

MTBE, which has been proven to pollute groundwater and is being phased out throughout the Nation. Of course, our legislation requires MTBE to be phased out over the next 4 years. Ethanol results in by-products of animal feed and biodegradable plastics, which certainly adds value to the agricultural community.

This legislation, H.R. 837, would replace nearly all of the oil that we currently import from Iraq by the year 2012, which is roughly 6 billion gallons per year. It would also reduce foreign oil purchases by \$34 billion a year. Currently, roughly 25 percent of the trade imbalance that we have is caused by the purchase of foreign petroleum. So this is an important thing.

Also this legislation would create 200,000 new jobs in the United States, it would increase farm income by roughly \$6 billion annually and lessen our dependence on farm program payments. Ethanol currently comprises 1 percent of U.S. fuel supply. H.R. 837 would increase the use of ethanol to at least 3 percent by the year 2012. Currently, by contrast, Brazil has 22 percent of its fuel supply from ethanol.

Most automobiles can burn ethanol fuel at an 85 percent level. Currently there are over 200 State and Federal automobile fleets that use a biodiesel blend of 20 percent. So a 3 percent usage of ethanol is just the tip of the iceberg. We certainly can go much further with this particular technology.

Ethanol production is expanding rapidly. We had 12 new plants come into production last year. We have 10 new plants under construction this year, and many plants that are expanding. Eighty percent of California's reformulated gasoline contains ethanol at the present time. Many people thought at one time that the ethanol production was not such that California could be satisfied, so supply is really not a problem at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides flexibility in compliance with oxygenated fuel standards at the State and local level. This is not a mandate that is going to restrict anybody unnecessarily. This should cut refinery costs when compared to current fuel regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 837, because it decreases dependence on foreign oil while improving air quality, lessening groundwater pollution, improving farm income and providing hundreds of thousands of jobs for American citizens.

CONCERNS ABOUT AMERICA'S GLOBAL ALLIANCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tonight I wish to place on the record my deepening concerns about America's global alliances. A few weeks ago, it was with shock and dismay that I observed our

President purposely fail to extend congratulations to German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on his reelection. The President's behavior was inappropriate and damaging. Germany has stood as our Nation's most cooperative ally for over 50 years as our nations rebuilt Europe, weathered the Cold War and linked our economies with shared democratic values and a rule of law.

NATO has stood as the bulwark against the most awful forms of tyranny and repression. NATO is not the "Old Europe," in Secretary Rumsfeld's poorly chosen words. It is the democratic, dependable Europe that has withstood the test of time. It is the modern Europe that has always stood at America's side.

I have been blessed to live through an era when President John F. Kennedy stood at the Brandenburg Gate, when Berlin was a divided city between the forces of freedom and repression, to proclaim for freedom-loving people everywhere, "Ich bin ein Berliner."

For the vast majority of Americans of this post-World War II period, we express to the German people and their government profound gratitude for your alliance with America, your sister Republic.

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Never before in my 20 years in Congress have I felt compelled to place a call to the German Embassy to offer my congratulations to the German Chancellor, as well as the congratulations of all Americans of goodwill to the Chancellor. Indeed, it is no secret that Germany has dispatched its own peacekeeping forces to Afghanistan to help secure the first bloody tranche of peace, a most dangerous and difficult assignment.

So, tonight, I want again to formally thank the Chancellor, the members of the Bundestag, and the German people for their resolve and enduring friendship with America. I thank the Bundestag, as well, for their ongoing exchange with our Congress.

Despite reckless White House rhetoric, Germany's ties to America are deep and growing. Then this past month, we witnessed the Bush administration publicly humiliate France. France too has suffered and suffers as a result of terrorism. They know a great deal about terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, let me remind the American people how essential France was to the establishment of our own independent Nation. During the Revolutionary War, the French forces allied with our Continental revolutionaries, and they were indispensable to our victory over the British crown. French General Marquis de Lafayette was dispatched by General George Washington to rout out the British forces. About 5,500 French soldiers, led by Lieutenant Jean Rochambeau, drove the British from New York; and ultimately, the French and American forces were victorious at Yorktown. Mr. Speaker, 5,500 French troops in those days was a

huge commitment by the nation of France. Our Republic owes much to France and the people of France, and I wish to thank them tonight in their own words.

