

than 30 percent of my annual electricity and propane needs! I didn't even start on my diesel and gasoline requirements. My conclusion from this analysis is that we *must* utilize oil, coal and nuclear power to continue to provide the majority of our energy requirements in this country long into the future. It is not just our economy that we need to worry about, but the very fabric of our society is at stake! Renewable energy is a curiosity and may help in small amounts in localized applications, but it is obvious to me that you cannot take small net energy sources and produce big net energy sources from them. Be concerned about ethanol and bio diesel for that very reason. We need to stop this anal conservation lunacy and utilize our natural resources to solve our energy problem! Absolutely, we need to take care of the environment, but we cannot afford to pay these prices (especially as the money goes directly to the Middle East to fund our enemies!). The solution to the problem is obvious—why cannot we set aside political posturing and get this done???

KEN, *Suan Valley*.

I consider Idaho my home. I love the state, the out of doors and, most of all, the people. I have lived here for over ten years having moved here from Bend, Oregon. My career has taken me all over the world. I have lived or traveled through 39 countries in the last twenty years prior to moving here, and there is nowhere else I would rather live. Presently, I live 45 miles north of Boise, near New Plymouth.

For a number of years, I worked for Woodgrain Millwork as manager of one of their testing and coatings sections. When that closed, I transferred to Kelly Moore as the outside Industrial and Commercial Sales Rep. Life has been very enjoyable. However, a large portion of my activity centers around construction, food processing and manufacturing. Each of these sectors has had to restructure a good many of their plans as one might expect.

It is my belief the market in Idaho will recover at some point; however, it is simply a matter of how long the individual can hold out. Commissions, as one would expect, have lagged, and, of course, the cost of living has not. I have a pretty good-sized territory requiring considerable driving. Every two weeks, I have been spending around \$250 for gas. Today, I turned in receipts for close to \$500. While the company offsets the majority of this, I still bear a portion and, with the increase in the overall cost of living and the decline in commissions, I am having to look for work elsewhere. I have been supplementing the difference out of savings; I cannot keep doing that. The fact of the matter is Friday I fly to Portland for an interview, a bitter pill, but I must get the bleed under control. Given the changes over the last seven to eight months, I see no other choice.

ROGER.

SENATOR CRAPO, Even though I make a good living these gas prices couldn't have hit at a worse time. I am trying to get my bills paid down so that I can afford to retire. It does not look like I'll be retiring anytime soon.

I am very upset with Congress; they should be opening up exploration and drilling in this country. I agree with Newt: Drill here, Drill now, Pay less. Please work towards this goal.

Thank you for asking,

BILL, *Meridian*.

Yeah, gas is too high and it makes the price of everything go up. Food prices are going crazy, produce, it is killing the farm-

ers the truckers and the consumers. Now the electric bill is going up, natural gas going up, but wages not so much.

I make \$15.60 an hour, pretty good for Idaho; but if I hadn't already bought into my house eight years ago, I would be out of luck.

I believe transit would help a good deal, but the bus system [is not adequate]. Not enough money to run a real bus system. Federal funding keeps getting cut and cut again. It does not make sense. If you want people to cut consumption of gas, you have to give them options.

Sincerely,

CONNIE, *Boise*.

I would like to respond to your request for comments regarding energy prices and their effect on the people you represent.

Like many people in the greater Boise metro area, I work in downtown Boise but live in communities in the surrounding areas. I work as a software developer, and as such I make what is largely considered to be a comfortable income. I drive a late 80s sedan that I have owned for ten years, and was owned by my parents before me. Unlike many neighbors, I carry no debt outside of my home mortgage, but my mortgage is a significant portion of my after-tax income (greater than 35 percent). My family functions on a very lean budget, not eating out often, producing our own vegetables in our garden, and taking few road trips or vacations.

Lately I have needed to cut back on my driving due to increased fuel costs. My commute now costs me roughly \$5.50 per day just in gas. According to the IRS standard vehicle expense deduction, the real cost is \$12.12 daily, which includes upkeep and repair as well as fuel costs. Just last year, I was able to function within a \$3 per day commute budget. To counteract these increases in cost, I have purchased a road bicycle and am starting to ride in to work the 12 miles one way. Unfortunately, this adds an extra 1.5 hours to my day. So now my workday increased from roughly nine hours away from home to almost eleven hours.

