

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the previous question and "yes" on the resolution.

This is a fair rule. It is an open rule and allows Members to come down to the floor and prioritize and reprioritize the spending under the jurisdiction of the Energy and Water Subcommittee.

The material previously referred to by Ms. MATSUI is as follows:

PREVIOUS QUESTION FOR H. RES. ____, RULE FOR H.R. 5427 THE ENERGY & WATER APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2007

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, the amendment printed in section 3 shall be in order without intervention of any point of order and before any other amendment if offered by Representative Visclosky of Indiana or a designee. The amendment is not subject to amendment except for pro forma amendments or to a demand for a division of the question in the committee of the whole or in the House.

SEC. 3. The amendment referred to in section 2 is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2007 OFFERED BY MR. VIS-CLOSKY OF INDIANA

Page 2, line 20, strike "\$128,000,000" and insert "\$132,000,000".

Page 3, line 12, strike "\$1,947,171,000" and insert "\$2,175,171,000".

Page 6, line 10, strike "\$2,195,471,000" and insert "\$2,213,471,000".

Page 6, line 14, strike "\$297,043,000" and insert "\$306,043,000".

Page 7, line 3, strike "\$141,113,000" and insert "\$150,113,000".

Page 21, line 5, strike "\$2,025,527,000" and insert "\$2,525,527,000".

Page 21, line 6, before the period, insert the following: ", of which not less than \$150,000,000 shall be for funding new advanced energy research".

Page 22, line 1, strike "\$558,204,000" and insert "\$808,204,000".

Page 22, line 2, strike "\$54,000,000" and insert "\$80,000,000".

Page 22, line 13, strike "\$36,400,000" and insert "\$200,400,000".

At the end of title V, insert the following:

SEC. ____ In the case of taxpayers with income in excess of \$1,000,000, for the calendar year beginning in 2007, the amount of tax reduction resulting from enactment of Public Law 107-16, Public Law 108-27 and Public Law 108-311 shall be reduced by 2.42 percent.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for the previous question, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

REPUBLICAN TAX CUT MONOPOLY

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the Republican-controlled Congress recently passed a tax bill which President Bush signed saying, "With this bill, we are sending the American people a clear message about our policy."

I couldn't agree more. This bill makes America's tax policy into a cruel game of Monopoly designed to make winners of the super-rich and losers of America's working middle class.

Under their tax scheme, working middle-class families get the chance card and don't fair so well under the Republican bill. They get about \$20. Not enough to fill their gas tanks. But trust fund millionaires with an average income of more than \$5 million draw the community chest card. They get \$82,000. Enough for a brand new limousine.

The President was right: the Republican tax bill does send a clear message about their policy: millionaires win, working middle-class families lose, and America needs new leadership.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JINDAL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HUNTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHY WE ARE THERE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State was on the talk show circuit this past weekend and said something extraordinary about the reason we invaded Iraq. These are Secretary Rice's words: "I understand that Americans see violence on their screens. They continue to see Americans killed. But I would ask that people remember why we are there."

Secretary Rice continued: "We are there because having overthrown a brutal dictator who was a destabilizing force in the Middle East, we are trying to help the Iraqis create a stable foundation for democracy and a stable foundation for peace."

I would have liked to have seen Ms. Rice and the rest of the Bush national security team come before the Congress, the American people, and the world community with this argument in late 2002 and early 2003. My guess is they would have gotten roughly 25 votes in this body to authorize the President to go to war. Actually, they didn't get mine, or two-thirds of the Democrats; but they got enough votes to go to war.

But, of course, the Republicans were too smart for that. To make their case for war, they needed something that would scare the pants off everyone in this Congress and in this country. So we heard a lot of tall tales about aluminum tubes, uranium from Niger, and reconstituted nuclear weapons. Secretary Rice herself engaged in the ultimate fear mongering when she said, "We don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud."

When it came time to close the sale, they sent Ms. Rice's predecessor, Colin Powell, to the U.N., not to talk about how cruel Saddam Hussein had been to his own people, but to specifically outline the case, the phony case as it turned out, that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and posed a direct threat to our national security.

Dictators are undoubtedly bad and democracy is undoubtedly good, but can we afford to spend \$300 billion and march 2,500 Americans off to their deaths every time we spot a bad, undemocratic regime? Taken to its logical extreme, this policy would commit us to military occupations in every corner of the globe, something that, to say the least, we don't have the resources or the appetite to do.

Isn't there a better way to spread freedom? Of course there is.

We can and must have a robust democracy-promotion agenda that invests in the hopes of oppressed people, one that lifts their spirits instead of tearing down their countries.

The SMART Security plan that I have proposed includes an ambitious investment in democracy-building, the kind that would establish rule of law, civil society, a free press and independent judiciaries around the world.

Unfortunately, as I have discussed here many times over, the Bush administration is scaling back funding for exactly these kinds of efforts. Step number one is to bring our troops home. Now, for sure, right now. No permanent military bases, no designs on profiting from Iraqi oil.

Let us work with the global community to establish a multilateral security force that can keep Iraq stable in the short term. Let us lead the way in the U.N. toward establishing an international peace commission that can

begin the post-war reconciliation process.

Let us focus on putting Iraq back together again, changing our role from that of military occupier to reconstruction partner.

First and foremost, we must end the war. Our brave soldiers have served bravely and sacrificed plenty. It is time to return them home to their families, and it is time for the United States to truly devote itself to the spread of democracy worldwide through peaceful partnerships and not military conquest.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OSBORNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRESS MUST PAVE THE ROAD TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of the summer driving season, the time of year when high gas prices will most harm families struggling to stretch family budgets already at the breaking point.

More than 31 million Americans will take to the Nation's highways this weekend for long trips. Each of those miles will cost consumers dearly at the pump because of misguided energy policies.

The simple fact is that the White House and the Republican Congress knew before they passed it that America's dependence on foreign oil would increase under the Bush energy bill. But there is hope. On Saturday, I joined my colleague, Senate Democratic leader HARRY REID, in Cleveland to announce our plan for a better, brighter future.

Our plan invests in ethanol and other biofuels grown in the Midwest, not drilled for in the Middle East. It requires increased production of flexible fuel vehicles capable of burning an 85 percent ethanol blend called E-85. It requires increased investment to make E-85 more available in America's service station. It creates incentives to encourage early adoption of these com-

monsense technologies that are ready to be put into production today.

Our plan also expands the tax credits for consumers who buy especially efficient hybrid cars, and it cracks down on gasoline price manipulation.

It makes it crystal clear to Big Oil that manipulation, either direct price gouging or withholding supply to drive prices up, is against Federal law. Not slap-on-the-hands kind of antiprice gouging legislation, but serious penalties and fines that will make the oil industry pay attention.

It also redirects Federal support to help rebuild the energy industries of the future. Rather than subsidize Big Oil, we should be helping farmer-owned biofuels, innovative hybrid, and fuel efficiency component manufacturers, and other emerging energy industries to grow, the kinds of jobs perfect for Ohioans who know so much about manufacturing and Ohio farmers who have contributed so much to our State.

This is about energy in my State, and it is about jobs in Ohio. With our natural resources and real leadership on energy policy, Ohio can become the Silicon Valley of alternative energy. Our plan is to invest in research.

In the 1940s, the Manhattan Project brought the Nation's best scientific minds together to develop the means to end a global catastrophe. In the 1960s the Apollo Project brought the Nation's best minds together to help our country reach a bold new goal.

Our plan creates a new advanced research project agency for energy, a mission-driven task force based on those successes, to help us build an energy future that is both economically and ecologically sustainable.

Those are not the only things we should do to protect consumers. We should also create public gasoline reserves to discourage supply manipulation by Big Oil and provide a cushion for consumers. We know whenever there is an interruption in supply from a hurricane, from a disturbance in the Middle East, or from a refinery fire, we know that the oil companies take advantage by spiking the price even higher than the supply interruption would suggest.

I suggested this idea to create public gasoline reserves 3 years ago. Senator DURBIN has a similar idea pending in the Senate for the last year or so. The Consumer Federation of America and the AAA have both testified that a gas reserve system would help consumers.

The White House is actually talking about the idea now. Talk is cheap, gas is not; but the White House could be on board and help move this proposal. This is a pocketbook issue for America's working middle class.

At our event in Cleveland, Senator REID and I were joined by two mothers from northeast Ohio who know firsthand how hard it is to keep up with these gas prices.

Reverend Lois Annich, a Presbyterian minister, called it "a social injustice of the highest order" that

families were struggling to pay higher gas bills while Big Oil was posting record profits: \$8 billion last quarter for ExxonMobil while its CEO earned \$18,000 an hour, while Ohio minimum wage earners who buy that gasoline are making \$10,000 a year.

And Jennifer Tucker, a working mother of two, explained how rising gas prices were making her family's economic future less secure by making her nursing education harder to afford.

Lois and Jennifer, millions of Americans just like them, know what I know: that it is well past time that this Congress and this Bush White House start putting the interests of the American people ahead of the interests of Big Oil.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

H.R. 5351 AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, this evening I rise on the floor to speak for a few minutes in support of H.R. 5351, the National Emergency Management Reform and Enhancement Act, and to address the need for reform of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This legislation represents a significant victory for democratic principles of effective Federal action for the American people.

Hurricane season starts in a little over a week, and just yesterday scientists at NOAA told us to expect another several months of dangerous storms. The devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita on our fellow citizens on the gulf coast serves as a wake-up call that the Federal Emergency Management Agency was badly broken.

Unfortunately, the inept response of many FEMA officials and the administration to this national disaster illustrated the degradation of an agency that once was a showplace of government responsiveness, efficiency, and professionalism.

My State of North Carolina has been no stranger to hurricanes and natural