

much time is left on both sides for morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On the Democratic side, the time has expired. On the Republican side, the time is 5 minutes 45 seconds, and counting.

Mr. REID. I say to the Chair, I will just wait until we get to the motion to proceed. I assume, because I certainly cannot yield back the Republican time. It is my understanding the Presiding Officer wishes to speak at some time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Presiding Officer was going to speak if somebody was going to relieve him.

Mr. REID. I would be happy to relieve the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I appreciate the offer, but I will continue to preside until our time runs out.

Mr. REID. I will just let the time wind down then, and we will get to the bill in 5 minutes.

I suggest the absence of a quorum, Mr. President. I understand the time would run evenly, but if we have no time left, it would just run; is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I withhold that. Probably it would be best to ask unanimous consent that the Republican time be reserved and I be allowed to speak for whatever time I may consume.

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

Mr. REID. If the majority wants more time, consent could be easily obtained.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to talk about gasoline prices in the country and in Nevada. This is a terribly difficult situation. It is a story about the wild west, but it is not about Wild Bill Hickock or cowboys or mining or claim jumping. It is about gasoline. Some refer to it as black oil.

This chart illustrates how the gasoline prices in Nevada have skyrocketed. The prices are as of April 5. Prices now are at least 5 cents higher. I was in Nevada last week. Gas prices were approaching \$2.50 a gallon in some locations. This has been a burden on the people of Nevada and visitors who come there. The average price on January 5 of this year in Nevada was \$1.64 a gallon, which was pretty high compared to the rest of the country. But now it is much higher. This chart, as I have indicated, is as of April 5. We have had an increase in the State of Nevada of about 50 cents a gallon. We can't keep up with the increases in the price with our charts.

This is outrageous. Let me put it into perspective. In a truly bipartisan spirit, the Senate passed a \$318 billion highway bill. The bill would create at least 1 million jobs, rebuild and improve our transportation system, and provide a tremendous boost to the economy. In the House of Representa-

tives, Chairman YOUNG proposed a highway bill with a price tag of \$375 billion. The White House opposes Chairman YOUNG's proposal to add 5 cents in taxes to a gallon of gasoline and to index future tax increases to inflation.

Meanwhile, the oil companies have gouged—I use that word purposely—consumers by 10 times the amount of what Chairman YOUNG proposed for an increase in the tax, a half dollar a gallon.

This is ironic. The President doesn't want Americans to pay more at the pump, does he? There is no way the administration can shake the mantle they have assumed of being close to the oil industry. Both the Vice President and the President have been in the oil business. We have been litigating for 3 years whether the Vice President has to disclose who he met with, when he met with them, and what he talked about; that is, the oil companies. He has fought this every step of the way. He has fought it through the court system. It is still going on.

Then there is the fact the President won't call upon Saudi Arabia to increase their supply unless, according to Bob Woodward and his book, the President makes a deal with Prince Bandar to do this in September when it would have more of an impact on the elections. Time will only tell. I would hope if they have made an arrangement with the Saudis, they will start doing it now rather than wait until September.

Nevada gets all of its gasoline from California, so any problem with supply in California is a problem for Nevada. There has been a lot of talk and a lot written about the tight California gasoline market, where prices are typically 20 to 30 cents above the national average. We hear about the lack of refineries. We hear about boutique fuels and reduced inventories contributing to higher prices. I am sure each one of these has some bearing on higher prices. All of these things I have talked about need to be addressed.

I met with the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission. There are reports there are as many as 300 separate boutique fuels. He thinks there are around 100. But there are lots of them, and that could be a problem. We realize the need to reduce the number of specialty fuels.

We also hear about supply and demand. One thing I have been pushing is something the first President Bush did and President Clinton did, and that is to release oil out of our petroleum reserve to bring up the supply to reduce prices. I know the law of supply and demand cost Nevada ratepayers nearly \$1 billion during the western electricity crisis 3 years ago. While Enron was reaping windfall profits—and there must be a better name for that than windfall profits; it was even bigger than windfall profits—it told consumers it was all a matter of supply and demand. But, of course, it turned out Enron was really manipulating the

supply. So it wasn't supply and demand.

Based on this bitter experience which is still being litigated in the courts, I was concerned Nevadans might be getting ripped off again when gasoline prices went through the roof this year. I asked the Federal Trade Commission, along with Senator ENSIGN, to investigate these wild price increases, particularly with an eye toward any possible manipulation in gasoline markets. I needed to assure the citizens of Nevada that gasoline markets were operating fairly and not being manipulated to maximize the profits of oil companies.

