

Human rights groups warned repeatedly that Colombian soldiers were luring poor young men with the promise of jobs, summarily executing them, and then dressing the bodies to appear as FARC combatants in order to obtain higher pay, time off, promotions, or other benefits. I also expressed concern about this. Instead of investigating, top Colombian officials, including the President, responded by accusing the human rights groups of being FARC sympathizers. After the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights confirmed these crimes and it was revealed that they were the result of official army policy, the government acknowledged the problem, but the verbal attacks against human rights defenders and journalists who wrote articles about the issue have continued.

To his credit, the Minister of Defense has taken some steps to address it, including issuing decrees disavowing the policy of rewarding body counts and dismissing army officers who were implicated in some cases. But few if any have been prosecuted and punished, and there are reportedly hundreds of these cases.

Throughout this period, despite report after report that these atrocities were occurring, former Secretary of State Rice continued to certify that the Colombian army was meeting the human rights conditions in U.S. law. That was as shameful as the Colombian Government blaming human rights defenders. The Congress had no responsible alternative to withholding a portion of the military aid for Colombia. Whether or when those funds are released will depend, in part, on how thoroughly the government addresses the problem of false positives, whether the officers involved are held accountable, and whether those who had the courage to report these crimes continue to be the target of government attacks.

I also want to mention the recently appointed Army Chief of Staff, GEN González Peña, who replaced General Montoya. General Montoya resigned under pressure due to the false positives scandal and was "punished," as too often occurs in Colombia, by being appointed an ambassador. Not long ago, General González Peña commanded the 4th Brigade in Antioquia which has one of the worst rates of reported extra judicial killings. It is difficult to believe that he was unaware of what his troops were reportedly doing, and it raises a concern about his qualifications for such an important position.

This year, the Appropriations Committee will again review our aid programs in Colombia. We want to continue helping Colombia because we share many interests—in addition to stopping the traffic in illegal drugs to the United States which has not succeeded to the extent some had predicted. We need to determine what has worked and deserves continued U.S. support, whether the Colombian Gov-

ernment is meeting the conditions in U.S. law and what costs should be shifted to the Colombian Government as U.S. aid is ratcheted down in the coming years.

CENTENNIAL OF THE RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish today to pay tribute not to a person, or an agency, or an institution, but to a building. That building, the Russell Senate Office Building, turns 100 years old today.

The Russell Building has graced Capitol Hill for a century. Some of us have been fortunate to have our Senate office located in Russell. But all of us have had an occasion to attend a hearing, a meeting, or gathering in one of the building's rooms. If we take the time to stop and consider what is before us, we are struck by the beauty of an earlier era in American history. Step into the Russell Rotunda, the Caucus Room, the Rules Committee hearing room, or any of other committee hearing rooms or special function rooms in the building. You can't help but feel that you are stepping back in time when you gaze at the high ceilings, the columns, the marble, the crystal chandeliers, and the mahogany and walnut furniture.

Architects refer to its style as beaux arts, a design popular in America in the early 20th century. Many Government buildings constructed during the late 1800s through the 1920s were of this design, and the Russell Building stands today as an excellent example of this style of architecture.

To commemorate this centennial, the curatorial staff of the Secretary of the Senate's office has created an outstanding exhibit in the Russell Building and a booklet about its history. I urge you to visit the display of original Russell furniture in the Russell rotunda basement or stop by the information kiosks in the rotunda basement, the second floor of the Rotunda area outside the Caucus Room, SR-318, the Rules Committee hearing room, SR-301, the Veterans Affairs' Committee hearing room, SR-418, the basement visitors entrance on Delaware Avenue, and the 2nd floor visitors entrance on Constitution Avenue. Along the way, you'll learn about the naming of the building, the old subway, and the hearings held in the committee rooms.

As a New Yorker, I am especially pleased that there are so many connections between the Russell Building and my home State. New York architects, Carrere & Hastings, designed the building; New York cabinetmaker Thomas Wadelon manufactured full-scale models of "very American" furniture in his studio located in Tuckahoe, NY; New Yorker George W. Cobb, Jr., was awarded the furniture contract for the building; and much of the original mahogany furniture was manufactured by the Standard Furniture Company of Herkimer, NY. The New York associa-

tion continued when in 1933 the last wing of the building opened, equipped with walnut furniture manufactured by three New York firms—the W.H. Gunlocke Chair Company, the Company of Master Craftsmen, Inc., and the Sikes-Cutler Desk Corporation.

