

The government isn't going to help out long-term if they go after the gas and oil companies. Okay, maybe their profits seem a bit high in light of what everybody else is going through, but ultimately, conservation will affect the market and they'll have to turn down the prices. Government can subsidize mass transit and price it so that it's the economic choice. Government can reward conservation. Incentives for auto manufacturers to produce energy conscious vehicles will inspire research and could result in some little guy creating the next great automotive company, one whose main focus is energy conservation. We can change the ethos that drives our American reliance on petrochemicals. We must change the ethos, for the good of our planet and the social structures that it supports.

That is my story. Thanks for asking, Senator Crapo.

MIRIAM I. LYNGHOLM, *Moscow.*

Thank you for your proactive email on a critical issue. I am usually the one emailing you (along with Larry Craig, and Bill Sali) about whatever issue it is that I feel needs attention . . . line the still porous Southern border!! My husband and I have not done our usual weekly lunch out and our pizza night. I find, if I am lacking something for a recipe, I just do without it. Before the insanity of the current pump prices, I would just hop in the car and head to the store to get the missing item. That usually interpreted itself to a minimum \$20.00 purchase, because you always see something to just "pick up while I am there". But, no more. I find I incorporate as many errands in one trip as possible. I am definitely driving less, eating out less, and shopping less, even at the grocery.

Do I like this? Not one bit, especially when it is as unnecessary as it is. We have resources in this country that have not even been explored. Drill off the Atlantic. I have lived on the Florida Gulf coast. I know what a spill does, but the technology and safe guards are far superior to what they used to be! Move the limit out a bit, then explore. How about the shale available in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado? I do not advocate destroying beautiful places at all. There are ways to return the earth to its previous state. We don't "scalp" the forest anymore with clear cutting. We have learned forest management. The same can be true of retrieving the oil from shale. Why then, does it take 2 years just to get the air permit to start up in those states? We won a world war in just twice that time. Surely, we can push paper faster in this crisis. Our economy is being crippled . . . one family at a time.

I hope you will vote to start exploring/drilling at a sensible distance off our shores . . . but START! The other issue is the free reign of the futures/commodity speculators and their part in all of these inflated prices. This has not happened before on this type of scale. Wasn't there some regulation in place that was done away with in the late 1990s that opened the way for this pillaging that is happening today? I implore you to take measures to stop these people who are inflating these prices and lining their pockets at the pain of others.

Thank you for writing and for your vigilance on the border (even though nothing is happening), and the gas price issues.

VIRGINIA CARTER, *Boise.*

Should be an easy one for your office to track. Follow a bbl of oil from AK, MT, WY, ND, SD, PA, TX or CA from the wellhead to the service station. You may not be able to publish what you come up with. . .

RODGER COLGAN.

I read with sadness your email on the poor plight of us Americans being consumed by

rising Energy prices. Your aim at getting more exploration for energy reserves misses the entire problem.

The problem is not that Gas prices, have gone up. Nor have housing prices or food prices increased.

You are looking at the symptom of a much bigger problem. What has changed is that the value of the dollar has decreased. As pegged by the price of gold, silver and the euro the dollar is worth less than it was in 2000. At that time gold was about \$250 per ounce, the Euro was \$.92 and Silver was somewhere around \$5.00. Today Gold is near \$900, Silver around \$17 and the euro is around \$1.55.

So Gas should be about \$5.76. Given that the price of gold has gone up over 3 times and so has silver.

The problem Senator is that the value of the Dollar or more accurately that Federal Reserve Token that most Americans refer to as the Dollar has declined.

It has declined because of the overprinting by the Federal Reserve who at Congresses request asks them to print more so they can borrow these fictitious dollars and pay back the private bankers called the Federal Reserve at an amazing profit.

When you measure gas prices and food prices against real money as defined by our constitution, i.e. Gold and Silver, gas in real terms is about a \$1.60 in 2000 terms.

One could argue that the price of Gold has also gone up in price but that is missing the point. Money as defined is a store of labor. A dollar as defined by our constitution is 25.8 grains of gold. You cannot inflate or deflate gold or silver. They are what they are. Sound. The Federal Reserve Tokens most Americans refer to as dollars, on the other hand is printed as fast or as slow as the government who borrows it. The Federal Reserve then charges interest on something that has been created out of thin air. What a business that has got to be. That is why the founders established a sound currency backed by gold. In 1913 Congress fell for a scheme to take the people's money. In 1929 Roosevelt created a banking holiday to convince the people that taking sound money from them would save the country. The people obviously confused by the recent events and nearly 20 years of advertising by the Federal Reserve Banksters were convinced that they should give up good money for worthless paper currency.

Let me give you an analogy most Americans might understand. Let us assume you are playing monopoly. We will give you a special player's piece let us call it the pig. The pig is playing like all the other players, however you, as the pig get to the coveted piece of real estate called Boardwalk. On realizing that you don't have enough money to buy Boardwalk you simply take some from the bank (Federal Reserve) and buy it. Now the other players (THE People of the U.S.) that you are playing with do not see you do this. However, after many more rolls of dice you seem to never run short of money. You simply go to the Federal Reserve and grab some more monopoly money. Now other players cannot seem to keep up. Their money is worthless. IN fact you have so much you simply bid up the price of anything you want to buy. This of course creates a huge disadvantage but you don't care you are the Pig, er government. Now the bank is asking for you to begin making those huge interest payments so now rather than the other players getting \$200 when they pass go you pass a new rule and the other players get a bill for \$200. Doesn't seem fair does it? Well that is what you and the other congressmen have been doing for the last 90+ years.