It is easy for domestic oil companies to boost their profits by squeezing the supply of gasoline. A combination of refinery capacity reductions and corporate mergers has concentrated control of prices in only a handful of companies. Again, this chart shows how prices have risen steadily in Nevada since the first of the year.

A major spike occurred in February 18, due to a power outage at the Tesoro refinery in northern California that supplies 20 percent of the refined gasoline to that region. In a matter of days, prices in Nevada topped \$2 a gallon. The refinery came back on line only a week later, and the supply was restored. But as the chart shows, prices at the pump didn't recover. They had a power outage that slowed that refinery for a week. Prices skyrocketed. The refinery came back on line. Prices stayed high. Actually, they went higher. Prices at the pump didn't recover. Families were still paying an extra half dollar a gallon every time they filled their tanks.

So in case anyone is worried about the impact of a refinery shutdown at Tesoro, they can rest easy. Refiner margins of profits were 70 cents higher a share this quarter; 60 percent higher than analysts had expected. The stock at Tesoro is at a 52-week high.

Let me show another chart, the price of a gallon of gasoline in Nevada. Here is where we arrived at \$1.64. The bottom number is important: Crude oil price, 77 cents; refiner margin, that is cost plus profits, at a quarter; dealer margin, 10 cents; taxes, 52 cents. That is the way it is. There's ample profit for the oil companies at \$1.64. Anything above that is just additional profit.

In order to understand what drove gasoline prices in Nevada to record highs and why they stayed high even after California refineries temporarily reduced their wholesale price, we need to understand what goes into the price we pay at the pump for a gallon of fuel. As indicated, this chart shows the price of a gallon of gasoline has four main components: cost of crude oil; refiner's margin, which is cost plus profits; the dealer's margin, which is cost plus profit; and fuel taxes, both Federal and State. We must pay attention to the word "profits." It figures big in this discussion.

The chart shows the typical numbers we have come to expect in the Nevada

gasoline market. Crude oil, let's say 77 cents, or \$32.34 a barrel; refinery margin, 25 cents; dealer margin, 10 cents; and taxes, 52 cents. These are prices we might expect, but they are already too high because of the extremely high price of crude oil.

Nevada's gas prices are the third highest in the Nation behind Hawaii and California. I am sure we are gaining on them. So these are locked in prices.

Let's go to chart 3, which shows that the latest Nevada gas price increases are not caused by taxes or crude oil costs. Taxes are constant. Crude oil varies only by a small margin. Crude oil used in California refineries is 64 percent from the Alaska North Slope. The majority of our oil doesn't come from Saudi Arabia. So if you look at the contribution of taxes and crude oil to the price of a gallon of gasoline in Nevada during the first 3 months of the year, taxes are constant at 52 cents a gallon, so that does not contribute to a 46-cent increase since the first of the year.

According to data supplied by the California Energy Commission, the price of crude oil acquired by California refineries varied by only 8 cents over the first 3 months of the year, from 78 cents to 86 cents a gallon. That is equivalent to crude oil prices varying by about \$3 per barrel.

The reason that price doesn't vary much is the California refineries get 64 percent of their crude oil from the Alaska North Slope and the California fields. So they don't feel the full impact of the more volatile OPEC or west Texas intermediate crude markets.

There is no doubt that the price of crude oil has contributed to higher gasoline prices in Nevada and throughout the country in the last few years. However, it is not the reason why west coast gas prices have skyrocketed in the first 3 months of the year.

If we subtract the 8-cent increase that can be attributed to crude oil, we still have to explain a 38-cent increase in the price of gas. The number I use is smaller than what the real price is in Nevada. These are as of April 5. As I have indicated, they are at least a nickel higher now. That leaves us with dealer and refinery margins, or what is referred to as the domestic "spread."

(Mr. ENSIGN assumed the Chair.)

Mr. REID. I also alert the Presiding Officer that prior to the Senator from Nevada becoming the Presiding Officer, I mentioned his name regarding a meeting we had with the Chairman of the FTC.

I would like to go down to chart 4. It is easy to determine refiner margins, which is simply refiner costs plus profits. You simply take the published spot or wholesale price of gasoline and subtract the price of crude oil. I have chosen the spot price in Los Angeles because L.A. supplies the Las Vegas market.

