

Nunn—joined Senator BYRD and introduced the War Powers Resolution Amendments of 1988, known as S.J. Res. 323. Senator Boren later joined as well as a cosponsor of this legislation in June 1988. I humbly state today that I was the only Republican cosponsor of the legislation. This piece of legislation, however, was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where it remained.

Subsequently, on January 25, 1989, I again joined Senator BYRD, but this time along with five of our former colleagues—Senators Boren, Cohen, Danforth, Mitchell, and Nunn—and introduced the War Powers Resolution Amendments of 1989, known as S. 2. Our former colleagues and I proposed legislation to modify the War Powers Resolution of 1973.

These amendments were intended to: require the President to consult with six designated Members of Congress “in every instance in which consultation is” required under the War Powers Resolution of 1973; require the President and the six designated Members of Congress to “establish a schedule of regular meetings” to “ensure adequate consultation on vital national security issues;” establish a “permanent consultative group” within Congress, which would be comprised of 18 Members of Congress; and require the President to consult with the permanent consultative group at the request of a majority of the 6 designated Members of Congress, unless the President determines that consultation needs to be limited for national security purposes.

Unfortunately, neither of these proposed pieces of legislation were voted on by the Senate. However, I subsequently cosponsored another similar piece of legislation, the Peace Powers Act of 1995, sponsored by our former distinguished majority leader, Senator Bob Dole. Hearings were held on this piece of legislation by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where it remained.

For over 35 years, despite these and similar legislative efforts, no modifications were made to the War Powers Resolution Act of 1973. Today, there still remains no clear mechanism or requirement for the President and Congress to consult before committing the Nation to war.

It is this Senator's opinion that the Nation benefits when the President and Congress consult frequently, deliberately, and meaningfully regarding matters of national security—and that is exactly why I felt compelled to bring to my colleagues attention the important work recently completed by the National War Powers Commission.

The National War Powers Commission was formed in February 2007—by the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs, which is directed by Virginia's former Governor Gerald L. Baliles—to examine the respective war powers of the President and Congress. The University of Virginia, the College of William and Mary, Rice Uni-

versity, and Stanford University served as partnering institutions.

On July 8, 2008, after more than 13 months of study, the Commission released their report and recommendations. I wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues the important work done by this distinguished Commission to the War Powers Consultation Act of 2009. I strongly recommend that those interested in this important subject contact the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs and also review a copy of the Commission's comprehensive report, titled “National War Powers Commission Report,” which can be accessed at the Miller Center's Web site, www.millercenter.org.

The exemplary work by the National War Powers Commission, concluded with the following recommendations: the law purporting to govern the Nation's decision to engage in war—the War Powers Resolution—has failed to promote cooperation between the two branches of government; the War Powers Resolution of 1973 is ineffective at best and unconstitutional at worst; and the War Powers Resolution of 1973 should be replaced by a new law that would, except for emergencies, require the President and Congress to consult before going to war.

I would specifically like to draw my colleagues attention to the Commission's legislative proposal, the War Powers Consultation Act of 2009. This proposed legislation contains four key components. These key components are: First, this legislation would replace the War Powers Resolution of 1973. It would ensure that Congress has an opportunity to consult meaningfully and deliberately with the President regarding significant armed conflicts, and would ensure that Congress has the opportunity to express its views as part of a consultative process.

Second, this statute would create a process that will encourage the two co-equal branches of government to cooperate and consult in a way that is deliberate, practical, and true to the spirit of the Constitution.

Third, the act would establish a “Joint Congressional Consultation Committee” with a “permanent, bipartisan joint professional staff” with access to all relevant intelligence and national security information.

Fourth, and finally, the act would require the President to consult with the Joint Congressional Consultation Committee “[b]efore ordering the deployment of United States armed forces into significant armed conflict”—lasting longer than one week—and would mandate regular consultation thereafter.

I have always believed that Congress has an important and central role in the decision of the deployment of our men and women of the armed forces into harm's way. Undoubtedly, the War Powers Consultation Act of 2009 would provide Congress and the President a well-defined mechanism for consulta-

tion on matters of the use of force in armed conflict.

The decision to commit our country to war is by far one of the most critical decisions that faces our Nation's leaders. This proposal seeks a concrete and pragmatic solution to a longstanding problem that is only getting more difficult in a time where our Nation will continue to face unconventional threats and warfare.