So here we are today with Congress borrowing paper currency or debt instruments

that the Federal Reserve gets to charge the people interest on. This Business by the banksters is something for nothing Banking Scam.

Real Money, Gold and Silver, does not change over time. It is sound, it is fair and when this country was founded some 230 years ago it changed an economy that was in the shambles to one of stability.

Today what does change is how many dollars Congress borrows to fund the occupation in Iraq, Afghanistan and the other 700 bases we have around the world.

The only real solution to this is to go back to a Gold Standard, and abolish the Federal Reserve, which is neither Federal nor are there any reserves. This private banking system, coupled with you and congresses overspending is what has put our economy in a tailspin that is much like the created disaster of 1929 and 1979.

Now the world no longer wants our debt and since we have no real money to pay it back with. The solution is to get back to a gold backed currency that the world can respect and trust.

It is nice that you congressmen and women point fingers as to the symptoms of the problem but you need to be pointing the fingers at yourselves who have allowed the problem. You have allowed President Bush and Dick Cheney, to run amuk with a blank check book spending money on a war that was never approved by the spineless Congress.

You can pass all the laws and resolutions you wish but they are just window dressing. Until we get sound money and Congress takes responsibility for allowing Dick Cheney to run the white house then we will continue to see our wealth erode.

My hope is that you pull all the troops home, shut down all the bases and put this country on a sound money system by eliminating the Federal Reserve. Until you stop printing and spending Federal Reserve Tokens on guns and butter the dollar will continue its free fall until the people's wealth has been confiscated by the over printing of the currency.

May God bless you Congressman if you stand up to this charade created so long ago. For our country to survive you must take a stand.

If you don't take a stand, if no one stands up for the values our founders instituted so long ago, then I fear that our country will become just like other 3rd world countries whose governments have stolen the people blind with fiat currencies like what we have here in the United States.

Good Luck.

DAVID DEHAAS.

Like you or any other politician in DC really cares about the common folk who sent them there. You all could have set forth changes to allow more exploration and development of our own oil/gas in such areas as off the coasts and in ANWR but you didn't. So I ask you again why bother acting like you care, you don't pay for gas in your car or try to buy fuel to run your farm or truck.

ALBERT MORRISON, *Ammon.*

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-435. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's competitive sourcing efforts during

fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-436. A communication from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the imposition of foreign policy controls on reexports to Iran and exports and reexports to certain parties pursuant to Executive Order 13382; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-437. A communication from the Legal Information Assistant, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minimum Capital Ratios; Capital Adequacy Guidelines; Capital Maintenance; Capital: Deduction of Goodwill Net of Associated Deferred Tax Liability" (RIN1550-AC22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-438. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consolidated Returns; Intercompany Obligations" (RIN1545-BA11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-439. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards for Mortgagee's Investment in Mortgaged Property: Compliance With Court Order Vacating Final Rule" (RIN2502-AI52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-440. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minimum Capital Ratios; Capital Adequacy Guidelines; Capital Maintenance; Capital: Deduction of Goodwill Net of Associated Deferred Tax Liability" (Docket No. R-1329) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-441. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reclamation Rural Water Supply Program" (RIN1006-AA54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-442. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to financial integrity for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-443. A communication from the Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's annual report for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-444. A communication from the Director, National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Gallery's competitive sourcing activities during fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-445. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, the Department's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-446. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the U.S. Southern Command, and has been assigned case number 08-05; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-447. A communication from the Attorney of the Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program for Commercial and Industrial Equipment: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Ice-Cream Freezers; Self-Contained Commercial Refrigerators, Commercial Freezers, and Commercial Refrigerator-Freezers Without Doors; and Remote Condensing Commercial Refrigerators, Commercial Freezers, and Commercial Refrigerator-Freezers" (RIN1904-AB59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 215. A bill to authorize the Boy Scouts of America to exchange certain land in the State of Utah acquired under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 216. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating Estate Grange and other sites related to Alexander Hamilton's life on the island of St. Croix in the United States Virgin Islands as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 217. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to update the feasibility and suitability studies of four national historic trails, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 218. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Bureau of Land Management land to Park City, Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 219. A bill to provide for the sale of approximately 25 acres of public land to the Turnabout Ranch, Escalante, Utah, at fair market value; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 220. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an Inspector General for the judicial branch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 221. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to require energy commodities to be traded only on regulated markets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 222. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the national

limitation on qualified energy conservation bonds and to clarify that certain programs constitute a qualified conservation purpose, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 223. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to further the adoption of technologies developed by the Department of Agriculture, to encourage small business partnerships in the development of energy through biorefineries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 224. A bill to promote economic recovery through green jobs and infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BAYH (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 225. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish programs to improve the quality, performance, and delivery of pediatric care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 226. A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Havre, Montana, as the Merrill Lundman Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 227. A bill to establish the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, New York, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 228. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States, at their option, to require certain individuals to present satisfactory documentary evidence of proof of citizenship or nationality for purposes of eligibility for Medicaid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 229. A bill to empower women in Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 230. A bill to express United States foreign policy with respect to, and to strengthen United States advocacy on behalf of, individuals persecuted and denied their rights in foreign countries on account of gender, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S.J. Res. 5. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of obligations under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008; placed on the calendar, pursuant to P.L. 110-343, sec. 115(e)(2).

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. MARTINEZ):