Bear in mind that the cost of refining oil into gasoline will vary by only a

few cents. Like taxes, it is pretty much a fixed cost. Consequently, any increase in the refiner margin is actually an increase in profits.

The April 5 Oil Price Information Newsletter, a publisher of industry data, says California fuel blends averaged \$10.80 a barrel over crude during the decade.

That is a historical refiner margin of 26 cents for every gallon of gas.

So this chart shows that the refiner profits have recently peaked nearly 50 cents above that historical level.

These estimates are conservative. They are actually lower than the estimates of the California Energy Commission.

Can you imagine these profits? Take the normal profit that a refiner makes on a gallon of gas; now add another half dollar to every single gallon. Nevadans use 2.3 million gallons of fuel a day. Area-wise, it is a very big State. Many people have to drive long distances to get to their jobs—I will read letters indicating that is the case—or they take their kids to school.

When you figure the refiners are making an extra 50 cents of profit on every gallon of gasoline purchased in Nevada, Nevadans alone are paying an extra \$1.15 million every single day, or almost \$35 million a month—\$35 million a month just in the State of Nevada. If "outrageous" is not a strong enough term, I don't know what term to use. If this isn't price gouging, it doesn't exist anywhere in the world.

I am for free markets. But it is not a free, competitive market when refiners can exercise this degree of control and manipulation over the supply and the cost of something that is not a luxury but a necessity on which every family must depend.

People have to put fuel in their vehicles. They have no choice. Is the California-Nevada gasoline market truly competitive when the wholesale price of refined gasoline is largely controlled by what a few refiners are willing to sell for and what the markets are forced to pay?

It looks to me as if the market has been manipulated and consumers have been gouged. If you think the worst is over, think again. The spot and refiner profits increased again in early April.

Mr. President, my information, from which I prepared these remarks, and this chart, go back to April 5. It is now the 21st and prices are higher. I returned, as I have indicated earlier, from Nevada and prices there are approaching \$2.50 a gallon for some fuels.

Let me go to another chart. This will detail and outline refiner profits. I believe this chart will clearly show that refiner profits drove gas prices in Nevada to \$2 a gallon. On this chart, I am simply adding the refiner margin data. It is clear that prices in Nevada were driven to \$2 a gallon on a wave of refiner profits. Keep in mind, \$2 a gallon doesn't do the trick anymore. If this chart were as of today, we would be up here, the next line on the chart. But we

will use this chart for illustrative purposes.

It wasn't taxes; those don't change. It wasn't the cost of crude; that only went up 8 cents a gallon. It had to be refiner profits. There is nothing left.

There is the one last question to be answered: Why have prices remained high, even as refiner profits returned to more normal levels during the first couple weeks of March? Refiner profits dropped a full 30 cents. Why no relief at the pump?

That brings us to the dealer margin, the fourth and final component that determines the price of gasoline.

This last chart I wish to talk about shows that dealer profits added to refiner profits led to a sustained \$2.10 per gallon at Nevada pumps. Again, dealer profits added to refiner profits led to a sustained \$2.10 per gallon at Nevada pumps. The historic margin is 35 cents. Again, I repeat, they are even higher now by as much as 4 or 5 cents a gallon than they were before. So it is very clear what this shows. Dealer margin is the cost to acquire, store, and sell gasoline, plus profits. This chart shows that dealer margin takes a beating when the refiner rapidly increases spot or the wholesale price of gasoline. The dealer needs to pay up front to acquire fuel before the gasoline makes it to the marketplace.

Once this gasoline is distributed, dealer profits increase dramatically and sustain the price of gasoline at the pump. During March, dealer profits rose to 35 to 40 cents a gallon in Nevada. That is two or three times the historic levels of 10 to 15 cents a gallon.

The combined total of refiner and dealer profits has kept the price of gasoline in Nevada at an astronomical level.

If the wholesale price stays down long enough, the hope is that both dealer and refiner profits will retreat to more normal levels. That is not the case, unfortunately.

Refiner profits are spiking again, and we can expect another round of sustained high gas prices.

Make no mistake, this is a win-win deal for refiners and dealers. In the gasoline business, they say prices shoot up like a rocket and float down like a feather. This is the dynamic that keeps the price of gasoline high, and enables refiners and dealers to gouge consumers.

Let me show you what is on the next chart. I want to be able to show that Nevada gasoline prices are clearly driven by refiner and dealer profits.

