

intelligence community, and I have long called for more resources for both. I have also called for an integrated, interagency collection and analysis strategy, which is why Senator Hagel and I last year introduced legislation to establish an independent commission to address this long-term, systematic problem. This legislation was passed by the Intelligence Committee last year and, although Senator Hagel has retired, I intend to reintroduce this legislation this year.

Developing these capacities and a balanced approach is in our national security interest and is necessary if we are to better address areas of concern in Africa. At present, there are several devastating crises that we cannot ignore, including in Congo, Nigeria, the Sahel, Sudan and Zimbabwe. But I believe one region stands out for its particular significance to our national security, and that is the Horn of Africa and specifically the deepening crisis in Somalia. I would like to spend the rest of my remarks discussing the situation in this region, where the need for a carefully planned and long-term approach is particularly urgent.

During my December trip, I also visited Djibouti. There, I met with many leading figures in Somalia, including the Prime Minister of the Somali Transitional Federal Government, the leadership of the opposition Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia, the UN Special Representative for Somalia, the President of Somaliland and members of Somalia's civil society. I also met with Djiboutian government officials and members of civil society, as well as with our diplomats working on Somalia out of both Djibouti and Nairobi, who are extraordinary and deeply committed individuals.

Tragically, the situation in Somalia continues to get worse. Six months ago I stood on the Senate floor to discuss Somalia's humanitarian crisis—the worst in the world. According to a local human rights group, an estimated 16,000 people have been killed since the start of 2007, with over 28,000 people wounded and more than one million displaced. USAID now estimates that 3.2 million people—soon to be half of the population—are in need of emergency assistance, including hundreds of thousands of refugees in neighboring countries. The stories and images of human suffering coming out of Somalia are horrifying.

In addition to the humanitarian impact, I am deeply concerned by the potential impact of this crisis on our national security. With the Ethiopian army withdrawing, the transitional government remains deadlocked, new militias are forming, and existing ones continue to gain new territory. And while the Somalis are a moderate people, the terrorist group al Shabab has grown in ranks and expanded its reach. Moreover, just last month, several senior officials, including CIA Director Hayden and Joint Chiefs Chairman Mullen, said that al-Qaida is extending

its reach in Somalia to revitalize its operations.

The Bush administration's approach to Somalia—endorsing the Ethiopian invasion, backing an unpopular transitional government and launching periodic military strikes in the absence of a broader coherent strategy—was an abject failure. Without a carefully crafted strategy for Somalia, we have long relied on short-sighted tactics and a "manhunt" approach, rather than investing fully in efforts to promote a sustainable peace and help build legitimate and inclusive institutions. The result has been increased anti-Americanism, which helps enable extremist groups to effectively recruit and operate.

With the Obama administration now in office, there is a critical opportunity, as well as an urgent need, to identify the lessons of this failed policy and signal a break from the past. One of my top priorities is to work with the Obama administration to develop a new comprehensive interagency strategy to bring stability to Somalia and the wider Horn of Africa. Support for the Djibouti process should continue, but we need to be far sighted about what it will take to translate diplomatic initiatives into security for the people of Somalia. That effort must include efforts from the ground up to build legitimate and inclusive governance institutions that respond to the needs of ordinary Somalis. For only when those institutions take hold will we finally be able to limit the appeal of violent extremism and achieve sustainable peace and security—and bolster our own national 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:

You are asking Idahoans to write about gas prices? You mean you do not know? I think

Washington D.C. may as well be registered as another planet because I think your colleagues are so far from reality of the rest of the people it is absolutely outrageous.

Your colleague Barbara Boxer of California said that she wants Americans to use alternative routes of transportation and that it is a good thing that gas prices force people to take the bus, ride bikes, or walk to their destination because it helps reduce global warming.

I have something to say to you and to Boxer and you can tell her for me.

I am a driver for a living. I deliver products right here in Boise. I have to drive I have no choice. I am also a salesman, and a night supervisor. To Senator Boxer, I live in Idaho. I do not have the option of riding the bus. I cannot walk my deliveries or ride my bike with my products? Is she insane?

