

me wonder who is funding these groups to keep our hand tied. The short term fix is to use the oil that we are setting on while we work on the research and development required to assist or solve the long term problem.

DAVID.

Senator, I could sit here and gripe about the high energy costs. However, I regard the problem as a collective problem, not something one sector or another of the economy has done. We are all aware of how the costs are spiraling out of control, and there are things we can all do to mitigate the pinch in our wallet. Every one of us is guilty to varying degrees. Consider the following:

First, each of us needs to be a lot more concerned with conserving. We can all make one trip instead of three to the store. We can carpool. We can reduce some of our recreational activities to use less fuel getting there and while there. Turn off the lights. Use the energy efficient light bulbs. Use mass transit. The list goes on and on.

Second, Congress has got to work out a balanced approach to energy availability. Hydro power is still the most efficient, but has been hogtied by the environmentalists who not only do not want new power production, and even want to remove power production that is in place. Nuclear power has been similarly placed into the nether land of total environmental disfavor. The record of these two sources is not perfect, but they are not guilty of producing greenhouse gasses and making the Arabs richer and richer either. They have a place in our infrastructure, and Congress needs to make it happen before we give away all our wealth to Islamic radicals and Communists. Begin a plan to reduce and eliminate foreign import of oil, then make it stick.

Third, Congress needs to greatly improve incentives for domestic production of oil. Use the oil shale resources we have all over the country. Allow drilling in areas where the likelihood of new fields is good, with a great deal of care nevertheless. Use clean coal production methods for power.

Fourth, Congress should tax the windfall profits of the oil companies. Use that money for refunds to vehicle owners and taxpayers. There is no excuse on God's green earth for an oil company to make more profits in a fiscal quarter than the GNP of 80% of the world's nations in a year.

O.K. I have run out of time, but not ideas. I just wanted you to know we are all in this together, and either we solve it together, or the mess will get worse and worse. All of you in Congress need to quit quibbling and do something.

LON.

I appreciate the opportunity of letting you know of how the high costs of fuel/energy are impacting me.

I feel lucky—I have a good job and make above average pay. However, I am at a point in my life when I need to be able to save for retirement. My wife and I have raised our children and have recently been able to start saving for retirement. With the current prices of fuel, we are not able to save as needed to ensure that we will have the required funds to retire.

I have discussed the high price of fuel with several contract workers. They are not planning any type of vacation travel and, in most cases, are fearful of the future. Most are not even sure that they will be able to take care of their necessities if prices continue to skyrocket.

There is a business here in Idaho Falls that purchases plasma. I watched a news report detailing how busy they currently are. Many who are selling their plasma are doing it just

to make ends meet. The place is so busy that they are turning people away.

I worry about my own children. The future is bleak. Never in my life have we had such a dim outlook—not in America.

It is time for drilling (in an environmentally safe way). It is time for nuclear power to come out of the closet. We need to quit letting the environmentalists run this great country. I am an avid outdoors man. I love Idaho. I live here for the beauty and activities related to the outdoors. I have faith that we can fix the problems and move forward. I do not believe that we have to ruin the outdoors to make things right.

Thanks for your help

DAVID.

When BEA was granted contract of Idaho National Laboratory, [the lab director] held a meeting and asked what they could do to improve the INL. My reply was to better inform the public about nuclear energy and the benefits. During these trying times we are facing, and the extremes of the future, we must have extreme plans to counteract. The only solution is to minimize our use of natural resources. How do we do this? Every structure, school, home, office, storehouse, etc. shall be converted to electricity derived from nuclear power generating facilities. All of the natural resources shall be reserved for transportation and emergency needs. No longer can the government not be in direct competition with private affairs. When it is for the better of the people then it is the right thing to do. Nuclear energy is the only solution. We need to inform the public and gain support for a cleaner more efficient future. I am excited to be involved with any help I can provide with this matter.

ROY.

I am a hospice nurse and my patients rely on me to make home visits so they can have the care they need and deserve at the end of their lives. Without this service, many dying patients would have uncontrolled symptoms and unable to get to the doctor. Driving distances are great for me as I [care for] people in outlying areas, sometimes averaging 50-100 miles a day to see everyone. This cost in fuel is very hard to manage and at times nearly forces me to feel like returning to the hospital rather than providing this much needed service due to cost prohibitiveness of my work from fuel cost.

CHERYL, Boise.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOHN MCRAITH

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, it is with great admiration and respect that I take this time to recognize one of Kentucky's most distinguished citizens, Roman Catholic Bishop John McRaith, who retired as the third Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro.

Bishop McRaith's service over the last 26 years in the Diocese of Owensboro—which consists of 32 counties with 79 parishes, 3 high schools, 2 middle schools and 13 elementary schools—has made him a legacy in the community.

In addition to being a large diocese, Owensboro Diocese is one of the more diverse dioceses—home to a large number of Hispanic Catholic immigrants, along with a priesthood that recruits

men from Latin America, Asia, and Africa. The work done by Bishop McRaith and the priests at Owensboro Diocese has increased church attendance to levels that are considered among the highest in the Nation.

Bishop McRaith has left his community a better place because of the authenticity and kindness of his services and faith. While I am sad to see him retire, I am comforted knowing that those who learned from him will continue the good work that he displayed each day. On behalf of all of those who are part of the Owensboro Diocese, I thank Bishop John McRaith for the grace and strength he brought to western Kentucky.●

TRIBUTE TO HARRIET CORNELL

• Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I am proud to congratulate the Honorable Harriet Cornell on her historic selection as chair of the Rockland County Legislature for a fifth consecutive year. Harriet is the first chair of the legislature to hold the office for 5 consecutive years.

Harriet Cornell has been a member of the Rockland County Legislature since 1984. In her first year of office, Mrs. Cornell founded the Legislature's Commission on Women's Issues and invited community leaders to participate in the formulation of public policy. She is also the chair of the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Committee.

Her long record of accomplishments led the Journal News naming her as one of 25 people who made the greatest impact on Rockland County during the 20th century. As chairwoman, Mrs. Cornell's priorities have included protection of our environment, enhanced educational resources, improved health services for women and children, homeland security, Rockland's transportation infrastructure, and smart land use planning. Under her leadership, she has brought together elected officials from every level of government in Summit meetings to collaborate on these issues.

I commend Mrs. Cornell for her many years of devoted public service to the citizens of Rockland County.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the following resolutions:

H. Res. 1. Resolution that Lorraine C. Miller of the State of Texas, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives; That Wilson S. Livingood of the Commonwealth of Virginia, be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives; That Daniel P. Beard of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and That Father Daniel P. Coughlin of the State of Illinois, be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

H. Res. 2. Resolution notifying the Senate that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that NANCY PELOSI, a

Representative from the State of California, has been elected Speaker, than Lorraine C. Miller, a citizen of the State of Texas, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent resolution regarding consent to assemble outside the seat of government.

The message further announced that the Speaker appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled, and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make: The gentleman from Maryland Mr. HOYER and the gentleman from Ohio Mr. BOEHNER.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent Resolution regarding consent to assemble outside the seat of government; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 1. A bill to create jobs, restore economic growth, and strengthen America's middle class through measures that modernize the nation's infrastructure, enhance America's energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need, and for other purposes.

S. 2. A bill to improve the lives of middle class families and provide them with greater opportunity to achieve the American dream.

S. 3. A bill to protect homeowners and consumers by reducing foreclosures, ensuring the availability of credit for homeowners, businesses, and consumers, and reforming the financial regulatory system, and for other purposes.

S. 4. A bill to guarantee affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans, and for other purposes.

S. 5. A bill to improve the economy and security of the United States by reducing the dependence of the United States on foreign and unsustainable energy sources and the risks of global warming, and for other purposes.

S. 6. A bill to restore and enhance the national security of the United States.

S. 7. A bill to expand educational opportunities for all Americans by increasing access to high-quality early childhood education and after school programs, advancing reform in elementary and secondary education, strengthening mathematics and science instruction, and ensuring that higher education is more affordable, and for other purposes.

S. 8. A bill to return the Government to the people by reviewing controversial "midnight regulations" issued in the waning days of the Bush Administration.

S. 9. A bill to strengthen the United States economy, provide for more effective border

and employment enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 10. A bill to restore fiscal discipline and begin to address the long-term fiscal challenges facing the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 33. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to the proper tax treatment of certain indebtedness discharged in 2009 or 2010, and for other purposes.

S. 34. A bill to prevent the Federal Communications Commission from repromulgating the fairness doctrine.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 12, 2008, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

S. 3663. An act to require the Federal Communications Commission to provide for a short-term extension of the analog television broadcasting authority so that essential public safety announcements and digital television transition information may be provided for a short time during the transition to digital television broadcasting.

S. 3712. An act to make a technical correction in the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

S. J. Res. 46. Joint resolution ensuring that the compensation and other emoluments attached to the office of Secretary of State are those which were in effect on January 1, 2007.

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-1. A communication from the Assistant Director of the Directives and Regulations Branch, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Travel Management; Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use" (36 CFR Part 212) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2. A communication from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a public-private competition conducted on December 2, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's plan to conduct a streamlined A-76 competition of fleet replacement squadron training and administrative support functions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clarification of Export Control Jurisdiction for Civil Aircraft Equipment under the Export Administration Regulations" (RIN0694-AE31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau

of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authority Citations Updates and Technical Corrections" (RIN0694-AE49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6. A communication from the Acting Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board's competitive sourcing efforts for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7. A communication from the Acting Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the activities of the Implementation Coordination Office; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8. A communication from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Simplified Standards for Rail Rate Cases—Taxes in Revenue Shortfall Allocation Method" (STB Ex Parte No. 646) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-9. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirements for Amateur Rocket Activities" (RIN2120-AI88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-10. A communication from the Supervisory Attorney, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Penalties" (RIN2105-AD77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-11. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Materials: Enhancing Rail Transportation Safety and Security for Hazardous Materials Shipments" (RIN2137-AE02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-12. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for General Law, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pipeline Safety: Standards for Increasing the Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure for Gas Transmission Pipelines" (RIN2137-AE25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-13. A communication from the Staff Assistant, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Occupant Crash Protection" (RIN2127-AK02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-14. A communication from the Staff Assistant, National Highway Traffic Safety