

and the cycle of violence may continue.

It is imperative that the government and the LTTE agree to an immediate cease-fire to avoid further loss of life, permit access to U.N. monitors and humanitarian organizations, and permit civilians to leave for areas of safety. The Obama administration, the British, Indian and other concerned governments, should be publicly urging the same.

Over the longer term, if lasting peace is to come to Sri Lanka, the government must effectively address, in negotiations which include all the main Tamil and Muslim parties, the core issues that have fueled the conflict including laws and policies that unfairly discriminate against Sri Lanka's minorities.

There is a related issue that needs to be mentioned, and that is the imprisonment for the past ten months of J.S. Tissainayagam, a journalist, and N. Jashiharan, a publisher, and his wife, V. Valamathy. They were arrested for articles critical of the government, and are being held in violation of their right to freedom of expression. Another of Sri Lanka's most respected journalists, Lasantha Wickrematunga, was gunned down in broad daylight a few weeks ago. According to Navi Pillay, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, "[t]he killing of . . . Wickrematunge . . . was the latest blow to the free expression of dissent in Sri Lanka. The searing article he wrote prophesying his own murder is an extraordinary indictment of a system corrupted by more than two decades of bloody internal conflict." The High Commissioner noted that there have not been any prosecutions of political killings, disappearances and other violations committed in recent years. That in itself speaks volumes about the Sri Lankan government's credibility.

For many years, the United States and Sri Lanka have enjoyed good relations. A close friend of mine, James Spain, was our Ambassador there years ago. He often told me of his deep affection for the Sri Lankan people, and of the country's extraordinary natural beauty.

When the tsunami crashed ashore in December 2004, a member of my staff was on the island. The American people responded generously to help Sri Lanka rebuild.

It has therefore been difficult for me to watch the conflict intensify, the LTTE abuse civilians and fail to live up to its commitments, and the government threaten to expel foreign diplomats, aid agencies and journalists, and refuse appeals to permit independent observers and aid workers access to areas where Tamil civilians are trapped. And as reputable, courageous journalists have been arrested on transparently political charges or assassinated.

The Sri Lanka government will one day want the respect and support of the United States. The same can be said of

the LTTE, if and when it renounces violence and becomes a legitimate political party. How they respond to today's humanitarian appeals will weigh heavily on how the United States responds when that day comes.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IDAHO NATIONAL LAB

MR. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge a milestone of singular significance for Idaho and for the Nation. This month marks the 60th anniversary of the Idaho National Laboratory.

In February 1949, the Federal Government settled on a site in east central Idaho to host the National Reactor Testing Station—a place where scientists and engineers could come together to develop and test new ways to put the power of the atom to productive use for society. In short order, Experimental Breeder Reactor-I was designed, built and operating—producing the world's first usable amount of electricity from nuclear power and later, proving that reactors could produce, or breed, more fuel than they consume.

Breakthrough after breakthrough followed in the ensuing years, including significant contributions to national security with the development of the nuclear propulsion systems for U.S. Navy submarines and aircraft carriers. The Idaho testing station was the genesis of American civilian nuclear power, responsible for powering an American city for the first time with nuclear-generated electricity, as well as the design and construction of 52 pioneering nuclear reactors. The Idaho testing station was responsible for the development of world leading reactor safety codes and the operation of the Nation's premier materials testing device—the Advanced Test Reactor.

Building on its unsurpassed nuclear energy expertise and in recognition of its broader capabilities and unique assets, our Idaho "testing station" was formally designated a national laboratory in 1974. And the pace of innovation has only accelerated since. The lab's researchers have received dozens of R&D 100, Bright Light, Federal Laboratory Consortium and related awards for the development of technologies as diverse as concealed weapons detection systems and novel electrolyte batteries. The lab's central location within the Western Inland Energy Corridor—a band stretching from western Canada down through our nation's Intermountain and Rocky Mountain West—place it in a remarkable position to identify, assess and integrate the corridor's unmatched wind, biomass, hydropower, geothermal, conventional and unconventional fossil and uranium resources.

At 60, the Idaho National Lab's relevance to the Nation could not be greater. Its mission to "Ensure the nation's energy security with safe, competitive, and sustainable energy systems and unique national and home-

land security capabilities," represents a pledge to serve by each of the lab's nearly 4,000 employees, as well as the management team and partners from institutions of higher education in Idaho and nationwide.

