

American people are struggling with these outrageously high prices. Some people are having to choose between buying gasoline and food. Others cannot afford to go to work.

Before the Bush administration conducted the bombing, the war and the occupation of Iraq, the price of gasoline was as low as \$1.35 per gallon. Now it's over \$4 per gallon. Oil was \$23 a barrel. Now it's over \$130 a barrel. There is no way, no way you can convince the American people that the price at the pump is not related to this misguided war and occupation of Iraq.

The effects of the Bush-Iraq recession, and that is what it is, are devastating our economy and wreaking havoc on the lives of families and children. It's time our Republican friends in the Bush administration join us in supporting our legislation to bring down the price of gasoline, and it is time to end the war and occupation of Iraq.

Believe me, this will bring down the price of gasoline at the pump.

HURRICANE SEASON

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, June 1 marked the beginning of yet another hurricane season, and experts have predicted a 90 percent probability of either a near-normal or an above-normal hurricane season. They estimate that six to nine hurricanes will form, including two to five major hurricanes.

Approximately 50 percent of all Americans live along our coasts. As a result of that, millions, millions face great risk associated with these storms that we know are going to be out there. Having a hurricane preparedness plan can help lessen and mitigate some of those dangers.

The National Hurricane Center recommends that people in hurricane-prone areas assemble a disaster supply kit that includes a first aid kit, essential medications, canned foods and at least 3 gallons of water per day per person for the minimum of 3 days. Obviously, extra battery-powered radios, extra batteries, and flashlights are also recommended.

As we have learned in south Florida, the forecasters, meteorologists, and the hurricane specialists at the National Hurricane Center are often the best source of the most valuable and reliable information on preparedness. I urge all Americans to prepare for this hurricane season and to listen to what the forecasters have to say.

STRUGGLING TO FIND JOBS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we are coming to a moment of truth in a

few hours for every Member of the House of Representatives. The truth is that every congressional district across the country, individuals and groups of people are struggling to find jobs in an economy cut down by a senseless, wasteful war, overwhelming energy prices, rising food prices and just bad business fundamentals.

People can't find jobs because there aren't enough of them. The truth is 4 million have exhausted their unemployment benefits already and things could get even worse unless we pass the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2008.

The truth is the American people elected us to serve them, and the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act will be a test of whether the Members remember who they really work for, the people or Big Oil. We are hours away from a moment of truth.

Vote for this bill, H.R. 5749, because Americans who work every day and lose their job through no fault of their own are entitled to a helping hand from their government.

HAMMERED BY THE HIGH COST OF FUEL AND GASOLINE

(Ms. FALLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, families and businesses are being hammered by the high cost of fuel and gasoline. This issue is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue, it's an American issue. It's an issue that our families and our consumers and our businesses want us to address, and that is the rising cost of gasoline.

A CNN poll recently stated that more than half of Americans are being forced to cut back significantly on their household spending. Another news report stated that 10 percent of the American companies are expecting to cut back their workforce.

One other national company stated that it was cutting 15 percent of its white collar jobs over the next 2 months. Families in my district can barely afford to commute to work. I had one family tell me that between the father commuting to his job, and the mother to her job, and the two children back and forth to college and high school, that they are spending \$700 a month on gasoline.

Parents are struggling with buying groceries, food costs. Family farms are struggling. They are trying to get their products to the market with the high cost of fuel, which has tripled. Small businesses are struggling with their services and their products and their customers that have decreased.

The question we have to ask ourselves is what kind of future will our children and our grandchildren have if this Congress takes no action to produce more U.S. energy. The lack of production of sufficient U.S. energy is

dangerous for our national economy and dangerous for our U.S. national security.

HIGH PRICE OF GASOLINE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, where is a good Samaritan? My friends are talking about the high price of gasoline. Can you imagine the impact on those who have exhausted their unemployment, people who have built this Nation, hard-working Americans.

Do you recognize that just this past week, unfortunately, with embarrassment, the administration had to announce that unemployment rose 5 percent in April, 5.5 percent in May, 49,000 jobs were lost. Where is the good Samaritan?

That is why today Democrats will stand on the floor of the House and stand alongside of working Americans and extend the unemployment benefits for those families who have exhausted all of their resources, this will go into March 2009, helping the bus driver, the nurse, helping those who are working with their hands, who have families to support, who can barely get gasoline.

Can you imagine being unemployed through no fault of your own, and this administration does not want to offer the extension of unemployment benefits? Today the good Samaritan will be on the floor of the House. We will debate this question. We will pass this bill. The President will sign it, and we will give relief to hard-working Americans.

ENERGY PLAN

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I had a constituent come up to me over the weekend and say Congress has no energy plan. I corrected that person. The Democrats' leadership is no energy.

Just in the last few months, Congress has voted under their leadership to take shale from Colorado and Wyoming off limits for extracting the oil. Last week coal-to-liquid for aviation fuel was banned. The Air Force is not allowed to enter into a long-term contract to buy that type of synthetic fuel. We are going backwards.

The reality is if we bring all of our resources together, yes, conservation, yes, alternative fuels, and open up the resources that we have right here in America offshore where there is a moratorium that Congress can lift, a moratorium that was imposed by Congress on shale oil that can be lifted by Congress, and in Alaska where Congress can lift that moratorium, if we combine all of those resources, we can be free of OPEC. It is time for a real energy policy where we free our resources for American-made energy.