

Last year, the Head Start 2010 National Advisory Panel held fifteen national hearings and open forums. The panel found:

... that despite increases resulting from Federal quality set-aside funding, relatively low salaries and poor or non-existent benefits make it difficult to attract and retain qualified staff over the long term. . . . the quality of the program is tied directly to the quality of the staff.

Head Start is one of the most important federal programs because it has the potential to reach children early in their formative years when their cognitive skills are just developing. Many of our Nation's youngsters, however, enter elementary school without the basic skills necessary to succeed. Often these children lag behind their peers throughout their academic career.

I believe we must continue to improve the cognitive learning aspects of the Head Start program so that children leave the program able to count to ten, to recognize sizes and colors, and to recite the alphabet. To ensure cognitive learning, we must continue to raise the standards for Head Start teachers. Offering Head Start teachers similar compensation for their educational achievements and expenses afforded to other teachers is one step to encouraging college graduates to become Head Start teachers.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, it is my understanding, because there are people waiting to find out what the final decision is, that there will be no more votes tonight. That is my understanding; we are trying to finish.

Mr. JEFFORDS. That is my understanding.

Mr. REID. I also ask if there is going to be any more legislative business tonight.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Other than what is cleared between the two leaders, there will be no other business.

Mr. REID. I withdraw my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I understand we may speak as in morning business for a few minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Up to 10 minutes.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for about 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise on a small point, but it is representative of some of the difficulties

we are having in trying to keep some focus on reality associated with the administration's anticipated energy package.

I am sure many Members saw the Washington Post today, Tuesday, May 15. On the front page there was a color picture of the Phillips Petroleum Company facility at Alpine which depicts very vividly the realization that technology indeed can make a very small footprint in the Arctic areas of Alaska, my State.

The picture represents a fair evaluation of this development. It was taken in the summertime, that brief 2½ months or so when the area is not covered with ice and snow. The viewer can see the river, the lakes. But to grasp the significance of it, one has to recognize that this is a major oil field in itself. Yet it takes less acreage than the District of Columbia.

That footprint is concentrated in the area that is known as Alpine. For the most part, one derrick has drilled the wells there. These are directional drills that go out for many miles recovering the oil. This particular facility is producing about 88,000 barrels a day.

However, there is another picture. This is the point I want to bring home to the Members. In an effort to try to draw a balance, if you will, between development and the wildlife in the area, the Washington Post portrays a picture of three little bears, and it is entitled "A polar bear with her cubs rests in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

The reality is that this picture was not taken in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It was taken in another area of Alaska far, far away.

It isn't that we don't have polar bears in Alaska. We are all concerned about the beauty and the majesty of this beast, but we have done a lot to encourage the polar bear by safeguarding it from any trophy hunting. In Alaska, you cannot take a polar bear for a trophy. You cannot take a polar bear if you are a non-Native, but you can go to Canada and you can go to Russia.

We have and will provide for the RECORD the statement from the photographer of exactly where this picture was taken. But it is not in ANWR, and the photographer is prepared to give a statement in that regard. Here again we have another mischaracterization, the implication that ANWR is filled with polar bears and that if we open up this fragile area, somehow we are going to disturb the polar bears. That is not accurate.

The Washington Post should know better. They should check their sources. They should recognize that polar bears for the most part live out on the ice. Why do they live on the ice? Because that is where there is something to eat. They live on the ice, and they stalk the seal. As a consequence, they don't come into the Arctic National Wildlife area in any abundance.

They do come in from time to time.

But there is little food for them, and during the months where the ice is continually moving, they simply stay out on the ice where they can have the availability of food. It is noted that there are very few that den on the shores adjacent to ANWR. So, again, I encourage my colleagues to recognize, as I am sure many people who see in the Washington Post today those warm and cuddly polar bears, that they are being misled in this particular photo because this photo was not taken in ANWR.

I also encourage my colleagues to recognize that the administration is going to come out with an energy task force report. While I have not had briefings to amount to any significant detail, I think it is important for the American people, and my colleagues particularly, to know that it addresses positive corrections in the imbalance we have in America's energy crisis.

