

Butler University. After Indianapolis, he worked for the Associated Press in New York City and Louisville, KY. In 1956, he was moved by the AP to cover Alaska news from Juneau, then the territorial capital, staying until after statehood in 1960. He was Alaska's first national resident newsman. He finished his 17-year AP career as the assistant bureau chief in Baltimore, MD, from 1960 to 1961 and as the bureau chief for the State of Montana from 1961 to 63. Bill and his wife missed the beauty and excitement of Alaska, and in 1963, he began a 45-year career with Anchorage's then largest newspaper, the Anchorage Times, and later with the Voice of the Times editorial and internet publication. He retired in 2008.

During his time Mr. Tobin covered or edited stories on every major event in Alaskan history. Stories of his efforts to publish the Times in the aftermath of the Good Friday earthquake of March 27, 1964—at a revised 9.2 on the Richter scale, the largest quake every measured in North America—are legendary. The paper was published even though downtown Anchorage was literally destroyed. He edited stories on the discovery of oil on Alaska's North Slope in 1968, covered and edited debate in Congress on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and edited stories on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act in 1974 that permitted construction of the 800-mile pipeline that to this day moves 13 percent of the Nation's domestic oil production to market.

Mr. Tobin's career spanned several legislative milestones including the passage of a law that created a 200-mile exclusive fishery management zone around Alaska, the passage of the Alaska lands bill that placed 131 million acres of Alaska—more than a third of the State—into parks and protected land status in 1980, and a career that saw Alaska become a major training and forward deployment base for the U.S. military.

His official obituary said it best when it noted that "he was an ardent supporter of the U.S. military and men and women in uniform" and that Bill was "a tireless champion of Alaska and its potential." His Saturday and later Sunday columns covered the personal side of life in Alaska for decades. The editorials that he and Anchorage Times Publisher Robert Atwood wrote and published did much to turn Anchorage, which at statehood had a population of several thousand, into the State's largest city with a population today of more than 275,000.

Bill was an active civic leader, serving over time as a board member or president of nearly 40 community organizations in Anchorage. At his death, he was active as associate publisher of the Roman Catholic diocese newspaper, the Catholic Anchor, based in Anchorage. He was vice chairman of the Atwood Foundation, a member of the Alaskan Command Civilian Advisory Board, a member of the University of

Alaska School of Nursing advisory board, a member of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Snedden Professor advisory board, and a member of the University of Alaska Anchorage Atwood Journalism Chair selection board. He was named Alaskan of the Year in 1988, the 1990 Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Gold Pan Award Winner for Distinguished Individual Community Service, the 2000 Outstanding Civilian of the Year by the Armed Services YMCA, the 2002 Alaska State Chamber of Commerce Alaskan of the Year, the 2004 Junior Achievement of Alaska Business Hall of Fame Laureate, and was a 2006 Honorary Doctor of Laws recipient by Gonzaga University.

Born on July 28, 1927, in southwest Missouri in the City of Joplin, Bill grew up in Tulsa, OK, Fort Worth, TX, and South Bend, IN, but he grew wise in Alaska. He knew more about Alaska's history and politics than most any other Alaskan journalist. As a person who got my start in elected office as a State representative from north Anchorage, I have firsthand knowledge that Bill was an old-school journalist who religiously checked his copy for factual accuracy and was always polite and fair to his sources on stories he covered. While he had clear and strong editorial opinions, he was always courageous in support of his newspaper's and city's goals. Bill was a wonderful family man, a devoted member of his church, and a pillar of the Alaska Republican Party, and always a true gentleman.

All of Alaska joins in offering condolences to his wife of nearly 57 years, Marjorie, and his three sons, Mike, David, and Jim, and their families. Alaska journalism and the State's political establishment are certainly poorer for his passing.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Madam 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 heart-breaking 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 letting me email my thoughts and feelings regarding today's gas prices. This may not be what you expected but I am writing this email from the heart.

I am angry with our government with respect to rising gas prices. I find it so hard to believe why they want to put our country in to this situation. Everybody and every business suffers. Going places and doing things as a family has been taken from us since the first hit is putting gas in the vehicle. The hotels, restaurants, grocery stores have been forced to increase their prices. Small businesses cannot survive. We own our own business (recycling center) and the fuel costs to run our fleet is astronomical. This is outrageous and needs to stop immediately. It is only going to cause increased homeless people and poverty. Do something now before it gets any worse. Please stop this insanity and get our country back whole again. Remove speculation and reduce gas prices immediately. Thank you for letting me speak out.