I congratulate the employees, management team and community partners of the Idaho National Lab on the occasion of its 60th anniversary and look forward to many more years of success, built on this matchless legacy of science and engineering innovation.

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 well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose 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:

First of all I appreciate all your efforts in this manner and hopefully some relief will become of them. Secondly this letter may be a bit different than most of the others you have received. I, like many others feel the burden of increasing fuel prices and wonder "why" prices have risen so much in the past few months. I also have deep concerns for the dependence of foreign oil this country is a slave to. However, we Americans are for the most part, myself included, are selfish, wasteful and will not give up our conveniences. Therefore I personally do not mind the higher price of fuel (but hopefully the prices will drop) in the aspect that hopefully it will encourage people to be a bit more conservative. I am fortunate that my wife and I live less than three miles from where we work (separate business) in the past we both have driven our vehicles. My personal vehicle is a Ford F250 that gets 10 mpg. I have been driving for the convenience, but recently we have begun riding together (we also have a Ford Escape at 25 mpg), walking that takes about 45 minutes, riding bicycles at about 15 minutes and I also have a motorcycle that gets 55 mpg that I have dusted off and begun to ride. So it is not all bad. I also realize most people are not that fortunate. The things that bother me the most are that in the land of plenty, our auto manufacturers are still producing vehicles that get under 15 mpg; it is way past time for that to change. Domestic oil production needs to be increased, but please do it sensibly. Consider

the environmental impact and make sure U.S. oil stays in the U.S., and the fact that oil companies are reported to be making record profits. Everyone is entitled to make a profit, but profiteering is unacceptable.

Sorry for rambling on but as you hopefully can see, I feel the higher fuel prices are an opportunity for the American ingenuity to kick in with more fuel efficient vehicles, commuter options i.e., walking, carpooling, alternate transportation, and alternative fuels so we as Americans can reduce our dependence on oil and still satisfy our selfish lust for independence.

GREG HOSMAN, *Bellevue.*

There are many folks on the edge of losing jobs simply because they cannot afford the fuel to drive to work. Pairing job opportunities and increasing availability of affordable fuel makes sense. One tenth of one percent in a wilderness of 19 million acres is a smaller percentage per acre than a person leaves on one camping trip. It is a small price to pay. Please continue to support President Bush's desire to restore reasonable economics to our country. Thanks for standing up.

DELPHA BUSH, *Boise.*

I am strongly opposed to lifting the ban on off-shore drilling and strongly against drilling in our wild areas. I am also against the use of food crops for ethanol or any policy that reduces the availability of food to the world poor. I am very supportive of alternative energy and government funded research in these areas. I am strongly in favor of increased mileage requirements on vehicles. If Europe can get 50 miles to the gallon, we should be able to do so also. Thank you for your interest in this area.

LAURA AND BILL ASBELL, *Post Falls.*

I moved to Idaho to go camping fishing day trips etc. . . . now because of the gas prices I stay in Nampa most of the time. I have a family and I work hard . . . I want to enjoy life in Idaho again. Please if you can do anything to help get life back the way it was that would be great. Thanks again.

ELBIE SEIBERT, *Nampa.*

Everytime I pass the gas station the price rises. Granted myself and my husband chose to have the vehicles that we drive, he drives a Chevrolet Duramax and I drive a Chevrolet Suburban, but these are the vehicles that accommodate our lifestyle of kids, dogs and camping. But when I see the oil companies making unheard-of profits in the first quarter of 2008 it infuriates me! I would not be as upset if the oil companies would be upfront with the price increase if they were only breaking even in their numbers. But making over a thirty billion dollar profit in the first three months of this year is just wrong. Family trips to Eastern Idaho to visit family has been cut back from monthly visits to once every couple of months. We are lucky that we are not in the situation of having to choose groceries over gas but if the cost of fuel keeps climbing we will also be in the same boat as other lower income families. I have worked too hard to have the lifestyle that my family has for it to be sucked away by greedy executives!!! My husband, my stepfather and I all serve in the Idaho Army National Guard and we have soldiers that are having a hard time getting to their units due to the cost of fuel. Something must be done and I would not be taking "no" for an answer. \$4.00 a gallon of fuel is insane. Nothing has been changed to the fuel to have our vehicles perform better and no one is getting a cost of living increase for this.