We do have a crisis. One need only look at California to recognize that Californians are going to be paying an extraordinarily increased amount for energy. Electricity is \$60 billion to \$70 billion. Last year, it was in the area of \$28 billion. The year before, it was \$9 billion. They have an energy crisis. We haven't built a new coal-fired plant in this country since 1995. Yet close to 51 percent of our energy comes from coal. We haven't built a new nuclear plant in this country for more than 10 years. Yet we know the value of nuclear from the standpoint of what it does to air quality. There are no emissions. There are other tradeoffs.

We also know we are now 56- to 57-percent dependent on imported oil, and the forecasts are that the world will be increasing its consumption of oil for one reason—for transportation—by nearly a third in the next 10 years or so.

We have seen natural gas and our increasing dependence on natural gas because it is one of the few areas where you can get a permit to put in facilities. Yet natural gas prices have increased dramatically from \$2.16 per thousand cubic feet 18 months ago to \$4, \$5, \$6, \$7 to \$8. We have had a coming together and that coming together also involves distribution. We have had the realization in the hearing that we had today before the Energy Committee, which I chair, that there are severe constrictions on transmitting electric energy.

In our bill that we introduced, we left out eminent domain for electric transmission lines purposely because we felt the States could meet that obligation as they saw fit. Now some suggest that States don't have the commitment internally to reach a decision and are going to need Federal eminent domain. Maybe that is the case. It is like the perfect storm; everything is coming together at once. No new coal, no nuclear, dependence on imported oil, higher costs for natural gas, no relief on transmission. Now they are saying we have to do something about it immediately.

Well, what do you do about it? This didn't come overnight. We have seen the realities with regard to higher prices of gasoline. Yet we know we don't have the refining capacity. We haven't built a new refinery in 25 years in this country. We have our refineries up to maximum production. They were busy making heating oil. Now they are trying to build up inventories for gasoline. So you not only have a shortage of refined capacity but you are dependent primarily on foreign countries—OPEC, for the most part—for our crude oil. We suddenly find we have an inability to refine an adequate amount. So with inventories low, the maximum utilization out of refineries is converting over—and they have been for some time—to gasoline; and then the complications of 15 different types of reformulated gasoline in this country that require almost a boutique type of activity in the refiners, where they have to refine it to specific fuel specifications for the area—they have to separate it, batch it, transport it separately. Additives, whether ethanol or MTBE, complicate the process.

Is it necessary that we have that kind of a mandate? Clearly, the industry says they can meet the air quality requirements and the Clean Air Act if you will give them some flexibility. Well, we haven't given them the flexibility.

The public wants relief, and I think it is unfair to characterize the new administration with having the sole responsibility to come up with so-called immediate relief. Nobody is a magician around here, and it would take a magician to provide immediate relief for the crisis we have gotten into. But what we have to do is focus realistically, and I think that is the value of what we are going to see out of President Bush's and Vice President CHENEY's new energy task force—relief—which will be coming out Thursday.

We are not going to see generalities that say you can simply get there from here by conservation. Conservation is important, but conservation isn't going to do it alone. Make no mistake; Americans are used to a standard of living that has been brought about by plentiful supplies of relatively inexpensive energy. If we want to sacrifice our standard of living, that can be done. But I wonder how many people in California are ready to go out and turn in their old refrigerators, their old washers and dryers, when they are not worn out, for a new energy-saving appliance that will cut their energy bills in half. I don't know. Maybe we can mandate CAFE savings. We have a mandatory 27-mile CAFE standard currently in the automobile industry. People say, well, that doesn't include the vans, the suburban vehicles, the type that are so popular today, the SUVs and others. That is true. They are classified in the truck classification as light trucks, but the reality is that you can't get there on CAFE, either.

We have 207 million vehicles in this country. About 170 million are auto-

mobiles and the rest are trucks and cars. It is going to take you 10 years to make a significant dent in that number of vehicles because a lot of them aren't paid for. So you are not going to discard them.

If you mandate substantially increased CAFE standards, then people have to buy new cars; they have to buy new ones. CAFE standards are important, but you can't achieve the kinds of savings we need by CAFE standards. You can give tax credits for people who save energy. I think you will probably see an amendment or two on that to give them a \$250, \$300 tax credit.

The point is that we are far behind, and what the administration is going to propose is some positive steps as to how we can address the energy crisis. It is going to take the conventional sources of energy that we know and have had experience with and the addition of the clean coal technology that we have come to develop in the last decade or so. We can continue to use coal. We can use it in a manner in which we take out many of the impurities—the sulfur, and so forth. We can address the reality that we can produce more natural gas in this country, but the incentive has to be there. That is a return on investment.

Obviously, we can reduce our increased dependence on imported oil by producing more domestic oil. Of course, that involves my State of Alaska and the item that I first mentioned, the accuracy of some of the important portrayals of ANWR.

In conclusion, to those who suggest the potential development in ANWR, a reserve somewhere in the area of 5.6 billion to as high as 16 billion—and if it were an average of 10 billion it would be the largest oilfield found in the last 40 years—I suggest the prospects for developments of this area are very good. We have the technology to open it safely, there is absolutely no question about that, with the 3-D seismic and directional drilling.

The people, the residents in the area of Katovik and Nuiqsut, Barrow, the Natives who live in this area who are dependent pretty much on the realities associated with hunting and fishing for their livelihood, a subsistence lifestyle, also have aspirations of a better life, an alternative life, and this provides them with jobs, education, health care opportunities, and opportunities for their children as well to prosper. Just as people in any other community, they have visions of a better life. They support it.

Some say it is a 6-month supply. That is a totally unsuitable and inappropriate comparison because, as we all know, if you were to stop all the oil flowing into the United States for a 6-month period, that is what it would take to say that this is a 6-month supply. You would have to stop all oil imports coming in from my State of Alaska, from oil produced in the United States, whether it be from California, Kentucky, or Pennsylvania, or im-

ported into this country from overseas. That is what it would take to equal a 6 months' supply of oil.

That Prudhoe Bay has supplied the Nation with 20 to 25 percent of crude oil for the last 25 years—and the likelihood is this field is larger than Prudhoe Bay and would immediately flow in the area of somewhere in excess of 1 million barrels a day—is the reality about which we are talking.

It is important Members keep in mind the reality of separating fact from fiction, which again brings me to the fiction associated with the front page of the Washington Post in identifying three little bears as residents of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Clearly, they are not, and we will have certification from the photographer as soon as we can obtain it relative to the exact location of where the picture of the three bears was taken.

Mr. President, thank you for indulging me additional time. I yield to my good friend from Nevada, if he is seeking recognition at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

RECONCILIATION LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as we speak, there is a meeting of the Finance Committee taking place. There are 10 Democrats on that committee and 10 Republicans. I have tried today but really literally have been able to spend no more than 3 or 4 minutes watching the proceedings. They have been going on all day. I understand they will go on into the night trying to come up with a tax bill we call reconciliation.

I have heard in the last few minutes that there is going to be an attempt tomorrow to bring that bill before the Senate. I hope the majority understands there are 40 Democrats and 40 Republicans who do not sit on the Finance Committee. It is a prestigious committee, I understand, but the members cannot speak for the rest of us, either Democrats or Republicans.

I very much want to have the opportunity to look through certain parts of that bill. It is going to be a very large piece of legislation. I doubt I will be able to read all of it, but I want to read parts of it. I have a staff that will read every word of it and bring to my attention those things I have not looked at first.

I have a staff that I think is well equipped to peruse that bill, but I just cannot imagine that we would go to that bill tomorrow without Members of the Senate having an opportunity to look at that legislation. That is how we get into trouble legislatively.

It is unfair to the American people. I have said from the very beginning we are doing well. We have a surplus. We deserve a tax cut. The American people, the people of Nevada deserve a tax cut, and they should get an immediate tax cut. But that tax cut should be given to them with deliberation. We