

Senate, he is someone who has given meaning to the values we cherish on a day like today—values of service, the value of peace over war, the value of integrity, and the value of trying to love one another the best we can.

TED KENNEDY has a long connection not just with the peace process and not just with the people of Ireland and his heritage, but his family has had a long connection with my home State of Pennsylvania—and not just on St. Patrick's Day but on a lot of other days. In fact, one of the reasons I highlighted Senator KENNEDY and am thinking of him tonight is because of all the work he has done on health care, on civil rights, on education, as well as issues as important as the peace process in Ireland.

I am also thinking of him tonight because of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County, which has had many storied speakers, but one of the greatest speeches given at that dinner—really in the history of the American Irish—was given by then-Senator Robert Frances Kennedy of New York in 1964. So we are thinking tonight of the inspiration Senator Robert Kennedy provided to the American people, to the people of the State he served, New York, and to people across the country in his Presidential campaign in 1968 before his tragic assassination.

In a special way, I am thinking of the speech he gave not long after—literally just a few months after his brother, President Kennedy, was killed. I had the occasion a little more than a year ago to give an audio recording of that to Senator TED KENNEDY. I know he had heard of the speech and maybe even heard the actual recording, but I wanted to make sure he had a CD of that speech.

So we are thinking of him tonight and thinking of his family and the great sacrifice the Kennedy family has made for the American people; one as President, two in the Senate, and one of them in the Senate who served as Attorney General. That is just a highlight of the kind of service they have provided.

So on this St. Patrick's Day, we cherish the memory of so many things that are Irish, but we are also whispering a silent prayer for our country, whispering a prayer for the people of Ireland and for those who made this peace possible, people such as TED KENNEDY and George Mitchell, and others who worked so hard.

In this very special way today, I am grateful for the chance to be able to stand on the floor of the Senate and say that a friend of mine, a friend of Pennsylvania, and a proud son of Pittsburgh has been nominated by President Obama to be Ambassador to Ireland. That friend is Dan Rooney.

So congratulations, Dan. We are thinking of you and your family tonight as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, Senate Standing Rules XXVI requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedure of the committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. On March 16, 2009, a majority of the members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight adopted subcommittee rules of procedure.

Consistent with Standing Rule XXVI, today I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the rules of procedure of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT

(1) SUBCOMMITTEE RULES.—The Subcommittee shall be governed, where applicable, by the rules of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(2) QUORUMS.

(A) TRANSACTION OF ROUTINE BUSINESS.—One-third of the membership of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of routine business, provided that one Member of the Minority is present. For the purpose of this paragraph, the term "routine business" includes the convening of a meeting and the consideration of any business of the Subcommittee other than reporting to the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs any matters or recommendations. Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize the consideration or reporting of legislation.

(B) TAKING TESTIMONY.—One Member of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking sworn or unsworn testimony.

(C) PROXIES PROHIBITED IN ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM.—Proxies shall not be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

(3) SUBCOMMITTEE SUBPOENAS.—The Chairman of the Subcommittee, with the approval of the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee, is authorized to subpoena the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials at a hearing, provided that the Chairman may subpoena attendance or production without the approval of the Ranking Minority Member where the Chairman or a staff officer designated by him/her has not received notification from the Ranking Minority Member or a staff officer designated by him/her of disapproval of the subpoena within 72 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, of being notified of the subpoena. If a subpoena is disapproved by the Ranking Minority Member as provided herein, the subpoena may be authorized by vote of the Members of the Subcommittee.

Immediately upon authorization of the issuance of a subpoena under these rules, a written notice of intent to issue the subpoena shall be provided to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, or staff officers designated by them, by the Subcommittee Chairman or a staff officer designated by him/her, and no subpoena shall be issued for at least 48 hours,

excluding Saturdays and Sundays, from delivery to the appropriate offices, unless the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs waive the 48-hour waiting period or unless the Subcommittee Chairman certifies in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee that, in his or her opinion, it is necessary to issue a subpoena immediately.

When the Subcommittee or its Chairman authorizes subpoenas, subpoenas may be issued upon the signature of the Chairman or any other Member of the Subcommittee designated by the Chairman.