HEATHER.

I recently received an email from you requesting stories of how the rising gas prices

are effecting Idaho families. We are a family of five trying to make ends meet on one income. The gas prices have made this virtually impossible. We are now looking at my husband either taking a second job or my going to work part time to make ends meet. My husband's commute to work is about 30 minutes and I drive the same distance to take my children to activities four days per week. We have a van and a truck and spend about \$400 a month on gas. Buying other vehicles is not an option because they are paid for and we cannot afford a monthly car payment. Moving closer to work is also not an option given the current housing market. The other issue we have seen is the rising cost of groceries as a direct result of the rise in gas prices. It is getting harder to feed our family with the rising cost of groceries and we are having to change the way we eat as a result. We are now looking at cutting the extra-curricular activities for our kids to save on gas.

We are very encouraged by your desire to persuade Congress to start using the resources we have in our own country. It is time for a change towards becoming more independent as a country. We will continue to pray for success in your efforts.

MICHELLE ESQUIVEL, *Nampa.*

My 60-year-old daughter spent 23 years as an "at will" employee and was fired for no reason. She was a Medical Transcriptionist. After so many years the requirements changed and when looking for a new position, found she was no longer qualified. Longevity did not seem to matter. She drove 40 miles round trip from Caldwell at night to work in a small hospital in Boise. This did not last very long as another person got her job and worked at home, something that she would have done had she been aware that her employer would have agreed to it. Their sorry did not help. She then lived off of her retirement at the same time supporting her daughter and grandson. When she left her original job she lost her insurance benefits and has not been able to afford any. After her savings were exhausted she found a job delivering the Statesman newspaper. She is required to furnish her own car and gas. It so happens that her route is rural and covers over 35 miles per night. I help out with the gas as much as I can. As gas prices continue to rise she can hardly afford to go to work and the wear and tear on her car with all the stops and starts becomes another expense.

I am 86 years old. My family came to Boise in 1861. I am signing my name to this message but request it never be used.

UNSIGNED.

I want to encourage you to not support drilling in ANWR or any currently protected Alaska lands. The high gas prices and our dependence on foreign oil have been hard to stomach, but I believe there are necessary lessons learned for the public. We must decrease our insatiable thirst for natural resources in this country. High gas and fuel prices have made people think hard about changing their driving habits and some of their domestic habits as well. Idaho Power has been encouraging conservation for a few years now, much to their merit, but I do not know how successful their campaign has been. There have not been any great heating/cooling crises yet such as brown or black outs to push people to change.

Personally, I carpool to work with my husband just about every day, unless I am on call (I work in a hospital). Even though I work eight hour days and my husband works nine hour days, I either walk over to his office and wait for him to finish, I bring my running gear and take a run while waiting for him, or I find something else to keep me

busy for that extra hour. Sure it's a little inconvenient. I have animals to feed, pastures, a yard, and a garden to water and tend to, and the usual chores one has waiting for them at the end of a work day. However, I believe this small sacrifice is one I can shoulder. Additionally, this means that I only have to fill my small truck once a month. On other days, I try to ride my bike to the store, post office, etc., rather than making an extra car trip. If I have errands to run in my car, I will combine trips into one big loop, on one day, to minimize the amount and time I need to be driving. As far as our consumption of energy at home, we are fortunate enough to have lots of shade trees, a well insulated house, blinds on all of our windows, and an efficient attic fan to keep our house relatively cool on hot days. Last summer during the extensive heat wave we experienced here in SW Idaho I charted the high temperature for the day and the time our AC came on for about 6 weeks. We keep our thermostat set at 79 degrees while we are at work and decrease it to 76 or 77 for the 6 pm to 10 pm time period. We were able to keep our house cool enough 99 percent of those over 100 degree days that the AC didn't come on until after 6 pm and ran only one to two cycles before we were able to open up our windows to cool to outside temps, which by 10 pm were usually below 77 degrees. Our energy bill remained low for the whole summer due to our conservation methods. I am doing the same this summer.