I urge my colleagues to review this important material and work together, with the next administration, to find a solution to this ever-present debate between a President and the Congress over their respective constitutional powers.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through energy_prices@crapo.senate.gov to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

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

It is a most interesting subject [to] bring up, the escalating prices of oil and the reason they are so high. I am tickled to hear that you believe in exercising our own resources here in our own country.

I have done a lot of research on this very subject and just happen to know a lot of people that are directly associated with or are involved in the Alaska oil situation and the reason for the billions that we spent on the pipeline to begin with. I also know that there is enough oil in Alaska to last us for two hundred years . . . but Washington does not seem to want to take that option. They are more interested in foreign oil and the foreign oil policy, even at the expense of our own country and fellow Americans.

Are you aware of how much natural gas they pump right back down into the ground using 747 Jet engines to do it with? If you are not aware, you need to be aware of it and if it does not madden you, then I can only question your way of thinking. Don't take my word for it, do the research.

If you are truly aware of what is really going on and you are truly in favor of exercising our own resources, then I am behind you one hundred percent. I am just not real sure how we are going to get the ugly politics out of Washington D.C., and I am an optimist, but on this one, it forces me to be a pessimist. I believe it has gone too far and is way out of control at this point.

I also know that we could be buying gasoline for our vehicles for less than a \$1.50 a

gallon if we were using our own resources, but again, Washington does not seem to care and it sickens me. It is clearly about greed and money and greed breeds greed—just look how well it is working for the greedy. It makes me wonder why I ever served in Vietnam and why I lost 60,000 of my comrades, but [I feel resigned to accept what is happening].

I have always been behind you and supported you and will continue to do so and only can hope that at least you will stay honest or at least believe that honesty is the best policy.

BOB, Boise.

I received an e-mail several days ago that has “shaken me up” and started my mind working. [We have enough gas] to keep all of America going for at least 150, and probably 200 years, even accounting for increased population growth and demand for energy. The reason—the “bottom line”—that keeps President Bush and Congress from allowing drilling oil within our borders is NOT environmental issues, but paying off the national debt. [Allow me to summarize:] In the early 1970’s then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger traveled to most of the oil producing countries in the world, agreeing to buy oil from them IF they would sign to use part of the money they made on the sale to buy off our national debt.

If we started producing our own oil reserves, the fear is that the U.S. economy would collapse because the oil-producing countries from which we buy oil would stop paying down our national debt when we stopped buying oil from them. Well, here is my solution:

Start using our own oil reserves which would reduce the cost of gasoline to about \$1.50/gallon. Charge us \$2.50/gallon, sending \$1.00 per gallon to pay off the national debt.

Who would not be delighted to pay just \$2.50/gallon again? Who would object to paying a “tax” of \$1.00/gallon to pay off the national debt when we would realize a savings over today’s oil prices?

Please do not just trash this. Please give it some careful attention, and share the concept with others. It is time for a change. It is time to start thinking about saving our country for our country, and stop being held hostage by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Thank you for “listening” and implementing some changes.

LOIS, Caldwell.

This is in response to your email asking for my story about the impact that high gas and energy prices are having on my life. You said I could write a paragraph or two about how I am affected by high energy prices, and that it would be worthwhile for me to share the priorities that I think Congress should set in resolving this crisis.

CRISIS

(1) I no longer go backpacking, hiking, camping, or canoeing. Instead, I float the Boise River on a tube, because it is close to home. I used to buy equipment and services that supported those hobbies, but now I do not. So, those businesses that I used to patronize are impacted negatively, because I stay in town. Who also suffers? The businesses near the towns where I traveled, and the businesses on the highway that lead to those areas.

If more people are doing this, what is the impact to our environment? More people will not recognize the beauty of God’s creation, which means they will be less likely to support bills that protect the environment.

(2) I no longer explore small Idaho towns and ghost towns. Who suffers? The business in those towns, and the businesses on the highways that lead to those towns.

(3) Long before the “energy crisis”, I had already switched to fluorescent light bulbs. Fortunately, I had my home built with 2 attic fans, so that I do not have to use the air conditioning during summer. Also, almost every room in my home has ceiling fans; so, I turn on the ceiling fan in the room I am occupying instead of turning on the air conditioning for my entire home.