ANITA, Lewiston.

Not so much a story as a plea . . . I wish I could grab every Congressman by the shoulders, look them in the eye, and say: "Either you, or your replacement, will allow us to get the energy we need!"

Right now we are heading toward environmental communism. Yet it is a fact that CO2 levels follow higher temperatures, not the other way around! That is, the Earth warms and cools on it is own, and will continue to do so, whether we use fuels or not.

CLIFF, Pocatello.

I am disgusted with [partisan behavior] and the do-nothing attitude [of so many elected officials] towards our impending energy disaster. I realize that there are pockets of trustworthy individuals who still listen to their constituents rather than special interest groups. There are those that would like nothing better than to put this nation into such a drastic depression that communism would look like heaven. I am in the agricultural business and energy prices have drastically increased my costs on every single input. It has affected the costs of diesel, gas, pvc, plastics, metal (shipping and production of), labor (have to pay more to get them out to work), fertilizers, chemicals, tires and other rubber compounds. I have seen diesel for my tractors go from \$1.50 per gallon to over \$4 per gallon in less than three years. The rest of our fleet is now having to burn \$4.70 per gallon diesel and because of the EPA and [increased regulation], these large trucks get half the fuel economy that they did in the late 1970s. Please help us before this nation comes to a grinding halt and our enemies seize the opportunity to attack.

UNSIGNED.

I am angry at oil companies for stealing from consumers and angry at Congress for [not addressing the problem].

Alternatives which should rapidly be developed are:

1. Hydro electric: clean, cheap renewable.
2. Off shore and ANWR drilling: more competition means less monopoly.
3. Nuclear: free up our private enterprise from stifling regulations and we would have an abundance of inexpensive power.
4. Biomass (slash and trash incinerators) for producing electricity or hydrogen.
5. Stop burning our forests down and allow Americans to harvest trees and build houses.

P.C.

The Governor of Alaska wants drilling to begin in Alaska. Why does Congress insist on

not allowing this? We have a vast area untapped that could produce millions of barrels of oil for Americans.

In the 70s, I remember having to wait in long lines to fill up my car. I remember Congress grandstanding that something needs to be done to secure America's future. Thirty years later, I am hearing the same rhetoric. What does it take to get Congress to take action and utilize the resources we have in this country?

Drill in Alaska, the oceans off shore, the Midwest. The average American does not care if an oil rig interferes with the ocean view of a multimillion-dollar mansion. We are fed up with the rich getting everything on the backs of the hard-working American.

LINDA.

I am writing to you in response to your request for testimonials about the prices for energy. My dad is a middle class lowboy driver in St. Maries. The prices of energy have an effect on not only my dad, but for his boss. It is depressing to see men and women in my community laid off, who cannot afford oil to heat their homes in the winter, watch their homes and possessions get foreclosed upon, and have to figure out where their source of income will be coming from. My father is very lucky to be spared this misfortune. Jobs in our community are hard to come by, because loggers cannot afford to pay outrageous diesel prices. Even one of the richest men in Idaho is suffering from sky high diesel bills. Additionally, I recently moved to Moscow to start my life at the University of Idaho. I have been in Moscow for almost a month, and have been rejected by numerous jobs. Many adults are taking jobs that teenagers and college students like myself usually take.

I do not point the blame on the oil companies; however, but I do find it hard to believe that the federal government makes more profit than the oil companies do off each barrel of oil. How is this?? How can the government have all this profit, and not make any good use of it (by means of building a new refinery, which hasn't been done in 30 years; or drilling in Alaska/ANWR; or increasing drilling in the Gulf of Mexico). The American voters are tired of oil dependency from terrorists! Please knock some sense into the liberals who insist upon this practice of dealing with the Middle East! We need to figure out a way that we can be dependent on ourselves. The only way to fix the prices on energy is to be our own supplier. Otherwise, our country will fail. We, the middle class, are the economy. In our area, we supply products that build our economy's businesses, homes, paper products, and [other important products]. We need lower fuel prices to maintain our livelihoods and jobs. I hope this somewhat helps you convince the liberals that they are not looking out for the "underdogs". If these prices keep increasing, my dad, and many of friends' parents, will be out of jobs, and scrambling to do something. Thank you for your time.

