

3. More electric and plug-in hybrid cars. Most people do not seem to make the connection that nuclear, coal, wind, etc. produce electricity and without electric and plug-in hybrid cars, gas prices are not going to go down. We have the technology now for both of these types of cars. Let us start producing them! This is probably the quickest and most immediate way to reduce gas prices. We already have all of the infrastructure in place.

4. Clean coal production. Nuclear alone will not cut it. We need to get off of coal but it is going to take several decades.

Low, Low, Priorities:

1. Alternative energy (wind, solar, etc.). It is a ridiculously small percentage of our total power production for several reasons. I know that it is great politically but the technology is generations away. Nuclear is a technology we already have.

2. Hydrogen Vehicles: This technology is a long way off. Also, what about the infrastructure? It would be ridiculously expensive.

I would say this to any politician: Please do what is right for the United States, regardless of what is right for you personally or politically. That is really what we need.

NATHAN, *Idaho Falls.*

You may not like what I have to say. I believe in tough love and tough policies. Current oil prices are causing changes, but they are the types of changes that create a "correction" whereby the cost of fuel is real. It is real that foreign oil prices are too high to ignore. Governments getting in the way of a natural rebellion to that real cost does not offer long-term sustainable solutions. Okay, so I become a bit more frugal with the miles I drive; and so I start looking into buying a more fuel-efficient vehicle. These changes cause real and natural consequences like manufacturers dumping more of their money into creating greener options for consumers. Consumers will rebel against costs. Life-styles will change. Why do not we embrace the positive direction this drives us—away from materialism and consumerism (the hatred of which caused us to be the target of the Taliban in the first place)?

War on terrorism is still war. Showing love to our planet and global community by accepting the consequences of prior mistakes (need I elaborate?) and vowing not to repeat or continue the rape our natural resources: this will heal the hatred. There is something much deeper at stake here than the pocket-books of the American people. I urge you to dig for that, not for petroleum.

All the issues are as connected as we Americans are to the cultures that span the globe.

SUSAN, *Ketchum.*

I am a disabled Vietnam Veteran; my disability benefits are \$914 a month. With the cost of gas now and the rising price of food, I cannot really afford to go anywhere. It takes me three months to save enough extra money to buy a tank of gas to go visit my mother, who is in a home in Jackson, Wyoming. If gas and food prices get any higher, there will be no need for me to even own a car, for I will not be able to afford the insurance and tags.

ROBERT.

I am less concerned about gasoline price than I am about heating fuel. Being recently (involuntarily) placed in the "fixed income" category, I am in a position that I do have a fair amount of discretion regarding the number of miles I drive each year, but as both my wife and myself are advancing in age, thus increasingly more sensitive to hyperthermia, I am much less flexible re-

garding heating. The projected global cooling for the next decade, with return to harsh Idaho winters, simply exacerbates the situation. A few years ago, the highest monthly home energy bill I faced (fuel oil, electricity, and propane) was on the order of \$500. Last winter, that cost rose to \$1,500. Looking at projected fuel and electricity costs, within a few years that will increase to \$3,000. Should that happen, I am faced with the prospect of having to sell my house in order to afford heating it.

In the 1970s, the citizens of this country accepted energy conservation as a stopgap measure to allow the federal government time to devise a self-sufficient and affordable energy infrastructure for the country. The federal government has not only squandered the three decades of grace given it, but has actively blocked all measures attempted by private enterprise to develop a workable domestic energy supply. The only measures that have been taken by the federal government (such as ethanol) have made the situation worse by skyrocketing food costs, which we are only seeing the leading edge of. I raise poultry. A 50-pound bag of turkey finisher (of which corn is a major component) cost \$8 in 2004. In February of this year, it was \$15. Last month, that same sack of turkey finisher was \$30. A 50-pound bag of scratch grain rose from \$5 to \$15 during that same time frame. Chicken feed ain't chicken feed any more, and although transportation costs have contributed to feed cost, it certainly is not the major contributor. Whatever were you people thinking of when you decided to subsidize competition of this country's energy supply with its food supply?

