

ago, as the chairman of the Commerce Committee's Consumer Subcommittee, Senator BRYAN oversaw the first stand-alone reauthorization of the Consumer Product Safety Commission since 1981. This was a hard-earned victory for consumers nationwide. Senator BRYAN was also successful in securing passage of legislation that he authored requiring the installation of passenger-side airbags in all automobiles sold in this country, a safety feature responsible for saving hundreds of lives.

Senator RICHARD BRYAN's career has been one of true and diligent public service. I am told that his experience in elected office began when he was chosen to be president of his eighth grade class at John S. Park Elementary School. He served in the U.S. Army, completing his military service in the Army Reserves as a captain. Upon completion of law school, RICHARD BRYAN returned to Nevada and began a career in public service that has spanned more than three decades. In 1964, Mr. BRYAN became a deputy district attorney in the Clark County District Attorney's Office. Two years later, he was appointed Clark County's first public defender. His legislative service to Nevada began in 1968 when he was elected to the Nevada State Assembly. Following a second term in the State Assembly, he was elected to the Nevada State Senate in 1972 and was reelected in 1976.

Senator BRYAN won his first statewide election to become Nevada's attorney general in 1978. He served as the State's chief law enforcement officer until 1982, when he was elected to the first of two terms as Nevada's 26th Governor. In 1988, Senator BRYAN ran for the U.S. Senate, defeating the incumbent Senator, and went on to be reelected to the Senate in 1994. That is a very respected and impressive record, Mr. President—a life devoted to public service at virtually every level of our government.

Senator BRYAN leaves the Senate as a young man—youth being relative. As I look back on his many years of public service, I am confident that in whatever endeavor he chooses next, we can expect more fine work—work worth doing—from Senator BRYAN. He is a man who can always be proud to look at himself in the mirror each morning. He will see a reflection of fine work in the past, as well as the great opportunity to do well each day.

Mr. President, I wish RICHARD BRYAN and his lovely wife every good thing in the years ahead. I hope he will come back to see us often.

Mr. President, before I was recognized, I saw another Senator on the floor and I think he was about to seek recognition. I suggested that he go ahead and get recognition. But he suggested that I get recognition. So I did. If my friend, the Senator from Wyoming, wishes to be recognized, I will be very glad to yield the floor. I have a couple of other speeches, but I will be happy to listen to him before I continue.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from West Virginia. I have a few articles on U.S. policy that I would like to have printed in the RECORD and make a couple of comments on them.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I will be glad to yield the floor with the understanding that I retain the floor when the distinguished Senator has completed his remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The distinguished Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. ENZI. Thank you, Mr. President.

NATIONAL POLICY ISSUES

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, over the last couple of weeks we have had several debates on this floor that dealt with national policy, and, of course, with the debates on television, there are many issues related to national policy. I take this opportunity to relate how those policy issues are being viewed in Wyoming. I know that is kind of the melting pot and the test center for the United States. I say that in all sincerity because I talk to these people every weekend when I go home, and I know it is a real center of common sense with a real concern about a lack of national policy on some very important issues.

They talk about foreign policy and how we don't appear to know how to go into a war. They talk about energy policy, the price of gasoline, and how long we have been addressing that. They talk about Social Security policy.

They hear about the lockbox, and they have watched six or seven filibusters against the lockbox to protect Social Security. They hear about needing to save Social Security first and then not seeing any action on that.

I want to suggest, too, that our country needs policy. We are not talking about hindsight; we are talking about foresight. We are not talking about polls; we are talking about leadership.

There were a couple of editorials in Wyoming that dealt with the recent tapping of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. One of them was in the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, which is the main paper in Cheyenne, WY, the State capital of Wyoming. It starts off by saying:

President Bill Clinton's decision to direct the Department of Energy to release 30 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is viewed by the White House as a way to lower fuel prices and reduce our country's dependence on foreign oil.

Nice try, Mr. Clinton.

Each day, the world oil market produces 77.1 million barrels of oil and consumes 75.6 million barrels. The United States consumes 20 million barrels per day. The additional 30 million barrels is equal to about a 36-hour supply.

Higher energy prices fall squarely on the shoulder of the American people, the government's strangle-hold on refineries and the White House.

Let's not forget our country's thirst for oil. Since 1991, the amount of oil imported by

the United States has increased an average of 5.3 percent per year.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the entire editorial be printed in the RECORD. I hope everybody will read it. It gets into more detail about policy and suggests some things that need to be done.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OUR VIEW

OIL RESERVES—TAPPING THIS SUPPLY WON'T SOLVE ENERGY DEPENDENCY

President Bill Clinton's decision to direct the Department of Energy to release 30 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is viewed by the White House as a way to lower fuel prices and reduce our country's dependence on foreign oil.