I would like to add that, although I oppose drilling in our last wilderness areas, I fully support conservation incentives and ramping up research and support for alternative energy sources, including nuclear. I hope the proposed nuclear plant in Elmore County receives enough positive support from the public to go ahead. Nuclear energy technologies have advanced a lot since the 70's. I believe with some education for the general public about its increased safety nuclear energy can greatly reduce our dependency on hydrocarbon sources of energy.

ANGELA CALLAHAN, *Eagle.*

Fortunately, we have 2 Toyotas that get good gas mileage and last fall I was transferred to work at St. Als, which is very close to my home. So gas expenses for me have not been as much of an issue as for others. However, in my work at the outpatient pharmacy we have many customers who come from Nampa, Caldwell, even Mountain Home, and for them to make that drive is quite a hardship. Usually, it is specifically to come to the doctor and/or pharmacy only; if they were not coming for that they would not be coming to Boise at all. We have had some prescriptions transferred out to pharmacies in those communities because people cannot afford to drive into Boise. So, it is hurting our business.

I would like to see a better Treasure Valley-wide transportation system to help people get to where they need to go without having to spend a fortune. For some of these people the choice is between medicine or food, and this is not some exaggerated sob story. It is fact. I would also like to see more being done to encourage and fund alternative energy sources, more emphasis on hybrid cars, or even those that run on no gasoline, but on something else that is less expensive, less polluting, and easier to produce. The initial cost of such a changeover would be enormous, but the long term benefits would more than make up for this total makeover of our energy sources.

CHERYL ESSARY, *Boise.*

First, I express my appreciation for your willingness to be in Washington to not only represent Idaho but to help ensure that we

have men of high moral integrity making decisions about the future of our beloved United States of America.

With respect to high energy prices, I am very disappointed that our Federal Congress has shamefully neglected their responsibility to find a way to develop a national energy policy before we arrived at this rather extreme condition. Having worked as an oil and gas geologist in Houston, Texas before returning to Idaho, I know that it has never been a secret that our addiction to oil and natural gas was leading us into trouble as the opportunities to explore for large reserves continued to decline.

As a nation, we have been so negligent about seeing past the next election that our policies do not seem capable of meeting the challenges of a world that is now interdependent in so many ways. It has been and still is ridiculous to remove so many regions of offshore from oil and gas exploration and development. ANWR, in my opinion should be developed and if we are successful in finding additional resources there, use that for strategic reserves because we all understand that it is not likely to be significantly large in and by itself. Why is it so hard to communicate to those who are extreme (including John McCain) in their environmentalist/preservationist theologies that oil companies can explore and develop resources with such a small footprint that the ecological impacts are essentially negligible?

At the same time that I hear many in Congress calling for the rights to explore in additional areas, I really have not heard anything addressing the need to increase our refinery capacity or to deal with the myriad of gasoline blends that are required by EPA that reduce efficiencies in refining, nor does there seem to be anything coming to rural America to help with public transportation initiatives.

The Federal Government's overzealous effort to promote biofuels at the expense of food production seems to have been a huge mistake. Why was a similar effort of support not provided for oil shale or coal gasification etc.? With new EPA regulations governing carbon output it seems that we have added so much uncertainty into the business side of developing alternative resources that the risks may outweigh the potential successes.

Also, information I have received from the American Geologic Institute indicates that if the value of the dollar had kept pace with the Euro and other world currencies, oil prices would be in the \$60 to \$70 dollar range instead of the >\$130 level. It seems clear that we must find a way to stop the declining value of the American dollar!

You have an incredibly difficult job ahead of you as you try to find a path that will lead to lower energy costs and improved economic prosperity for all of the citizens of our country. Our prayers are with you.

MARK D. LOVELL, *Rexburg.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SIoux FALLS COUGARS

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the University of Sioux Falls Cougars men's football team for winning the 2008 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, NAIA, National Championship and for finishing at the top of the NAIA Coaches' Top 25 Postseason Poll. This was USF's third consecutive trip to the National Championship and second championship victory in that time.

The University of Sioux Falls men's football team has a long history of success, including 3 National Championships from 1996 to 2008 and 16 Great Plains Athletic Conference titles. This season proved to be yet another outstanding performance by the Cougars, as they finished with a perfect record of 14 to 0 and defeated Carroll College, 23 to 7, in the NAIA National Championship game. Their excellent performance throughout the season was awarded by receiving all 18 possible first place votes in the NAIA Coaches' Top 25 Postseason Poll.