New York is not alone in being represented in the design, construction, and furnishing of the building. From the Vermont marble to the Indiana limestone, to the Pennsylvania steelwork, to the Kansas cement, and to the elevators manufactured in Ohio, many states contributed their natural resources and the industry of their people to this historic place. It's a testament to the skills of these early 20th century architects and craftsmen that the building and its furniture and furnishings are still in use today.

The Russell Building was constructed because of the growing challenge in the early 1900s to find suitable office space to accommodate the needs of Senators. Prior to the opening of the Russell Building in 1909, Senators and their staffs conducted the business of the Nation in whatever space was available—the aisles of the Senate Chamber, the Capitol's marble hallways, nearby hotel lobbies, and local boarding houses. Constituents waited in the corridors of the Capitol when they came to meet their Senators and Congressman. As more States joined the Union, the number of lawmakers working in Washington grew. By the turn of the century, the Capitol was literally overflowing with people. The need for space to house Senators and their growing staffs was finally recognized in 1903, when the sites for the first congressional office buildings were acquired and construction of the buildings were authorized. One of these buildings so authorized would later become the Russell Senate Office Building. Once construction was complete, it was considered to be one of the grandest and most impressive buildings in all of Washington. It would later be named in honor of a former colleague from Georgia, the Honorable Richard Russell, who served in the Senate for 38 years.

There is an old saying there is nothing new under the Sun. And when it comes to the Senate and space, how true the saying is. As one of its areas of jurisdiction, the Rules Committee, on which I have the honor of serving as chairman, continues to search for space to meet the needs of Senators, committees, and support offices to this day—an administrative task not unlike the struggle to find space for the Senate in 1909.

During the past century, much has happened to us as a country. We added four States to the United States of America. We have experienced world wars, international conflicts, and tough economic times again and again. We have landed a man on the Moon and saw the beginning of the information age. Through all this time, the American people have persevered and thrived.

Like its occupants and visitors over the past century, the building has adapted itself for the 21st century. The Russell Senate Office Building on its 100th birthday is a working building, alive with Senators and staff doing the business of our Nation, well equipped and ready to face the challenges of the future.

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:

Thank you for soliciting our opinions regarding the energy crisis. I truly value this opportunity to communicate my concerns to you.

Gas prices have certainly been on the rise and like most Idahoans, I have been affected by this increase. I also remember the words of President Bush when he stated that we as a nation are "addicted" to oil. I am a psychologist and I know that when an addict is feeling the pain of their addiction (as we are with gas prices), it is not helpful to find them a cheaper way to get a drink.

What I am saying by that analogy is that I do not think increasing exploration for oil in Alaska or off the coast of Florida will help us in the long term. Fossil fuels are a limited resource and we'll feel the pain of those limitations sooner or later. I do not support further exploration to temporarily fix this problem. I do support the idea that we invest heavily in renewable, environmentally sustainable, energies.

For example, rather than giving huge tax breaks to oil companies to promote more gas production, let us give those tax cuts to the car manufacturers to produce cars that run on less gas or better yet, run on non-fossil based fuels. American companies are way too far behind Japanese companies in this effort and to remain competitive, I think we'll have to invest in the technologies of the future rather than scraping the bottom of the barrel for what oil remains.

Thank you.

RICK, *Pocatello.*

Why are we saving the oil in the United States? The oil fields in the lower 48 could alone make us self-sufficient; that is without

the biggest oil field in the world which is in Alaska. Why are we being so dependent on foreign oil when there is no need to be? Our economy is going the wrong way and can be fixed by getting the price of gas back down where it should be. My wife and I are retired and live in the country outside of Midvale, Idaho. It is a long ways to the grocery store and department stores. I hope you can get something started in the Senate that will open some eyes. Most of the members of the Congress and Senate are financially set so the price of gas does not affect them. However, they have a lot of constituents that are hurting. Thanks for your time.
God Bless America.

BRENT and PEGGY, *Midvale.*

I have a very sincere feeling that the Congress has been waffling on the oil and gasoline price rise. It is my hope that they will soon begin to realize they are hurting the complete economy. We are all hurting because of the higher gasoline price but it trickles down to everything we buy. It burns me up to hear people complain about President Bush and how he has started the whole thing. Just yesterday he explained to the public that the Congress has not given him a bill to sign.

I certainly wish Congress could stick its neck out and demand that all new electricity generation plants be nuclear plants. We are wasting our natural gas on firing electricity generation and coal is causing emissions which I believe are not good for the world. Nuclear plants are so efficient and I wish we had not allowed France and Germany to outdo us with the technology to make safe atomic plants.

