

prices were stable from about 1985 through most of 2002. For about 17 years, Americans enjoyed what I would consider a fair price for a gallon of gas. I did some research on current gas prices in Iran and Iraq.

Currently Iran pays 5 cents per liter and Iraq pay 8 cents per liter. If you were to convert liters to gallons, it would take 3.78 liters per gallon. If you were to buy 4 liters of gas (over a gallon), it would cost 20 cents in Iran, 32 cents in Iraq. See link for pricing http://www.nationmaster.com/red/graph/ene_gas_pri-energy-gasoline-prices&b_desc=1. I could go on, but you get the point. Oil being produced by these countries is reaping the benefit of cheaper prices.

I must digress a moment. I now need to complain. Remember, I am the average guy with the average income. I would like to talk about how rising fuel prices have affected my family. As fuel prices rise, so have other commodities. Produce, meats, poultry, grains, and dairy have all spiked in the last year. Consumer goods and durables have also risen. The past three years have been very difficult to stay on a budget since gas prices have raised so dramatically. Our family is committed to stay out of consumer debt. We have no credit cards nor do we have any store credit that we borrow from. Both of the vehicles we own are pre-2000 year models. We do not overspend what we make but we feel the crunch and feel that we make less money now than when we did four years ago. The dollar just does not stretch enough these days. It is frustrating and depressing as we budget our money each month down to the penny.

Now that I have got that off my chest, what is the solution? I firmly believe that America has the technology now to manufacture and make our own fuels. There are many alternative fuels out there that can and already have been developed. Grain alcohol is viable. Continued exploration of fossil fuels is also very important. Alternative energy sources need to be used more. Wind Power in south east Idaho needs to be tapped. Solar energy is another avenue. Electric cars are also viable and cheaper to drive and cleaner than any gas engine. Countries that manufacture their own fuels always pay less at the pump. Why cannot we do the same? Another idea is to offer incentives to states to develop, manufacture, and sell the cheapest (and best) fuels. Regardless of what people think, nuclear power is one of the cheapest and cleanest sources of power on the planet. There are many countries that use nuclear power (Japan) and have for many years without mishap. We need to move forward start implementing existing technology that is proven to work.

Again, my ideas are not new. This technology is here now. It has been developed. We just need to implement it. Thank you for your time and hope this letter reaches you in good health. I think you are doing a super job for us in the Senate.

MARK, *Idaho Falls.*

I would like to see the speed limit reduced to 55 mph. Everybody knows how that would benefit energy and lives. The 75 mph speed limit between Boise and Mountain Home should be the first one reduced. Then cut the 65 mph between Boise and Mc Call. (and right up the line)

DONABETH, *Boise.*

I am 63 years old and last year, right before the prices went out of control, already had purchased an electric bike to use to get to work. Fortunately I only live a little over a mile away and can use this bike that goes 15 miles an hour. My determination to ride this bike increased as the hot days turned into colder ones and I was able to ride my bike

through November so I would not have to fill the pick-up with gas too much. Government wants us to recycle to help environment and I am all for it, but when we try to do our part, we do not get any help in return. If you do get an electric car which no one can afford but the wealthy.

I see my single parent daughter trying to commute and make ends meet and it gets increasingly difficult because with gas prices she goes with less food for family, etc.

I think it is outrageous for our country and politicians to allow these price increases when we have the means to take care of this country. 20 years ago they spoke of getting alternatives and did not push this issue and had they done so much more could have been done. I am afraid that before long we will see violence in this country mainly because our jobs are gone, price increases in every area of products, but no one ever increases the wages to meet the demands of other increase. What is the matter with people in government and businesses?

I do not like to see government control but because our business people will not use common sense to see what happens when the jobs go there is not sufficient jobs to go and buy the products. What is wrong with this picture? We need to start taxing products from overseas that come here so business's will come back to the states and put our people back to work. How sad our government has deserted their own people.

I am hoping with all my heart that someone will step up to the plate and really try to make a difference. We have to do something as everything is getting out of control and it is sad because of what our forefathers have tried to do before us to make it a great country. I am angry and I do not like politics but when I see people trying to do well for their families and that means is taken away from them someone needs to speak up.

