

continue to repair what I have and drive it less. So this discussion affects many businesses in my area.

(1) I will not be spending money at the dealers to buy it.

(2) I will not be spending interest at my credit union for the loan.

(3) I will not be spending money at the insurance company for the added insurance.

(4) I will not be spending money at the parts houses for improved add-ons to the vehicle (tinted windows, bed liner, etc).

(5) I am not going to be taking a driving vacation this year, cost too much.

(6) I do not think I'll be going on an airplane either cost for tickets is increasing.

(7) I want to go over to Europe, Italy this year because I have never been there, but now the cost Euro cost is 1.5 times greater so that will not happen.

Think of the places in the U.S. you have to spend money to get there. Congress does not realize that this is getting worse every day, a recession is already here and if it continues it will be a depression. The oil is not going to go down. The World can only make 85 million barrels per day. The World wants 86.5 million barrels per day. The world is now out bidding the U.S. for oil supplies. The U.S. has to pay the price to buy oil for what the world market sets it at. (Econ 101—supply vs. demand). The U.S. makes 5 million barrels per day—the U.S. uses 21 million barrels per day so we need 16 million barrels per day for imports. These are facts FACTS—does congress get these FACTS!!!! We either get more of our own oil or we continue to pay and pay even more. Please tell them over and over again, THIS PROBLEM IS NOT GOING TO GO AWAY IT WILL ONLY GET WORSE! Please tell your democratic friends to do something and not put their head in the sand.

Thanks for asking.

JOHN, Boise.

I am a young mother in Meridian, Idaho. I am one of those few who can honestly say that I LOVE my in-laws. We love to be together as a family. Each year we have a family reunion and do crazy things like make movies, or invent games. These things create memories for generations. This year our family reunion was going to be in late July at the Oregon Coast. Sadly, we recently cancelled our family reunion due to GAS PRICES. It would have cost over \$700 per family just to drive to the Oregon Coast. Since our family consists of 5 collective young families—it was just too high of an expense for many of us. \$700 in gas is just absurd! We are so disappointed! We have been looking forward to this vacation for over a year! There was no way back in August of 2007 that we could have predicted the rise in gas prices. What was feasible then is impossible now. All because of the rise in gas prices. Our family believes in being self sufficient and I believe that America should start being the independent nation we claim to be. Let's use our own oil to create our own gas to put into our own cars so that we can take care of our own families. Thank you for the opportunity to share.

CAMI, Meridian.

SENATOR CRAPO: Rising energy costs are driving up the costs of virtually everything and rapidly deteriorating the American standard of living. We are having to cut costs wherever possible to compensate because our wages are not going up equally with energy costs. I am so very frustrated with the US Congress. They are inept! They argue instead of taking action. Whenever a good bill comes up they tag it with riders full of wasteful spending. I never thought I'd see a day when the USA was so close to a

real depression. Our economy and dollar are heading down the tubes and nothing is done. Of course it is the fault of years of bad government for ruining our economy and it is only going to get worse. I have no faith in the majority of the idiots running this country. It is like no one has any basic common sense or fiscal management skills. It makes me sick!

TOM.

Our young married couples are really feeling the pinch of gas costs. Since travel is necessary in southeastern Idaho, we are left with no choice but to pay. We have felt the need to help our married kids pay for gas, which cuts into other budget items, such as food, medicines etc. Our students really feel the pinch since tuition costs have also risen.

We strongly support lessening our dependence as a nation, by updating refineries, and drilling. Thank you.

CURTIS, Driggs.

SOMALIA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, although Somalia's 9 million people have suffered from violence, natural disasters, and lawlessness for decades, the humanitarian and human rights crisis they face seems to keep getting worse. On Monday, the United Nations' humanitarian coordinator for the Horn of Africa announced that due to fighting between rival militias, successive droughts, sharply rising food prices, and a collapse of the Somali currency, more than 3.5 million Somalis will need emergency food relief in the next 3 months.

On June 9, the United Nations' Special Representative for Somalia, Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, announced the first piece of good news from Somalia in a long time. With support from the U.S.'s own Special Envoy for Somalia, Ambassador John Yates—as well as representatives from the UK, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Conference, and the European Union—Mr. Abdallah succeeded in brokering an agreement between Somalia's internationally recognized Transitional Federal Government, T.F.G., and a faction of the opposition Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia, A.R.S.

We cannot be naïve, however, because there have been numerous such agreements in the past in which ceasefires, political cooperation, and efforts to promote peace, justice, reconstruction, and reconciliation were promised. The outcome could be different this time, if the international community commits the political and material resources necessary to see it through. External actors were a critical driver behind the peace talks in Djibouti and the resulting agreement, which ends with a call for international support that was echoed in the signing statements of the two rival political leaders. At the same time, we must recognize that extremist groups like al Shabaab have not accepted this peace deal and intend to continue fighting. They should not be allowed to derail the recently signed

agreement. Indeed, by bringing the ARS into the institutional fold and consolidating a legitimate peace, the international community is more likely to see al Shabaab marginalized and rendered ineffective. This is not to say the road forward will be smooth, but taking steps to encourage existing divisions between the ARS and al Shabaab may create a path for ARS moderates to press for dismantling al Shabaab.