As far as what I want to see our federal government do, first, dissolve the Department of Energy and replace it with a commission drawn from private enterprise, then task them to correct the total failure of the DOE to devise an effective short-term and long-term energy policy for the USA. Second, remove the hobbles the government has placed on the oil companies for using currently known petroleum reserves, including off-shore and, especially, ANWR. Third, roll back the excessive and crippling regulations the federal government has placed on this country. Quit the insane policy of requiring our dwindling number of refineries to produce dozens of different gasoline and diesel blends. Return to a licensing process that allows a nuclear plant, coal-fired plant, or refinery to be on line within five years of license application. Fourth, immediately start rebuilding our nuclear infrastructure. Even if you take the first three steps I propose, we no longer have the internal capability to build and operate nuclear plants at the scale needed for significant contribution to the energy future of the country. Without the government immediately commencing the domestic equivalent of the Manhattan Project, we will find ourselves contracting with France, Japan, and probably even Iran to build and staff our new reactors.

DARWIN, *Idaho Falls.*

I support the development and utilization of our natural resources including drilling on the north slope and extracting shale oil in Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming. Why would we endanger our sovereignty by relying so heavily on foreign oil anyway? We should be producing our own oil like we did in the 80s when the U.S. reacted to the oil embargo of 1973. OPEC realized that we were capable of being self-sufficient so they lowered the price of their oil. The way to contain energy costs is to keep reminding them that if they are going to take advantage of a free world economy then, they will also have to deal with the natural results of competition. Our founding fathers understood the concept—

have we forgotten it? I do not support increased taxes for oil companies or the consumer. Let the oil guys make some money and remove the fetters of exploration, refinement, and drilling. Let us take care of America for a change. Every American should be able to afford to drive—it is part of being free.

DON.

Fewer trips, less fishing, flying when I used to drive—all because the [partisan behavior of politicians]. Most lack plain old 'common sense', lack any business or military horse sense. I believe price of fuel will continue upward until we fix [partisan posturing].

BOB.

I just wanted to take a moment to write to you to let you know how the price of gasoline has affected me and my family and the recent past. I am a student working on my doctorate in Political Science at ISU. This last semester I had to drive down from Rigby to Pocatello five days a week. As you may be aware, that is a one-way distance of about 70 miles. The cost last semester for transportation to and from campus almost broke me. With the prices as they are presently I am lucky that I am only going to have to go to the Pocatello campus one day a week in the fall semester or I would have to drop out because I would not be able to afford the transportation costs simply to get from home to campus and back home again.

My wife works for janitorial service and Idaho Falls as a night supervisor, and part of her job requires her to drive from site to site, delivering supplies, checking on the janitors, and making sure that they have done their job. This means that she spends a good part of her job every night in the car, putting miles on driving from spot to spot. Her job does not pay her for mileage nor for gas used, and does not pay enough for her to be able to deduct her mileage off of her taxes. Since her employer cannot afford to give her a raise and we have no way of being able to recoup the increased costs of her doing her job, we have, in effect, had a cut in income from her. I do not know what can be done and I do not know what should be done, but something needs to change because I know in our case we are falling farther and farther behind simply because of the increased price in gasoline.

There is no doubt in my mind that we cannot drill our way out of this problem. But there is also no doubt that ignoring the option of drilling will make matters that much worse. I believe we need to have a comprehensive energy policy that includes drilling for more oil resources, increased use of natural gas, a reduction in the policies that prohibit the building of nuclear power facilities, and coal liquefaction programs.

Thanks for reading my comments,

JAY, *Rigby.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CATHY LEWIS

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I wish to commend and congratulate Cathy Lewis, who has been chosen by the organization Voices for Ohio's Children to receive the 2009 Champion for Children Award.

Voices for Ohio's Children established the Champion for Children Award in 2005 to recognize local individuals or organizations demonstrating a commitment to improving the well-being of children and their families.

Cathy Lewis, from Cleveland, OH, has been a strong and clear voice for children and their families for many years. Cathy's volunteer and philanthropic works have made a real difference in the lives of thousands of Clevelanders, most of whom she is likely never to meet. But her commitment to see our children get a strong start in life and the nurturing development they deserve has changed lives and our community for the better.

Cathy's life has been one of service to others. As chairperson of the board of directors of the Cleveland Foundation from 2001 to 2003, she was instrumental in starting Cuyahoga County's early childhood initiative, Invest in Children. This successful public/private partnership has helped families and communities provide that nurturing environment that we know is essential for the success of our children.

As Americans we are realizing the depth and breadth of the impact of HIV/AIDS on our communities, Cathy stepped up with others to form the Citizens' Committee on AIDS/HIV. This group created a strategy for addressing AIDS prevention, education, and services that continues to this day as the AIDS Funding Collaborative, which she chaired for 10 years.