However, I also suffer from severe allergies specifically relating to tree pollen, grasses and weeds, of which our desert climate and river surrounding community has plenty. These allergies cause my eyes to swell shut when pollen levels increase beyond reasonable levels. The Boise valley area has especially bad pollen problems, due to frequent inversions and stale summer air conditions.

So I am faced with the choice of saving money by riding a bicycle, but suffering debilitating allergic reactions, or paying an additional 54 percent in transportation costs, which cuts out monies allocated in our budget to spending time with my family in local restaurants, or for charitable giving to the Rescue Mission. Those businesses and charities, in turn, no doubt, are feeling the pinch from other families in similar situations, so local businesses are suffering as well.

The net result of rising costs of fuel and inadequate public transportation in suburban cities, is a lose-lose situation for both me and my community. Add to this problem the speculative nature of fuel prices due to our nations reliance on fuel imports, and the future becomes even less certain. An uncertain future means less spending. Less spending means economic shortfalls and contraction.

I am entirely in favor of new efforts to expand new domestic oil exploration and refining capacity as well as investments in nuclear energy infrastructure to help reassign valuable fossil fuels like natural gas or oil to transportation uses and away from electrical power generation. And I also am in favor of long term research in alternate energy and alternate transportation but not to the ex-

clusion of shorter term solutions that make use of our nations existing vehicle inventory and infrastructure.

Thank you for your desire to hear from your constituents.

JASON, *Meridian*.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN HONOR OF THE HEALTH CENTERS OF DELAWARE

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, each year the Nation celebrates National Health Center Week to honor the efforts of the nearly 40,000 medical professionals who strive to provide quality health care to Americans throughout all 50 States. I am pleased to announce that this year National Health Center Week will be held August 10 through 16.

As an annual supporter of this event, I once again commend the work of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Centers and the many health centers in my home State for the role they play in delivering quality, affordable health care to lower-income Delawareans.

These health centers are community-run and open to all Americans regardless of their ability to pay. Delaware is fortunate to have a number of these health centers, including Westside Health in Wilmington and Newark, Henrietta Johnson in Wilmington, Delmarva Kent Community Health Center in Dover, and La Red Health Center in Sussex County.

These centers and those across our Nation are extremely valuable, operating in both rural and urban medically underserved areas and providing care that might not be otherwise available to residents.

By serving as a point of access for affordable primary and preventative care, our Nation's health centers allow to patients to stay healthier, or if they are ill to allow them to seek earlier treatment. This prevents patients from relying solely on costly treatments, such as emergency room visits, saving money for them and our health care system as a whole.

Again, I wish to commend the health centers of Delaware for their hard work and dedication. I thank them for all of the valuable services they provide to so many of us who call Delaware home. •

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAN MOUND

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the importance of Man Mound and congratulate the citizens of Sauk County and the Sauk County Historical Society for their extensive and successful preservation efforts.

Hundreds of years ago, before the Europeans came to this land, a band of Native Americans began efforts to alter the landscape by creating effigy mounds. Although the purpose is still unclear, effigy mounds were primarily

used for religious purposes, though some served as burial mounds. Particularly in the Midwest, American Indians often built the earthen mounds in the shape of animals; however, Man Mound, located in Sauk County in Greenfield Township, WI, is the one of the few effigy mounds in the shape of a man. Over 900 mounds once existed in Sauk County, yet over 75 percent of the mounds have been plowed, erased by floods or destroyed by looters and construction. Although the legs of Man Mound were partially destroyed during road construction in the early 1900s, preservation of Man Mound continues and further destruction to the mound has not occurred. Due to the shrinking number of mounds and the rare human shape of the mound in Greenfield Township, Man Mound needs to be recognized as a valuable part of history.

The Sauk County Historical Society dedicated Man Mound Park, the area surrounding the mound, in 1908 and has since made efforts to keep the mound in its original state. The efforts of the people of Sauk County and the Sauk County Historical Society to protect the effigy mound were progressive and laudable. Man Mound is believed to be the best preserved man-shaped Native American effigy mound remaining in the United States, a title only possible through the commitment of the Historical Society and the citizens of Sauk County.