Nice try, Mr. Clinton

Each day, the world oil market produces 77.1 million barrels of oil and consumes 75.6 million barrels. The United States consumes 20 million barrels per day. The additional 30 million barrels is equal to about a 36-hour supply.

What Mr. Clinton did was wrong. Releasing the oil from the reserve to influence market prices sets a dangerous precedent. The oil reserve was created in 1975 to protect Americans from countries that decide to cut off oil exports to the United States, not to manipulate prices. Any unexpected cold snap, natural disaster, cutback in OPEC production or political unrest that leads to a disruption in world supply could quickly overwhelm any short-term benefit from tapping into our oil reserves.

Granted, releasing the oil may have a short-term effect on prices, but markets eventually will refocus on the long-term conditions—influenced primarily by world supply and demand for oil—that have driven up prices during the past years.

Higher energy prices fall squarely on the shoulder of the American people, the government's strangle-hold on refineries and the White House.

Since 1983, access to federal land in the West—where 67 percent of America's onshore oil reserves are located—has declined by 60 percent. Mr. Clinton has used his executive powers to severely limit oil and gas activity on government land, and the search for new domestic offshore oil has been limited to parts of the Gulf of Mexico and Alaskan waters.

Let's not forget our country's thirst for oil. Since 1991, the amount of oil imported by the United States has increased an average of 5.3 percent per year.

While American refineries are operating at a 95.4 percent utilization rate, up from 94.1 percent a years ago, there is little margin for error. It's uncertain if American refineries will be able to process the oil released from the reserves fast enough to make a difference in gasoline prices or home heating oil inventories. The newest oil refinery was built nearly 25 years ago. That's because the Clean Air Act and other environmental requirements tied to upgrading or building new refineries restrict private business from building additional refining capacity.

The administration's failure to establish a long term domestic energy policy that guarantees America's energy independence is largely to blame for high gas prices at the pump.

The next president will need to address this nation's dependence on foreign oil that leaves both the economy and national security at risk. Unless the White House is ready to encourage the development of domestic energy resources, America will remain overly depend on foreign production.

That's the real tragedy.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I also cite an editorial that appeared in the *Riverton Ranger*, Riverton, WY, with some of the same sentiments:

The Clinton-Gore administration has announced its intention to sell 30 million barrels of oil from the nation's strategic reserve.

This amounts to less than a two-day supply of oil for a country that uses 19 million barrels of oil a day.

The rationale for the release of oil from the salt mines is that the administration wants to make sure that no Americans are cold this winter, due to a shortage or too high prices for home heating oil.

The image of householders backing up to their burned-down home comes to mind. The optimist in the family warmed by the glowing embers as the fire dies down after consuming the house, remarks that "at least we'll be warm tonight."

That is about what the energy policy amounts to—burning down our strategic house to take care of a little blip that doesn't solve the problem at all—again, lack of an energy policy.

I ask unanimous consent that the complete editorial from the *Riverton Ranger* be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

The Clinton-Gore administration has announced its intention to sell 30 million barrels of oil from the nation's strategic reserve.

This amounts to less than a two-day supply of oil for a country that uses 19 million barrels of oil a day.

The rationale for the release of oil from the salt mines is that the administration wants to make sure that no Americans are cold this winter, due to a shortage or too high prices for home heating oil.

The image of households backing up to their burned-down home comes to mind. The optimist in the family, warmed by the glowing embers as the fire dies down after consuming the house, remarks that "at least we'll be warm tonight."

How ironic that the same administration that continues to lock up more of the public land from whence comes much of the nation's oil, designates more acreage as national monuments, classifies more of the public lands as defacto wilderness through roadless designation, would then provide temporary relief from an oil shortage by selling a few barrels of reserves, on the condition the oil companies replace the borrowed oil within a short period of time.

President Carter made quite a fuss when the domestic supply of oil dropped perilously close to 50 percent. Now we think nothing of having foreign sources 75 percent of our U.S. oil supply.

The same situation applies to uranium, or even worse. We have a law on the books of Washington that requires the maintenance of a viable domestic uranium industry, for strategic defense purposes, and for our nuclear utility industry.

With uranium mines closing and throttling back in Wyoming, the last of the 50 states still mining uranium, our domestic companies can supply less than 15 percent of the uranium needed by our nuclear utilities which supply now 23 percent of the nation's electricity. The rise from the traditional 20 percent share comes from the greater availability of the remaining almost 100 nuclear power stations for generation of electricity.

If our national leadership wanted to help our people stay warm, other than by backing

up to our burning houses, a national policy ought to be developed that encourages domestic exploration and production, rather than impeding it at every turn.

