

Salmon, ID, and Shane Heath of the Treasure Valley of Idaho. These brave men lost their lives while trying to save our public lands from a catastrophic wildfire in the Salmon-Challis National Forest, this past Tuesday, July 22. Both men were experienced firefighters of the Indianola Helitack Crew.

My heart and prayers are with the family and friends of these two firefighters and the Forest Service firefighting family.

Jeff Allen was 23 years old and had been a firefighter since 1999. He started working on the Salmon-Challis National Forest on a thinning crew on the Salmon-Cobalt District in 1998. He served successfully in fighting devastating fires on the Salmon-Challis National Forest during the 2000 fire season. Jeff was a marketing major at Boise State University.

Shane Heath was 22 years old and this was his fourth season with the Forest Service. He served on the Helitack crew as a certified sawyer and was also a student at Boise State University.

The tragic loss of these two men will be felt throughout their communities and their selfless acts of true bravery will not be forgotten. I commend the men and women who risk their lives every day by undertaking this terribly dangerous job with courage and professionalism.

Thousands of young men and women are on the fire fronts of the wildfires that are now sweeping across the West. As we enter the middle of fire season, with the devastating heat that we are having in the Great Basin, and the West, I hope that we do not lose another fire fighter to wildfire.

THANKING APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF FOR HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to commend the hard-working members of the staff of the Appropriations Committee for assisting in the passage of the Homeland Security appropriations bill last night.

For over 3 days we were on the floor debating the bill and considering amendments. They did a masterful job helping guide those of us who were in charge of managing the bill along the path toward final passage.

I also thank the President pro tempore, the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee, for his active involvement in helping to bring that bill to final passage. And my friend from West Virginia, the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, and his able staff all worked hard to help guide this bill through the subcommittee, the full committee, and then, even though we had disagreements on a number of subjects during the consideration of the bill on the floor, the Senate worked its will. We passed the bill, and I know we will go to conference with the House.

But those members of the subcommittee staff I particularly want to single out for praise and my expression of appreciation this morning are: Rebecca Davies, Carol Cribbs, James Hayes, Les Spivey, Rachele Schroeder, Josh Manley, and our intern Ferriday Mansel. I am deeply grateful to them.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 14, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 14) to enhance the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Campbell amendment No. 886, to replace "tribal consortia" with "tribal energy resource development organizations."

Durbin amendment No. 1384, to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve the system for enhancing automobile fuel efficiency.

Durbin modified amendment No. 1385, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional tax incentives for enhancing motor vehicle fuel efficiency.

Bond amendment No. 1386, to impose additional requirements for improving automobile fuel economy and reducing vehicle emissions.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, Senator DOMENICI, chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, will be here soon to manage this bill for the remainder of the morning. But I want to say at the outset, we are now involved in a national energy policy debate that will run through the balance of next week.

I thank to Senator DOMENICI, as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, for the way he has handled this critical issue for our Nation. He held thorough hearings on the importance of a balanced national energy policy for our country. Much of the lead was taken by our President when he took office over 2 years ago as he outlined this issue as one of the highest priorities for our country.

Senator DOMENICI then began to work with all of us on that committee, Democrats and Republicans, to craft a truly bipartisan and balanced piece of legislation. That is S. 14, the bill we have before us, a national energy policy for our country. When I say "balanced," Mr. President, as you know, one of the true problems in our country today is the failure to keep our energy production levels up with the demands of a growing economy.

Largely through the decade of the 1990s, we lived off the surpluses we had generated by increased capacity being built in the decades of the 1960s and 1970s and 1980s. But that surplus ran out in the late 1990s. We began to see the blackouts and the brownouts in California. We began to see energy prices increase. Our dependency on oil from foreign nations progressively grew during the decade of the 1990s,

from percentages in the low 40s to the 60s. And, of course, as the Presiding Officer knows, the senior Senator from Alaska, Alaska became during that period of several decades a prime producer of high-quality crude for this Nation, and still has tremendous oil reserves in Alaska that could be made available if the politics were allowed to let that happen. But that has not happened.

Senator DOMENICI recognizes that, and in the crafting of this bill did a combination of things, in cooperation with all of us, to recognize the need to get this country back into the production of energy while at the same time recognizing the importance of conservation, recognizing the importance of our environment, and that the energies we produce in the decade of 2000 to 2010 and beyond be clean sources of energy, and also recognizing the application of technology and the development of hydrogen fuel cells and wind and photovoltaic.

Also, the Senator from New Mexico and I have worked very closely over the last nearly two decades building a case for the return of the cleanest, most abundant source of energy for our country: electricity generated by the nuclear generation process and nuclear reactors.

There has been a schism or a belief in our country that somehow this was not a safe way to generate electricity, and that we could not manage the waste stream produced from nuclear reactors. Quite the opposite is now true. Not only have we moved significantly in the development of a clean waste stream, but this legislation also speaks to what we now call Generation IV or new passive reactors this legislation would authorize the design and development of for future generations. This is, without question—other than wind, solar, and hydro—the cleanest form of energy we have because it can produce energy at high, sustained levels to meet the demand of a high-tech economy and, at the same time, do it very cleanly.

This bill is a complete and balanced energy policy for our Nation. As I have said, it puts us back into the business of producing energy. It recognizes conservation. It recognizes technology. Our President has challenged us to develop hydrogen as a new source of transportation fuel for our country. This legislation deals with those issues, and I think it does so in not only a comprehensive and environmentally sensitive way, but it clearly recognizes that this economy runs on energy, period, end of statement.