JACKIE, *Moscow*.

I am a 52-year-old woman and I have been a single parent all my life. I am now disabled. I can honestly say that if I were a single parent with small children in today's times, I would not be able to manage putting gas in my car to take my children to school and then go to work. It is hard enough just buying food with today's prices. As it is, I am disabled and I live on \$1,000. This means that I am only able to put gas in to my car once a month. With the old clunker that I have, it cost me \$75 or more to fill it up. Then that has to last me all month, which means I do not travel much.

Also, in today's world, much of the housing is equipped with only gas heating. For a sin-

gle parent that makes too much money for food stamps and heating assistance, the cost of heating apartment or house is very costly. I have to try and cut corners in everything I do when it comes to the cost of gas.

I am not sure how to change the cost of things but, I think I would certainly try obtaining petroleum in the good ole USA. I think we would have enough resources to handle the USA if one was to try hard enough. Thank you for your time and attention to America's concerns.

EUNICE.

This letter is in response to your request for personal stories chronicling the impact of \$4 per gallon gas on the lives of ordinary Idahoans. I am an ordinary Idahoan, and I am happy to report that \$4 per gallon gas has had essentially no impact on my lifestyle. Like the majority of Idahoans, I live in a city. I ride my bike or walk to work, and use my car only for out of town trips. I also own a vehicle that gets about 30 miles per gallon (mpg). The marketing efforts of Ford and GM hawking huge inefficient vehicles failed me; I drive a Subaru.

I find it disingenuous that you are requesting letters to support unsustainable lifestyles and provide welfare for poor vehicle choice decisions. With that in mind, I am providing a perspective on the merits of high fuel prices.

The impacts of more expensive fuel include: (1) fewer miles traveled by car; (2) less fuel consumption; (3) less greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere; and (4) record usage of public transportation. These are laudable accomplishments only possible in our market-based society via pricing influences. In addition, if more of us walked or bicycled to work, perhaps we would reduce health care costs associated with the obesity epidemic.

Here are some suggestions for what you can do to lessen the impact of more expensive fuel:

1. Increase mileage standards on US made cars and foreign cars imported to the US. You should have voted to increase CAFE standards in past years. If Americans drove 35 mpg vehicles instead of big SUVs, we would have consumed, and would be consuming, much less oil. I wonder what fuel prices would be today if US consumption at the pump were half of the current rate, achieved through more efficient vehicles? 20 billion barrels of oil would be saved if we all drove cars that got 40 mpg. It would have been great if US car manufacturers had competed to make cars with the best mileage instead of the biggest trucks and SUVs.

2. Change mileage stickers on cars from miles per gallon to gallons per 10,000 miles. Although they are numerically the same, the psychology of 800 gallons per 10,000 miles (roughly \$3,200 per year) compared to 200 gallons per 10,000 miles (roughly \$800 per year) is not equivalent to 12.5 versus 50 mpg. This is how appliances are sold.

3. We do not need a bailout from the federal government on fuel prices. We need better jobs so these prices do not completely cripple Idaho's economy. The government can assist ordinary Idahoans by supporting or funding public transportation, including light rail in the Treasure Valley. The government can also assist us by better-funding education so Idahoans can work in higher paying jobs.

4. Idaho is unique in our nuclear energy past. I wholeheartedly support the development and usage of new-generation nuclear energy technology. Idaho, and the Idaho National Laboratories, can take a lead in this area.

5. Do not forget conservation. Drive less. Drive slower. Idaho could lower speed limits

and save the equivalent of 50-80 cents per gallon.

Thank you for considering the points in my letter. I am hopeful that you will share it with your Committee Chair.

CHRIS, *Boise*.

As the cost of energy continues to go up our lifestyle continues to go down. No money to spend on any home maintenance, automobile maintenance, or replace anything that wears out or breaks. It is like I am living in a third world country right here in the United States of America. I can only imagine what it must be like for people who make less than I do. Corporations make billions every 3 months and there is nothing wrong? Please fix this before it cost us our entire country.

BLAKE.