Next, I would wish that Congress would mandate a term of time that would allow us to get weaned from oil and give us a good alternative engine for automobiles, for example. We are a wide ranging country and traveling from one area to another is necessary. We do not have anything but busses to move us in most areas. I do not like the fact that corn is getting so high priced because of the ethanol push. I know that I cannot use ethanol because it will ruin all the components in my autos I presently own. I do not think enough thought has gone into ethanol use and I feel it is going to ruin our food product prices. I have been associated with agriculture all my life and I cannot believe the prices some of these crops were bringing last year.

Right now we need to be drilling off shore and ANWR for oil. I believe an oil company or two needs to build a new refinery or two to help out in the meantime. I think the oil companies have held us hostage all my life and they still are!

God Bless you and your good work.

GORDON, *Twin Falls.*

Thank you for the opportunity to let you know how energy prices are affecting me. I was forwarded your email from a friend who is on your mailing list.

I am a 56-year-old widow. My husband has been gone for 6 years. We lived a middle-class lifestyle, but now that he is gone, I am struggling to make ends meet and be able to remain in the home that my husband built for our family. Even though all my children are gone from home, I still have one child in college that I need to help. I live 7 miles west of Rigby, and 10 miles north of Idaho Falls, so I have to do a lot of driving just to get anywhere. I have drastically reduced my driving, and I still pay way more than I used to for gas.

One of the biggest areas I have been affected is with my heating costs. Natural gas is not available where my home is, so 10 years ago we put in a propane furnace,

thinking it would be fairly inexpensive to operate. At the time propane was 65 cents a gallon. Last fall I filled my tank for \$1.69 a gallon. When I went to refill it in February, the price had jumped to \$2.40 a gallon in just a few months. I cannot afford that price to heat my home. I decided to turn my heat down to 62 degrees on my thermostat, and just wear a sweater. If I want to work in one room I run a small electric heater to stay warm. I never thought I would have to be cold in my own house because I cannot afford to run my furnace.

I think it is time to drastically increase our own production of oil. We need to drill in Alaska, and wherever else it is feasible. Is the environment more important than people's well being? I do not think so. It is time we told the environmentalists to be quiet. I think the oil companies need to be putting their huge profits into finding more sources of oil. And let us get busy and find alternatives to oil. It is about time.

Thanks for letting me express my views.

PHYLLIS, *Rigby.*

First of all, I am glad to see that your head is screwed on correctly. I am sick and tired of our Congress saying that oil companies must pay "wind-fall profit" taxes. As if this will fix the problem. Why are so many of our lawmakers ignorant of how economy really works? Why is supply and demand so hard to grasp for some?

Now, how is the current price of gas hitting me and my family. Rather hard, I must say. Now, I grew up in a rural area and, for that reason, I live outside of Boise. I do not care for crowds and I like to have space (though, honestly, where I live still does not have enough space). For this reason, I spend a good deal on gas. This is not the fault of the government, nor am I looking for the government to solve my problems. (They have not solved any yet, and now they're talking about universal health care, HA! do not make laugh. But I digress.)

In an effort to curb the fuel pain, last year I purchased a gas-sipping 4-banger that gets 45 mpg (I bought that when I anticipated gas @ \$3/gal.). However, my wife and I have a large family and a large vehicle is a must. We have a Suburban to carry our family of 7 (including my wife and I). A large vehicle is simply a must, and given where we live, a vehicle with 4wd capability is a must too. This Suburban gets 17 mpg, and with a 42 gallon tank, it is getting rather painful to fill this beast. Assuming an empty tank, it would take \$168 to fill that behemoth, but I need it and we keep the driving on that to a minimum.

Some of our circumstances are due to where we live and we chose to live there. I do not seek empathy for this. However, compassion for our people would be good. Congress could make significant strides forward if they would stop catering to special interest groups and drill in our oil reserves. There is no reason not to. Drilling in ANWR is not going to make extinct the animals that live there.

Also, there is no reason we cannot make more refineries. We cannot refine the oil we import fast enough, to say nothing about the oil that we could be drilling from our own soil and water. We should make more nuclear power, or cut our thirst for energy. It is one or the other, and since we are not cutting energy, we have got to produce more.

ANDY.

I am the Service Coordinator at Community Action Partnership in Clearwater County. We are the agency that distributes the Energy Assistance Funds (LIHEAP) for North Central Idaho. I must tell you that I am extremely concerned about our low income people this coming winter, especially