Donc, ce soir je voudrais exprimer mon gratitude profonde envers le Président Chirac et envers le parlement français de leur alliance durable avec notre pays et avec l'OTAN. Je voudrais aussi offrir de respect au ministre de l'Etranger de la France, Dominique de Villepin—je ne veux absolument pas le châtier. Le monde civilisé ne peut pas encore savoir la meilleure méthode pour endiguer le terrorisme grandissant qui est engendré par la ferveur révolutionnaire trouvée au Moyen-Orient et à l'Asie Centrale. Mais je suis certaine d'une chose: nous ne réussissons pas sans nos alliés historiques et valables en l'Europe—ni face à leur opposition. La guerre doit être la dernière ressource, après que les inspections raisonnables exécutées par les agents de l'ONU auront épuisé.

Je veu parler des rapports entre les gouvernements de la France et des Etats-Unis et entre les citoyens de nos pays. Notre amitié est importante et historique, et date des jours où le général Lafayette nous aidait pendant notre guerre de l'indépendance. Même notre capitale, la ville de Washington, a été dessiné par un français, Pierre L'Enfant, et a pris modèle sur la ville de Paris. Les mots de la révolution française—liberté, égalité, fraternité—restent vrais aujourd'hui et dans notre congrès, ils sont vraiment gravés pour toujours.

(English translation of the above statement is as follows:)

Our friendship is important and historic, and dates from the days when General Lafayette helped us during our war for independence. Even our capital, the city of Washington, was designed by a Frenchman, Pierre L'Enfant, and was modeled after Paris. The words of the French revolution—liberty, equality, brotherhood—remain true today and in our Congress, they are truly carved for all time. U.S. President and U.S. ambassador to France, Thomas Jefferson wrote,

"I do not believe war the most certain means of enforcing principles. Those peaceable coercions which are in the power of every nation, if undertaken in concert and in time of peace, are more likely to produce the desired effect."—Thomas Jefferson to Robert Livingston, 1801.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEAUPREZ). The Chair understands the gentlewoman will supply the Clerk with the English translation for the RECORD.

Ms. KAPTUR. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

ANOTHER UNITED NATIONS WAR?

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, President Bush, Sr., proudly spoke of "The New World Order," a term used by those who promote one-world government under the United Nations. In going to war in 1991, he sought and received U.N. authority to push Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. He forcefully stated that this U.N. authority was adequate and that although a congressional resolution was acceptable, it was entirely unnecessary and he would proceed regardless. At that time, there was no discussion regarding a congressional declaration of war. The first Persian Gulf War, therefore, was clearly a U.N. political war fought within U.N. guidelines, not for U.S. security; and it was not fought through to victory. The bombings, sanctions, and harassment of the Iraqi people have never stopped. We are now about to resume the act of fighting. Although this is referred to as the Second Persian Gulf War, it is merely a continuation of a war started long ago and is likely to continue for a long time, even after Saddam Hussein is removed from power.

Our attitude toward the United Nations is quite different today compared to 1991. I have argued for years against our membership in the United Nations because it compromises our sovereignty. The U.S. has always been expected to pay an unfair percentage of U.N. expenses. I contend that membership in the United Nations has led to impractical military conflicts that were highly costly, both in lives and dollars, and that were rarely resolved.

Our 58 years in Korea have seen 33,000 lives lost, 100,000 casualties and over \$1 trillion in today's dollars spent. Korea is the most outrageous example of our fighting a U.N. war without a declaration from the U.S. Congress. And where are we today? On the verge of a nuclear confrontation with a North Korean regime nearly out of control. And to compound the irony, the South Koreans are intervening in hopes of diminishing the tensions that exist between the United States and North Korea.

As bad as the Vietnam nightmare was, at least we left and the U.N. was not involved. We left in defeat and Vietnam remained a unified, Communist country. The results have been much more salutary. Vietnam is now essentially non-Communist and trade with the West is routine. We did not disarm Vietnam; we never counted their weapons; and so far, no one cares. Peaceful relations have developed between our two countries not by force of arms, but through trade and friendship. No United Nations, no war, and no inspections served us well, even after many decades of war and a million deaths inflicted on the Vietnamese in an effort by both the French and the United States to force them into compliance with Western demands.