During the cold months, I set my thermostat to 40 or 50 degrees, 40 during the day if the outside temperature is above 30, and 50 when I am at home or if the outside temperature is below 30. This keeps my pipes from freezing, and it keeps my bills low. I wear warm fleece underwear, and warm fleece outer garments to stay warm. In contrast, my neighbor pays 5 or 6 times as much as I do for their natural gas bills during the cold months (but they are wealthy).

I have drained my hot tub, and I no longer use it. Now I wish I had never bought one. This hurts the hot tub industry, and any businesses that support that industry.

I canceled my satellite TV; that saves me \$50 per month, and that is good for about two-thirds of a tank of gas.

I do not have a cell phone, and I do not plan on getting one, since it would cost \$50 or more a month (which I can apply toward higher food costs).

(4) I combine trips and do not drive unless I have to. No Sunday drives. No “unnecessary” trips to the grocery store. I used to travel about 10,000 miles per year; but for the last 2 years, I have limited my driving to about 6,000 miles per year.

(5) I exclusively shop at Wal-Mart. If Wal-Mart does not carry it, then I don’t buy it. Why would I drive around town to shop other stores when I can buy most everything at one place? That is great for Wal-Mart, but it hurts other businesses.

(6) I used to take one decent overseas vacation each year (or go to Hawaii or Florida). However, I stopped doing that after 2005. And since the cost of airline tickets are increasing, I won’t even consider traveling. I need to save my money to buy gas and food. And when I see the price of oil rise \$10 or more in one day, then I do not think about doing anything but save money for “the worst case scenario.”

(7) I have changed my diet. I purchase less or no meats and more pasta and rice. I buy graham crackers instead of Oreos, or I make my own cookies. I buy less snack foods. The energy costs have driven up food costs. I have found ways to keep my food prices low by adjusting my diet, but this hurts other businesses. Oh, and I am not one of those obese Americans; I’m 5’9” and 160 pounds . . . right where I need to be. I do not understand how obese Americans and their children can afford to feed their addiction to foods.

(8) I had hoped to quit my full-time job and work part-time instead (in lieu of traditional “retirement”). However, because of the drastic increase in prices of energy and food, and because of the uncertainty and volatility in the global markets, I have postponed quitting my full-time job. That means that a college graduate cannot have my good paying full-time job. And it means that I can not enjoy the extra free time that a part-time job would give me.

(9) I drive a 1994 pick-up truck. I would like to buy a new vehicle, but I can not. Why? Because I need something that gets very good gas mileage and has a reasonable price tag, and there are no cars on the road that meet these criteria, even the so-called hybrids (which can not pay for themselves even at \$5 or \$6 a gallon because of the increased cost of hybrid technology). Back in 1994, it was a mistake to trade-in my 1987 Honda Civic that got 40 mpg in the city and 50 mpg on the highway (and it wasn’t even a hybrid . . .

and most hybrids can’t even come close to that kind of gas mileage these days . . . but they cost 3 or 4 times as much as my Honda did in 1987 . . . and the “technology” is so much greater today!!!!). So, I will continue driving my 1994 truck that gets 19 mpg city, because it is way too expensive to buy a new vehicle (i.e., the cost to get a 30 mpg or 35 mpg vehicle will not pay for itself for 7 or 10 years). And you don’t need to know my truck’s mpg for highway driving, since I do not enjoy outdoor activities anymore, so it doesn’t matter.

(10) I have noticed more crime in Boise within the last year. Why do you think that is? Because energy costs (and food costs) have risen too quickly . . . people can’t cope with the sudden increases. However, we are not adding more police or more jails to support the increase in crime. I am glad that I do not live in a major metropolitan area, because I think that if energy costs continue to climb, the country is at risk of rioting in its metro areas.

CRISIS RESOLUTION

(1) Politicians need to stop pandering to oil companies and oil executives by developing very stringent fuel economy requirements. Politicians need to stop pandering to oil companies and oil executives by honestly and diligently pursuing alternative forms of energy. But can the politicians do this? After all, there is a lot of money involved with oil in so many places, industries, pocketbooks, and campaign contributions (legitimate and otherwise).