Mr. President, Mr. Abdallah should be commended for this achievement, but more than back-patting is in order. His success as a mediator—and indeed, the leverage and credibility of the United States and those who share our vision of a stable, peaceful Somalia—rests upon the steps taken in the next days and weeks to facilitate the implementation of this agreement. Immediate, adequate, and coordinated action is needed to ensure that this most recent agreement does not meet the fate of its predecessors, with potentially more devastating consequences.

Last month, this body passed a resolution I introduced, which called on Somalia's rival factions to recommit to an inclusive political dialogue and pledged international support for sustainable peace and security in Somalia and across the Horn of Africa. Mr. Abdallah and others have done their part. Now it is time for the international community to make good on our word.

NOMINATION OF HARVEY JOHNSON

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on April 18, I announced my intention to object to any unanimous-consent request for the Senate to take up the nomination of Harvey E. Johnson who has been nominated by President Bush to serve as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. I did so because, prior to his confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff told me in my office that if confirmed he would move expeditiously to implement the National Emergency Technology Guard—NET Guard—program. Unfortunately, Secretary Chertoff had failed to honor that pledge.

However, I am pleased to say that this morning the Department of Homeland Security has finally issued a solicitation for applications for a NET Guard pilot program, effectively beginning the implementation process. It is years late, but at last the Department is moving forward with this critical program.

In light of this action, I will no longer object to any unanimous-consent request for the Senate to take up Mr. Johnson's nomination. I will, however, continue to closely monitor DHS's actions on NET Guard.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the Department of Homeland Security's press release announcing the pilot program be printed in the RECORD.

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

FEMA ANNOUNCES SOLICITATION TO PILOT CITIZEN CORPS NATIONAL EMERGENCY TECHNOLOGY GUARD (NET GUARD) PROGRAM

WASHINGTON.—The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today \$320,000 is available in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 to pilot, test, and develop tools for a potential new Citizen Corps (CC) National Emergency Technology Guard (NET GUARD) Program. NET Guard teams will be comprised of volunteers with information technology (IT) and communications expertise to assist States and localities in responding to and recovering from incidents that cause significant damage or destruction to IT and communications infrastructure. Teams will be a local asset, managed at the local level, and deployed in response to a request from local or State authorities.

This competitive pilot program will award funds to four jurisdictions. To be eligible to apply, local government applicants must be located in one of the 2008 DHS Urban Area Security Initiatives jurisdictions and must have a Citizen Corps Council and programs supported by emergency management. Additional eligibility criteria are included in the solicitation announcement. Beginning June 18, 2008, eligible government entities may apply through the Grants.gov portal, accessible on the Internet at <http://www.grants.gov>. Applications can be received no later than 11:59 PM EST July 2, 2008.

Citizen Corps is FEMA's grassroots comprehensive strategy to actively involve the full community in preparing and building resilience through participation with emergency management in planning, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, this week high school students from all across the Nation have come together to celebrate National History Day at the University of Maryland. I would like to commend these students, their parents, and their teachers for demonstrating such interest to the study of history. History education is the foundation of a quality education, and ensuring that we have passionate and dedicated students of history is an important accomplishment of the competitions and events at the University of Maryland this week.

The National History Day program delivers yearlong programs dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of history across our country. Over 1.5 million students, teachers and parents, participate in the instructional and research projects each year. Since 1994, millions of Americans from all across the country have improved their knowledge of history through participation in this creative program.

We know that there is a need for better teaching and learning of history. The 2006 National Assessment of Educational Progress, NAEP, U.S. History report card shows that 82 percent of 4th graders, 83 percent of 8th graders, and 77 percent of high school seniors scored below proficient in historical knowledge. These results are similar to re-

sults for the past decade in NAEP assessments, and it concerns me greatly.

As an advocate for putting American history and civics back into its rightful place in our school curriculum, I chose to do my maiden speech on the education of our children and the principles that unite us as Americans. Along with several other distinguished cosponsors, I introduced the American History and Civics Act in 2003 to create Presidential and Congressional Academies for Teachers of American History and Civics—and was pleased when that legislation was signed into law.

I have had some experience with such academies when I was Governor of Tennessee. In 1984, we began creating Governor's Schools for students and teachers. Eventually there were eight Governor's Schools helping thousands of Tennessee teachers improve their skills and inspiring outstanding students to learn more about core curriculum subjects. When the school year began, students and teachers brought with them a new enthusiasm for learning and teaching that directly impacted their peers. Governor's Schools were one of the most effective and popular educational initiatives in our state, and I am pleased that we have been able to use that as a model for the Nation.