This bar chart summarizes the four components of the price of gasoline in Nevada during the first 3 months of the year—a gallon of gasoline would be more specific. It shows that dealer and refiner profits increased the price of gasoline in Nevada from \$1.64 to \$2.10 per gallon since the first of the year.

With the recent increase in the spot price in early April, we can expect a new round of increases in refiner and dealer profits. The roller coaster ride

of gas prices is becoming a ratchet, moving ever higher, threatening the fragile budgets of working families.

We picked out a few letters I received in my office. I will read only a few of them. Here is one:

I filled up my gas tank today and prices were \$2.18 per gallon for the mid-grade fuel. This is just not acceptable any longer. I am a single 58 year old female who is working for ridiculously low wages at UNLV and living on extremely limited budget. Between the cost of medications, heat, communications, and other living expenses, now I can't afford to even get to work. Please, please, please do something to stop this now. A constituent from Las Vegas.

I am going to read part of another letter, but it is sad, to say the least:

Senator Reid: I have had to cut my grocery budget by \$100 per month, and we're already eating cereal for dinner, 28 cent macaroni and cheese, and hot dogs. We also eat hamburger when we can afford it. It cuts into the lunches I have to provide for my children since no school lunch program exists at Virginia City, and I need to insure that my daughter has a decent lunch . . . in her lunch pail.

This is the same person:

There is something very wrong with our system when our President fails to act on behalf of the American people. Protecting us against terrorism is only part of the job. When he fails to act changing the entire American way of freedom, choice, and an affordable living, then he's not doing his job. Somebody needs to get off their duff and do something about the gas prices, production, and our being held hostage by OPEC and the Oil Companies. . . . Do something to help us, so that single parents like me don't have to put our children's lives and futures at risk by having to move closer to our jobs and all because of gas prices.

This is signed by a constituent from Dayton, NV.

Another letter:

This is about gas prices. Is there anyway that you can work a little faster on this? My husband works at Primm, and it costs us now \$100 a week in gas. We were trying to save \$20 a week since he got a pay raise. We have a family of 5 and he is the only worker. We are in debt because they don't give a lot in pay raises, and when they do, it seems like the phone company, electric, gas, and anyone else says "we need extra money." You give them all that they need, but the poor people trying to make it on 1 income or even 2 are getting screwed. We watch every penny and it seems to be gone. We are having to make a hard choice of what not to buy at the store. We already don't go out to the movies or anywhere else. I can see why President Bush doesn't do anything about the gas prices, since he has an interest in his cut. Thank you for your time. A constituent from Las Vegas.

Another constituent from Las Vegas:

Thank you so much for looking into the gas price increase. This has been a very big concern for my husband and myself. We are a large family and my husband works out at one of the state prisons. This means a 120 mile round trip every day. . . . If gas prices increase like they are this is going to hurt our family a great deal. It in turn could hurt our state as he is a 13 year state employee, this could mean looking for another job in town. I do hope and pray you are able to help our state with this crisis.

Another letter:

Dear Senator Reid: I currently reside in Las Vegas, NV. I am disabled and live on a fixed income. I am writing you today outraged by the ever growing cost of living we face here in Las Vegas. Every day the price of gasoline continues to rise, while large oil companies like Exxon Mobile and Chevron Texaco are recording breaking profits, I hate to say on the backs of the average citizens in this country. I have heard all of the stories of fuel shortage due to the harsh winter in the eastern United States, the blockage of shipping lanes, and the list could go on and on with excuses. This still does not explain these record profits. No other segment in our economy, especially the small businessmen, experience this rate of profit. Costs continue to rise from gasoline, to utility cost, to grocery bills, while incomes are not rising. The middle class is slowly being eroded with all these rising costs.

Signed by a constituent from Las Vegas.

This is a small smattering of the letters we have received. I have asked, along with the junior Senator from Nevada, the Federal Trade Commission to look into possible market manipulation and price gouging. After 5 weeks, the FTC responded to us by saying prices in Nevada were "unusually high" and above predicted norms. An informal FTC investigation is still looking into the cause of the price spike, but they are having a hard time showing collusion and market manipulation.

I do not need an investigation to tell me big oil profits have soared at the expense of working families. We all understand the forces of supply and demand, but in the gasoline market, control of the supply is concentrated in a handful of oil companies and dealers. Seven oil companies control 94 percent of California's gasoline production, so they can push prices up faster and keep them higher than they would be in a competitive market.