The 2008 Cougars were led to the championship thanks to the combination of a powerful offense and a dominating defense. The Cougars averaged nearly 37 points per game while giving up only 6. The defense ranked first in the Nation in numerous statistical categories, including scoring defense and total defense. The team effort displayed each week by this group of men is a tribute to the countless hours of training and preparation that preceded this great accomplishment.

Certainly this season would not have been possible without the coaches and players themselves. The coaching staff, in alphabetical order, is as follows: Ross Cimpl, Al Christensen, Kalen DeBoer, Jeff Fitzgerald, Ryan Grubb, Al Hansen, Eric Inama, Dan Moe, and Kurtiss Riggs.

The team, in alphabetical order, is as follows: Blake Andersen, Brandon Andersen, Alex Anderson, Drew Anderson, Eric Anderson, Anthony Baldassari, Jeremy Barnes, Bret Beachner, Travis Beaver, Nick Benedetto, Tony Benedetto, Dustin Bermeier, Quintin Biermann, Brandon Boe, Lorenzo Brown, Tyson Brown, Doug Carlson, Jordan Carlson, Cody Cavender, Erik Cimpl, Jacob Crowl, Kyle Cummings, Drew DeGroot, Josh Dorr, Dane Driscoll, Trevor Engelson, Nathan Everett, Eric Fjeldheim, Shawn Flanagan, Dylan Fritz, Stanley Green, Jake Hahne, Adam Halseth, Mike Hartley, Brad Hartzler, Michael Hill, Trevor Holleman, Lavell Jackson, Eric James, Maxon Keating, Taylor Klein, Brandon Koolstra, Kyle Lancaster, Jade Larson, Scott LeBrun, Landon Leveranz, Matt Lindgren, Marlon Lobban, Adam Lopez, Ryan Lowmiller, Mitch Lupkes, Brad Maag, Justin Meidinger, Joe Moen, Tyler Mousel, Tyler Newman, Eric Page, Mike Patterson, Tony Pedri, Casey Peters, Kristian Porter, Nick Ramstad, Jim Rawhouser, Jared Redding, T.J. Ross, Jon Ryan, Spencer Sailors, Sean Santiago, Mark Saylor, Mark Schaffer, Dan Schmeichel, Shawn Schnabel, Andrew Schoenfelder, Ryan Schuler, Ismael Small, Eric Smith, Kyle Staudt, Dominic Studzinski, Rene Velasquez, Jared Vlotho, Tim Voegeli, Demetrius Washington, Kyle Wasson, and T.J. Wendt.

While the Cougars' success was truly a team effort, I would like to recognize the team's head coach Kalen DeBoer for being honored as the 2008 American Football Coaches Association NAIA

Coach of the Year. This is the second time that he has received this honor since taking the helm for the Cougars in 2005. In only 4 years of Cougar leadership, Coach DeBoer has amassed a daunting record of 52 to 3. He has led the Cougars to the NAIA Championship game three times. The Cougars' continued success is a testament to Coach DeBoer's ability to motivate his players to perform and succeed at a high level of competition.

The coaching staff and student-athletes of the University of Sioux Falls men's football team should be very proud of all of their accomplishments this season. On behalf of the Sioux Falls community and the State of South Dakota, I am pleased to say congratulations to the Cougars on another remarkable season. You have made us all very proud.●

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. KOHL):

S. 364. A bill to provide for the review of agricultural mergers and acquisitions by the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 365. A bill to establish in the Department of Justice the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force to address mortgage fraud in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 366. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to eliminate the 5-month waiting period for Social Security disability and the 24-month waiting period for Medicare benefits in the cases of individuals with disabling burn injuries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 367. A bill for the relief of Perlat Binaj, Almida Binaj, Erina Binaj, and Anxhela Binaj; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 368. A bill for the relief of Alemseghed Mussie Tesfamariam; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 369. A bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. COBURN):

S. 370. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to transfer detainees of the United States at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to any facility in the United States or to construct any facility for such detainees in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 371. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to allow citizens who have concealed carry permits from the State in which they reside to carry concealed firearms in another State that grants concealed carry permits, if the individual complies