

Are they killing it in hopes they can blame us? Is politics that cynical? I hope not. I thought we had to fight OMB to get the bill done, and I am willing to make that fight.

As a matter of fact, people who have been around a long time know I took on that fight against a President of my own party. The year I campaigned, he made three wonderful appearances for me. I have great respect for him, but he vetoed a highway bill, and I was the deciding vote that overrode that veto, much as I respected him, because I know how important highways are to my State and to the country.

Several months ago we started the normal bipartisan process of writing a highway bill. The bipartisanship carried through to a floor vote on the final bill. The Finance Committee provided the funds we needed. It was paid for, without a tax increase and without bonding.

After we passed the bill, my colleagues and I cheered our success and praised the cooperative efforts across the aisle; yet somehow, now my colleagues across the aisle tell me they do not trust me? Is this how good faith bipartisanship is honored?

Will someone come to the floor and tell me that I have not acted in good faith for days, weeks, and months through this process?

I have every intention to get a strong bipartisan conference report to the Senate floor and to the desk of the President but we cannot do that if the Democrats prevent us from negotiating the final bipartisan bill. Unless they let the process go, this bill is dead and they will have killed it; and for what?

My House counterpart Congressman PETRI may have said it best as quoted in yesterday's edition of BNA:

House Highways, Transit and Pipelines Subcommittee Chairman Tom Petri, R-Wis., hailed the move to "normal order," Petri said; people analyzing the situation said in the absence of an agreement—on a number—it was better to go back to conference because "there might have been wisdom in the ideas of the founding fathers."

The whole point of a conference with the House is to work out our differences and produce a final bill. It is past time to get to work on those differences. I also read a quote in the paper yesterday where the distinguished minority leader said his party did not want to "roll the dice" and hope they get adequate representation in conference.

Instead, I submit that my colleagues are "rolling the dice" with an even bigger gamble. Rather than even giving conference a chance, they are betting that voters will prefer procrastination over progress.

My constituents say, "Senator, didn't the same people raising objections vote for the bill?" They also ask, "Senator, didn't many Democrats help draft the bill?" Some even wonder "Didn't I hear Senator so and so say the Nation needs a highway bill now?"

The resounding answer to all of their questions is yes. Yes, my colleagues

helped draft the bill. Yes, my colleagues voted in favor of the bill. Yes, my colleagues make cries for a strong bill now. And, yes, unless the politics stop, they will also have killed this bill. To steal a line from some great philosopher, they are all bark, no bite.

One week ago today I was on the Senate floor attempting to move this process forward. Now Republicans in both Chambers of the Capitol are prepared to work in conference to resolve our differences. In the near future, we will vote in the Senate to determine who really wants to back up their bark with a bite.

Right now safety and quality of life on our roads are taking a back seat to political warfare that has nothing to do with transportation. It is time to end the filibuster on the highway bill.

That said, I renew my unanimous consent request from last week.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the House-passed highway bill, H.R. 3550; provided further, that all after the enacting clause, be stricken, the text of S. 1072, as passed, be inserted in lieu thereof; the bill be read a third time and passed; further, the Senate then insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair then be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate with a ratio of 11 to 10.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, at this time I am not able to make a statement; so, I will make a statement when our time comes. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. How much time do we have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Twenty-seven minutes remaining.

Mr. DOMENICI. I will do my best to be finished in 10 minutes.

AMERICA NEEDS AN ENERGY POLICY NOW

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I rise today to speak about a subject that is dear to the heart of the Chair because Alaska contains much of the energy that the United States needs. Yesterday, crude oil closed at \$39.57 on the New York Exchange. Nationwide, the average price of gasoline is \$1.84, expected to rise 5 to 10 cents over the next several days, and even more as we enter the summer driving season which begins on Memorial Day.

Natural gas prices are also at a record high for this year, 70 percent higher than they were a year ago. We are increasingly dependent on imported supplies to set prices. In the Pacific Northwest, the snowpack is at 50 percent of average, and so hydroelectric generation will be at a record low this summer.

We currently import 55 percent of our oil. We will depend upon 70 percent for our demand by 2025. Meanwhile, we are

experiencing record temperatures in southern California where already there is a strain on the region's electricity system.