On August 9, 2008, citizens from many parts the State of Wisconsin will gather to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the preservation of the Man Mound. The commemoration will highlight this unique Native American effigy mound, increase awareness of its value as a landmark and allow for further investigation as to whether there are more mounds in the area. Man Mound will serve as an educational resource for the people in Greenfield Township, Sauk County and Wisconsin. The preservation efforts by the people of Sauk County have not gone unnoticed. The Sauk County Historical Society, the Ho-Chunk Nation, the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Wisconsin Archeological Society, the General Federation of Women's Clubs-Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Archeological Survey and the Sauk County UW Extension, Arts and Culture Committee have dedicated valuable time and resources toward the commemoration of Man Mound. The individuals involved deserve recognition, praise and thanks for their hard work.●

RECOGNIZING THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

● Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I seek recognition today to express my gratitude to the Philadelphia Phillies for their extraordinary effort during a recent mentoring event at PNC Park in Philadelphia on June 21, 2008. This particular event was the most recent in a series of events that have been an integral part of a youth outreach program.

Since my days as district attorney in Philadelphia, I have devoted a great

deal of time and attention to developing ways to reduce violent crime. I believe one of the best ways to reduce the rate of youth crime and violence is to develop mentoring programs with the explicit goal of imbuing the youth of Pennsylvania with ideals such as hard work and civic responsibility. With this goal in mind, I have worked diligently to secure funding for mentoring style programs and have subsequently held events focusing on mentoring and the issues of youth crime and violence throughout Pennsylvania including Philadelphia, Reading, Lancaster, York, Pittsburgh, and Allentown.

The mentoring events in which I have participated are intended to provide the young people of Pennsylvania with a day all their own and, simultaneously, highlight how fun and special mentoring relationships can be for everyone involved. It is my belief that when these young people see that there are positive role models readily available in their community to whom they can turn when searching for someone to emulate, the chance of perpetuating violent patterns of behavior will markedly decline. Specifically, youth involved in a formal mentoring program are 46 percent less likely to start using drugs and alcohol and 33 percent less likely to hit another person. Participants also attended school more regularly and completed their school work more consistently and on time. Finally, the children demonstrated improved peer and family relationships as a result of their involvement in mentoring. These indicators make me hopeful that wide-scale mentoring could have a tremendous impact in this city.

The day with the Philadelphia Phillies was no exception. Between the planning efforts and resources of the Phillies organization and the recommendations of my exceptional staff, the event turned out to be memorable for all those who attended. The accommodations the Phillies afforded the kids were exceptional. They went so far as to honor one young person from their own mentoring program and me, and we had the opportunity to get involved in the "First Ball" ceremony. I am sure this is a memory that this young man will carry with him for the rest of his life. I know it is one I will always reflect upon fondly.

In the wake of the numerous scandals plaguing professional athletics, the event on June 21, 2008, reminded all those in attendance how powerful professional athletes can be in serving as positive role models for the children of our communities. There is no doubt that the young people of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will continue to look toward players such as Chase Utley, Tom Gordon, Jimmie Rollins, Pat Burrell, and others in the future when determining who they should emulate.

What I feel is most important to take away from this event is how signifi-

cantly it reflects the desire of the entire Philadelphia community to become involved in programs that have the potential to effect real change in the lives of our youth. When a group as notable as the Philadelphia Phillies sets aside time and resources to enhance the lives of our youth, it establishes a powerful standard for involvement for the rest of the community. For this program to be a success, it is essential to engage groups of caring professionals. The Phillies, much to my pleasure, have done just that.

I look forward to working further into the future with this great organization and the others that I hope will follow their lead.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) reported that he had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 2967. An act to provide for certain Federal employee benefits to be continued for certain employees of the Senate Restaurants after operations of the Senate Restaurants are contracted to be performed by a private business concern, and for other purposes.

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 231. An act to authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012.

S. 3145. An act to designate a portion of United States Route 20A, located in Orchard Park, New York, as the "Timothy J. Russert Highway".

S. 3218. An act to extend the pilot program for volunteer groups to obtain criminal history background checks.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3564) to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Administrative Conference of the United States through fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes.