

groceries once a week, and go to our doctors—all things to keep us spiritually and physically healthy. Now, with exploding gas prices, caused we feel mainly by the government's lack of action in the past and present, we are having to curtail. Let us see, now we can cut back on church to our spiritual detriment, and we can shop for groceries every other week and extend doctor's appointments to our physical detriment. What will we do in three months, six months, and beyond as gas prices continue to explode, driving up the cost of everything, while the government continues to talk with no action?

Okay, what should be done about the oil crisis? Release U.S. oil reserves immediately to both give relief and to sting those in the futures market that are reaping huge profits. With due consideration for the environment, lift the restrictions on drilling off our coasts and drilling in Alaska and other states. Start processing oil shale. As reparations, take half the oil produced in Iraq or at least get a price break on Iraqi oil. Open up the nuclear power industry. Put some sanity behind the development of alternate fuels. Give more than lip service to hybrid and electrical cars. Convince us that government cares about us once again.

JON, Boise.

We are a retired couple living on less than we use to make. Not only is gas costing us more than we can afford but now we are told that propane will not go down in price as it usually does in the summer. We only have propane for heating and, as you know, it gets cold in Eastern Idaho. To fill our tank, it takes more than \$1000 for 500 gallons. Our car takes \$50 each time we fill it with gasoline. We have a car that gets about 30 miles to the gallon. The price of bread milk and groceries are also getting higher.

I know you support the drill here, drill now, spend less and I thank you for that. But unless something is done to help the Americans, someone will have killed their golden goose—the American consumer in the lower and middle class. We are definitely driving less and conserving where we can but I hear how the liberals want to do away with the tax cuts instead of making them permanent. I am a conservative and I have had enough

DARREL.

First of all I want to thank you for making this forum available. I have lots to say but will try to be brief; you and your staff are busy. I am a flight attendant for Delta Air Lines based in NYC. I live in Horseshoe Bend area and fly to JFK to cross the pond to Europe, working the JFK-Europe flight. Last summer I was able to commute to JFK on the same day I reported to work. Delta is cutting back on flights out of Boise and, since I am an employee, I get on last. This summer it will be harder and harder for me to get to work because Delta is using a lot of regional jets with only 50 and 70 seats to save fuel/Delta flights have 144 seats. Delta is cutting SkyWest (carrier operating the regional jets) flights 15% nationwide. Like most people, I do not get paid until I get to work. I am giving up more of my days off to commute to my job in New York. I certainly hope we can resolve this crisis. I am hoping not only for USA sources for energy but hopeful research and development will be more successful in finding better sources than corn, a low cost food sorely needed in less prosperous countries. Thanks to you and your staff for a great job!

CHERI, Horseshoe Bend.

I would just like to state that as a result of the higher gas prices, I had to withdraw from the university I was attending, as I

commuted half an hour 3 times a week for class. I am no longer enrolled in that college because I could not make the drive. I am a young college student, married and my husband and I just bought our first home. I had to quit attending school because we simply could not afford to put the gas in even my fuel-efficient Toyota Corolla.

TIFFANY, Idaho Falls.

You inquired as to the effect oil prices are having on residents of Idaho. The ones on fixed incomes are having their savings and way of life vanishing. I recently received an e-mail suggesting that our food supply should be geared to a barrel of oil and the profits returned to the American people and farmers. It mentioned that gasoline is eight cents a gallon in Saudi Arabia?

FRANK, Caldwell.

High fuel and food costs are hurting both young and old. While gas prices in Idaho are at or above the national average, our hourly wage remains low. Idahoans can no longer afford to travel more than a few miles to work as the daily cost of gasoline to commute from any rural area to the city (e.g. Nampa/Caldwell to Boise) makes the trip prohibitive. Consequently, I would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Immediately end the corn ethanol federal subsidy program that has increased the cost of our food. There is absolutely no merit to this program. It benefits farmers, but the majority of Idaho's citizens and businesses are not farm-related!

2. Prohibit refineries from exporting diesel fuel out of U.S. as they are doing now because they can make more money exporting it! Refineries are shifting production from gasoline to diesel fuel, but not for the benefit of the people of the United States.

RALPH, Eagle.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER ROTHSCILD

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I wish today to honor Jennifer Rothschild, a fellow Missourian, who recently received the Foundation Fighting Blindness' Hope and Spirit Award. This award recognizes the people who inspire all of us because of their ability to see literally beyond their vision loss. The award honors the uniquely human qualities that advance the mission of the foundation, and ultimately, the betterment of society.