(2) Drill for oil on USA soil and in USA waters. Why? Because we can not wean ourselves from oil instantly; and there are no viable automotive solutions today that do not use oil. It is going to take several years to wean ourselves from oil. In the meantime, we need to rely on our own oil sources to balance our foreign oil dependency. This means drilling in “pristine” Alaska, along both of our coasts, and in other areas of our country where “environmentalists” say we should not drill.

(3) Pursue fuel cell technology for vehicles (Honda is doing it, finally). Forget ethanol. Forget hybrids. Fuel cell vehicles require hydrogen and oxygen and emit water! No gasoline involved at all. And no cash crops like corn are required, which should help ease the price of this and other commodities.

(4) Use more nuclear energy. This technology currently exists, and it is viable. We do not have to start from scratch.

(5) Take lessons from New Zealand with regards to hydro-electricity and other forms of energy. That country is extremely self-sufficient when it comes to energy.

(6) Use more wind power. This technology currently exists, and it is viable. Are some (rich) people worried about the view of the landscape changing? Then stop painting the wind turbines all white! Paint them to blend into the background, or camouflage style!

(7) Pursue solar power. It is amazing that this technology is so far behind. The sun is so powerful, and so available. Regular homeowners can not afford solar panels on their homes. Look at all the wasted roof space on buildings and homes!

(8) Give incentives for conservation. Why is this last on my list? Because I think most people do conserve energy already . . . except maybe the “celebrities” like Al Gore and many other rich folks who tout the environment and conservation, but live in the lap of luxury and waste.

KRISTIAN, Boise.

I really do not think the gasoline price is really a result of supply and demand. I am all for conservation and alternative energy

plans and research with diverse sources. I am not opposed to nuclear. I just do not like the feeling of being manipulated. Just yesterday the spokesperson for Saudi Arabia expressed concern about the price of oil. They can see the writing on the wall if it stays like this. They increased supply while insisting that it is not a supply issue.

Other sources that are much more progressive have pointed out that legislation passed late in 2000 deregulated the energy futures. It was suggested on NPR today that Congress could reverse that decision and change the price of energy in one month. You can tell I would sit on the other side of the aisle if I was in Congress but with [the President] making such a fuss about supply and demand I doubt we are going to see any bold action from Congress.

I have pulled the points for the following paragraph from "Mother Jones" July-August 2008. You may not like the source but let us discuss the facts. I am referring to an omnibus spending bill passed on or about December 15, 2000. Yes, President Clinton was still in office then. Senator Phil Gramm slipped in a 262-page measure called the Commodity Futures Modernization Act. It contained a provision lobbied for by Enron that exempted energy trading from regulatory oversight. This is primarily about California electricity and the mortgage securities fiasco but I am sure that this regulation or other similar has allowed the current run up in energy futures. This could be regulated. The regulations put in place after the Great Depression were sound and it has been a disaster to undo many of them.

Personally, the high energy prices have had little impact on me. I am, at least for now, still an overpaid engineer at Micron. I have purchased another old Saturn and my wife is driving that more and driving the Bonneville less. GM is saying how much it would take to raise the CAFE standards, but many of us have increased the mileage of our cars by 20 percent for about \$200 and we have not disabled emission systems or lied to the engine computer. My car has averaged 55 mpg for the last year and will do about 50 mpg at 65 mph.

The changes are primarily aerodynamics and a little hotter air fed into the engine. Some have bypassed emission systems but many have not.

That is not much of a story but I hope it gets you to thinking about some of these in a new light.

Thanks.

ERNE, *Meridian*.

Because of the gas prices we hardly go anywhere other than work and the store. Most of this energy crisis has been brought about by the speculators—these are the same people who brought on the sub-prime mess. They have to be stopped because they are ruining our economy. The cost of oil has nothing to do with its availability; it is pure speculation on the part of commodity traders. If these scavengers are not reigned in, the world economy is in for a depression. As soon as the energy bubble bursts, they will move to a new bubble which is food and, because of them, millions will starve. One of the other driving forces behind oil prices is the Federal Reserve (which is neither federal or reserve) lowering interest rates and devaluing the dollar. The banks are out for only themselves and they do not care what happens to the rest of us. The Federal Reserve needs to be done away with—because of the Fed's printing and Congress's spending habits, we are in big trouble.

We can barely afford the price of gas to go to and from work so vacations are out this year and so are a lot of other things. [How] are people, especially senior citizens on a

fixed income, going to heat their homes this winter? This is going to hurt Idaho businesses because any extra money is either spent on food or utilities.

