

Ma Bell in the 70's. That will teach them and smash their monopolies.

ED.

SENATOR CRAPO: I have a serious concern about energy prices. I live in Blackfoot, and work in Pocatello and Idaho Falls (ISU). At this rate, I may have to find a job in Blackfoot. Gas prices are affecting us more than in most states due to our rural status. I think you should continue to represent our concerns about high gas prices. Can we get the corporate officers from Chevron, Exxon, etc., to testify in Congress as to why our prices are so high? Can we convince the Middle Eastern oil barons to bring their prices down? I have supported you on many issues. I was especially thankful for your support of the Dia del Nino program at the Sixth Grade School in Blackfoot when your office donated hundreds of books to the kids. Please continue to support us on our concerns about the exorbitant energy prices, especially the high cost of gasoline at the pump. Somebody has to be held accountable for these skyrocketing prices. Thanks for all you do!

AMANDO.

DEAR SENATOR: Thanks for asking, but there is no real point in more words and stories and talking. [The auto industry has received special treatment for many years, including avoiding] significant increases in fleet mileage standards. Congressional-supported research for alternative energy sources was removed from the most recent energy bill. [Oil company executives are making exorbitant salaries, and many other rumors and concerns have surfaced about job losses and energy research]. I like Senator McCain's ideas for instituting an entire new green energy industry in the U.S. That would support your ideas for alternatives. Heaven—and Mother Nature—knows that Idaho, with geothermal and biomass and hydro and enough solar and wind, is conveniently at the crossroads and on the power grid to score big time on this. But that takes a federal government commitment toward schools [similar to what] the Sputnik shock created. I am afraid the libertarian/conservative "get government out of our lives" mentality will end that.

Is not \$4 gas really America's best energy policy? That this is what it will take to change thinking on mass transit, improved mileage vehicle design and purchases, ride-sharing, central city dwelling, buy local and regional food?

So, our stories? Well, trip-chaining to reduce shopping trips, [supporting efforts to improve community transit systems which will also improve inversion and air quality concerns.] Staying home rather than flying or driving on vacation.

This exercise of providing anecdotes is a waste of time. The issue and solutions have been [around for many years, but not implemented. Too often, we, the people, feel ignored by those who simply talk about solving the problems, but do not take any substantive action. We are all working for the American Dream, but there are so many issues that are ignored—roads and bridges deteriorating, borders and ports unsecured, financiers unregulated, food and drug operations poorly monitored, military qualities diminishing, public school standards disappearing.

On this one issue, [everyone is affected—] getting to work, emergency vehicles, cross country 18-wheelers, sales trips, plane trips and freight, school buses.

Thanks for your attention.

RICHARD, Boise.

Being 18, maybe I do not have the full perspective on issues, but the correct energy

policy seems too simple to be wrong. As an American, what I demand is action! Something needs to be done already! Nothing has been done for 30+ years, so there has been plenty of time to talk and argue. Now is the time when action is needed. Congress needs to just listen to the men and woman in energy-related fields for the solution. Do not listen to those who do not know what they are talking about. I have grown up in the 'hub' city for the Idaho National Lab and have full faith that if you let the men and women who work there, and similar places throughout the country, "attack" the energy problems that they can and will solve the problems promptly and efficiently; they have the ability, so please just give them the funding, initiative, and faith to get the job done!

As for how energy prices affect Idahoans differently than the majority of the country is that everything here is so spread out. A trip to the next town can be 60 miles, and the only way to travel is by vehicle. Also, in our area, many people drive trucks, but, unlike other areas, the people who drive those type of vehicles here do so because they have to, meaning it is central to their business, which maybe hard to imagine for those who are used to riding in taxis and subways but is absolutely true.

Thank you, Senator Crapo; out of all of our politicians, I feel like you are actually trying to do good for the country!

BOBBY, Idaho Falls.

SENATOR: In all of your e-mails on this subject of energy, I have yet to read about any active support for the trillion or so recoverable BBIs of oil that are locked up in shale in the Green River area. It was approved for some exploration, and then it disappeared off of the energy screen.

Why are we not doing anything or very little in the way of federal support for the source? I believe that one of the oil companies developed a method for extraction in situ which gets rid of the problem of shale exploding like popcorn when it is mined and retorted. This source was explored in the seventies and was found to have been economical to produce until oil went back to 10-15 a barrel after the last crisis.

KEN, Sandpoint.