Every one of us today started our day using energy. The clock that awakened us, the radio that turned on was turned on by energy. The cool room we slept in last night was cooled by energy. Many of you probably brushed your teeth with an electric toothbrush this morning fueled by energy. The water that surged out of the tap in your bathroom or from the nozzle of your shower

this morning—the pressure was produced by energy. And it goes on and on.

When you went into your kitchen and opened the refrigerator to get out a glass of orange juice, the refrigerator was cooled by energy. The orange juice was processed by energy—and so on.

Did you walk here this morning? If you did, you used your own energy, but it was generated by all those other sources of energy. But if you drove here, then you used the standard form of energy that has kept this economy so vibrant for so many decades. Without question, we are an energy-intensive, extensive, involved economy. Without an abundant, available source of energy in all forms, this economy does not function well or it becomes increasingly dependent on those nations that produce energy and sell it to us.

Senator DOMENICI, myself, and others serving on the Energy Committee have recognized that, I believe, in a responsible way in S. 14. Now we have the opportunity to complete the debate on this legislation. There are hundreds of amendments that have been filed, and we will work very hard to get through all of them. But then all of them are not intended ever to be offered. They are merely offered as placeholders or for the political statement one of our colleagues may want to make as it relates to a constituent or to his or her particular views on energy.

So we hope—and I think the Senator from New Mexico, who is now in the Chamber hopes—we can work our way through those amendments over the course of the next week as we move toward completion of this bill before the August recess.

This bill has already been on the floor for hours over the course of the last several months, and we have had a variety of amendments already. So for anyone who will stand and wring their hands and say it cannot be completed by next week, they are simply saying: I don't want to complete it by next week—for whatever political purpose that might serve the individual.

Our leader, Majority Leader FRIST, says we will start early and work late; and we are prepared to do just that, starting on Monday with votes on this legislation and working through the remainder of the week.

At this time I will yield the floor to the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and, once again, recognize him for the phenomenally hard work he has put into building a balanced national energy policy, reflected in S. 14.

I hope by next Friday evening we will have finalized this bill, gone to final passage, and that this will be the year when we put on the desk of the President of the United States a futuristic program for the assurance of the development of energy for generations of Americans to come—that product which will fuel a vibrant economy for our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I understand we will have a number of amendments this morning. Yesterday we had two CAFE amendments. I understand there is a third—at least a third—that will be presented this morning. We are hoping that will be the extent of the CAFE amendments and that we will eventually vote on those and the Senate will work its will, as it has already in the past on CAFE standards. I understand there is a good chance there will be a number of amendments offered this morning.

There is no desire on my part to ask for votes today. Every effort will be made to work out with the minority a method of stacking them for Monday which would be far more accommodating to Senators.

While we wait to untangle some matters, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAFEE). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

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

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM H. PRYOR

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to bring my colleagues up to speed on the nomination of Attorney General Bill Pryor from the State of Alabama for U.S. District Court for the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Bill Pryor is an extraordinary nominee, one of the finest, most decent, most intelligent, and most ethical individuals I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. His reputation throughout the State of Alabama is extraordinary. His career as a lawyer is extraordinary. He would make a magnificent judge on the court of appeals.

Bill grew up in Mobile, AL. He attended the Catholic school there, McGill-Toolen. His father was band director there. They were active in their church. They are the kind of family we ought to emulate and lift up and be proud of. I have heard it said that Mr. Pryor was a John Kennedy Democrat in the 1960s. After some of the problems we have had, he probably has changed some of his views about his politics in the last few days. But he is a remarkable man, and his mother and family are remarkable.

Bill went to Tulane Law School, one of America's great law schools. He worked very hard. He finished at the top of his class. He was the editor in chief of the Tulane Law Review. The most prestigious position a graduating law senior can have is to be the editor of the law review for the law school. It is a quite an honor.

He clerked after that for Judge John Minor Wisdom, one of the great justices on the old Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Wisdom has been known as a champion of civil rights in the South. He was one of those judges on the court of appeals during the time of the end of segregation and the movement toward integration. It was not easy. The court was constantly in the arena, whether they wanted to be there or not. Judge Wisdom has been recognized by all as being a champion in that area.

Bill Pryor is a man of religious faith. He attends church regularly. His wife and children do so. He is a Catholic, and he believes in the doctrine of the church. It seems that some of those beliefs he shares with millions of Americans and millions of people throughout the world have caused some of the difficulties he has had.

He helped me. When I was attorney general of Alabama, I put him in charge of appellate litigation and constitutional litigation. He wrote briefs to the court of appeals. He argued those cases personally. He had already been with two of Alabama's best law firms before he agreed to join me, giving up a very lucrative law career. The firms wanted him to stay. He was in a position to be partner and make a great deal of money. But he believed in public service. He and his wife talked about it. They agreed to come to work.

After I was elected to the Senate 2 years later, Governor James, then Republican Governor of Alabama, appointed Bill to be my successor as attorney general. In that position, he has stood courageously for the values he believes in. He has done so with clarity and conviction, winning the confidence and respect of people throughout the State, even those who are of a different political party and race.

For example, when he was sworn in, he said in his inaugural address: "The constitution and laws of this State should have not one thing in them that would discriminate against a person because of their race." We had in our Alabama Constitution an old amendment that said interracial marriages were banned. That had been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, but Bill thought it ought not to be in there. He joined with State Representative Alvin Holmes who worked on the team of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during those very tough days of civil rights. Together they led the battle, and the people of Alabama removed that amendment from the constitution.

Alvin Holmes said: No other politician in Alabama, Republican or Democrat, White politician, supported me in that effort but Bill Pryor.

He wrote one of the most powerful, moving letters anybody would ever want to see explaining the character of Bill Pryor and why he should be a Federal judge.

Along that line, Mr. Joe Reed, Representative Joe Reed, Dr. Joe Reed,