I disagree with you on the raising of taxes. The oil companies and the rich should have to pay taxes to help support our country along with all the other U.S. citizens. All you accomplished by cutting taxes is causing local taxes to go up to compensate for the federal tax cuts. Because of the tax cuts to our state, we had to vote in more property taxes to cover the cuts. We are now paying much more taxes to keep Idaho functioning and our federal taxes did not go down. As a matter of fact, they went up since we can no longer take our Medicare premiums off of our federal taxes.

LOIS.

I just want to share my story with you. We recently had a wedding in our family that required us to travel to Arizona for the wedding. The majority of our family was unable to go because of the high cost of gas. The eight of us that did go carpooled in a suburban so that it was affordable for us to even go and support our family member who was getting married. The high cost of energy is preventing families from being able to get together for reunions and other family gatherings. This is pretty sad.

Let us not forget that it is not only at the gas pumps we are getting gouged, but at the grocery store and anywhere else we shop. The store owners are passing the higher shipping charges on to the consumer as well. So the cost of energy is impacting us in multiple areas of our budget.

We are in desperate need of alternative energy sources to help control the cost of energy. If the oil companies had to compete for our business their prices would not be so high.

Thanks for your efforts

BRENT, *Twin Falls*.

We are a family of six, and we have two vehicles. My husband has a car for commuting to work, and I have a minivan to transport our family around. Gas prices have gone so high now that it cost us more money to fill up both our vehicles, than it does to feed our family for two weeks. It is an expense that is hard to cut costs on. We need to be able to get around. But the prices are not just affecting us at the tank. It costs a farmer over \$400 a day to drive his tractor now, and there is the gas for the semi-truck driver too. So gas is driving our food prices up. It is hard on the American family.

What I suggest we do is use America's intellectual gifts and come up with a new alternative fuel source, preferably a renewable one that will not damage the environment. Then we need cars that can run off it. We could help the global warming problem and our fuel problem. While that is being done, maybe we can use some of our own gas instead of the Middle East's gas. We are working so hard to fight Iraq with our strength.

But they are fighting us with economics, and we are letting them win.

TAMARA.

I think the worse part of high energy costs is the restrictions our married children that live a few hours from home feel about traveling. They are on limited budgets and cannot budget in very many travels on the high fuel expenses. Anything that keep grandparents from seeing their grandchildren as often should be a federal offense! I am sure you would agree!

RENEE.

With all due respect, I think you are off track. Yes, prices are rising. No, that does not mean you should vote against climate change legislation.

Please, focus your energy on diversifying our energy sources in the sense of solar and wind power. Do not go for the short-term scheme of drilling for more domestic oil. That would be a short-term fix. We need to think generations down the road, and realize that our current consumption is simply not sustainable.

Yes, I have been impacted by high prices. So have my coworkers and neighbors. But the subsequent changes I see in our lifestyles are wonderful: we drive less, choosing to bike, walk and take the public bus to work or run errands or to recreate. Need less . . . what a solution!

MARGARET, *McCall*.

We are farmers from Idaho Falls. The energy prices are hugely affecting our bottom line. In the past year alone, due to the cost of fuel, fertilizer has gone up four times. Many people do not understand that farmers are not just affected by the cost of putting fuel in their tractors. The rising price of fuel affects every aspect of our business. It is unfortunate that in the news farmers are being portrayed as just raking in the dollars right now while the consumers struggle to buy food at the grocery stores. This just is not the case.

We have no way of staying in business if the cost of the commodities we sell does not go up to compensate for the huge increase in our costs. It is time the American consumers stand up to uninformed environmentalists. Environmentalists are setting energy policy that is going to devastate our entire economy. As farmers, we are the best environmentalists that exist. We care that future generations will have a clean safe place to live and exist. We also believe that the way out of our current problems, without crippling the entire economy, are solved with a multi-dimensional approach. Yes, fuel economy for cars should be increased on a time line that is feasible. We also know that we have to open up new oil drilling and refinery capacity to help stabilize our economy. We also feel that we need to have better means of producing power. Nuclear energy is safe, clean, and reliable. We need to be the leaders in the world of good energy policy and planning.

If we shut down all industry in the United States, we will become slaves to a foreign nation. Do people really believe that food produced in other countries is as safe and reliable as food that is produced domestically? If we do not start now to develop a better approach to our current energy problems, we all be at the mercy of China and oil-producing nations.