I do not know what sort of psychological barriers need to be broken in the Senate to finally pass comprehensive energy legislation. We are very close to breaking through every psychological barrier related to energy policy. Oil will soon cost \$40 a barrel. Gasoline will be over \$2 a gallon. Natural gas will be permanently over \$5 per MCF and the adequacy of our electricity generating grid this summer is now a simple calculus. Will it be hotter than usual? Because if so, we will have blackouts again.

My colleagues will notice that I no longer believe that our growing dependence on imported oil will have the psychological impact necessary to motivate my colleagues into action on the Energy bill. For my part, I am alarmed. I see us becoming 70-percent dependent on imported oil. I read of terrorist threats against overseas oil infrastructure and refining capacity, and I am amazed that I have colleagues who want to stop building our emergency supplies in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve or, even worse, call on us to use up those reserves now. In the past, the result of such activity was miniscule in terms of its impact on gasoline prices. It is just something to talk about. It is not something that will do anything.

Instead, yesterday a number of Senators came to the floor and called on the President to pressure OPEC to increase production and reduce prices. Does anybody assume he has not already done that? Does anybody assume they are interested in what we say today? It would be terrific if OPEC would do that, but I have to ask my colleagues, why would OPEC take us seriously? OPEC sees us for what we are. We are hooked and we cannot even do the most incremental steps to begin to address this plight.

OPEC sees a Congress that has talked about passing an energy bill for 10 years. They see a Congress that has failed every year for the last 3 years to pass an energy bill. OPEC sees an America that lacks the political will to address its own crisis. Instead, we blame and complain. If you were OPEC, would you take us seriously?

Some say passing an energy bill will not do a lot for foreign crude oil prices. I disagree. I think passing the first comprehensive energy bill to come out of this Congress in 12 years sends a strong signal to oil-producing nations. I think if we do more to conserve energy, increase production, diversify our energy supply, we will tell OPEC America is a country with unity, commitment, and the political will to address our most serious domestic problem, and that is our energy challenges.

If Senate Democrats mean what they say when they wring their hands and lament the rising oil prices, pass this bill. When we voted last week on the

authorizing portion of the bill, we got only 14 Democrats to join us, and then someone on that side had the audacity to say it was the Republicans' fault we didn't pass it. That is less than one-third of the Democrats who voted in favor of it. Yet the steady stream of Senators who come down here to speechify on energy is from the other side. They are Democrats. Some of the Democrats down here on the Senate floor yesterday wringing their hands about gasoline prices, blaming the administration yesterday, are the same Senators who voted against the Energy bill last week.

Last summer we had the biggest blackout in the Nation's history during the August recess. You all remember that. When Congress returned, Senators went to the Senate floor to make speeches, to wring their hands about the problem in our power grid. Some of those same Senators turned around a few weeks later and voted against an energy bill that mandated electricity reliability. Everyone who knows anything says that must be adopted if we are to rearrange things and have power over the utility lines so we will not have blackouts. It is recommended by everyone who knows anything about it, and we sit here and fail to pass the bill that contains it.

Gasoline prices have shattered all records in April. Prices could reach \$3 by late September. I know that is a startling statement, but I make it because I believe it. Prices could reach \$3 a gallon by late summer. Natural gas prices on average are 70 percent higher than last year. Our electricity grid is every bit as vulnerable to a blackout today as last summer, and we stand here making speeches and passing the blame: Blame OPEC, blame the President.

The buck stops here. It is up to this Congress to pass a bill that stabilizes the price of oil, gas, coal, and natural gas. It is up to this Congress to pass a bill that increases our production of energy from natural gas, wind, solar, geothermal, and clean coal. It is up to this Congress to mandate electricity reliability. Let's stop politicking on this energy bill and on this energy problem. Let's stop looking to foreign shores to solve our problems. Let's stop looking to OPEC so they would have the will. Let us unify and resolve that lack of enthusiasm and unity. Let's roll up our sleeves and pass an energy bill.