These markets are not competitive because they provide no incentive to refiners to maintain adequate supplies and physical infrastructure. Every accident, power outage, pipeline break in the market triggers a price shock, and profits mount.

The structure of this industry allows price manipulation at the pump. These charts show how refiners and dealers manipulate markets to sustain high, exorbitant gas prices. If this is not anticompetitive, it is certainly anticonsumer. The profits of oil companies are at record levels. I am sure this makes their shareholders happy.

The FTC has been AWOL, like FERC was a couple years ago during the electricity crisis when consumers were ripped off. As a nation, we need to demand both the supply and demand of this equation to promote a truly competitive market.

On the demand side, we have to increase the fuel efficiency of cars. That is very long term. We need to promote public transit. That is long term. But in the short term, we need to have this administration weigh in against the OPEC nations and do what they can do to have the OPEC nations produce

more oil. They have turned the spigots down. They have done it openly. I hope the reports in the Woodward book are false. I hope the President would not enter into a deal with Prince Bandar in saying we are going to increase the supply of oil in the fall. I hope that is absolutely false. But I do say the President has to exert more pressure on our so-called allies to produce more oil. That is short term.

What also needs to be done on a short-term basis is we need to start releasing oil from our oil reserves. As I stated before, it was done by the first President Bush and it was done by President Clinton. This President needs to do the same.

In the long term, we need to increase the use of alternative fuels and renewable energy resources, but we must also provide for true competition in the oil and gas markets.

Oil companies have little incentive to build or improve their infrastructure and increase their inventories. They can simply dominate tight markets where any disruption allows their profits to soar.

Through use of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve or some other mechanism, oil companies should be required to maintain adequate stocks of crude and refined product to prevent price spirals.

At the very least, we should not be filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve when markets are not able to meet consumer demand at reasonable price levels. Any rapid price increase should draw immediate and intense public scrutiny and trigger investigations.

Energy in America is essential to the well-being of our Nation and its citizens. This is part of our Nation's security, to have adequate energy. Remember, the United States of America, even counting what may be in ANWR, would only have 3 percent—in fact, it is less than 3 percent—of the oil reserves of the world. We cannot produce our way out of our problems. Ninety-seven percent of the oil in the world is someplace other than the United States.

The citizens of the State of Nevada have been rocked with a one-two punch over the last couple of years by manipulation of the electricity market and now the gasoline market. This cycle of price gouging must stop. Even in the wild, wild west, we have to make energy markets operate properly.

Mr. President, I express my appreciation to the Senator from Wyoming for his courtesy in allowing me to go before him.

How much time is remaining for the majority for morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENSIGN). Four minutes fifteen seconds.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend from Wyoming, he has 4 minutes 15 seconds. Does he need more time?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, yes, we should get an equal amount of time in order to respond to what the Senator from Nevada said.

Mr. REID. When I spoke, I indicated I would be happy to agree to that. Would the Chair indicate again how much time I used?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator used 29 minutes.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the time for morning business on the majority side be extended 29 minutes.

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

The Senator from Wyoming.

WAR IN IRAQ

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Nevada for his courtesy and his previous offer to let me speak. I am glad to have this opportunity to talk about a number of things that have come up today. We have talked a little bit about the war in Iraq. We have talked a little bit about the environment because Earth Day is tomorrow. We have talked a little bit about overtime and we have talked a lot about energy. I am going to cover those topics as well as some other things that need to be known.

I am going to start with the war in Iraq because last week I had the opportunity to go with Senator SESSIONS and Senator CHAMBLISS to visit NATO and then to go into Germany and to visit with some of the troops that have been wounded in Iraq. Some of them have been wounded very severely. In fact, those who are not severely wounded do not leave Iraq. There are hospitals in Iraq that take care of them and then get them back into the fray. Those who have been injured worse are flown to Landstuhl Hospital in Germany where they are stabilized, treated, and then sent back to the United States for more treatment.

The three of us had an opportunity to visit that hospital. We split up into three groups so we could talk to more of the soldiers. We thought we would be able to perhaps pump them up a little bit after what they had been through. Quite the reverse happened. They pumped us up. It was a tremendous experience.

These people, men and women, to a person said: We are making a difference in Iraq. We know the people over there, we know our job, we are doing our job, the people are responding to what we are doing, and we are making a difference.

