

3. Too much environmental impact from mining, drilling for oil and gas, and wind farms.

4. Too many farms being subdivided to build houses.

5. The "nuclear waste problem" and "nuclear proliferation problem" are not being addressed realistically.

If we take the obvious actions to solve these problems, there will be less pressure on energy prices:

1. Invest in public transportation. The federal government has spared no expense in improving highways over the past 50 years. Imagine the effect of an equal investment in train and bus service. I have ridden on buses all of my life, and it can be a nice way to travel or commute. The few trains I have ridden were also very comfortable and convenient. This has much more potential to save energy than hybrid cars or hydrogen powered fuel cells. A small van has the potential to provide hundreds of passenger miles per gallon of gas. Buses and trains should do even better.

2. Invest in ride sharing and car pooling.

3. Invest in nice cities. People should be able to live comfortably, with no fear of crime, within walking distance to work.

4. Invest in maintaining farm land as farm land instead of using it to create sprawling suburbs full of oversized houses.

5. Put a limit on the tax break for a first home. Eliminate the tax break for a second home. For one thing, I am sick and tired of hearing how rich celebrities are so "green" and have such a small "carbon footprint" when I know most of them own multiple, grossly oversized, tax-subsidized homes.

6. Invest in nuclear power. The public should be demanding better performance from the nuclear industry just like they do from the airline industry. We want airlines to operate on schedule, cost effectively, and operate safely, even with the security concerns raised by 9/11. We should be demanding similar performance from the nuclear industry and stop fretting about perceived problems.

With respect to the "nuclear waste problem", there is no reason to relate performance requirements to the half-life of long lived radionuclides. There is no reason to treat plutonium contamination as fundamentally different from other toxic metals such as lead, which have infinite half-life. In reality the biggest nuclear waste problem is probably our 700,000 metric tons of depleted uranium hexafluoride currently stored in corroding carbon steel cylinders. This volatile "waste" material is a serious environmental hazard, but should be managed as a major resource. It could be transmuted into plutonium in nuclear reactors and used to produce all the energy we need for the next 500 years. No mining, drilling, or refining would be needed. This would help eliminate the fantasy that we need to cover our landscape with windmills that do not even work most of the time.

With respect to nuclear proliferation, the only way to go is forward. The USA needs to lead the way in developing cost effective nuclear energy technology, so that less stable countries have no reason to develop their own technology. Then we will not need to worry about whether they are producing weapons grade materials. Improved technology should include reprocessing spent nuclear fuel. We should reprocess it instead of trying to bury it. Currently, it is self-protecting due to high radioactivity, but it will not be in about 200 years. We should not leave this hazard for future generations.

The public needs to be educated about energy. The general public has virtually no understanding of nuclear power, and they seem to be generally illiterate with regard to en-

ergy issues. Hydrogen-powered vehicles are unrealistic and do not make thermodynamic or economic sense. Windmills and solar panels have limited potential to reduce energy costs and major environmental impact if we try to push them beyond their potential. The idea that the world can just keep building more efficient cars and more roads is shortsighted and unrealistic. The idea that you can be "green" when your house in the suburbs is four times bigger than you need is ridiculous. Carbon credits are ridiculous. Turning food into alcohol for fuel is ridiculous.

DAN, Pocatello.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL CLYDE A. VAUGHN

• Mr. BOND. Madam President, I offer my congratulations and gratitude to an extraordinary citizen-soldier from Missouri, LTG Clyde A. Vaughn. Lieutenant General Vaughn's 35-year career with the Army National Guard will draw to a close after completing an impressive 4-year tour as Director of the Army National Guard.

Lieutenant General Vaughn has earned the appreciation of our Nation and the State of Missouri for his extensive commitment to the Army National Guard. He began his distinguished career in 1974 when he was promoted to second lieutenant in the Missouri Army National Guard, beginning a 35-year career of dedication, accomplishments, and vision.

In his most recent position as Director, Lieutenant General Vaughn was responsible for the formulation, development, and implementation of all programs and policies affecting the Army National Guard. Previously, he served as Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard Matters, at the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon where he helped guide the Nation's response to the 9/11 attacks and transform the Army National Guard from a strategic reserve to an operational force. Prior to his work at the Pentagon, some of his assignments included serving as Senior Army National Guard Advisor for Reserve Affairs, Commander of Exercise Support Command, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Reserve Affairs-National Guard, at United States Army South, Fort Clayton, Panama. He has also served as Chief of Operations Division, at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, VA, Deputy Chief of Staff, of the G3 at the Pentagon, and, Deputy Director, of the Army National Guard, at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, VA.