MARK and STEPHANIE, *Idaho Falls*.

The President's plan to stimulate the economy was a like a drop in the bucket compared to the rise in gas prices at the pump. The gas prices have doubled from last summer. If you received a 1%, 3% or higher cost

of living increase, you are still short. The increased minimum wage was wasted effort. The increase in gas prices will force an increase across the board, just because this country, especially in states like Idaho, is very dependent on vehicles from semi-trucks to bring food from one state to another to a way to get to work, etc.

I think time, effort and money should be spent on developing alternate energy sources. Oil is a non renewable resource as is nuclear energy. More effort should be placed on energy sources that renew themselves, such as wind power and power derived from the ocean. Right now would be a great time for the development of a combustion engine that is clean and fuel efficient. I believe that there are those inventions already available, just not used.

SHARON.

I, like others, who are so tired of rising fuel costs, would like to see something done about it. Please put something in motion and help get these rising prices lowered. I am not sure what is driving the prices higher. But it is the people that suffer. You just cannot afford to do anything or go anywhere anymore. And that causes depression in a lot of people. My gasoline bill last month was over \$500 and that is outrageous. I drive to the INL site every day and that adds up very quickly.

Please help do something about this.

DONNA, *Rigby*.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO AGNES "AUNTY AGGIE" KALANIHOOKAHA COPE

• Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, I congratulate Mrs. Agnes Kalanihookaha Cope for receiving an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The honorary degree is typically conferred on worthy candidates who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions in areas other than science. The degree will be awarded at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Spring 2009 commencement ceremony.

I wish to acknowledge "Auntie Aggie," as she is fondly known, for her long dedication and inspirational efforts in organizing the practice, preservation and perpetuation of ethnic cultures in the state of Hawaii, particularly the Hawaiian culture. She has also demonstrated a commitment to improving the health of Native Hawaiians—physically, culturally, and mentally. Aunty Aggie is an established educator, talented and respected kumu hula or Hawaiian dance instructor, and an ardent advocate for Native Hawaiians. A few of her many noteworthy accomplishments include—founding the Waianae Coast Culture and Arts Society, helping to found the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, and serving as board chair of Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Organizations.

Auntie Aggie is a true guardian of the culture and the arts. The legacy and testament to her work is the Agnes Cope Community and Cultural Health Award, which is issued by the Brown

and Bakken World Health awards program for the purposes of bringing the community together and working collaboratively to improve world health. However, Aunty Aggie could not have achieved what she has done without the additional support and knowledge of her family and community. I commend all those who have helped in her efforts to be a leader in the Hawaiian renaissance and to keep the Native Hawaiian culture and community alive and thriving.

I would also like to echo University of Hawaii Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw who said, "Spanning four decades, Mrs. Cope's personal dedication and civic contributions to enhancing the health and education of Native Hawaiians and preserving their culture have improved the lives of all citizens of Hawaii." I congratulate Aunty Aggie and challenge the next generation to continue her important work and wish them all continued success in the years to come.●

ABORTION RECOVERY AWARENESS MONTH

• Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I stand today to commend Governor Bobby Jindal, Louisiana State senator A. G. Crowe, and Louisiana resident Cindy Collins for their efforts in making April "Abortion Recovery Awareness Month" in Louisiana. I would like to take a few moments to remark on this important issue.

I would also like to thank the following organizations for their efforts in helping to reduce abortions and fighting for the unborn. I thank Abortion Recovery International, Louisiana Abortion Recovery Alliance, Post Abortion Helpline of Louisiana, Rachel's Vineyard Louisiana, Pregnancy Resource Centers of Louisiana, National Abortion Recovery Helpline, Operation Outcry Louisiana, and Silent No More Awareness Louisiana.

All human life is sacred, and I have worked hard in Congress to advance a culture of life, including banning partial-birth abortions, outlawing abortion drugs, fighting against taxpayer funding of abortions, and strongly supporting adoption and crisis pregnancy centers. I have always been adamant in my support of pro-life and pro-family measures in Congress, and groups and individuals like these are instrumental to these and other advances we have made in promoting a culture of life.

Thus, today, I applaud Governor Bobby Jindal, State senator A. G. Crowe, Cindy Collins, and the many great organizations listed above for their efforts in making April "Abortion Recovery Awareness Month" in Louisiana.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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