Cathy currently serves on the Advisory Committee for the Center for International Child Health at Case Western Reserve University, the board of directors of the Institute for Research on Unlimited Love, cochair of the Strong Families=Successful Children Vision Council at United Way, and is a trustee of the George Gund Foundation, where she serves as cochair of the Communications Committee for Invest in Children.

Cathy richly deserves the 2009 Champion for Children Award, and I thank her for her selfless service to Ohioans in need.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PHILLIPS

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend John Phillips of Holly Bluff, MS, for his service and contributions to the State of Mississippi during 2009, through his service as the 74th president of Delta Council.

Delta Council is an economic development organization representing the business, professional, and agricultural leadership of the 18 delta and part-delta counties of Mississippi. This prominent and widely respected organization was formed in 1935 to deal with the challenges which faced the economy and quality of life of this region of our State.

John Phillips has served as president during a period when our Nation, as well as the State of Mississippi, and the Mississippi delta region, have experienced precedent-setting economic challenges.

As a successful businessman and farmer, John has brought an abundance of practical knowledge to the role of Delta Council president. His ex-

perience and expertise have enabled him also to be an effective advocate for flood protection in the Yazoo-Mississippi River basin. Additionally, he has demonstrated the foresight to accelerate and expand the efforts of Delta Council in other important areas of interest such as improved access to healthcare, adult literacy, early childhood education, and transportation throughout this region of our State.

John has also proven himself to be an exemplary conservationist by supporting efforts to protect wildlife and other valuable natural resources. He has utilized his year of service as president of Delta Council to advance the economic opportunities of all of the people of the Mississippi delta region. I am confident that John will continue to be an effective leader for the Mississippi delta in the years ahead.

In Mississippi we appreciate John Phillips, and his wife Ann Elise, their son, Jack, and their daughters, Whitney and Reid, for the sacrifices they have made to help improve the quality of life of all who live in the Mississippi delta.●

HONORING THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STUDENT HONOREES IN THE 2009 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate and honor two young New Hampshire students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Edward Zaremba III of Hampstead and Colleen Slein of Salem have just been named State Honorees in the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on only one high school student and one middle school student in each State.

Mr. Zaremba was nominated by Pinkerton Academy for his work in co-founding a club at his school that promotes awareness and inclusion of students with developmental disabilities. The club sponsors social events throughout the year so that classmates with and without disabilities cannot only have fun together, but learn from each other as well.

Ms. Slein was nominated by St. Joseph Regional Catholic School for her work raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She baked cookies and cupcakes every night for 2 months and sold them at school the next day, raising a total of \$440 for this very worthy organization.

It is important that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions these young people have made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers such as Mr. Zaremba and Ms. Slein are examples to all of us, and I commend them for their service.

I would also like to congratulate two other young people in my State of New

Hampshire who were named Distinguished Finalists by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for their outstanding volunteer service. Rachel Liff of Bedford prepared a handbook for Special Olympics athletes and volunteers, and Jane Stark of Merrimack raised money to purchase water filtration systems for people living in developing countries.

All these young people have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is encouraging in today's world, and they deserve our admiration and respect. Their initiative shows that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in their communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold great promise for the future.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN A. GARRETT

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to John A. Garrett, an honorable Alabamian and a good friend of mine. On Sunday, May 10, 2009, John A. will celebrate his 100th birthday.

John A. was born in 1909 in Bay Minnette, AL. He graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute, now known as Auburn University, in 1936, the same year that he married the love of his life, Katherine Virginia Stowers, at the Snowdon United Methodist Church in Montgomery. Together, they have two daughters, Kitty Walter Dawson and Mary John, a son-in-law Sim Byrd, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Most people in Alabama know John A. for his many contributions to Alabama's agriculture industry. During the 1950s, he served as the State director of commodity services for the Alabama Farm Bureau. Later, he would go on to own and operate Cherokee Builders, an industrial and commercial construction business.

In 1969, he was appointed by President Nixon to serve as the director of the Alabama Farmer's Home Administration, a position he would hold until 1977. In the early 1970s, John A. became a nationally recognized leader on agricultural and water issues. Later, at the age of 68, John A. established the Alabama Rural Water Association, an organization of which he served as executive director for 17 years.

An avid leader, John A. is the recipient of many honors and awards. In 1970, John A. was designated an Honorary State Farmer by the Future Farmers of America. Two years later, he relieved the ACTION Federal Employee Distinguished Voluntary Service Award for his extraordinary volunteer service. In 1985, Auburn University honored John A. for his outstanding services on the Montgomery County Auburn Committee. He was named Alabama Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian of the Year in 1989 and was inducted into the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 1991.