I applaud the organizers National History Day for recognizing the importance of educating today's youth of the many great feats that were accomplished, the struggles that were overcome, and the events that took place to make this country what it is today. I also congratulate all of the students, teachers, and parents who participate in it—and in particular wanted to congratulate the following Tennessee students participating in this event:

Emilee Frazier—Chuckey Doak Middle School, Afton, TN; Katie Adams—Chuckey Doak Middle School, Afton, TN; Gary Moats—Polk County High School, Benton, TN; Nick Ramsey—Polk County High School, Benton, TN; Matthew Vandevander—Polk County High School, Benton, TN; Anthony Joslin—Polk County High School, Benton, TN; Jon Rivers—Tyner Academy, Chattanooga, TN; Manish Jethva—Tyner Academy, Chattanooga, TN; Jacquelyn Benford—Tyner Academy, Chattanooga, TN; Marcus Kitchens—Tyner Academy, Chattanooga, TN; Walker Thompson—St. George's Middle School, Collierville, TN; Ryan Grover—St. George's Middle School, Collierville, TN; Mason McGough—St. George's Middle School, Collierville, TN; Andrew McBride—St. George's Middle School, Collierville, TN; Nikki Martinez—St. Benedict at Auburndale, Cordova, TN; Anna Cabe—St. Benedict at Auburndale, Cordova, TN; Mary Barczak—St. Benedict at Auburndale, Cordova, TN; Andrew Grayson—Fred Page Middle School, Franklin, TN; Adam Anderson—Fred Page Middle School, Franklin, TN; and Olivia Smith—Fred Page Middle School, Knoxville, TN.

Dylan Rasnick—Fred Page Middle School, Knoxville, TN; Katherine Ballew—Fred Page Middle School, Knoxville, TN; Willis Walker—Fred Page Middle School, Knoxville, TN; Erin Stapleton—Fred Page Middle School, Knoxville, TN; William Coe—Greenway School, Knoxville, TN; Sophie Yates—Greenway School, Knoxville, TN; Shannon Gleason—Knoxville Catholic High School, Knoxville, TN; Hannah Armendarez—Knoxville Catholic High School, Knoxville, TN; Krista Christopoulos—St. John Neumann School, Knoxville, TN; Alexander Grimm—St. John Neuman School, Knoxville, TN; Claire Northern—St. John Neuman School, Knoxville, TN; C.C. Hermes—St. John Neuman School, Knoxville, TN; Sarah Gallagher—Lebanon High School, Lebanon, TN; Jennifer Melroy—Lenoir City High School, Lenoir City, TN; Rachel Collins—Fort Loudoun Middle School, Loudon, TN; Sarah Aldy—St. Agnes Academy—St. Dominic School, Memphis, TN; Ali Delgado—St. Agnes Academy—St. Dominic School, Memphis, TN; Alex Arcamuzi—White Station High School, Memphis, TN; Sahaj Singh—White Station High School, Memphis, TN; Bhavna Kansal—White Station High School, Memphis, TN.

Melissa Swauncy—White Station High School, Memphis, TN; Breanna Morrow—Mosheim Elementary, Mosheim, TN; Britany Loveall—Mosheim Elementary, Mosheim, TN; Melissa Kinser—Mosheim Elementary, Mosheim, TN; Melody Zurawski—Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet-Pearl High School, Nashville, TN; Quidra Cothran—Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet-Pearl High School, Nashville, TN; Kayla Garrett—Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet-Pearl High School, Nashville, TN; Amber Jackson—Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet-Pearl High School, Nashville, TN; London Colbert—Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet-Pearl High School, Nashville, TN; Sonali Mahendran Meigs Magnet Middle School, Nashville, TN; Vivian Hughbanks—Stone House School, Signal Mountain, TN; Grace Hughbanks—Stone House School, Signal Mountain, TN; and Caitlyn Sudkamp—Walden Home School, Signal Mountain, TN.

143RD CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today marks the 143rd anniversary of Juneteenth, a day on which our Nation celebrates the complete abolition of slavery in the United States.

On June 19 of each year, we mark a turning point in American history. On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing slaves in the Confederate states. However, it was not until June 19, 1865, a full 2½ years later, that Union General Gordon Granger and 2,000 Federal troops arrived in Galveston, TX, to take possession of the State and enforce the emancipation decreed by President Lincoln. Tragically, slaves in Texas were not freed until that date. Juneteenth celebrations began in Texas the following year and have continued ever since.

Now, in communities across the country, Juneteenth is a day for Americans to reflect upon a tragic period that divided our Nation and prevented realization of the Declaration of Independence's introductory words, "(W)e hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal . . ."

For Marylanders, Juneteenth is a time to contemplate our own State's history. Slave labor helped spur Maryland's growth from the State's conception in 1664 until 1864 when slavery was abolished with the ratification of a new