Jennifer Rothschild is a remarkable individual who inspires people to rise above their challenges, aspire for the extraordinary, and live life to the fullest just as she has done.

Jennifer lost her sight after being diagnosed with a rare, degenerative eye disease. Retinal degenerative diseases affect more than 10 million people in the United States alone, and millions more worldwide. This loss of vision was more than a turning point for Jennifer who had dreams of becoming a commercial artist and cartoonist. However, she soared above that challenge and found a new path.

Jennifer is now a mother, author, speaker, pianist and role model for all those who face challenges. She carries her story and message of encourage-

ment across the country. In a "Good Morning America" interview for her latest of six books, Jennifer said "If I chose to let blindness be my enemy I would be fighting it my whole life. Maybe this was God's way of giving me a really great gift in a really difficult package." It is that optimism and her amazing talent that inspired me the evening she received her Hope and Spirit Award.

I congratulate Jennifer on this latest achievement and look forward to her great work in the future.●

REMEMBERING MARY ELLEN ROZZELL

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I honor Mary Ellen Rozzell, former President of the National Association of Professional Surplus Lines Offices, NAPSLO, who passed away unexpectedly on March 3, 2009, while attending a NAPSLO conference in Palm Springs, CA.

Mary Ellen was a respected, beloved leader. The president of Continental/Marmorstein & Malone Insurance Agency in Paramus, NJ, she began working in the insurance business with the Marmorstein Agency some 40 years ago. Mary Ellen served as president of New Jersey Surplus Lines Association, NJSLSA, from 1989-1990, and was named as NJSLSA honoree of the year in 1992 due to her outstanding contribution to the New Jersey Surplus Lines Industry. She also served on the New Jersey Insurance Commissioner's Producer Advisory Council, and with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Her warmth, openness, honesty, and good nature made everyone who met her feel immediately comfortable. These qualities served her very well in life, with family and friends, and in her remarkable career where she rose through the ranks with hard work and honesty. She was always prepared for the trials of life and business and the often difficult decisions required by both. She embraced responsibility, expected accountability and never failed those who depended on her. All who knew her benefited by her example.

Her family has established the Mary Ellen Rozzell Foundation for AVM Research so that friends and colleagues might contribute to arteriovenous malformation research in Mary Ellen's name.

I extend my sympathy to her family and those close to her. She will be missed greatly by everyone she touched.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 10:14 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1541. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, 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. 1586. An act to impose an additional tax on bonuses received from certain TARP recipients.

At 3:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, 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. 1388. An act to reauthorize and reform the national service laws.

At 5:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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. 1216. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Matthew P. Patheros Post Office Building".

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1388. An act to reauthorize and reform the national service laws.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 1586. An act to impose an additional tax on bonuses received from certain TARP recipients.

S. 651. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on excessive bonuses paid by, and received from, companies receiving Federal emergency economic assistance, to limit the amount of

nonqualified deferred compensation that employees of such companies may defer from taxation, 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-981. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Administrative Regulations; Appeal Procedure" (RIN0563-AC18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-982. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Administrative Regulations; Submissions of Policies, Provisions of Policies, Rates of Premium and Premium Reduction Plans" (RIN0563-AC20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-983. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Cabbage Crop Insurance Provisions" (RIN0563-AB99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-984. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the determination and findings for authority to award a single source task or delivery order contract; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-985. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the notification of the intent to initiate a public-private competition for environmental services and pest management functions being performed by ninety-four Department of Defense civilian employees located in Norfolk, Virginia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-986. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the notification of the intent to initiate a public-private competition for base support, vehicle operations, and equipment functions being performed by three hundred ninety Department of Defense civilian employees located in various locations throughout the Mid-Atlantic region; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-987. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General James J. Lovelace, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-988. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of (2) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-989. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Depart-

ment of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Direct Investment Surveys: BE-15, Annual Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States" (RIN0691-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-990. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL-8774-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 17, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-991. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards of Performance for Stationary Combustion Turbines" (FRL-8784-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 17, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-992. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lead; Fees for Accreditation of Training Programs and Certification of Lead-based Paint Activities and Renovation Contractors" (FRL-8404-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 17, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-993. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tier I—Industry Director Directive on Domestic Production Deduction (DPD) #3—Field Directive related to compensation expenses currently deducted but attributable to prior periods" (LMSB-04-0209-004) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 17, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-994. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of acting officer in the position of Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-995. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of acting officer in the position of Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict & Humanitarian Assistance, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-996. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of acting officer in the position of Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Africa, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-997. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of acting officer in the position of Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on