

and there will be more exhaust which will cause much more pollution. Also there will be more wrecks. There has got to be something more done. I feel that the U.S. will become weaker and it will threaten our national security. I believe there will be violence as people are unable to provide the necessities of life. It really is a threat to our nation.

LAREE.

Very simply, we are reducing the amount of money we spend on everything other than gasoline. We are having to pay more for natural gas, electricity, and food because all are being impacted by the increase in oil futures. We have not taken a vacation this year and will not be able to afford one anytime soon.

ROBERT.

Thank you so much for offering us an opportunity to share with you how gas prices are affecting our family. We are a family of four, and we purchased our home in Kuna because housing was more affordable in this rural town. We are 8 miles from I-84, and just about everything requires us to drive to the freeway and beyond. My husband works 8 miles from home; our adult daughter works 8 miles from home; our adult son works 12 miles from home; and I spend my time driving to doctor appointments in Meridian and downtown Boise (12-20 miles)—and back. As you mentioned, there is no public transportation.

During the summer, our children work almost fulltime, and they each earn approximately \$1,000 per month. They both drive high-mileage vehicles, but their gasoline bill is now approximately \$120 per month. When the school year begins, they will both cut back on their working hours and increase the number of miles they drive, as they both attend BSU. Their income will drop to approximately \$700 per month, and they will be adding approximately 70 miles per week to their mileage, at an estimated additional cost of \$70 per month. If their schedules permit, they can carpool to school, leaving a car in Meridian so they can each drive to work in the afternoon. Obviously, this does not leave much room in their budgets for car insurance and other expenses. Fortunately, they live at home with us.

My husband and I have greatly reduced the number of times we go out to dinner, and we select more fast-food restaurants lately. We try to run our errands while we are out in Meridian and combine trips. My husband recently had to fly to Florida on business. Normally, we would pay for me to join him; we did not do that this time, as airline tickets are prohibitive. We had already arranged to rent a cabin in California for a week, as our summer vacation, and that trip begins next week. Since we are taking five adults and two cats, we will be driving a Chevy Suburban (ouch!). We have not even estimated what that is going to cost in gasoline, because calculating it would only ruin our vacation. It will be interesting to find out which was the higher cost, the rental of the cabin or the gasoline for the car. Needless to say, we will not be renting a cabin in California for our next vacation if gas prices continue to be this high. We are also seeing the prices of groceries inch up. The cereal boxes and ice cream cartons are smaller, but they run out faster. My husband and I do not have a lot of cushion in our budget to help our children with their budgets. I am unable to work because of health issues (but social security does not want to pay me the disability benefits I earned). My husband's employment at Western States Equipment (Caterpillar) is all that is keeping us afloat.

Thank you so much for all that you do for Idaho families, and we hope this information

helps you in your endeavors. Any help would be great.

SONDRA, *Kuna*.

Energy prices affect all aspects of our lives. Food, home heating, all shipping charges, it goes on and on. Most of us are fearful of our heating costs for this winter coming. We had such a long cold winter, if it costs double it will hurt everyone. I really feel for the young families. There costs for housing, cars, food, energy and all that children need, it is almost impassable without help. We have to drill for oil and build refineries. We should not be paying other countries for energy that we can produce here. It does not make any sense. Please help make the [Congress] understand.

JULIE, *Worley*.

If I see or hear of fossil fuel one more time, my head will explode. It is not from fossils. How did they get that deep in the earth. Abiotic oil—do your research. Now on this stupid carbon credit [issue] related to so-called global warming—we all could stop breathing that cut CO₂ by 90% and the Earth could stabilize++. Thank you for doing what you can.

JEFF, *Nampa*.

The way the energy crisis have impacted my life is I have come to the realization that are politicians in Washington are more interested in protecting big business than their constituents. Nothing is done about illegal immigration because it might affect the economy but the only thing more important to the economic infrastructure of the USA then cheap fuel is oxygen. Drill for oil, build nuclear power plants, construct windmill farms and offer incentives for solar power and preserve what is left of our way of life for future generation.

DALE, *USMC retired*.

From where I am sitting, [too many in Congress] are directly responsible for the current high energy prices. The Bush energy policy was decided by Vice President Cheney and oil company executives. Even now you are protecting Big Oil profits at the expense of alternate energy support.

Your feigned attempt at feeling my pain falls on my deaf ears.

MARVIN.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR KENNETH QUINN

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, during a long and distinguished career in many fields of public service, Ambassador Kenneth Quinn has received countless awards and honors. But I daresay that the award he will receive tomorrow from the Department of Defense is the longest delayed and hardest earned of his distinctions. Ambassador Quinn will become the first civilian ever to receive the Air Medal for Combat Service, an award created during World War II to honor courageous and meritorious service in aerial combat.

From November 1968 to June 1973, Kenneth Quinn served as a Foreign Service officer in Vietnam. For his first 2 years in that country, he was assigned to Advisory Team 65 in Sa Dec Province, replacing an Army major as senior adviser to the team. In that ca-

capacity, he took part in the same military activities and combat operations as his military predecessors. All totaled, he participated in some 250 hours of helicopter combat operations. He served in night helicopter patrols over Viet Cong-held sectors and took part in helicopter operations to insert and extract troops from the battlefield. On other occasions, he directed helicopter gunship operations from a command-and-control helicopter flying just several hundred feet above the battlefield, repeatedly coming under enemy fire. On still other occasions, he participated in ground combat operations, night ambushes, and brown water naval combat operations.

This is just one chapter in the remarkably accomplished career of this Dubuque, IA, native. He served for more than three decades in the Foreign Service, becoming one of the most decorated and respected American diplomats of his generation. Ambassador Quinn was one of the U.S. Government's top experts on Indochina, having written his doctoral dissertation on Pol Pot's regime in Cambodia. Indeed, he is widely acknowledged to have been the first westerner to discover and report on the holocaust being perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge. Later, while serving as Ambassador to Cambodia, he played a key role in the 1999 capture of the last remaining Khmer Rouge general. Upon his retirement as Ambassador to Cambodia, he was presented the Secretary of State's Award for Heroism and Valor for protecting Americans citizens exposed to danger in Cambodia and for his participation in four lifesaving rescues in Vietnam.

The common theme in Ambassador Quinn's career has been his commitment to serving causes higher than himself. He has undertaken humanitarian missions that have saved countless thousands of lives. In 1978, under a special exchange program with the Foreign Service, he was allowed to return to Iowa to join the staff of Governor Robert Ray. He played a lead role in the Governor's program to resettle Indochinese refugees in Iowa, and he served as executive director of the 1979 Iowa SHARES Program, which sent Iowa medical personnel, supplies, and food to Cambodia during a period of mass starvation there.

Following his retirement from the State Department 8 years ago this month, Ambassador Quinn returned to Iowa to assume leadership of the World Food Prize Foundation, the Des Moines-based organization dedicated to ending hunger around the world by promoting the sustainable production and distribution of an adequate and nutritious food supply. The World Food Prize—created by Nobel Peace Prize-winner and Iowa native Dr. Norman Borlaug and supported for many years by Iowa business leader and philanthropist John Ruan—is the most prestigious international award recognizing exemplary work in improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world.

Mr. President, Ambassador Quinn has served our Nation as a diplomat, a soldier, and a passionate humanitarian. At every stage of his brilliant career in public service, he has embodied America's highest ideals, and he has earned renown for his courage, initiative, and selfless dedication. I join with my colleagues in the Senate in congratulating Ambassador Quinn as he becomes, tomorrow in Washington, the first civilian ever to be awarded the Air Medal for Combat Service. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The following message from the President of the United States was transmitted to the Senate by one of his secretaries:

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008—PM 2

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:

Consistent with section 115(a)(3) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-343) (the "Act"), I hereby transmit a report detailing the plan of the Secretary of the Treasury to exercise the authority under the Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 12, 2009.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:36 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 11. An act to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and to modify the operation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice that is unlawful under such Acts occurs each time compensation is paid pursuant to the discriminatory compensation decision or other practice, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, 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-326. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "novaluron; Pesticide Tolerances Technical Amendment" ((EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0438)(FRL-8396-4)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-327. A communication from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's intent to impose new foreign policy-based export controls on certain persons in Burma; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-328. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2008, through September 30, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-329. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12947 with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-330. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67)(73 FR 76234)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-331. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" (Docket No. FEMA-B-1023) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-332. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 65)(73 FR 76230)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-333. A communication from the Acting Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting" (RIN3235-AK00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-334. A communication from the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the National Oceanographic Partnership Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-335. A communication from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress Under Section 319 of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 (December 2008)"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-336. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's competitive sourcing activi-

ties during fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-337. A communication from the Executive Director, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's competitive sourcing efforts during fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-338. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan" (RIN0648-XM18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-339. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sea Turtle Conservation; Shrimp Trawling Requirements" (RIN0648-XL11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-340. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "List of Fisheries for 2009" (RIN0648-AW48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-341. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sea Turtle Conservation; Fishing Gear Inspection Program" (RIN0648-AU98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-342. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan" (RIN0648-XL74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-343. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction" (RIN0648-XL75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-344. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction" (RIN0648-XM19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.