

What happens to the people of Idaho including finding ways to keep gas prices from continuing to rise.

Keep up the good work, Senator.

CARLA.

I appreciate you asking for thoughts on energy. I believe we need to embrace and pursue alternatives to oil. Honda today unveiled a hydrogen powered car. What does Detroit offer? Something that really galls me is that the U.S. gives billions to countries that hate us, why? I am not a fan of welfare, but every dollar going to the poor in this country is spent here, how much of the money given to foreign countries is spent here? I know it is not that simple. I appreciate your efforts for Idaho and the U.S.

JACK, Boise.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR FORCE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the men and women of the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. On January 25, 1949, under the authority of the Air Force Military Justice Act, the Air Force issued General Order 7 creating the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Department, later changed to Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Since that time, the men and women of the Judge Advocate General's Corps have become the living embodiment of their guiding principles of wisdom, valor, and justice. They have provided countless commanders, policymakers, and clients with the benefit of invaluable professional, candid, and independent counsel. Further, they have done so while living the core values of the Air Force: integrity, service before self and excellence in all they do.

The hallmark of their service to this great country is a profound respect for, and adherence to, the rule of law. Their steadfast dedication to the rule of law allows the U.S. Air Force to conduct itself in the best traditions of America and retain the highest moral ground.

The men and women who currently serve in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, and those that came before them, can be exceptionally proud of their service and the contributions they have made to our national security. As a former active duty Judge Advocate and current reserve Judge Advocate, I am intensely proud of my association with the Judge Advocate General's Corps. I am pleased to acknowledge this great achievement and congratulate the Corps for their service to this Nation.●

HONORING SIVAD PRODUCTIONS, INC.

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, this week, our country celebrated two historic events. On Monday, we commemorated the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

on what would have been his 80th birthday. The following day, January 20, our Nation's first African-American President, Barack Obama, was inaugurated on the west front of the U.S. Capitol. During this special and remarkable week, I rise to celebrate an African-American owned small business in my home State of Maine that has consistently sought to make a difference in people's lives, and has succeeded every step of the way.

Sivad Productions, Inc., located in Portland, offers its clients a wide variety of general contracting services. From administrative services and video production, to real estate and information technology, Sivad provides customers with superior quality and years of knowledge and experience. In March of 2008, Sivad Productions was named a Small Business Administration certified 8(a) firm. The 8(a) program is a business development tool that assists small disadvantaged businesses to compete in the Federal marketplace by helping them gain a myriad of procurement opportunities.

One of the most innovative projects that Sivad Productions' president, Dudley Davis, has been a part of is the Youth News & Entertainment Television, or YNETV. YNETV produces youth programming, and involves young adults in the process of producing, directing, and creating the shows. In nearly a decade and a half, students of high school and college age have created over 600 television episodes seen on many of the Maine affiliate stations of major networks.

Of YNETV's television shows, its most popular is Youth in Politics. Area high school and college students from across Maine debate the pressing issues facing Maine and America by engaging in thoughtful and substantive discussions and hosting candidate forums. The show's goal is the civic education and wider political participation of Maine's young adults. YNETV frequently features an equal number of college Democrats and college Republicans to provide balance, and deals with issues as varied as the war in Iraq to academic freedom.

Mr. Davis has forged a reputation as someone who has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community in southern Maine. He has long been associated with the YES! Summer Basketball League and The Basketball Academy, which seek to provide young athletes with an outlet to participate in sports in a positive environment. Parents and students alike have praised Mr. Davis's "exceptional ability to inspire, motivate and teach," and commended his admirable contributions to Maine's children. Mr. Davis has also been honored by the Maine Commission for Community Service for his motivated and exceptional service to Maine youth programs.

President Obama has made a passionate and eloquent plea for increased community service on the part of all

Americans. It is a call that Dudley Davis heard long ago. Mr. Davis's determination to effectuate positive change for the youth of southern Maine is laudable, and his tremendous work has certainly not gone unnoticed. I thank Mr. Davis for his passion and dedication, and wish everyone at Sivad Productions, Inc., much success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:25 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 384. An act to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure accountability under such Program.

At 3:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to sections 5580 and 5581 of the revised statutes (20 U.S.C. 42-43), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Mr. BECERRA of California, Ms. MATSUI of California, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

The message also announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mrs. MALONEY of New York and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 384. An act to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure accountability under such Program; to the Committee on Finance.

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-527. 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 "Revision of the Hawaiian and Territorial Fruits and Vegetables Regulations" (Docket No. APHIS-2007-0052) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-528. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the funding transfers made during fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-529. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved

retirement of Lieutenant General Michael D. Maples, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-530. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Responsible Prospective Contractors" (RIN0750-AG20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-531. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; List of Firms Owned or Controlled by the Government of a Terrorist Country" (RIN0750-AG22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-532. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; DoD Law of War Program" (RIN0750-AF82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-533. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Removal of North Korea from the List of Terrorist Countries" (RIN0750-AG18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-534. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Strategies for the Commercialization and Deployment of Greenhouse Gas Intensity Reducing Technologies and Practices"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-535. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Water Quality Inventory: Report to Congress, 2004 Reporting Cycle"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-536. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List, Final Rule" (RIN2050-AD75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-537. A communication from the Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Progress in Implementing Capacity-Building Provisions under the Labor Chapter of the Dominican Republic—Central America—United States Free Trade Agreement"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-538. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; U.S.-International Atomic Energy Agency Additional Protocol" (RIN0750-AF98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on

January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-539. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Citizens' Report: FY 2008 Summary of Performance and Financial Results"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-540. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Investment Advice—Participants and Beneficiaries" (RIN1210-AB13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-541. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Penalties Under ERISA Section 502(c)(4)" (RIN1210-AB24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-542. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interpretive Bulletin Relating to Exercise of Shareholder Rights" (RIN1210-AB28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-543. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interpretive Bulletin Relating to Investing in Economically Targeted Investments" (RIN1210-AB29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-544. A communication from the Director, Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security and the Deputy Associate Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy due to Congress by April 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-545. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's compliance with the Sunshine Act during calendar year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-546. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General for Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Department's competitive sourcing efforts during fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mrs. BOXER for the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

*Lisa Perez Jackson, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

*Nancy Helen Sutley, of California, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

By Mr. BAUCUS for the Committee on Finance.

*Timothy F. Geithner, of New York, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 296. A bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 297. A bill to amend the Act entitled "An Act authorizing associations of producers of aquatic products" to include persons engaged in the fishery industry as charter boats or recreational fishermen, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 298. A bill to establish a Financial Markets Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 299. A bill to establish a pilot program in certain United States district courts to encourage enhancement of expertise in patent cases among district judges; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 300. A bill to enable the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information of the Department of Commerce to resume timely processing and distribution of TV converter box coupons by increasing its fiscal authority to make payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. KOHL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 301. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency in the relationship between physicians and manufacturers of drugs, devices, biologicals, or medical supplies for which payment is made under Medicare, Medicaid, or SCHIP; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 302. A bill to authorize the International Boundary and Water Commission to reimburse State and local governments for expenses incurred by such governments in designing, constructing, and rehabilitating the Lower Rio Grande Valley Flood Control Project; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 303. A bill to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 304. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to stimulate business investment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.