DEVERA, *Nampa.*

Many of our family members are opting out of a treasured activity this summer because of the fuel prices: we normally have a family reunion (as everyone is all over the place) and meet each other and catch up. Many aren't coming because as they said, "I just cannot afford to pay the gas to drive there and plane tickets are just as expensive." My sister and I would not think twice normally about taking a drive down to our relatives or drive to get to our vacation spot, but now we are rethinking going on vacation at all. My family and I have also started buying online because it is cheaper than driving around town to find what we need. We have also cut down our "dining out" to practically once every two months (if that). If the local businesses aren't feeling the consequences of that, I'll be surprised because my family is not the only one that is doing it.

We aren't getting as much fresh produce in our diets this year because they just cost too much (the grocer claims that the fuel prices are affecting the food prices). This also makes us buy less food and the cheaper brands. I have even caught myself of suspecting the grocer and the gas station manager of glutting themselves by gouging us with the "it is OPEC's fault you pay so much" (and these people are my neighbors, which makes me feel a little ashamed of myself).

All of this is only the parts of my life where I have seen the biggest impact. I really cannot think of many aspects in my life that have not been affected by the fuel hikes. Hope this enlightens you to the trials of at least one voter.

JEORGETTE.

I do not have much of a different story than many other Idahoans. I work hard each

day 11 to 12 hours. I live in a rural area of Canyon County, so ride-sharing or car-pooling is not a viable option for me. I have to drive 18 miles to work so riding a bike is not an option especially after putting in a 12 hour day. I drive a small pick up Chevy S-10 to help reduce my gas usage, my wife in I traded in our ford tarsus for a KIA Spectra last November to help save money and protect our budget of the current (November 07) high gas prices.

What I can say is that the only way out of our current situation is for our Congress to show OPEC, that we are willing to take back control of our oil dependence.

ROBERT.

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.)

NOTICE RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS AND POLICIES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE AND OTHER PERSONS TO UNDERMINE ZIMBABWE'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES OR INSTITUTIONS—PM 10

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2009.

The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions

has not been resolved. These actions and policies pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue this national emergency and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 2009.

TRANSMITTING CERTIFICATION
THAT THE EXPORT OF TWO ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMBERS TO BE USED TO TEST AUTOMOTIVE PARTS IS NOT DETRIMENTAL TO THE U.S. SPACE LAUNCH INDUSTRY AND WILL NOT MEASURABLY IMPROVE MISSILE OR SPACE LAUNCH CAPABILITIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—PM 11

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), I hereby certify to the Congress that the export of two environmental chambers to be used to test automotive parts is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from this export, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 2009.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:01 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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 146. An act to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes.

H.R. 548. An act to assist citizens, public and private institutions, and governments at all levels in planning, interpreting, and protecting sites where historic battles were fought on American soil during the armed conflicts that shaped the growth and development of the United States, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 548. An act to assist citizens, public and private institutions, and governments at

all levels in planning, interpreting, and protecting sites where historic battles were fought on American soil during the armed conflicts that shaped the growth and development of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 146. An act to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-871. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chlorothalonil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL-8402-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-872. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dimethomorph; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL-8401-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-873. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Famoxadone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL-8400-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-874. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluazifop-P-butyl; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL-8401-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-875. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Propoxycarbazone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL-8400-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-876. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL-8399-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-877. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crops—Im-

port Regulations; Proposed Revision to Reporting Requirements" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0110)(FV07-944/980/999-1 FR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-878. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Relaxation of Handling and Import Regulations" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0036)(FV08-946-1 FIR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-879. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Changes in Handling Requirements for Fresh Nectarines and Peaches" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0108)(FV09-916/917-1 FR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-880. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Olives Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0105)(FV09-932-1 IFR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-881. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Decreased Assessment Rate" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0107)(FV09-925-2 IFR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-882. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Final Free and Restricted Percentages for the 2008-2009 Crop Year for Tart Cherries" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0089)(FV09-930-1 FR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-883. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Proceedings Before the Commodity Futures Trading Commission" (RIN3038-AC50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 2, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-884. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2008 annual report relative to the STARBASE Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-885. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to overseas ship repairs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-886. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Critical Skills Retention Bonus program; to the Committee on Armed Services.