

environmental consideration, there is an even bigger consideration on their part to supply energy for these 900 million people in rural areas. So they build a coal-fired power plant, about one a week—I forget the number, a fairly large number of nuclear power plants that are presently under construction.

The fifth part of this is a really interesting one, international cooperation. They know that there is nothing really meaningful that any single country can do, and so they plead for international cooperation. I was so impressed in that picture when they looked back over their shoulder on their way to the Moon, and you saw this little spaceship that we call Earth, and that's it, that's all there is, and there's nearly 7 billion of us living on it.

And so they recognize that this has got to be a global, international cooperation; or it's going to be really tough. But while they plead for international cooperation, they plan in the event that there won't be any.

Here is a chart, a world energy picture in January—this is '05, so they would have acquired some more oil since then—and you can see the little symbol here for Chinese investment in oil and gas. They are buying oil and gas all over the world. And I asked the State Department, why would they do this because today it doesn't make any difference who owns the oil. We own only 2 percent of the oil, and we use 25 percent of the oil; that's because we go to what is in effect a global market for oil and we bid and we get 25 percent of the oil. So today there is no advantage in owning oil. So why would the Chinese be going around the world aggressively buying oil and gas? By the way, they almost bought an oil company in our country. You remember all the furor over that when they almost bought that oil company here.

Well, at the same time China is buying gas and oil around the world, they are also buying goodwill. What do you need, an airport? Hospital? Soccer fields? Roads? Watch the newspapers at what China is doing as they go around the world buying this gas and oil.

Well, at the same time they are buying gas and oil around the world, they are very aggressively building a blue water navy. Now a major concern of China is Taiwan, a little country the size of Maryland, 23 million people—we have about 5 or so—three-fourths uninhabited because it's mountainous. Oh, gee, you can inhabit mountains. But I went to Taiwan. You don't inhabit those mountains. They are really, really steep.

China has 1.3 billion people. Why are they so concerned about Taiwan? I had the privilege of spending about an hour and a quarter, an hour and a half or so and we explored that. The concern of course is that if Taiwan can declare its independence, so can a number of other provinces; and they see their empire unraveling. And so I hope, pray, please,

tonight that we can resolve Taiwan issues through diplomacy rather than war.

Well, at the same time they are buying all this gas and oil and buying goodwill around the world, they are also aggressively building a blue water navy. They don't need a blue water navy to protect their interests in Taiwan; a brown water navy will be just fine there, thank you. I believe—I hope I'm wrong—I hope I'm wrong about a lot of things, by the way—every time I came to the floor, just about 50 times, and talked about peak oil I said I hope I'm wrong, because if I'm not wrong, the world faces some real challenges. By the way, that's not all bad. There is nothing so exhilarating as meeting and overcoming a big challenge, and the energy future that we face is a huge challenge. So I find it exhilarating.

Remember the exhilaration of putting a man on the Moon? We need to have that same kind of exhilaration. What are we going to do so we can continue—not just us, but my 10 kids, my 17 grandkids and my two great-grandkids, so that they can live as well as we're living? We're going to have to be very creative and innovative, and we can do that in our country.

I hope that the day does not come when China says, gee, guys, I'm sorry, but it's our oil and we can't share it because we don't have enough for our people, and we have a navy big enough to say that we're not going to share it. I hope that day doesn't come.

There are three groups that have common cause in solving three very different problems with exactly the same remedy, and these three groups are forever harping at each other, criticizing each other's premise instead of locking arms and marching forward, because the solution to three very different problems is just about exactly the same solution.

One of those groups is the group that these statistics identify that are really concerned about our national security. We have 2 percent of the oil reserves in the world. We pump that oil, I mentioned earlier, really fast. We produce 8 percent of the oil. We have only 5 percent, a little less than 5 percent, of the world's population and we consume 25 percent of the world's oil, importing about two-thirds of what we use.

Now what is the solution to this? The solution to this is to develop more of our own oil if we can, but that's really tough because we are now really down the other side of Hubbert's Peak. So the ultimate solution to that is alternatives. So those who are concerned about national security want to free ourselves from dependency on foreign oil by using alternatives because of national security interests.

A second group we've been talking about all evening are those that are concerned that it just is not going to be there. Of course, the solution to diminishing supplies of fossil fuels is to supplement them with alternatives.

And there is a third group that we haven't talked about yet—and I am

kind of a card-carrying member in all three of these groups—and that is a group that's concerned about climate change. Now, I don't know if they're right or wrong, but what I do know is that what they want to do about that is exactly the right thing to do from a national security perspective.

It's exactly the right thing to do, if you believe in climate change or peak oil. These three groups all have exactly the same solution to very different agendas. What we ought to be doing is stop harping at each other's premise and simply lock arms, because whether you believe that the excessive use of fossil fuels is changing the climate or not is irrelevant because excessive use of fossil fuels is certainly diminishing their supply. And from our perspective, a national security perspective, we don't have enough of them. So the solution to all three of these problems is more dependency on alternative fuels.

We are near closing time, and I just want to point out—and we'll come back again because there are some wonderful quotes from these five reports—four studies, but two are reports from one study. Your government has paid for four different studies; all of them were prophetic. As I mentioned, we are now historians because peak oil has occurred. But all four of these studies were saying—they were in '05, '06 and '07. And your government didn't like the conclusions of the first one in '05, and so they had another one in '06, another one in '07. They all said the same thing.

□ 2040

The peaking of oil is either present or imminent with potentially devastating consequences. We still aren't paying much attention to this, are we? With the world's economy still floundering and oil already at more than \$80 a barrel, what do you think will happen to the price of oil when the world's economy really starts to come back?

Well, let's end our discussion here tonight. I have been pleased to spend these moments with you talking about something that's very important to me but I think even more important to my 10 kids, my 17 grandkids, and my two great grandkids.

When we come back again, we're going to talk about these reports and what they said, and we'll have some quotes from these reports.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SMITH of Washington) to