The promised release of oil from our reserves appears to be politically timed and motivated.

Any hope for a sound national energy policy that will keep more companies finding oil on our own continent seems faint, indeed.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, finally, in the area of forest fires and forest fire policy, Mr. H.B. Davis writes the letter to the editor where he explains in some detail how we are failing on our forests.

Well, the West is again being managed by nature because a few people block the true management of our replenishable environment. Ignorance has again led us to ashes. Some of the very forests that have been "protected" against harvesting for years, have this summer burned. To those who wanted their homes surrounded by the pristine (I'm sorry), do they look better in ashes? The pristine that we admire will never remain, for it changes by growing old, weak, and ravaged, by nature, not just man. We can help it by maintenance, with harvest, common sense use, and stewardship. Nature does it by random (and sometimes violent) ways but we (some) have the intelligence to do it selectively and sensibly unless our hands are tied.

He goes on to explain how a sensible forest policy will allow us to enjoy the beauty of the forests rather than the devastation of forest fires, and even though forest fires help to rejuvenate forests, they do it in a very poor stewardship way.

As one lady at a hearing recently said: The difference between the clear-cutting that my little family business does and what Mother Nature does, we respect 200 feet from a stream. We protect against erosion. We don't kill the fish. Mother Nature often does.

I ask unanimous consent that his entire letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

IGNORANCE TO ASHES

EDITOR: Well, the West is again being managed by nature because a few people block the true management of our replenishable environment. Ignorance has again led us to ashes. Some of the very forests that have been "protected" against harvesting for years, have this summer burned. To those who wanted their homes surrounded by the pristine (I'm sorry), do they look better in ashes? The pristine that we admire will never remain, for it changes by growing old, weak, and ravaged, by nature, not just man. We can help it by maintenance, with harvest, common sense use, and stewardship. Nature does it by random (and sometimes violent) ways but we (some) have the intelligence to do it selectively and sensibly unless our hands are tied.

I fought timbering many years ago, thank God I failed, for the timbered areas are now beautiful and what I wanted to keep now has or needs to burn, for it is of no value except for wildfire fuel. We want clean air and to stop the greenhouse effect so we promote wildfire. Does it do the job?

Some people have the idea you can keep a living organism from growing old. Maybe some people, through money and surgery appear not to age, but they do age. That "stop-

aging" or use attitude leads to fuel for wildfires, disease and starvation in animals, and imbalance in nature. To the people who take on a specific issue, you appear to forget an issue is not the book of life but a single page and until you can see all of life don't kill it with an issue, as is now happening. Closure does not guarantee protection, only lack of observation, thus allowing good conditions to go bad until it is all destroyed. On the other hand, careful harvesting, replanting, and maintenance does protect. It keeps it renewing and healthy. The cartoon, in *Wed, Aug. 23*, by Deering would have had a better caption of "what is this stuff?" "It is what's left when the environmentalists" protect the environment." I'll bet the burned bear cub (Signey) would prefer his mother protecting him and not some short sighted environmentalists.

We can't use and abuse, but we can harvest, replant, and maintain so Mother Nature doesn't have to do on a big scale what we should have done a little at a time.

Personally, I'd rather see the timber used to build (at a reasonable price, with jobs) than as smoke, ashes and charred pieces in mud to smother our wildlife and fish come the next rain. If our "do-gooders" would quit looking at a single page of aging life and work with the folks who would, with responsibility, harvest, replant, and maintain, we'd not need the tears of regret when Mother Nature has to manage.

H.R. DAVIS,
Riverton.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I will take an opportunity at a later time to talk about lack of policy on Social Security. I would like to address the type of accounting we have where we are kind of fudging some things that will cost future generations their Social Security unless we take some action now.

We also need to take some action in the area of paying down the debt, tax policy, and education policy. If we don't address these policies using foresight instead of hindsight, if we don't do policy instead of polls, we are going to run into a situation similar to what we had when we hired 100,000 new teachers and then discovered we didn't have buildings to put them in. That was easy to solve; we just threw in a little more money. We put more buildings in there, except we are putting buildings in places where the voters themselves chose not to put buildings.

I hope we will look at policy.

I thank the Senator from West Virginia for his courtesy in letting me put those letters in the RECORD.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

RETIREMENT OF ARTHUR MALAN "TINKER" ST. CLAIR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, my State of West Virginia has provided to our Nation numerous individuals who have dedicated their lives to public service. Some have appeared, for a time, in the national spotlight. Others have labored quietly behind the scenes. One such individual, who has for more than 50 years contributed to the betterment of his community, his State, and his country, sits among us today in this