DEAR SENATOR CRAPO: As an answer about how the price of gas affects here in Oldtown, you might say we are in the center of being anywhere. Any major shopping that my wife and I want to do, we must travel a minimum of 50 miles, to either Spokane, Washington, or to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Using my wife's car for those trips is no great hardship, but still I am out at least 20 dollars for fuel. If it is something I need to haul and drive my pickup, I can figure, about \$50 for the round trip. All well and good about getting a more fuel-efficient vehicle, but being retired and living on my SS, puts a crimp on any major purchases.

Ross, Oldtown.

RECOGNIZING NELSON MANDELA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today, I am pleased to recognize a man whose work has touched so many people in Africa and beyond, and whose life has demonstrated the power of transformation. Tomorrow, former South African President Nelson Mandela will celebrate his 90th birthday and I would like to send him my very best wishes.

As I have traveled across Africa, I have witnessed the respect Mandela

commands and the pride he evokes in all Africans, across borders and boundaries. It is nearly unmatched. He is a symbol of the enduring truth that even the most intractable systems of repression and violence can be overcome with courage and persistence.

The lessons of Mandela's leadership are made that much more remarkable when juxtaposed with another African liberation leader, Robert Mugabe. Upon being released from jail after 27 years, Mandela chose to pursue a path of reconciliation rather than retaliation. When he became President in 1994, he continued that approach and worked to unite the country around his vision of a "rainbow nation." After one term, he stepped aside as President, realizing that institutions must take precedence over individuals in building a stable democracy. Though South Africa certainly had its share of problems since—including a skyrocketing rate of HIV, increasing political turmoil and a recent wave of xenophobic attacks against immigrants—Mandela continues to be a voice for peace and stability, a voice of and for all people of South Africa. The contrast with the continued bloodshed and repression in neighboring, Zimbabwe is stark.

President Mandela's vision for South Africa not only sought peace within its borders, but also beyond them. In 1993, he famously said that human rights would be "the light that guides our foreign affairs." After leaving office, Mandela continued to embody that vision in South Africa and across the continent as he focused on building support for this critical principle—whether with civil society groups or government officials. He has been actively involved in peace processes around the world and a leading advocate for global action to address HIV/AIDS. His willingness to speak out against injustice wherever it festers has inspired and challenged all of us.

I am gravely concerned that the current South African leadership is moving away from this vision. Its unwillingness to publicly criticize recent abuses in Zimbabwe or allow for an expanded mediation is undermining pressure on the Mugabe regime to accept a transitional government. In addition, the announcement by the South African Government that it will oppose the International Criminal Court's indictment of Sudanese President Al-Bashir is deeply disappointing. I have deep respect for the leadership South Africa demonstrates on the continent and that is precisely why I challenge its leaders to play a more active and constructive role in efforts to promote peace, security, and democracy.

Mandela's legacy challenges not only South Africa, but all of us who care about the future of Africa. There is a tendency to look for easy answers or quick fixes to the challenges facing the continent today. Mandela's life is testament to the reality that sustainable peace and democracy require continued investment and long-term vision. They

are not static and cannot be taken for granted. As we celebrate his 90th birthday tomorrow, I hope we will take seriously that challenge and commit ourselves to the hard work of standing up for freedom and justice. For the people of Sudan, Zimbabwe and so many other parts of the world, the stakes have never been higher.

RETIREMENT OF DON MITCHELL

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, you and I and all of our colleagues know that the Senate could not function without the superb work of the Senate staff. These dedicated men and women work day in and day out, often logging long hours, working under pressure, and performing extremely sensitive jobs, not for high pay, but because of their dedication to their country.

All of these individuals deserve our praise and our thanks. But occasionally one of them deserves to be singled out. Today I rise to pay tribute to one such individual, Mr. Don Mitchell, professional staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Don is retiring soon after 24 years of government service, 22 of them here in the Senate. In 1984, the same year I was first elected to the Senate, Don began his career as a legislative assistant for national security in the office of his home State Senator, John Glenn. In 1989, Senator Glenn moved Don to the staff of the Intelligence Committee. His association with Senator Glenn and the committee lasted until 1999 when Don left to become Director of Intelligence Programs for the National Security Council.

After spending 2 years at the National Security Council, the Intelligence Committee was lucky enough to lure Don back to the committee staff. And I have been fortunate that he has stayed throughout my tenure on the committee.

While on the committee, Don has worked on a wide range of issues. He has handled the budgets of the FBI, and the Departments of State, Energy and Treasury and he has been responsible for counter intelligence programs. In addition to Senator Glenn he provided liaison support to Senators Richard Bryan and DICK DURBIN. For the past few years he has overseen all covert action activities, the most sensitive programs within the intelligence community.