In this new battle with Iraq, our relationship with the United Nations and our allies is drawing a lot of attention. The administration now says it would be nice to have U.N. support, but it is

not necessary. The President argues that a unilateralist approach is permissible with his understanding of national sovereignty, but no mention is made of the fact that the authority to go to war is not a U.N. prerogative and that such authority can only come from the U.S. Congress.

Although the argument that the United Nations cannot dictate to us what is in our best interests is correct, and we do have a right to pursue foreign policy unilaterally, it is ironic that we are making this declaration in order to pursue an unpopular war that very few people or governments throughout the world support.

But the argument for unilateralism and national sovereignty cannot be made for the purpose of enforcing U.N. security resolutions. That does not make any sense. If one wants to enforce U.N. Security Council resolutions, that authority can only come from the United Nations itself. We end up with the worst of both worlds, hated for our unilateralism, but still lending credibility to the United Nations.

The Constitution makes it clear that if we must counter a threat to our security, that authority must come from the U.S. Congress.

Those who believe, and many sincerely do, that the United Nations serves a useful function, argue that ignoring the United Nations at this juncture will surely make it irrelevant. Even with my opposition to the United Nations, I can hardly be pleased that its irrelevancy might come about because of our rush to war against a nation that has not aggressed against us nor poses any threat to us.

From my viewpoint, the worst scenario would be for the United Nations to sanction this war, which may well occur if we offer enough U.S. taxpayer money and Iraqi oil to the reluctant countries. If that happens, we could be looking at another 58-year occupation, expanded Middle East chaos, or a dangerous spread of hostility to all of Asia or even further.

With regard to foreign affairs, the best advice comes from our Founders and the Constitution. It is better to promote peace and commerce with all nations and exclude ourselves from the entangling alliances and complex, unworkable alliances that comes from our membership in the United Nations.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF THE STATION NIGHTCLUB FIRE IN RHODE ISLAND

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight with great sorrow and a heavy heart to honor the victims of last week's horrific night club fire at the Station Night Club in West Warwick, Rhode Island, that claimed 97 lives and left 187 injured.

In any community, that tragedy would have been overwhelming; but in

a small State like Rhode Island, when a close-knit town in the center of our State falls victim to one of the worst nightclub fires in the Nation's history, the impact is simply incomprehensible. It is said that in our world today, only 6 degrees separates each one of us from any other person. As our Attorney General remarked, in Rhode Island, that distance is more like 1½ degrees. Everyone here has a connection to one of the victims and, indeed, connections are being made by people all across New England and the country.

As Rhode Islanders begin the healing process, I want to express my deepest condolences to those friends and family members who lost loved ones in this horrible fire. There are no words to adequately express our profound sadness. Please know that you are in the thoughts and prayers of all Americans, and we will not let the lives of those 97 sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, mothers, and fathers be forgotten.

As of this afternoon, 64 people remain hospitalized, 46 of them in critical condition. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in offering our prayers for their quick and full recovery. They are fighting every hour, and they need our strength now more than ever. Our best wishes go out to them and their families as they weather the tough days ahead.

I would also like to express my immense gratitude to the incredible and heroic efforts of the multitude of people and agencies throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts who have helped respond to this disaster.

The firefighters, police, and emergency responders who were first on the scene made a Herculean effort under unimaginable circumstances, and we surely have them to thank that even more lives were not lost. In addition, over a dozen hospitals in Rhode Island and Massachusetts have been caring for the patients since this tragedy, many of whom have made amazing progress. The doctors and nurses and the support staff of these hospitals have worked tirelessly to help nearly 200 injured victims, and we are grateful for their service.

As usual, when tragedy strikes Rhode Island, our community has proven strong, resilient, and boundlessly generous. I want to recognize the work of countless volunteers who have put their own lives on hold to offer time, financial resources, and the many other kinds of assistance and who helped in any way that they could. Likewise, many members of our State's business community have come forward to provide everything from food and shelter to transportation to those affected by this event. I would particularly like to thank the Red Cross and its scores of volunteers and for all that they have done to give comfort and assistance to those whose loved ones were lost or injured.

I would also like to commend the excellent response by Rhode Island's elected officials and State and local