

Since 2002, the Sudanese Government has attempted to exterminate the African Muslim population of Darfur with horrific acts of brutality. Villages have been burned to the ground, innocent women and children slaughtered by helicopter gunships, and rape has been used as a tool of genocide. What happened to the Armenians is genocide. What is happening today in Darfur is genocide, even though the Government of Sudan denies this.

Genocide is only possible when people avert their eyes. Any effort to deal with genocide—in the past, present or future—must begin with the truth. By acknowledging the truth of the Armenian genocide, we can end the phony debates and strengthen our ability to stand up against mass killing today.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I join with my colleagues, my fellow Rhode Islanders, and the Armenian-American community to observe the 94th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Each year, on April 24, it is fitting that we pause to remember and reflect on one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century, the systematic killing of Armenians. From 1915 through the end of 1923, nearly 1½ million Armenians were killed and over half a million survivors were exiled.

The Armenian genocide demonstrated the evils humans are capable of, and unfortunately, it was only the first of several 20th century tragedies.

As we reflect and recall this tragic time, let us call for our own country to recognize the Armenian genocide, just as my own State of Rhode Island has done, along with many other States and governments.

Menk panav chenk mornar—We will never forget.

SOMALI PIRACY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I was glad earlier this week to join Senator LEAHY in passing a resolution commending Captain Richard Phillips for his brave conduct, and those members of our armed services, particularly members of the Navy and Navy SEAL teams, who rescued Captain Phillips. I also commend the leadership of the President and the efforts of many U.S. Government departments and agencies in their response to this crisis. These many acts of bravery and leadership are deeply inspiring, and we should recognize them.

However, while the episode involving the Maersk Alabama was resolved, we are likely to see more such episodes if we do not take comprehensive measures to address not only piracy on the waters but also conditions on land that enable it. We cannot ignore the fact that piracy off the coast of Somalia is an outgrowth of the state collapse, lawlessness, and humanitarian crisis that have plagued the country for over a decade. In recent congressional testimony, both Director of National Intelligence Blair and Defense Intelligence

Agency Director Army LTG Michael Maples cited lawlessness and economic problems on land as the cause of the rise in piracy at sea. Until we address those conditions, we will be relying on stopgap measures, at best, to deter this piracy problem and we are unlikely to succeed in reversing the growing violent extremism in Somalia.

For years I have been calling for the development of a comprehensive, inter-agency strategy to help establish stability, the rule of law, and functional, inclusive governance in Somalia. This is the only sure and sustainable solution to address the problem of piracy—and the instability in Somalia—over the long term. Moreover, I am convinced that we have a unique window of opportunity for progress as a result of the Ethiopian troop withdrawal earlier this year and the establishment of a new unity Government relocated back to Mogadishu. This Government has the potential to unite Somalia if it demonstrates a genuine commitment to inclusion and begins to make a real difference in people's lives—in terms of security and basic services, such as protection, trash collection and job creation. Helping the Government to find tangible solutions to expand effective and inclusive governance must be a central part of our overall strategy to stabilize Somalia and address the threats of piracy and terrorism.

To that end, I continue to urge the Obama administration, as it develops its response to piracy, to make it a priority to engage at a high level with the new Somali Government. I have written to President Obama, asking him to personally call Somali President Sheikh Sharif and indicate a clear commitment to work with his Government not just on maritime insecurity but also on establishing security and governance within the country. We have been engaging with President Sharif at the ambassadorial level for quite some time now, and I met the President in Djibouti in December. In addition, there needs to be a stronger and more sustained diplomatic push to engage with a wide range of actors within Somalia and stakeholders in the wider region—both in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East—if we are going to address the underlying problems that have contributed to piracy and rising extremism.

The events with the Maersk Alabama earlier this month have finally brought increased attention to the problem of piracy in Somalia's waters. But it will be insufficient if our response only deals with the symptoms and not Somalia's central problems. I urge my colleagues and the different committees who will examine this issue over the coming weeks and months to take this seriously. For if we do not finally deal with Somalia's lawlessness and instability, we will continue to see them manifest themselves in activities—be they acts of piracy or terrorism—that threaten U.S. and international security.