Throughout this time, Don has done his job with a professionalism that has earned the respect of his colleagues and Members on both sides of the aisle.

While Don's professional accomplishments are impressive, they are far from the sum of who Don is. Don is an accomplished author, having published works on one of his political heroes, Adlai Stevenson, and most recent, a biography of his first boss, Senator Glenn.

Don's true passion though is his family. His wife Grace, his son Logan, and

his daughter Ella know well of his devotion to them. They also know of his dedication to his work here in the Senate, having supported him for so many years and having endured the many late nights and weekends he has sacrificed for the Senate.

Don is the type of staffer who does not seek glory or recognition for himself. He does not look for ways to insert himself into issues in order to be noticed. He knows what is important and he works toward that goal. He shuns the limelight, but he has made deep and lasting contributions to the process of intelligence oversight. His steady presence, his solid advice, and his devastating wit will be missed.

I wish him well in his coming endeavors and hope that our paths cross again.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BROIN FAMILY GENEROSITY

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the Todd and Linda Broin family of Sioux Falls, SD, and applaud their generosity. Through a charitable gift to the Sanford Project, the Broins have made a major contribution in the global effort to cure type 1 diabetes.

The Sanford Project, an initiative of one of South Dakota's health care systems, seeks to focus research efforts on one critical health care issue with the goal of making significant progress toward curing or otherwise eliminating the disease. Last month, Sanford Project leaders announced their focus on curing type 1 diabetes, with a specific emphasis on beta cell regeneration.

Type 1 diabetes, also called juvenile diabetes, is a severe disease with no known cause or cure that affects nearly 3 million Americans and their families. Linda Broin's own experience with type 1 diabetes, stemming from her diagnosis with the disease at age 12, makes this contribution all the more personal, and inspirational. The Broins' generosity will allow for the establishment of the Todd and Linda Broin, chair, of the Sanford Project, and their gift will be used to support the salary and related expenses of the person who leads the campaign to cure type 1 diabetes. I am extremely pleased the Sanford Project is dedicating health research resources to cure type 1 diabetes, and, like so many others, I am grateful that the Broins' gift will advance the recruitment of top researchers to lead this project.

Diabetes is a severe disease that can result in a range of disabilities, including blindness, amputations, and kidney failure. Given the cost of diabetes not only to Americans' health, but also to our personal finances and our economy, it is clear that funding for diabetes research and prevention needs to be a priority. Biomedical research is the key to solving unanswered questions

regarding this disease and holds the potential to impact millions of lives. While government funding clearly plays an important role in fueling research, the Broins' private contribution provides vital flexibility and garners even greater interest for the project.

I am pleased the Sanford Project's efforts have been amplified and I commend the Broin family's generosity in their gift and efforts to increase awareness about this disease. •

TRIBUTE TO PHIL ROBBINS

• Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I wish to remember the life of Philip Austin Robbins III, of Kodiak, AK.

Phil was born on June 28, 1943, in Anacortes, WA, where he spent his youth. After graduating from high school, he set out on an adventure that would take him around the globe. With little money, Phil hitchhiked, took odd jobs, slept where he could find shelter, enjoyed the hospitality of strangers, and made many new friends, as he traveled through Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

Upon returning home, Phil was drafted into service during the Vietnam war. As fate would have it, though, he was not sent to Vietnam but instead stationed in Heidelberg, Germany, where he worked as a code-breaker in the U.S. Army.

After serving in the Army, Phil lived for a few years in Makaha, HI. He attended the University of Hawaii in Honolulu, and married Lisa Gayle Tatsumi.

Not long after this, Phil would embark on another adventure, moving with his wife and newborn son to Kodiak Island in Alaska. Here, the young family would live in a log cabin in the woods of Island Lake, and Phil would pursue a career as a commercial fisherman. It was a career that would span 40 years. During this time, Phil would see firsthand the boom and bust of the lucrative Kodiak king crab industry from the 1960s to the early 1980s as well as the recordbreaking salmon prices of the late 1980s. He would participate in the cleanup efforts that followed the disastrous Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989 and the frantic derby-style halibut seasons that were phased out in the 1990s. Phil was one of the pioneers of the potcod fishery in Kodiak. Cod fishing had previously been dominated by large trawlers. Over the years, Phil saw fortunes made and friends perish in dangerous waters. He owned three fishing boats at different times during his career, all of which he named the "Lisa Gayle" after his wife.

Phil had a tireless work ethic, a great sense of humor, and a warm heart. He was a modest man and the last to expect his life story would be told on the floor of the U.S. Senate. His bold spirit is emblematic of that of many Alaskans who come to our State with big dreams and a taste for adventure.