MOLDOVA PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, with the coming parliamentary elections scheduled for April 5, Moldova is once again at a crucial juncture in its domestic political development.

In recent years, Moldova's cooperation with the United States has deepened, with steady progress through the initial stages of the Millennium Challenge Threshold Program, which promises to bring significant material assistance to Moldova in the near future. Additionally, Moldova has advanced in its quest for greater European integration. To continue to build upon and consolidate these positive developments, it is crucial that the current campaign and voting on April 5 be conducted in a manner consistent with Moldova's commitment to meeting OSCE election standards.

Since achieving independence in 1991, Moldova has had a generally positive record in conducting and respecting the results of free elections. However, there have been shortcomings and it is essential that Moldova avoid repeating practices that have drawn criticism in previous contests.

Specifically, national and local authorities must make every effort to ensure a level and transparent playing field for all candidates during the campaign and avoid the use of administrative resources to hamper political rivals. It is also important that the authorities make efforts to ensure access to the media for all candidates and representatives of political parties. Finally, law enforcement bodies must safeguard the public's basic right to freely and publicly assemble to express their views in a peaceable manner.

As Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I would underscore the importance that all involved in Moldova's upcoming parliamentary elections ensure compliance with international norms. This is crucial, not only for the future of democratic reform in Moldova, but also for the country's further economic development and progress along its chosen path of European integration.

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:

My husband and I moved to Shelley in May of 2007, and drive to work in Idaho Falls Monday through Friday. Since we work different hours, we are unable to carpool. When we first moved here, we budgeted approx. \$210 per month for gas and we now budget approx. \$320. We do not drive new, gas-guzzling cars. My husband drives a 1987 Ford Bronco II (we are on our third engine) and I drive a 1995 Ford F-150 pick-up. Both cars have four-wheel drive, which is necessary in the winter months, and the pick-up is needed as we own 6 acres. Add this increase to the gas needed for a riding lawnmower and a quad (both are needed to maintain our property), we probably spend \$350 a month in gas. I believe Congress has no idea of what the average wage earner/homeowner goes through every month just trying to get by and pay bills. There will be no vacations this year as we cannot afford to pay for gas and travel anywhere. Along with the increase in gas prices, we have found our grocery bills have increased along with just about everything else. (the trickle-down effect) Wages in Idaho are not high and the cost of gasoline seriously impacts our budget. I am in support of more domestic drilling and believe we depend too much on foreign oil.

LAURIE, Shelley.

My husband and I both work at the Idaho National Laboratory and also operate a small beef cattle ranch. The rising costs have been affecting us but really started hitting hard last year.

First, we live in Howe and work at the INL. We work at one of the closest facilities to Howe, yet, it is still 20 miles one way. I work a 4x10 schedule and my husband works a rotating 4x12 schedule. Our schedules do not coincide with one another so we are unable to carpool. So, we both have to drive separate vehicles 4 days a week. He is unable to carpool because no one else in Howe works his same schedule. I carpool with another neighbor who works 4x10s at my facility, so I drive twice a week. We are driving a minimum of 240 miles per week. All of our vehicles are ranch vehicles so they get between 8 and 16 mpg (with all the rising costs, we'd be hard pressed to afford a vehicle payment for an economy car). We try to ride our motorcycles when we can (40-60 mpg) but that is hard to do with a carpool. We are using 15-30 gallons of fuel a week, minimum, at a cost of \$60-120/week or \$240-480/month. That just for going to a steady paying job.

Second, our cattle graze on private ground 20 miles away. That was the closest we could get at a reasonable cost (which was 4 years ago). Because of the problems we have had with trespassers cutting fence lines, tearing up gates, cattle disappearing, and irrigation issues, we have to check on this daily from May to November. That is another 280 miles/week. So, another \$140/week or \$560/month.