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:

Thank you for providing your constituents the opportunity to share our thoughts and ideas regarding energy with you. Your willingness to listen is yet another reason I am glad you represent me in Washington.

For my family, the ridiculous cost of fuel has affected almost every area of our lives. My husband pastors a church here in Twin Falls and we have always lived within our means. We are not in debt and have put away a tidy amount toward our children's university education.

However, with gas prices rising toward \$5 a gallon, we have had to rethink our budget and spending on items like groceries, clothing, dental insurance and home remodeling and repairs. We had planned to repair the sidewalk in front of our home since it has cracked and chipped over many years and presents a hazard to passers-by. My husband decided not to go ahead with the project this summer because he is afraid gas prices will continue to soar and we will be left in a precarious position this coming winter.

Our children usually participate in some form of athletic activity over the summer, and this summer was supposed to be golf. We have cut back on the frequency of their golf rounds and did not purchase a set of clubs for our younger daughter as we had planned. In addition, we cancelled plans to spend two weeks at a resort in Sun Valley in July and will instead go camping near home.

If things do not improve soon, we will have to cancel our weekly ski trips this winter as well, because the high cost of fuel will prohibit us from making the drive to Ketchum each week.

Perhaps these cutbacks sound frivolous to some who surely have it much harder than we do, but when we consider that there are alternative, less costly energy sources available, and when we read that once again, the democratic machine has stalled drilling for existing oil, and when we combine that with the fact that our government can afford to promote initiatives for credits on the manufacture and purchase of alternative energy sources, it makes no sense.

Surrounded by naysayers, a wise little boy once remarked, "Momma! The emperor is naked!" It is high time those of us feeling

the pinch of escalating fuel prices cry out, "The emperor is naked!" All the rigmarole and double-talk thrown at us from politically savvy liberals does not keep us warm in winter, nor get us to work on time.

Please use your position to support offshore drilling, research and develop alternative sources of energy including nuclear, and push for tax credits and rebates on the manufacture and purchase of solar panels and other energy alternatives.

Thank you again for representing me with dignity, wisdom and courage in Washington D.C.

SUMMER, *Twin Falls.*

Simply put, I stopped driving. I ride my bike, telecommute, and use mass transit. I carpool when I can and am considering purchasing a smaller, diesel engine vehicle and converting it to run on vegetable oil. Sounds crazy, but it is better than supporting the big oil companies.

For those of us who have been paying attention the past few years, the high price of oil (and consequently gas) is no surprise. It is about time that Americans started valuing oil and gas as the precious commodities that they are. We could continue to build an economy based on a non-renewable fuel. And that would validate our history of short-sighted solutions for complex problems. Need more oil, ally with the Saudis, no problem. Befriend African rogue nations, they've got plenty. Who cares if they commit atrocious human rights violations. It comes down the cheap price of oil, right?

OK, so let us drill in our own backyards. How would you like an oil rig in your wilderness area or off your coastline? Ask the residents of Pinedale, Wyoming, who not only deal with the high price of housing spurred by the natural gas drilling in the area, but have also contended with near unacceptable ozone levels throughout three of the past four winters (March 13, 2008 Casper Star Tribune). Keep in mind, this is a county in rural Wyoming, approximately 5,000 square miles, with about 6,000 residents (as of the year 2000) in which there exists not a single spotlight!

Or ask those who lived in Santa Barbara in 1969 (June 23, 2008 NPR website). I remember my first trip to the beach as a kid . . . and cleaning the oil off the bottom of my feet with olive oil at the end of the day.

Or ask those who live near the tar sands in Canada about their quality of life and health concerns (http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/01/20/60minutes/main1225184_page1.shtml)

Or we could look for a solution that addresses the truly complex nature of this issue. Our economy and way of life are based on petroleum, a non-renewable resource. Some predict we have even reached the critical "peak oil" point, yet we insist on continuing to look for more of something that will eventually, without a doubt, run out. Maybe the high price of gas is a blessing in disguise. Maybe it will force us to take a serious look at alternatives before it really is too late.

KIM, *Boise.*

The following is my response to Senator Bingaman (thus to Congress) regarding his comment about energy in his newsletter. This pretty much says it all, and thus sums it up for us, the taxpaying citizens of this nation—those paying over \$4.00 a gallon for gas, and consequently outrageous prices for food!