The other side is so worried that they are bringing in people to take us on. Every one of them wanted to be patched up as fast as possible and go back to help their buddies. They knew what the job was. They knew the people there. It was tremendously inspirational.

The next day we went to an Army training base that a lot of U.S. soldiers in the past had been assigned to and are still assigned to, but they have been moved to Iraq. They have been assigned to Iraq and they had just been on another overseas assignment, had

been back about 8 months and were assigned to Iraq. Some of the spouses there had had husbands extended in Iraq. We wanted to find out what they were feeling, what they were thinking. It was a chance to visit with them, and so we did.

Again, we were the ones who were encouraged. I remember one of the spouses explaining that part of the job of a soldier is to watch the back of his buddy, and when some of the troops are pulled out prematurely there is nobody to watch somebody's back. Then the lady said: If my husband was the one who had to stay and somebody got pulled out, I would not be able to take it. So if my husband is the one who has to stay to protect somebody else, that is their job. That is what I want him to do. That is what he needs to do. That is what will make the difference.

What I noticed at both of those meetings was that other countries of the world say the reason we are the most powerful country in the world is because of the money we spend on being powerful. Some people would say it is because of the technology we have developed that makes us more equipped with more advanced things than any other country in the world. Both of those play a small role, but what makes the difference between the United States and the other countries is the people of this country, the young men and women who are serving in our Armed Forces—their dedication, their innovation, their ability to think, their ability to react, and their patriotism.

Then we have another secret weapon, and that secret weapon is the spouses and the families who are praying for and supporting the troops. That is a force other countries cannot reckon with, and we should be so appreciative.

I want to mention one other thing that might seem unusual. When we were meeting with one of the generals, the general prayed. Now, I am not sure that is acceptable under the Constitution as it might be interpreted by some judges, but he prayed. He knows that will make a difference.

One of the things that occurred to me while he was doing that is we often almost always remember to pray for our troops, but I think we probably ought to be praying for the opposition as well. We ought to be praying for the opposition to soften their hearts, for the opposition to realize what is happening in the world and the role they are playing. Praying can make a difference, and it is up to all of us to try that, with faith, and see if it will not support these admirable troops, their spouses, and their families.

EARTH DAY

Mr. ENZI. I will switch to another topic now. Tomorrow is Earth Day and all of us are concerned about the future of the Earth. We are concerned about the environment, and we are concerned about the activities that happen in that environment. Earlier there was a

comment about wilderness areas and how wilderness study areas can be violated.

I need to address this wilderness study issue because Wyoming is the only State in the Nation that negotiated its wilderness areas years ago. We wanted to get that figured out. We wanted to protect vast areas, and we did. There is always the recommendation that there be additional wilderness study areas, and we do not have any problem with that, with a small caveat, and that is that the wilderness study areas are often areas that are being used as part of the economy of our State. They are already areas that have had development.

Do my colleagues know what happens when they go into a wilderness study area. They go into an indefinite period of being studied with nothing being allowed to happen on that land. The things that were already happening cannot continue. It moves back to a primitive state, with no activity, for an indefinite period of time.

There are some wilderness impact study areas that have been looked at for 20 years. Do my colleagues not think a decision ought to be able to be made in less than 20 years? There might even be some out there that are longer than that.

The fear of people whose economy relies on an area that they have already been using is it will be designated a wilderness impact study area and they will lose their right to use it for what they have been earning their living at, for years, while it is not being studied. That is a crime.

Another problem we have is it is a big country and things tend to be one size fits all. For instance, I just saw an ad in the paper asking people to send money to help preserve wolves. It was a glorious ad. That is what ads are. They are to sell people on doing things. But they only tell one side of the story, and I hope before people send their money they will check with areas that are being impacted by a wolf population. It has a little bit to do with our Endangered Species Act.

The Endangered Species Act is a Federal policy. It has to be. This is a vast country and we try to save things all over—and we need to. But it is an unfunded mandate for States, for counties, for towns, and particularly for individuals. That is against the law, to put unfunded mandates on the States, the counties, and the people, but we do it with the Endangered Species Act.

Right now, Wyoming's wolf program costs about \$1.2 million a year. That is coming out of the Wyoming pocket; that is not coming out of the Federal pocket. There are county expenses involved in it that are not being paid for by the Federal Government. There are individuals who can no longer use their land, they can't make the living on their land they were making because of a Federal policy. Do we pay them anything for that? No, we don't. We should. There are definitely laws about