The closest full-service shopping is 80 miles away in Rexburg, Idaho Falls, or Blackfoot. We have tried to keep the trips to town to a minimum, but, that too is hard to do with cattle, owning a home, and just plain living. We carpool to town to do our grocery shopping and only go every other week. That is another 180 miles once you spend the day driving all over town to get everything in one trip—and believe me it is an all day trip when you are shopping for 2 weeks worth of supplies for 2-3 families. Another potential \$40 in fuel. We do not get to see our children, grandchildren or other family very often anymore because they are scattered all over the state. They cannot afford to spend the money on gas to come and visit and we have had to cut way back on these excursions. The cost for vehicle maintenance has shot through the roof, too. Tires are up about 50%, motor oil has double over the past couple of years, other maintenance supplies have increased and the cost of labor to have a "professional" do it is ridiculous (that is if you can get someone honest and reputable to do the work!).

Because we lost our BPA credit and Rocky Mountain Power raised the rates, our electric bill has gone up \$60-100/month depending upon how much water we are pumping and how cold it is.

The hay prices shot up from about \$85/ton to \$150/ton—nearly double. So we are forced to either sell off half the herd or double our cost for hay/feed (for 50 head of cattle we'll be paying over \$20,000). The market price for beef at auction has not increased making our profit margin take a nose dive. When there is less beef produced, the store cost goes up—but we do not see that money as a producer. Everyone else is getting their cut but the producer. Feed grain has gone up about 33%, and veterinary supplies have gone up.

The cost of everything has gone up to account for the fuel prices. Flour has doubled, milk went up \$1/gallon, bread is \$3/loaf (can you believe it—so I make my own). The cost of fencing supplies has gone up 75%. These are just a few things that cut into our bottom line.

I hear taxes (at least federal) are going back up and the marriage penalty will be back. Is there anyone in Congress that can keep their hand out of the piggy bank? My husband and I live within our means. With all of these rising costs, we are having to cut back on many other things—but we are doing it. It just seems that our government representatives are so wealthy and are "entitled" to special treatment wherever they live that they have grown completely out of touch with how the common person lives from day to day.

We are just one small family. We are spending well over \$1000/month in fuel costs and just a few years ago I thought it was highway robbery to spend \$400/month. The US needs to get off the "enviro-nazi" kick and start utilizing the resources we have.

Thanks for listening. Maybe this will help you make a difference for Idahoans and our country.

TEKLA, Howe.

Thank you for taking the time to hear from those you represent. Yes my family has had to cut back our spending as the fuel prices are driving up the costs of everything else. There is one area I am deeply concerned

with, that is with the good people who help the less fortunate. There are companies like Meals on Wheels that are hurting because of the energy costs, the food costs, as well as the other expenses they have to bear. When I hear that these good people are trying to help others, it warms my heart, but when I hear these same companies are struggling to scrape together enough funds to continue to do the incredible job they do I am deeply saddened. The costs are rising to a point that it makes it difficult to be able to donate to these wonderful organizations. When I hear the oil companies are making record profits it angers me and I feel we are being taken advantage of. I do believe in free enterprise, but at what cost to the great people of our fantastic nation.

Please help,

Scott.

This is in response to your request for citizens to "share your energy stories."

Here are some of the results I am observing, of gas being more expensive:

Traffic is (slightly) down on the overcrowded roads in and around Boise.

People are getting rid of their gas-guzzlers and getting more economical modes of transportation.

People are making more responsible transportation choices. (Dare I say it? Might they even consider carpooling, or utilizing public transportation?)

Air pollution is down.

There is some real market-driven innovation going on, in the automotive world.

In other words, the results of higher fuel prices aren't all negative. Please think long and hard before getting the government more involved. (In the past, it hasn't always had the desired effect.)

If you could figure out some way to give the freight industry some relief, that would be a good thing. But let the free market run its course with regards to personal transportation, I say. If our economy is based on every citizen 16 and over having a private motor vehicle and unlimited access to cheap fuel . . . it is a house of cards.

Ride a bicycle.

JOSH, Boise.

These days of high fuel and energy costs have been coming for a long time now. Since the 1970s, the writing has been on the wall. Had the government taken the lead and required meaningful efficiency standards of the auto industry, we may have avoided a war and would already be on our way to energy independence. Had we raised the fuel tax by a couple of pennies each year and invested it into mass transit and infrastructure, we would not be faced with crumbling roads and bridges.