"You are 'working to get a clear picture what actually is going on in oil and gasoline markets . . . ? Where have you been? And, you are the chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee?"

"The citizens of this nation have been trying to get Congress to drill for oil for years,

only to have Congress [miss the mark due to special interest and environmental lobbying]. Consequently, ten years later, you are still studying the problem . . . and we are paying through the nose for gasoline, and consequently for food.

"We need to drill on land and sea, wherever the oil may be!

"Congress [has failed] to provide short-term as well as long-term energy solutions. [It seems that partisan finger pointing is all that goes on.]

"Yes, We need to drill on land and sea, wherever the oil may be!

"Drill, drill, drill, and drill some more! And do not forget to process that oil shale that everyone said, 'when the price of oil hits \$50 a barrel, it would be profitable!'

"The rising price of gasoline, consequently food, is hurting every family in America. We are tired of Congress doing nothing but finger pointing and bowing down to the environmentalists and special interest groups.

"Oh sure, there is a problem with the oil companies, but the real problem is Congress! Congress must lead and demand drilling commence immediately in Alaska, North Dakota, the western states, and oil shale must be processed, too! If the oil companies need an incentive, simply tell them to choose between paying a huge windfall profits tax or invest that money in drilling immediately!

"It is time for Congress to implement a program, which allows for the exploration of America's energy sources without being overly concerned about the environment. Yes, we should be concerned about any reckless exploration, and not permit such folly, but remember, you have asked the balance of the world to drill, while overly protecting our environment . . . and yes, to our detriment. Because of you our economy and citizens suffers—suffering needlessly! Because of Congress' inaction, for years, Congress has put this nation in a position whereby OPEC and speculators can, and do, extort exorbitant prices for oil out of this nation!

"And, about the 'excuse' that it will take a few years to get the oil into the pipeline. [With the many years of foot-dragging, our country is paying dearly for inaction.]

"As you very well know, once this country commences drilling, seriously, for oil . . . and we do have a huge supply, the price will immediately drop, and then we will be on the road to becoming self-sufficient! Yes, if we announced that we were going to drill in the gulf, in Alaska, in North Dakota and in our western states, as well as process oil shale, the price of oil would drop 50 to 70 dollars a barrel overnight!

"Inaction has cost this country dearly, and our economy suffers because of it—but, even worse, the working man is finding it difficult to make ends meet! You must stop playing petty, partisan politics and put our families, the citizens of this nation, and the welfare of our country first!

"We need to drill on land and sea, wherever the oil may be!" . . . Now! No more excuses!

BRUCE.

After having read the stories on your site, and myself feeling the same pain, I would just like to ask a few questions. One, what is our current president doing? [While he may not have financial worries, he needs to pay attention to the rest of the country.] Two, what are all of you politicians, senate leaders and other elected officials doing to help solve all of these problems in our country. And I mean what are you doing about it, not just talking about what could be done. I could tell my story, but it would be the same as all others. Pretty soon none of us will be able to afford to drive to work, except of course the bigwig making all the bonus bucks execs at the oil companies. Pretty

soon we will not have to worry about how many overweight people there are in our country because people will not be able to feed themselves. We will become one of the foreign nations with starving people living on the streets and killing children because people cannot afford to have a family. I am sure the suicide rate is going up as we speak. So I am asking you along with all other elected officials, please do something! Take action! Let us know there is hope!

LYNN, *Star.*

This is the 3rd response I have sent to you in regards to saving energy. I want you to know that we have several new long-haul trucking companies using the Ferox Fuel Tabs with great success. I am enclosing one of the testimonial trial runs for your view. Ferox is different from anything on the market as it is a catalysis and was developed in 1986 from work done on experimental burn rate modifiers for solid rocket propellant systems use in the aerospace industry. With a near 100% burn rate, significant changes in normal circumstances change for the better: Increased gas mileage up to 20% or more; emissions are reduced by 95% (this is as green as you can get for the environment); oil life is extended by 80%; horsepower increased by 15%; octane requirements are reduced and it is very easy to use, cost can get as low as .07 cents per gallon. This is as professional product as it can get having been used in the commercial industry for more than 20 years with documented success. If everything I am saying is true, why would you not give it some attention so you can see for yourself. I realize there are many out there that are claiming something similar, but many questions remain as to them working as they claim. This one is for real and would make a tremendous difference in many respects. Please respond as I would like to know where to go from here to try to help make a difference.