His civilian education includes a bachelor of science in education from Southeast Missouri State College and a masters in public administration from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. His military education includes graduating from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort

Leavenworth, KS, and the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

General Vaughn received several awards and recognitions for his exemplary service. His many military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit, with four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters; the Meritorious Service Medal, with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster; the Army Commendation Medal; the Army Achievement Medal, with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster; the Joint Meritorious Unit Award; the Army Superior Unit Award; and various other awards.

He has proven himself to be versatile and fully capable of accepting and mastering the tasks placed before him. His enduring commitment to the safety of Americans is cause for admiration. I offer my congratulations and sincere appreciation to LTG Clyde A. Vaughn for his remarkable achievements in the Army National Guard. He has continually provided an invaluable service to his country, and we thank him for "showing us" what a dedicated soldier can do for Missouri and for his country. •

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF DAVID BALD EAGLE

• Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I wish to speak today to honor the 90th birthday earlier this month of my friend, Chief David Bald Eagle of Takini, on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. Chief Bald Eagle was born on April 8, 1919, on the west banks of Cherry Creek in west central South Dakota. He is the grandson of Chief White Bull who fought Custer's 7th Cavalry in the Battle of Greasy Grass Creek, better known as the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Having a warrior spirit in his blood, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was just being discharged at the beginning of World War II. He reenlisted, and served as a sergeant with the 82nd Airborne Division. In 1944, he was among those brave soldiers who jumped from planes on D-day as a U.S. Army paratrooper. Chief Bald Eagle was shot four times that day, and his story is recounted in "Blue Stars: A Selection of Stories from South Dakota's World War II Veterans" compiled by Greg Latza.

Upon return, Chief Bald Eagle went on to travel as a performer and has acted in at least 18 movies to date. While in Hollywood, Chief Bald Eagle worked alongside some of the most recognizable actors and actresses of that time: Clark Gable, John Wayne, and Marilyn Monroe. All the while he managed to stay connected to his home. For more than 60 years, Chief Bald Eagle has annually participated in the Days of '76 parade and rodeo in Deadwood, SD, providing the many thousands of people who attend the annual event a level of understanding and education about the Native American culture and heritage and the great impact

of the Lakota/Dakota/Nakota people on the region. He is recognized as an honorary member of the Days of '76 Committee because of his contributions to their events. In 2008, he was honored by the South Dakota State Legislature with a House Commemoration honoring his life, character, and achievements.

Madam President, Chief David Bald Eagle is a dear friend, and I appreciate being among those special people that he keeps in his prayers. I will never forget that he gave me my Lakota name several years ago in a special ceremony, "Wacante Ognake," which means holds the people in his heart—a name I cherish and will never forget its importance.●

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

A message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1746. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

H.R. 1747. An act to authorize appropriations for the design, acquisition, and construction of a combined buoy tender-icebreaker to replace icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 99. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1746. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1747. An act to authorize appropriations for the design, acquisition, and con-

struction of a combined buoy tender-icebreaker to replace icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 99. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 28, 2009, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill and joint resolution:

S. 39. An act to repeal section 10(f) of Public Law 93-551, commonly known as the "Bennett Freeze".

S.J. Res. 8. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

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-1426. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Penoxsulam; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL-8411-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1427. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Poultry Improvement Plan and Auxiliary Provisions; Correcting Amendment" (Docket No. APHIS-2007-0042) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1428. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Table Eggs From Regions Where Exotic Newcastle Disease Exists" (Docket No. APHIS-2007-0014) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1429. A communication from the Acting Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Modification of the Handling Regulation for Area No. 2" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0094)(FV09-948-1 IFR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1430. A communication from the Acting Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Kiwifruit Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0095)(FV09-920-1 IFR)) re-

ceived in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1431. A communication from the Acting Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Change to Fiscal Period" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0066)(FV08-930-2 FIR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1432. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulations Under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930; Section 610 Review" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0013)(FV08-379)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1433. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tomatoes Grown in Florida; Partial Exemption to the Minimum Grade Requirements" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0090)(FV09-966-1 FIR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1434. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California; Final Free and Reserve Percentages for 2008-09 Crop Natural (Sun-Dried) Seedless Raisins" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0114)(FV09-989-1 IFR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1435. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Appalachian and Southeast Marketing Areas; Order To Terminate Proceeding on Proposed Amendments to Marketing Agreements and Orders" ((Docket No. AMS-DA-07-0133)(AO-388-A15)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1436. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2009-2010 Marketing Year" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0104)(FV09-985-1 FR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1437. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines and Tangelos Grown in Florida and Imported Grapefruit; Relaxation of Size Requirements for Grapefruit" ((Docket No. AMS-FV-09-0002)(FV09-905-1 IFR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1438. A communication from the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics