

other words, contract negotiations between FAA, NATCA and PASS are restarted with a 45-day deadline. If no agreement is reached, then there is an additional 90 days for binding arbitration.

As a pilot I am well acquainted with the exceptional work done by the employees of the FAA and I know firsthand that our aviation system is only as good as these employees. They deserve the right to bargain in good faith on their employment contracts. This bill will give them that opportunity.

Thank you, Senator LAUTENBERG, for introducing this bill, and I hope we get an opportunity to debate it very soon.

REMEMBERING SENATOR JESSE HELMS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I join with my colleagues in the Senate and the House, and with the people whose lives he touched all across the Nation, in saying how sorry I was to learn of the passing of Jesse Helms on July 4. He was a remarkable man, and he has left his mark on the United States that he loved so very much and the State of North Carolina that he served with great pride. He will not be forgotten.

Jesse Helms was an American in every sense of the word—one who was firmly and staunchly dedicated to the principles upon which our country was founded. Those principles guided him through his life and helped him to make every difficult decision that confronted him in his 86 years of life.

Jesse Helms was an established force in the Senate by the time I arrived. As a freshman Senator I knew I had a lot to learn and I was able to learn a lot from him as we served together and worked on several issues that meant a great deal to us both. We didn't always agree, but I always found him to be a man of his word who said what he meant and meant what he said. You always knew where you stood with him and when he said "Yes" you knew that you could count on him to do what he said he would.

Many of us come to Washington hoping to change Washington. Then, with the passage of time, we find that instead of changing Washington, Washington has changed us. How we are changed says a lot about us and our commitment to the principles and values that motivated us to run for the Senate in the first place.

That kind of change is only natural and, for many of us, the changes that occur help us to see other viewpoints and perspectives and make it possible for us to work with Members on both sides of the aisle so we can achieve common goals and work for the best interests of the United States and the American people.

Like so many of us, Jesse Helms was changed by his experience in the Senate. One of the most notable examples was the President's foreign AIDS relief package we worked on together.

For years Jesse was opposed to providing any assistance to countries

fighting the AIDS epidemic. Some thought he would always oppose any kind of relief. Then, Bono, who is a powerful advocate for the cause, made an appointment to see Jesse Helms so he could share the human side of the problem with him.

I guess no one had been able to put a human face on the AIDS epidemic for him before. However Bono was able to do it, he was able to touch Jesse's heart and convince him that the need was real—and the right thing to do. In response, Jesse was big enough to admit that he had been wrong. After Bono's presentation, Jesse decided to work on a proposal that would provide the needed funds to fight AIDS in Africa. The proposal was passed and signed into law, and thanks in part to his support, countless lives were saved. It is no coincidence that the reauthorization of this legislation that he worked so hard to pass was recently enacted into law by President Bush. It is a part of his legacy that will continue on after him and make a difference all over the world for many years to come.

That is but one facet of his character, and one we are all familiar with. And, now that he has been taken from us, we will all take with us many more memories that come from our service with Jesse Helms in the Senate.

A lot of what we remember about Jesse Helms and his service in the Senate would surprise those who only knew him by reputation because people thought he was a tough guy. But when you met him, you quickly came to see that he was a friendly person. He enjoyed greeting the tourists he met in the Halls and he made them all feel welcome because he always had a kind word for everyone he met. Those who worked here in the Capitol liked him because he treated them all with kindness and respect.

At the top of Jesse's list were those who work with us to help the House and Senate function as it should—especially the pages. I don't think Jesse Helms ever missed a chance to say "Thank you!" to the pages for their service to the Congress. That was just one of the ways that Jesse honored the Senate's traditions and respected the office he was elected to hold.

I remember a story he told me about his first Senate race. The campaign was in full swing, but Jesse's numbers didn't look too good. Then one day he ran into a fellow Mason who handed him a Masonic lapel pin. "Here," he said. "Wear this during your campaign and I guarantee you that you will win."

He took his friend's advice and wore the pin every day. Then, when the votes were counted, Jesse was the newly elected Senator from North Carolina.

He told me that story while we were in the cloakroom and I was watching him put a new back on the pin that now showed a lot of use. I told him that I was a Mason, too. As he put the pin back on his lapel, he told me that he

had worn that pin every day since his friend gave it to him during that first Senate campaign.

As I came to know him, I saw that Jesse and I shared a great fondness and appreciation for the youth organizations that are recognized by the Congress. He knew that they were teaching our kids things they weren't going to be getting any other way. He knew that these groups were helping our kids learn how to be good citizens and good students and to stand up for the things they believed in. He knew that they were helping to prepare our young people for the challenges they would face in school and later, in life.

One organization we both worked to support was the Boy Scouts. He was a strong supporter of Scouting and he stood up for them whenever they were unfairly criticized or attacked. His response to each attack was to craft a bill that protected the promotion of volunteerism, values and faith to ensure those valuable lessons would continue to be taught to the Scouts.

That is just one example of Jesse's commitment to the values that meant so very much to him. That is why he was able to get a lot of things done over the years. His success was based on his strong foundation of values and beliefs that he would stand fast on and that was enough for him to win on most occasions. Watching him in action on the floor or in committee taught me that conviction counts, especially when you are firm and comfortable in what you believe.

Jesse was a kind, soft spoken, effective, persistent and successful individual. He paid attention to people and they responded to him—in North Carolina and across the country. Another of his great political secrets was his understanding that a problem always appears bigger if it is your own. That's why the people of his State sent him back to the Senate for five terms. He listened to the people of North Carolina, he understood them, and he made their problems his own.

Now that the last chapter of his life has been written, Jesse Helms' record speaks for itself. It reflects the fact that he was never concerned with being popular or taking positions because they mirrored the results of the latest poll. His focus was always on doing what was right—because it was the right thing to do. I think he owes his perspective on life to some advice his father gave him that helped to shape his character and point him toward his destiny. Jesse would often share his father's words with others, "The Lord does not require you to win, but he does require you to try."

Jesse never forgot what his father told him. In fact, he lived those words by putting them into practice every day. No matter the odds or how impossible the situation was, Jesse stayed true to the life lesson his father taught him many years ago.

Now that he has been taken from us, it will be for others to judge his place

in history and the impact his life had on the Nation. Whatever is decided, for me and for so many others, the record will show that Jesse Helms didn't always win, but he never let the fear of losing keep him from fighting for a cause he believed in. For Jesse Helms, the glory came not from victory, but from giving all he had in a noble effort in support of a worthy cause.

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:

I am a firm believer that Americans need to find alternatives to foreign oil and reliance on fossil fuels. But, instead of more domestic production, I believe Americans need to diversify in their approach, and not simply rely on alternative places to find oil and fossil fuels. Instead, the focus should be upon ingenuity, for example instead of water producing electricity, why not windmills, or wind energy? I grew up seeing fields of windmills on drives from Los Angeles to Palm Springs. Also, Boise is one of the most bicycle friendly cities, although you'd never know it by commuting on our poor streets that have completely ineffective bicycle commuting lanes. Instead of oil and gasoline, encourage people to bike to work by offering an expanded commuter tax credit. And, we have absolutely NO public transportation system. Why not focus on a systematic expansion of public transportation? As for home electricity and the like, why not an expanded tax credit on "going green?" I learned about the energy certification for your home when my family was building our new house, but it costs almost \$3,000 to get your home tested to qualify for the tax credit, which is not worth it. Plus, energy efficient appliances and technology generally costs more. Why isn't such technology more cost effective? Why are we not encouraged to do more? If green technology costs more, in order to encourage its use and mainstream applications, there has to be financial encouragement to install it in order to offset the high up-front costs.

As for transportation, this summer, I cannot afford to buy a new car, even though I am a solid middle class citizen. Food prices have skyrocketed for my family, I have to pay for daycare for the summer, and I own a 10-year-old gas guzzling SUV, which is probably not worth much on a trade in anymore what with the high gas prices. But I live only

2 miles from work. The lack of public transportation has forced me to consider a different alternative, and that is biking to work. I am lucky because my employer (the federal government, by the way) is required to provide lockers and shower facilities on site, so I can bike in, shower, and go to work. I have encouraged my children to join me, and they are biking with me to summer camp as well. Unfortunately, this is the first summer I have been able to do this, because transporting my children to daycare was just about impossible without a car before this. Yet, most other nations have alternative transportation, and a totally different day care system, and because cycling is the norm it is much safer. I think the problem is deeper than just gas or oil prices. It is our own selfishness that has gotten us here, because we have never been forced to consider the alternatives.

I hope that a comprehensive approach to this problem will be focused on, instead of just a quick financial fix for segments of the population. It is hurting us all. And until Congress and our nation focuses on the more widespread issues, our approach to everyday life won't change. Because it is not just energy costs . . . it is more than that, and God forbid Congress forgets about the other problems, such as health care, child care, education, affordable housing, and the lack of appropriate services for those that are now falling behind because wages cannot keep up.

KIRSTEN.

As a kid, Congress said they were solving an 'energy-crisis,' and by the time I could drive, cars would get 100 mpg, jet-packs would be available by 1975, there would be a resort at "LunaCity" on the Moon by 1980, Mars by 1990, and Alpha Centauri by 2000.

Today, Congress says they are 'solving' an 'energy-crisis,' and if I just 'believe' in them, I will be 'delivered' from the valleys of shadows and death.

Please note, Mr. Karzai's diversion of cross-border Pakistani Taliban 'marauding-hoards,' and the House of Saud's past-due promises to pump more oil, while Congress spins their wheels-in-wheels-in-wheels of deceptions, is not 'solving' anything. Use of strategic reserves at this critical juncture is probably not a wise move, although I wish for the Clinton days of \$0.89 cent/gal diesel. Your entire branch of government is completely out of control. THAT is the solution.

CLAYTON, *Priest River*.

I have 4 teenage boys that are big and are growing fast. The increased energy costs have significantly increased the cost of almost all goods. Most noticeably, our food bill has nearly doubled since the first of the year. We are desperately looking for any means to economize.

Although I am able to ride my bike to work and have taken several steps to minimize our fuel bills, we are feeling the crunch of increased petroleum costs. We have aging parents that are in need of more of our attention. Unfortunately, our parents are over 400 miles away, so it costs us over \$180 dollars to make the trip to see them and to try to help them take care of their homes and properties.

It makes sense to me that the rising cost of fuel would affect our economy. My salary is not increasing, and with the cost of goods and fuel increasing, we are only able to make ends meet by not buying other things. This trend would seem to hurt other businesses that are depending on people like me to be buying their goods.

I am an Electrical Engineer and I am very disturbed over the push to skip nuclear power and move solely to renewable energy. The wind and solar power options available

today will not meet our energy needs. Unfortunately, our country was behind in providing the needed supply of energy when the recent acceleration in energy costs began. I do believe that renewable technologies like wind and solar can play an important role in meeting future energy needs, but I think we need to provide a plan that sees these technologies mature and become less expensive through manufacturing advances. I believe we need to develop nuclear and clean-burning coal as stop-gap measures to allow the renewable technologies to advance to the point where they are more cost effective. If we try to move strictly to renewable energy sources, I am concerned that we will face energy shortages, or will further reduce consumer spending power by having to put our money in the more expensive renewable energy sources.

GENE.

This is one subject I completely agree with you on. The U.S. Congress has to act to allow drilling where we know we have oil reserves. The stupidest statement I have ever heard from Congress, which I have recently heard repeatedly, is that we cannot solve our energy crisis by drilling. That is about like saying we cannot solve a food shortage by planting more crops!

Last month I spent over \$760 on gasoline and my wife spent several hundred [dollars] also. We do not have the option of using public transportation and we need larger vehicles on our farms. As a farmer, while currently enjoying good prices, we are seeing a big chunk of the increased income eaten up in fuel costs. If crop prices were to return to "normal" levels, it would devastate Idaho farms. Thanks for your help on this important issue.

KEITH, *Blackfoot*.

Honestly, I do not want to tell a story about how I am affected by high energy prices—it is obvious. I think the last thing we need is to talk about it more. The ways to lower prices are out there and the Congress knows it. Just get it done. Just as communism caused us to fight with all our American might at home and around the world to preserve our nation, so also must we view our nation's energy as a cause worth pursuing with all our sweat and synapses. If not, our nation will lose the strength, the hope, the dream that has raised so many generations of Americans before.

Please, please do not talk anymore. Do something. You should receive many reply emails. Several will have great ideas (wind, solar, hydrogen, nuclear, oil). Pick the ideas with the most promise and encourage their production and then stay out of those geniuses' way and watch what the American people can do.

JOSH, *Idaho Falls*.

Too many people have this backwards. Most agree there is a limited amount of oil we can get. We need to save our reserves and use up the foreign oil first. Then when the foreign oil is nearly used up we will still have some to aid in the transition to other sources or energy. Save our oil and use up foreign oil first.

The last one standing with some oil wins.

CARL.

I am an Idaho Farmer. I have been deeply concerned about the prices of fuel in Idaho. The price of fuel has affected the cost of almost every aspect of farming from fertilizer to chemicals, tires, etc. The list goes on and on. The price of labor has all gone up because people cannot afford to work for less. My generation might be the last generation of farmers in Idaho. I personally have two sons