

in a second for Tanner and Noelle. You all are invited to partake in a little birthday cake. *[Laughter]* In the meantime, may God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless our country. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:07 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to birthday guests Tanner Brinkman and Noelle Faulk.

Remarks With Judge Priscilla R. Owen on Senate Action To Allow Votes on Judicial Nominations May 24, 2005

The President. I'm proud to welcome Judge Priscilla Owen to the Oval Office, along with Leader Frist and my two buddies from the great State of Texas, Senator Hutchison and Senator Cornyn.

Over 4 years ago, I put Judge Owen's name up to the Senate for confirmation to the Fifth Court of Appeals. Thanks to the good work of the leader, whose work cleared the way, Judge Owen is finally going to get an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor. She is my friend, and more importantly, she's a great judge.

I want to thank the Texas Senators who have been so strong standing beside Priscilla. There was never any doubt in the

Senators' minds that Priscilla Owen is well-qualified to honorably serve on the Federal bench. And it's such a—it's a great day for our friend, to see our friend finally get a just due, after a long, long wait.

So, welcome and congratulations. Perhaps you'd like to say something.

[At this point, Judge Owen made brief remarks.]

The President. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:51 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Judge Owen.

Remarks Following a Tour of a Hydrogen Fueling Station and an Exchange With Reporters May 25, 2005

The President. This is the beginning of some fantastic technology, and thanks for having us out here. We're going to look at some other vehicles here in a minute, but hydrogen is the wave of the future. And this country is going to have to use technology to diversify away from hydrocarbons. We're too dependent on foreign sources of energy today. And one way to diversify away from hydrocarbons is to use hydrogen, the byproduct of which will be

water and not exhausts which pollute the air.

So I'm excited to be part of a technological revolution that's going to change the country. It won't happen overnight. It's going to take a fair amount of research and development to make sure hydrogen is attractive and reasonable—is able to be manufactured at a reasonable price, distributed in a wide way for consumer satisfaction.

But it's coming. We're spending about \$1.2 billion on hydrogen research. America leads the world in hydrogen research. It's a part of our efforts to help diversify away from hydrocarbons. And the problem we face today at the gas pump is we're too dependent on foreign sources of energy.

So thanks for showing us this. It's exciting. It's the early stages of what will be available to a lot of Americans. Thank you.

Energy Legislation

Q. How is the energy bill coming?

The President. Energy bill? What was your question?

Q. How is the energy bill coming along?

The President. Yes, working hard in the Senate to get a good energy bill out—they need to get it to my desk. I appreciate you asking about the energy bill. Part of the hydrogen initiative and part of the diversification away from hydrocarbons is a part of an energy bill. And Congress has been talking too long about the energy bill, and now is the time to get it to my desk.

And so we're working with the Senators. Senator Domenici is intent upon getting an energy bill out. Once they get it out of the Senate, they've got to work out their differences with the House. And I think the American people are tired of waiting; I know they are. And I submitted a plan to the Congress 4 years ago, and I'm getting a little tired of waiting on an energy bill. For the sake of energy independence, they've got to get me a bill.

And it's a comprehensive bill. It talks about encouraging conservation, environmentally friendly ways to explore for hydrocarbons, money to diversify away from the hydrocarbon economy we live in, and ways to modernize the electricity grid. I'm hopeful they'll get it done, but we're going to push hard to make sure they do.

Thank you.

Q. Did you sign any bills yesterday? Do you sense a new bipartisanship?

The President. We'll see. It's all going to be in the results. I'm a results-oriented

person. I want to see the bill to my desk. That's the definition of people committing themselves to get something done. The American people expect them to get something done. I do, too, because we're too dependent on foreign sources of energy.

Go ahead, what was your question?

Hydrogen Fuel

Q. How much did you fill up with, and how much did it cost?

Rick Scott. Yes, sir, we filled up .183 kilograms, because it's a gas. And now the cost factor—right now it's a demonstration mode, so when it rains, I jack up the cost, and when it's sunny, I bring it back down. [Laughter] Today with the—

The President. How is—what is the—what he really wants to know is the equivalency.

Mr. Scott. Right now the cost is \$4.75, and what we're looking at is—

The President. But what's the equivalency to the normal tank—

Mr. Scott. It's twice as much as premium because the car is two times more efficient in its energy, and it's a quality fuel.

The President. It's also the beginning of technology. In other words, a new product generally is more expensive until there's more volume and more distribution. Part of the reasons we're spending money is to see if we can't encourage technology to enable the industry to extract hydrocarbon at more reasonable—I mean, hydrogen at more reasonable price.

A couple of bottlenecks, it seems like to me—and you can help me out here. One, obviously, is the manufacturing of vehicles that use hydrogen. Secondly, it is the ability to produce hydrogen. It requires energy to produce hydrogen, and therefore, we're trying to use our research dollars to figure out how best to do that in efficient ways. And, finally, to make sure that the infrastructure is such that consumers can buy hydrogen in a convenient way.

But we've got work to do. No one thinks this technology is going to overwhelm our