

Madam Speaker, I suggest that if families not being able to put food on the table or freezing this winter isn't an emergency, I don't know what is.

AMERICA WILL VOTE TO DRILL

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

Mr. PENCE. Well, back in Indiana, Hoosier families are hurting. Pain at the pump is harming the vitality of our families, our family farms, and small businesses, and the time has come for Congress to act.

Madam Speaker, we've heard from many of our Democrat colleagues that the answer is to go deeper into our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. I believe the answer is to go deeper into the reserves that are in the Outer Continental Shelf, in Alaska, and in the Gulf of Mexico.

The American people know the only way to lessen our dependence on foreign oil is to lessen our dependence on foreign oil by giving the American people more access to American oil.

I joined all my Indiana colleagues this past Monday at a press conference in Hoosier State urging you, Madam Speaker, to bring to this floor a vote on allowing American oil companies access to the Outer Continental Shelf. The President's lifted his executive ban. Now the only thing standing in between the American people and more access to American oil is one up-or-down vote on the floor of the Congress.

I urge you respectfully, Madam Speaker, bring the bill to the floor to allow the American people access to the reserves in this Outer Continental Shelf, and that bill will pass. If Congress is allowed to work its will, America will vote to drill.

JOB LOSSES CONTINUE FOR SIX CONSECUTIVE MONTHS AS ECONOMY GETS WORSE

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, our economy has now lost 430,000 jobs this year. The latest employment numbers show 62,000 jobs lost last month alone. This only adds to the growing financial insecurity among America's middle income families.

For the past 7 years, this administration has been supporting the same old policies that got us into this recession. The 3.8 million Americans who continue to struggle to find work in this sluggish economy can no longer afford the poisonous policies of the past. They can't afford to drive their kids to school because of over \$4 a gallon in gasoline.

A Teamster told me at home last weekend that it cost him \$1,000 to fill his rig. He can't afford to stay in the business. No one can afford to buy gro-

ceries because the price of milk and bread has soared past inflation.

And while Senator JOHN MCCAIN's chief economic adviser says Americans are simply whining about the economy, Democrats believe that we need to actually do something.

Madam Speaker, this new law that we passed 13 weeks ago to help 1.6 million Americans will help middle class families.

WISHFUL THINKING WON'T BRING DOWN GAS PRICES

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I say that wishful thinking on the part of Congress will not bring down gas prices. I truly believe, and evidence shows, that action to bring about more supply will bring down gas prices.

More supply perhaps from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve? Maybe, but not without replacing those reserves, and we know we can do that with Outer Continental Shelf drilling, as well as responsible, environmentally sensitive drilling in Alaska. We can do that.

Consumers will benefit, such as the single mom in my district who called and told me that a one-way drive to work so that she can feed her family is 40 miles, one way. There's no option of a subway. There's no option of public transportation. She has to pay for it. These gas prices are hurting her and her family.

And, Madam Speaker, we can do better. We must do better.

INCREASE LIHEAP FUNDING

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, there's one thing on which everyone in this Chamber agrees, it's that we're in an energy crisis, and the American people are paying the price.

So, as we consider a second stimulus package to provide immediate relief and spur long-term growth, I urge my colleagues to also offer assistance where we know people need it: immediately paying for energy.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, provides critical heating and cooling assistance to millions of hardworking, low-income Americans across this country, and now, in the middle of a hot summer and trying economic times, this assistance is more important than ever.

In Kentucky, 300,000 people qualify for LIHEAP, but because we have yet to fully fund the program, only a third are receiving the help they need, leaving 192,000 Kentuckians underserved, forced to choose between food for their children and critical cooling and heating needed to get through a long summer and winter.

Eligible families spend, on average, a fifth of their incomes on energy. I urge my colleagues to fully fund LIHEAP and provide desperately needed help to struggling American families.

ENERGY

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, this is energy morning here on the House floor, and I'm no different from anyone else.

We're hearing a lot this morning about opening the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Well, if we're willing to say supply matters—and I'll agree with that, yes, supply does matter—opening the Strategic Petroleum Reserve only make sense if it's part of a comprehensive plan, and yes, this is an emergency. This is an emergency that requires all hands on deck.

Supply is critical. Access to new supply in the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico is critical, as are alternative sources of energy, as are conservation measures.

Today, this morning, I'm asking the majority party to work with us and help the people who are impacted most by the rising energy prices, the people who can least afford it. That includes the vulnerable, the elderly, the impoverished.

It's time to stop pandering to wealthy environmentalists and start addressing the problems caused by impeding domestic production of energy. Stop protesting the siting of transmission lines for wind, solar, and hydroelectric power. Allow the rigs and pipelines to function, and allow the American workforce and American ingenuity to go to work and get this done for America.

Please stop the restrictions for responsible exploration for our natural resources like coal, natural gas, and crude oil. End the heavy-handed restrictions on energy exploration.

LIHEAP

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

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, in the wake of skyrocketing energy prices, I rise today to urge this Congress to fully fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP, as part of the economic stimulus legislation that's being considered.

Americans are feeling the pinch. Sixty percent of families are cutting spending as they struggle to pay for rising electric bills and gas prices. Let me speak directly about the situation of one Maryland family.

Mr. Delatore works part time as a counselor and gets partial disability because of complications from cerebral