It is possible. The bill before us now contains about half the Energy bill. It has all the tax credits that will bring much of the energy that I have spoken about on board America. It will not do the whole job, but it will do something. We understand there are Senators who do not want to see that pass. It has broad support and it will do something significant. I trust we will pass it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, how much time is remaining on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 18 minutes remaining on Republican side.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SUDAN

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, I rise in support of S. Con. Res. 99, condemning the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its participation and complicity in the attacks against innocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan.

I commend my fellow cosponsors of this resolution for taking this essential first step in addressing the dual crises in Sudan. We must condemn the Government of Sudan for its complicity in the human rights abuses and their gross failure to put an end to the current genocide.

In addition to the gross human rights violations, we now face a humanitarian disaster. Over a million people are displaced and well over a hundred thousand have fled over the border to Chad.

The Government of Sudan is only making matters more difficult by resisting, delaying, frustrating the work of humanitarian assistance groups, and the situation gets worse. Roads in the region are only accessible to the most sturdy of jeeps and trucks, and once the rainy season starts in just a couple of weeks, those roads will be wiped out, cutting off aid altogether. The clock is ticking. We certainly cannot control Mother Nature, so the world must act now.

I believe there are a few essentials that we should do immediately. First, the United States must push the United Nations Security Council to authorize a stability and support operation under chapter VII to help stop the atrocities and help distribute humanitarian aid. I would also like to see an expansion of the civilian protection monitoring teams into the Darfur region. The Government of Sudan has had long enough time to stop the killing and facilitate the flow of aid. With the rainy season coming, we cannot tell the people of Darfur to give their government more time to comply.

This may sound as if it is a radical step, but this step is needed. We should not be, and do not want to be, in the situation 6 months or a year or 2 years from now where we look back and say we should have taken this step—oh, if we only would have sent this U.N. force in; if we only would have sent these troops in we could have saved hundreds of thousands of lives—because that is the situation we are going to be in. We are going to look back and say, if we only would have acted, if the world only would have acted, these lives could have been saved. Why didn't we act? That is what has to take place. That, clearly, is what should take place.

Second, I believe Congress should amend the Sudan Peace Act to require improvements in Darfur. We have the ability here in Congress to do that.

Third, the United States should target sanctions against any members of

the Sudanese Government found to be involved in these atrocities. We have done it in regard to other individuals in other governments in other countries. We should do it in regard to these individuals. We should make it very clear to them they will be held accountable.

Finally, the international community must act now. We need a special session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission to appoint a special rapporteur for Sudan. The international community should also consider a special tribunal to investigate the atrocities.

These steps form a broad outline of what must be done. We must work together with the administration in the coming days to iron out the details so we can move forward. The crisis is here, it is now, and this is what we must do. Clearly, this is a case of genocide, and the international community must face its moral responsibility to act.

CRISIS IN HAITI

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, let me turn to another area in the world where there is another humanitarian crisis, and that is the country of Haiti. I will be very brief because I have come to the Senate floor many times before to talk about Haiti.

Haitian Prime Minister Latortue was on Capitol Hill yesterday. I had the opportunity to meet with him. The majority leader and the Democratic leader met with him, as well as other Senators. The Prime Minister is a very impressive man. He is a man who faces a very difficult task in Haiti. The U.S. troops are scheduled to leave June 1 to be replaced with U.N. troops.

I will not try to summarize the message from the Prime Minister, but two things he said were very important which I will share with my colleagues. First, the Prime Minister made a very strong case to the Members of the Senate whom he talked to for the passage of a bill Senator DODD and I have introduced in the Senate, a bill that, according to the Prime Minister, within a relatively short period of time would help create an additional 100,000 jobs in Haiti, 100,000 jobs that are desperately needed.

This is a trade bill Senator DODD and I have introduced that is pending in the Senate. It has bipartisan support. There is a companion bill introduced by Congressman CLAY SHAW in the House of Representatives. I again call my colleagues' attention to this bill and hope we can act on this bill this year. It is a bill that would restore the assembly jobs in Haiti. Haiti at one time had many assembly jobs. After the sanctions were imposed during the Clinton administration, these jobs basically went away. This bill will help restore these jobs. It will make a big difference for Haiti.

The other point the Prime Minister made was the Haitian Government today is in desperate need of cash.