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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 22, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BETTY McCOLLUM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

LUIS DIAZ' RETIREMENT FROM YOUTH CO-OP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to extend my congratulations to a dear constituent of my congressional district, Luis Diaz, upon his upcoming retirement as deputy director of Youth Co-Op.

He has dedicated his life to the betterment of the youth of South Florida by ensuring that they learn the necessary skills to be able to compete and to be productive members of today's society.

For more than three decades, Youth Co-Op has been a pioneer in assisting refugee children and young people in making the transition, sometimes difficult, into their new communities. Mr.

Diaz' leadership and his dedication have been instrumental in helping maintain the vision of Youth Co-Op.

He is also a distinguished journalist, producer and talk show host.

He has been involved with the Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Council as well as with the Spanish American League against Discrimination, among many other civic organizations.

Luis Diaz' proudest role, however, Madam Speaker, is that of a husband and that of a father. His love and devotion to his wife, Xiomara, and to his three children mirror his commitment to our community.

I am proud to not only call Luis Diaz a South Floridian but also my friend, all of South Florida's friend. Happy retirement, Mr. Diaz.

GLOBAL ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, the United States is the world's largest energy consumer and one of its leading producers. However, many Americans remain in the dark about the global nature of the energy crisis we have today.

As a result of the integrated nature of the world oil market, it is unlikely that any one nation acting on its own can implement policies that isolate its market from the broader price behavior.

As new major oil importers, notably China and potentially India, expand their demand, the oil market likely will have to expand production capacity, too. This promises to increase the world's dependence on the Persian Gulf members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, especially Saudi Arabia, and to maintain upward pressure on price.

International markets set the price of oil and energy as a whole. There is nothing we can do about that. How-

ever, we can increase our own energy reserves and can lessen the effects of the global energy market, but we must keep the proper perspective about our energy supplies.

Now, so-called alternative fuels, including wind, solar, fuel cells, ethanol, and biodiesel, indeed, hold great promise for the future, but right now, they are expensive and are currently useful only in small-scale applications. I hope this will change. Wind and solar power, for example, are intermittent and are unpredictable. Because electricity cannot be stored on a large scale, wind and solar are unsuitable as 24-hour-a-day sources of energy.

Even though government forecasts show more than a 50 percent increase in renewable energy used by 2030, the renewable share of the total energy pie will rise from only 6 to 7 percent during that period. At this stage, it would be more accurate to call these "supplemental" rather than "alternative" energy sources. They are simply not ready to replace the fossil fuels that currently account for about 80 percent of the world's energy supply.

We need an effective national policy that supersedes the existing patchwork of different State laws and regulations, one that allows us to tap all of our energy supply options, to promote greater reliance on conservation and efficiency and to foster a business environment conducive to market competition and timely investment in new energy infrastructure.

Current projections indicate that, shortly after 2040, the United States will exceed 400 million people and that the world will exceed 9 billion people. This steady climb has major implications for the U.S. energy industry. Each new person will put additional demands on the system, requiring more electricity and natural gas to run their homes and businesses and gasoline or other liquid fuels to transport them.

□ 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.



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