We let the marketplace get into this mess; the marketplace will get us out of this mess, if we let it. The marketplace is merely correcting for the poor decisions of the past. Progress built on the promise of an unlimited supply, of a finite resource, is hardly progress at all. To call for more production is no solution. We have squandered an immense resource on gas guzzlers, motor sports of all kind. Agriculture's dependence on fossil fuels and petroleum based chemicals is coming back to haunt us.

The best time to plan for energy independence was 30 years ago. The second best time to plan for energy independence is today. There are other contributing factors to the mess we are in such as, the failing dollar, former third world countries whose demand for energy will soon exceed ours. We brought all this on ourselves and now we do not like it. I would be willing to bet, "we ain't seen nothin' yet".

DOUG.

We moved from southern California and left a lucrative business four years ago to come to Idaho and put our children into smaller schools. We also began a business here that has done pretty well. Lately though, gas is eating up any chance of savings for college or cars for teens who need cars to work.

Beside working many hours and employing locals when we can, we also volunteer hundreds of hours coaching kids in youth sports. I also began an all-girls youth group 18 months ago, that has presently 40 girls that have attended and come pretty regularly. We are in a poorer area so up till now we provide many rides for these kids, many from single parent homes, welfare homes, etc. These kids have been so appreciative of all the time and effort we invest in them and we see many making much better choices today that once were traveling down a very bad path in life.

How is gas affecting us, family of five? For one, we have started turning down some pretty good jobs we would usually bid within a 90-mile radius due to gas prices. Since my husband has to drive a truck to carry all of his heavy equipment to do the jobs, he has no choice but to pay for higher gas. For me, I have to choose to not pick up all the kids that I have been to keep them in youth group and sports. Some of these parents do not even own cars, so now that means some of these kids who were responding so positively either have to walk a great deal to get to a place I can pick them up (also a danger in today's world) or they do not always get to attend. I too may have to cut my hrs in volunteering soon as we just cannot afford the gas to do as much as we always have in the past.

One more way it is affecting us is we have a son ready to begin college and he may actually have to go without a vehicle. His older car broke down and, in order to purchase an energy-efficient vehicle, we would have to give up paying for college basically. We cannot afford to do both. We have another son also driving, but he cannot afford the gas prices to get to a job at minimum wage on a part-time basis. He works for his dad all summer, but gas prices is preventing him from working all school year for the minimum wage on a part-time basis (15 hr average locally for youth jobs during school year).

We ask the Congress to push harder to drill here at home, to open another refinery while they continue exploring all other energy efficient ideas. We too want the environment protected, but first we must make certain people can afford to go to school and to work. We do think the congress needs to put some pressure on and get our gas prices lowered (environmentalist caused in our opinions), but we do not believe the government should be taking over the oil companies.

We thank you for your time and hope that you can work to get this resolved before none of us are able to work.

KEN and ROSSA, *Lenore*.

I wanted to write you about the insanely high price of gas. My wife and I both hold jobs in different parts of Boise so we could not carpool together. Her car gets great gas mileage; mine, on the other hand, does not. When the price of gas going up, I was looking at paying almost \$200 in fuel a month for my own transportation probably closer to \$300 with both of our cars together. We simply cannot afford \$300 a month for just gas. I decided to find a new means of transportation to work—my bicycle. While I am not complaining about riding my bike to work, I have to keep looking down the road and know that winter is coming and with \$135 barrel of oil prices that means high gas prices when it is cold out, too. Congress or

the House or the President or someone needs to take the reins and get control over this crisis. I keep hearing about how we went to war in Iraq for oil. If that is true, then why are not we taking oil out of Iraq to repay all the money that we have spent over there to increase our national debt to an insane amount? Why are we not drilling in Alaska? Or on the Outer Continental Shelf? Or exploring the coal to oil possibility? With all of the unemployment that is happening right now in our country opening up even one of these possibilities could create new jobs for people that are out of work right now, bring down the price of gas and oil, and we could stop funding countries that hate America. I do not understand how simple working Americans can see the solutions to this problem but our elected officials either cannot see the solutions or just do not care to fix the problem they helped to create. Thank you for your time.

KYLE, *Boise*.

Despite the fact that a month ago I have recently acquired a higher paying job (more than I have ever made), we are having to now decide which bills get paid and which ones do not. My fiancée and I over the past few years, worked diligently to reduce or eliminate our debt, save money for both short term and long term. We were being very responsible middle Americans.

We have not been able to successfully budget the increases in what we have to pay for gas and everything else that has gone up in price.

Now all that our debts have gone up and our emergency funds our depleted.

It is not as though we have been spending more. We have made as many cutbacks as we could. Gotten rid of cable, switched all of our bulbs to fluorescent, do not go out to eat anymore, and quality time family excursions including movies just do not happen anymore.

What else do we do when suddenly prices go up and you have to get to work, but the tank is empty and bills need paid or they shut off the power, etc.? Companies never give you a raise as quickly as prices go up. In fact, most people do not even get raises anymore. We are paying on average of \$150 to \$200 more a month than before. We do have to drive more than the average person until the wedding over and house is sold.

I already work long hours, leave the house at 6:45 am to arrive back at 7 pm exhausted go to bed at 10 pm. When would I have time to get another job? We have been selling off things we own for extra money. We have not had time to adjust. These rapid increases are killing us financially.

MONTE.

I am taking this opportunity to respond to you call for input on high energy prices. I live in Pocatello and must drive to work daily to go to work in Idaho Falls, a 100-mile round trip. My wife owns a restaurant in Pocatello, so moving would only change who commutes. The high gasoline prices have affected my personal driving habits in that I have started driving at 55 miles per hour again. If I drive at 75 mph, my car will go 19 to 20 miles per gallon of gasoline. I have found that when I drive at 55 mph, my car will go 32 to 34 miles per gallon. I only have to leave the house 15 minutes earlier in the morning to get to work on time.

I was in Nebraska a few weeks ago. I noticed that while Nebraska has not lowered posted speed limit for trucks, almost all trucks were cruising between 60 and 65 mph. Since a truck is much less streamlined, I would guess that their fuel efficiency gains are even more dramatic than mine.

I realize that, for most Americans, the vast majority of driving is done in a city where

the speeds are much lower and the traffic is stop and go, so simply driving slower will not have a significant impact on fuel efficiency. But gasoline use can be greatly reduced in urban areas also. I have two sons who both get all over Pocatello very easily, and neither one of them drives an average of ten miles a week. They both walk or ride bicycles almost everywhere they go. They even takes backpacks to the grocery store and laundromats, which for one of them are over a mile and a half from his house (the other lives only around the corner from a grocery store, and his laundry seems to mysteriously appear at my house).

I do believe that urban planners in the West have long neglected pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods and business districts, not to mention the almost complete lack of attention towards mass transit systems both in and between urban areas. Congress should address these items as viable tools to curb energy demand along with promoting development of alternative energy sources. Congress should also mandate the diversification of our energy supply, which, by the way, should also be a Homeland Security priority.

Congress has known that our energy availability is getting more and more questionable for over thirty years, and has done little to promote developing new energy resources or promote curbing energy use. Simply exploring for more oil within the United States will not solve the problems, it will only prolong the problem at great cost.

BOB.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ST. XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nathan Horrell and Will Spence from St. Xavier High School, Louisville, KY, for receiving the Achievement Award in writing. This year only 525 students around the country were recipients of this award.

The Achievement Award in writing is given to students who show excellence in English and writing. To be eligible for the award, students must submit a previously written paper and then be invited to participate in a timed essay.

Nathan Horrell and Will Spence both have shown great analytical and writing skills in their submitted papers. Each student entered an analysis of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel "Frankenstein," which they both wrote during their junior year in high school. At the contest, Nathan wrote his timed essay on the connection between the Internet and politics and Will wrote a short story.

I am impressed by the excellence these two students have displayed. I am confident that they will have success in greater challenges in the future.

Mr. President, I would like to thank Nathan Horrell and Will Spence for their contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ALVA BRYAN "RED" LASSWELL

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a man from Arkansas