Nobody believes the government figures on inflation (which are out-and-out lies) or the figures on unemployment. We are getting tired of the government lying to us and thinking we are too stupid to figure it out. There is nobody to for vote for or against in either the Democrat or Republican Presidential race. I am . . . tired of wasting my vote on the lesser of 2 evils . . .

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE SILVER STAR FAMILIES OF AMERICA

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I honor in the RECORD of the Senate the Silver Star Families of America, upon the completion of \$1 million in donated volunteer hours and materials to remember and honor the wounded and ill of our armed forces.

The Silver Star Families of America was founded on April 11, 2005, and received 501(c)3 status on December 5, 2005. The Silver Star Flag and Banner are symbols of remembrance and honor for the wounded soldiers and their families as well as anyone wishing to honor those wounded during combat while honorably serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The goal of the Silver Star Families of America is to recognize the blood sacrifice of our wounded and remember their efforts by honoring them with the Silver Star Banner. The Silver Star Families of America also advocates for the wounded and assists in educating their families and the public concerning their plight.

I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with the Georgia representative of Silver Star Families of America, Trish Benefield of Rome, GA, on a number of occasions while she organized State and local events and hospital visits to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces and their families who have sacrificed so much on behalf of our Nation's freedom.

Ms. Benefield, chief Steven J. Newton, founder of Silver Star Families, national president Janie Orman, and volunteers across the country have donated 47,912 hours valued by the Veterans Administration at \$934,763. They have also donated over \$40,000 in Silver Star Banner distribution and \$30,000 in direct aid for items such as services to homeless and near-homeless veterans, care packages, and support of hospitalized veterans and other programs. This achievement is a noteworthy one, and I am proud to recognize this accomplishment today. •

RECOGNIZING THE RED CLOUD INDIAN SCHOOL

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, the Red Cloud Indian School is worthy of much acclaim. Founded by Franciscan Sisters and Jesuits in 1888 as the Holy

Rosary Mission, they strove to teach and maintain Oglala and western knowledge for the youth of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and its surrounding areas. In 1969 the school changed its name to Red Cloud Indian School out of respect and appreciation for the great Chief Red Cloud who petitioned the government to allow the establishment of the school. Today nearly 600 students are enrolled in classes spanning every grade from kindergarten through twelfth. The school is private and 97 percent of its funds come from private donors, as students are required to pay only a minimal fee to attend. Classes include a wide range of subjects, such as math, science, history, ethics, and Lakota culture. Combining this wide range of education helps retain the Lakota heritage while preparing students to enter the larger society.

Red Cloud Indian School has made postsecondary education a priority and has done an exceptional job educating and preparing its students for the world. Seeking 100 percent college matriculation, the high school proudly touts that, in 2004, 94 percent of its graduating class pursued post-secondary education, the highest rate of any Indian school in the country.

Since 1999, 32 Red Cloud students have received the Gates Millennium Scholarship. The Gates Millennium Scholarship Program was originally funded through a \$1 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 1999. The program has two main goals: to encourage academic success and to provide absolute financial support to excellent minority students who have financial constraints that could otherwise inhibit their ability to attend college. To date, over 12,000 people have been awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

The recent Gates Scholarship recipients of Red Cloud Indian School are as follows:

1999—Candace Brings Plenty;

2001—Sarah Yellow Boy and Lawrence Vigil;

2003—Donnel Ecoffey;

2004—Carmen Fourd, John Cross Dog, and Marie Zephier;

2005—Jason Clifford, Blue Dawn Little, Shayna Richards, and Sarah White;

2006—Rianna Albers, Jordan Herman, Larissa Little Moon, Dallas Nelson, Marissa O'Bryan, and Brandi Shortman;

2007—Monique Claymore, Sammi Herman, Samantha Janis, Tanner O'Daniel, Matthew Shoulders, Kaylynn Two Bulls, and Allison Weston; and

2008—David Anaya, Dylan Fills Pipe, Seaton Frank, Danielle Hudspeth, Chante Knight, Stevie Tobacco, Vern White Butterfly Jr., and Audrey White.

Congratulations to the Red Cloud Indian School staff, students, and families. Their sustained success is very admirable and is worthy of the highest praise! •