GORDON, *Twin Falls.*

I am a student at Brigham Young University of Idaho. Each summer I take the time to earn money for education and reduce my amount of loan-borrowing. The city of Rexburg is rather small and has a shortage of job opportunities for college students. Naturally, many students in my same situation seek employment in Rigby or Idaho Falls. The commute may only be about 30 miles. Nonetheless, after the cost of gasoline was subtracted from my paycheck, it was barely worth commuting out of town. This year I intend to work within Rexburg in an effort to save money on gas. I hope to make slightly more than minimum wage, but that is negotiable to circumstance. As was mentioned in national news, many BYU-Idaho students donate their plasma to help pay for groceries, dates and, of course, gasoline. Many of my friends donate plasma on a weekly basis. I suppose this is one way to buffer the effect of gas prices now, but it can only last so long. It is also unfortunate for those whose health impedes them from selling their plasma. It is ridiculous to think of how much money I spend at the pump on my little Honda Accord. I do not know how some people afford to drive their huge SUVs or trucks! I am starting to worry because the prices do not appear to be stopping or slowing. Not every semester of classes will allow for an evening job due to their academic rigor and demand of time. Education remains very expensive even after receiving government financial aid (which, by the way, I am very grateful for). Bottom line, the price of gas is really hurting me and my classmates. Thanks for listening.

MATTHEW, *Rexburg.*

Our energy independence is easily bought by reducing the usage, or waste. We as Americans drive around in our SUVs and pickups when there is no need to do so, we have only one person in a vehicle and it is a huge waste of energy to drive it helping only the ego of the person driving it. We would do a lot better if we had some sort of mass transit and drove smaller cars instead of some huge dinosaur eating toy. If a person wants to drive that sort of vehicle it is up to them to pay the penalty for it.

As far as gas prices go I personally would not mind to pay five dollars a gallon if a much larger percentage of the cost of the fuel was a tax that went straight toward a mass transit system to get us all where we need to go in an efficient manner, it is done in Europe so it is possible here!

As for all those complaining about the high fuel prices, buying a vehicle that gets poor mileage is like not putting money in the bank for retirement or hard times. You reap what you sow!

Maybe we should do a better job educating to enable people to be able to think through a decision.

JOHN, *Meridian*.

Our lives are suddenly controlled by the energy prices we have to pay. Our summer vacations consist of going 200 or 300 miles to see our children and grandchildren. We are not extravagant and travel frugally. This summer our trips have been slashed in half or more because we cannot afford the gas to get there. We filled our propane tank to be prepared for winter, and are already \$1000.00 in debt for heating. This amount will not last all winter, by February or before we will need to fill it again, that is if it is a mild winter. Our heating bill has tripled in the last year and a half. Our food bill has gone up at least one third. We have to drive 8 miles one way to work; we have to have money for gas to get to work, so everything else has to go. We are trying to find ways to cut back on other things, because we do not have enough money to reach the end of the month.

We need to have common sense regarding our energy resources. We can develop fuel sources and be smart about it at the same time. Our dependence on foreign oil has got us around the throat.

ARLENE.

You know all the stories that us Idahoans could send you would not make any difference. The difference will be when the elected officials of this country start doing the right thing for the American public. Only you and the other elected officials can put a stop to all the hullabaloo that is going on at our nation's capital.

It has been said time and time again that a democracy can only last a couple of hundred years until [corruption takes root]. I think we are pretty close to that now. We cannot even take care of the American citizens properly!

JACK, *Idaho Falls*.

