 new beneficiaries are signing up each week.

This is a program that is working for most seniors, and any early problems

are quickly being corrected. The new drug coverage offers more and better choices at a lower cost. Premiums have been lowered to an average of \$25 a month, down from the \$37 that was previously estimated. Yet Democrats continue their coordinated campaign of confusion. On the one hand they are telling seniors that the prescription drug program is a disaster, and then in the same breath they are urging them to sign up. Mr. Speaker, this reminds me of someone turning to you and saying, "Hey, this milk tastes bad. Try it."

Seniors are hearing from Democrats that the milk is bad, yet they are being asked to taste it. It is no wonder some seniors are confused. I would be, too.

#### MAKING THE TAX CUTS PERMANENT

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give the American people some straight talk on why we need to make the tax cuts permanent. As tax day rapidly approaches, President Bush urged Congress to make the tax cuts permanent, and with good reason. If Congress does not make the tax cuts permanent, a family of four in central Florida making \$50,000 would see their taxes go up by nearly 50 percent.

It is no accident that we have a strong and vibrant economy today. During President Bush's first term, Congress acted to lower income tax rates across the board, cut taxes on capital gains and dividends, and eliminate the marriage penalty.

Now, what have we seen as a result? We have seen 5 million new jobs created in the last 2½ years. We have seen an unemployment rate that is lower than the average unemployment rate in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. We have seen home ownership rise to 69 percent, the largest record in history. So don't believe the hype. Our government has received more revenue after the tax cuts than we received before the tax cuts. Let's make these tax cuts permanent and keep our economy strong.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO NORTH COLLEGE HILL TROJANS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, at this time last year I predicted that I would be standing here once again to congratulate Coach Jamie Mahaffey and his North College Hill Trojans. Well, they proved me right after winning back-to-back Division III Ohio State high school basketball championships.

Just this past weekend, North College Hill captured its second State championship with a convincing 90-73 triumph over Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph. The victory topped off an

impressive 26-1 season, including a number three national ranking by USA Today and a unanimous number one ranking in the final Ohio Associated Press State poll.

The Trojans made their road to Columbus look easy, defeating their opponents by an average of 33 points a game and knocking off the reigning Division I State champions from Ohio and Kentucky. In fact, statistics like these have already brought calls for a threepeat next year.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the North College Hill Trojans, the players, coaches, parents, fans, teachers, and administrators on bringing the championship back to the Cincinnati area. We are very proud of you, North College Hill.

#### AMERICAN FLAGS BANNED AT HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, students at Skyline High School in Colorado are banned from waving the American flag. The principal is reported as saying, "These flags were being used as a symbol of bigotry, a symbol of hostility. They were being used to inflame different groups, and we're not going to tolerate that."

This principal is more concerned about hurting the feelings of people illegally in the U.S. than he is about Americans' freedom of expression. This principal is obviously unaware the flag was offensive to the British who were also illegally in the U.S. When the British reinvaded the United States in 1814 and were illegally on American soil, they marched on Washington waving the British flag, and they burned this very building. The British then sailed upriver to Fort McHenry and were offended by this defiant American flag that was flying. They tried to shoot it down, but Old Glory flew, and we have it down the street in the National Archives, bullet holes and all. We got our National Anthem from the glory of the Star Spangled Banner at Fort McHenry.

The American flag cannot be banned in America. How absurd. What flag do you fly there at that high school, the white flag of surrender so as not to offend anyone illegally in the United States? Good thing the commander at Fort McHenry didn't care about what the British thought and was proud to be an American. And that's just the way it is.

#### RESPECTING CAPITOL POLICE

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, last week we finally saw the Democratic Party roll out their ideas about how we should secure America,