

WEEKLY REPORT

May 14, 2008

Member Op/Eds

Congressman John Kline wrote about providing solutions to America's rising gas prices. *"Like most Americans, Minnesotans have had enough. They've become increasingly frustrated with the skyrocketing costs of everyday items such as food, household products and gasoline. Just 16 months ago, Nancy Pelosi accepted the gavel from John Boehner at a historic moment in our nation... Rather than seize the opportunity, the majority leadership squandered it, and you are paying the consequences for their broken promises by the gallon every time you pull up to the pump. How high do gas prices need to soar before the majority leadership presents its long-overdue "common-sense plan"? There are 535 members of Congress, many of whom have ideas and solutions worth considering to curb energy costs. There should be debate on the House floor to find ways to reduce our dependence on Middle East oil and develop long-term energy alternatives. Some say America has an addiction to oil. What is abundantly clear is our addiction to foreign oil, which is not only an economic issue but also a national-security concern. Congress should examine ways to increase domestic production, explore long-term energy solutions and advance a real energy plan that increases American supplies in all forms,"* wrote Kline.

Congressman Eric Cantor wrote an op/ed for the Washington Times about the sagging dollar and ways to revitalize the economy. *"Just when you thought it couldn't get any worse than paying \$3.58 for a gallon of gasoline comes this bombshell prediction from investment bank Goldman Sachs on Tuesday: The price of crude oil — buoyed by the dollar's continued free fall — could rise 66 percent to \$200 a barrel within two years... One way the Fed can start is by taking a bolder stand in setting the federal funds rate. The United States also could send a powerful signal by encouraging the G-7 nations to buy back dollars off the open market or lower their own interest rates. There is, of course, another way to help the dollar: Congress can implement pro-growth policies that improve America's ability to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and stimulate the economy. At a time of near recession, \$200 a barrel oil would paralyze our economy and delay our recovery. Congress, working in conjunction with the administration and our allies, must use the resources at our disposal to revitalize our economy,"* wrote Cantor.

Congressman Joe Pitts wrote an op/ed for Lancaster New Era about the Supreme Court, American tradition, and the type of judge that a President McCain would appoint. *"My friends and I left that meeting convinced that John McCain will appoint Supreme Court justices who believe in original intent and won't legislate from the bench. President McCain will also seek to reduce the role of government in our lives. He will fight for lower taxes and more freedom. He will defend this nation from a position of strength and will not seek peace by flattering tyrants. Sen. Obama or Sen. Clinton will do the exact opposite. I will be working hard for John McCain this year. I do not agree with John McCain on everything. I hope he'll reconsider his views on some things. But, on the Supreme Court, we agree completely -- and in this election that may be the most important issue of all,"* wrote Pitts.

Congressman Joe Barton wrote an op/ed for the Mexia Daily News about raising fuel and food costs. *"The solution is right in front of us. If we start developing our domestic energy supplies in ways that won't harm the environment and apply some common sense to the ethanol mandate, your prices will start to level out. In an economy that is already stumbling, continued high gasoline prices coupled with increasing food prices are a recipe for a recession. Driving to work, taking your kids to school and buying groceries are not luxuries. I will be introducing a bill soon to ease the pressure on the food and fuel prices. I hope that both Republicans and Democrats alike will find a way to support this effort and bring you the relief you deserve,"* wrote Barton.

Communicator of the Week
Congressman Tom Feeny
on the Democrats' \$300 Billion
Mortgage Bailout Bill

"I come today to speak on behalf of the forgotten man, and that includes the 50% of Americans that either own their home or are renting... I come to speak for the 95% of homeowners that pay their bills on time and took out a responsible mortgage... Every one of them watching today needs to know that they are bailing out irresponsible speculators and lenders and they will pay the price of this bill.

Going on Offense During Special Order Hour

Chairman Jeb Hensarling will the RSC's Special Order **TONIGHT** (1st hour after last votes) and will discuss the Democrats' utter failure to follow through on promises to free taxpayers from funding wasteful, pork-barrel earmarks. He will note hypocrisy of the Democrat Leaders, their failure to bring true transparency to the process, and highlight specific examples of wasteful Democrat earmarks, including the Baucus Bonds, Leahy Ski Resort, and Pelosi Salmon all within the Farm Bill. He will also highlight the disturbing trend of rewarding campaign contributors with earmarks by citing specific examples this practice.

Morning Hour and "One Minute" Participation

From May 6 through May 13, 6 RSC Members delivered one-minute speeches. Rep. Jeff Flake spoke about wasteful earmarks and the need to cut out pork-barrel spending. Rep. Lynn Westmoreland and Rep. Joe Pitts spoke about raising energy costs. Rep. Cliff Stearns spoke about the supplemental appropriations bill. Rep. Randy Neugebauer spoke about the Democrats' bailout of irresponsible speculators and lenders. Rep. Lamar Smith spoke about objective media.

On May 6, Reps. Ted Poe, Gresham Barrett, Louie Gohmert, and Todd Akin spoke during Morning Hour on providing solutions to America's rising energy costs and on the supplemental bill.

Headline Watch

A Constituency of One – The New Bridge to Nowhere Tucked in the Farm Bill

National Review Online

House Committee to Begin Hearing on 2007 'Stolen Vote'

Washington Post

Blue Lapdogs

Washington Times Editorial

Blue Dogs Face \$52 Billion Test

Roll Call

Uribe Calls Pelosi's Bluff

Wall Street Journal Editorial

Democrats Face Housing Rescue Backlash

Wall Street Journal

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