I thought you would like to know of our experience with the increasing prices of gasoline and how our family has been affected. A few months ago my husband was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. We live in a small farming community with the nearest center for chemotherapy and radiation being just over 100 miles round trip. His cancer treatment was administered five days per week for 6½ weeks. We had to make this 100-plus mile trip Monday through Friday 28 times. As if the financial burden of the medical treatment and the loss of work was not enough, the price of gasoline did not help. We spent well over \$500 on fuel to drive him

to receive his cancer treatments. Although he is finished with the treatment he will have several follow up visits over the next few months. There is no public transportation in this area, and the rising cost of fuel makes it difficult to want to leave your home! I sincerely hope that a solution can be found to lower the cost of fuel and make life affordable once again.

AMBER, *Grace*.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING WINNERS OF CORPORATE-SPONSORED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Kentucky students who have received corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships. The National Merit Scholarship Program presents this award to over 1,000 high school seniors and I am very proud that eight recipients of this award reside in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The corporate-sponsored scholarships are a partnership between the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and local companies who wish to support students in their communities. In order for a student to receive a corporate-sponsored scholarship the student must advance to the finalist level of the National Merit Scholarship competition and meet the criteria set forth by their individual corporate sponsor.

The eight students from Kentucky who received this award are Meaghan M. Sanders of Assumption High School, Austin C. Brownlow of Kentucky Country Day, Allan J. Hsiao of DuPont Manual High School, Victoria Greenstone of Sacred Heart Academy, Matthew R. Seabold of St. Xavier High School, Elliott W. Rosenberg and Kyle R. Rosenberg of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, and Matthew S. Miller of Beechwood High School.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating these students on their outstanding achievement. It is students like these who will provide Kentucky and the United States with our leaders of tomorrow.●

REMEMBERING COLONEL JOHN L. HOWLETT

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize a man who lived a life of honor, serving his country, his community and his family. John Leo Francis Howlett, Ph.D., U.S. Army, retired, served our country in the Army for 30 years and retired at the rank of colonel. Dr. Howlett served in Vietnam and then in the Army Officers Reserves. Upon completion of his Active Duty time, Dr. Howlett obtained his Ph.D. in education and became involved in his community through teaching at the college level, first in Michigan and Wisconsin, and then Washington State, Oregon, and Minnesota. He returned to Spokane, WA, where he finished out his teaching career and retired in 1999.

While vocation tends to determine our geography, our lives are defined by our character. Dr. Howlett was a man of strong faith, high integrity, commitment to challenges, and a true family man. It is said that he never missed a game, meet, tournament or even practice in the sports lives of his five children. He taught his children to respect our tremendous natural resources and imparted his love of hunting, fishing, sailing, and camping to them. The example he set—high achievement, attaining goals, and excellence—lives on in the lives of his children, all high achievers and highly educated in their own right.

John managed to fight the cancer that took his life for 5 years, and passed on July 4, 2005. His son, Mark, described his father thus: "In today's world this is what America needs, a hard working patriot that believed in family, his country, and bettering the children of tomorrow. He was one of a kind, a family man, outdoorsman, husband, father, brother, son, teacher, coach, Catholic and most importantly my best friend!"

I am honored to reflect on this life well-lived.●

REMEMBERING MIDGE MILLER

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, on April 17, Wisconsin bid farewell to a pioneer in politics. Midge Miller was a remarkable woman, and I want to take a few moments to honor her service, her activism, and her extraordinary spirit.

Midge arrived in Madison, WI, in 1957. By that time in her young life she had served as a missionary in Japan after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, had lost her husband to a tragic shipwreck, and was about to begin graduate school in Madison. She was also the mother of four young children.

She went on to serve as assistant dean of UW's College of Letters and Science, one of Wisconsin's most effective State senators, a 9-year member of the Democratic National Committee, and a founder of the National Women's Political Caucus. Along the way she found time to volunteer for a host of causes, all of them aimed at advancing peace and equality and giving hope to people who too often found themselves outside the "system." She defended civil liberties, expanded civil rights, protected the environment, and fought for consumers.

Always mindful of her many roles, Midge could all at once be a remarkable leader, active constituent, and a responsible steward of everything, and to everyone, she touched. When the phone rang and her gentle voice came through on the other end, no matter on what subject or cause, listening, learning, and being compelled to action were the only obvious responses when she was finished with you. From my first days in office right up until recently, Midge was always there to advise me but also hold me accountable. She showed her loved ones in her family and those she came to love in her