I find it absolutely insulting for her to talk down to me like that. She and her liberal Senators love these high gas prices because they want to use it as an excuse to make us live how they want us to live to fight so-called global warming, while she and Al Gore fly in jets. That's Eco-Socialism in my opinion.

Senator Crapo, I have three jobs. Three jobs. And I am still having problems fueling up. I have had to open credit card accounts for the first time in my life. And my debt is still going up.

You'd think with three jobs and three paychecks for one person. I am not married no kids. I would be starving with fuel prices if I had a family. I am just barely paying my bills on time as they are, to about \$1500 a month not including gas prices.

Starting in 2005 till 2007, I did very well financially, I was saving up and putting money away in my savings account. I loved myself for putting money away. This month in June I had to take one-quarter of my life savings out of my bank to pay for bills including gas because the price skyrocketed from \$3 to \$4 a gallon in one month.

This is outrageous. I am so angry at Congress right now. . . You have no idea.

I think it is 80 percent the Government's fault for this and 20 percent the oil companies. The only thing the oil companies are doing wrong is speculating the price of oil for really dumb reasons. Like if you so much as sneeze the price would go up in panic.

Congress has done this because you refuse to drill for oil in ANWR to save a deer called caribou! Congress is more worried about a stupid deer than they are about my life? More worried about the mating season of the caribou than they are about the economy? My jobs? My gas prices? My bills? My lifestyle? I am sorry I thought you were the people's Congress? Not the caribou's congress! Do we have an animal congress I should know about?

You won't allow drilling off shore? Well did you know that China is drilling for oil off the coast of Florida? But we cannot? Why? This is outrageous.

Do not listen to those radical environmentalists. They were wrong about the second ice age in the 1980's. When I was kid in school in the 1980's, my teachers told me by the year 1999 New York would be underwater and Los Angeles would be a bunch of Islands. It has not happened. Of course the earth's temperature changes and jumps over time. The earth's climate changes all the time, has been since the earth cooled and formed. The earth's temperature does not stay the same all the time. There are so many scientists and people who disagree with Al Gore, but if we disagree we are labeled "flat-earthers" and "Holocaust Deniers." How dare Al Gore tell me that I have no first amendment right to disagree with him on climate change.

My question for the Republican Party is this. Why did you not approve drilling for oil

when you had Congress lock, stock, and barrel? In 2002, I cheered when the GOP took back the Senate and we had both Houses plus the White House. I yelled, "Yes! At last we can get some real work done!" But what have you done with those four years of three Branches with GOP? Nothing! You took your voters for granted and then you were surprised when you lost in 2006.

I have spoken to many Republicans, Moderates, Independents, Moderate Democrats, and Conservatives who are seriously thinking of either staying home or voting Democrat based on the GOP's laziness. Although I do not trust Democrats with the economy, why should we the voters reward Republicans? Give us a reason? Answer . . . gas prices! Point out that it is the Dems who want the price high! Even Barack Obama admitted that he wanted it to go high just not so fast.

Senator Crapo. You want to help me? A person with three jobs and struggling with gas prices? I have not had a vacation since March of 2007! I can't even take a one day vacation to Jackpot anymore! Senator Crapo I work all seven days a week! I get no weekends! And I still struggle to pay gas prices! About \$15 a day! Not a week! A day!

Drill here! Drill now! Drill in ANWR! Drill in America!

Tell your friends drill.

AARON BANKS, *Boise.*

Hi. Thank you Senator for your sincere concern for Idaho Residents.

I am 58 next month, and on disability from a very severe fire I was trapped in several years ago.

Though I do get an income, this is where it goes:

Receive \$625.00 a month

1. \$200.00 a month mobile home space rent
2. \$156.00 a month mortgage payments for my mobile home . . . which without the owner of the mobile home, I would not be on my way to being a first time home owner!

3. \$48.00 a month mobile home insurance

4. \$40.00 a month vehicle insurance . . . it is a 1988 Plymouth Voyager van that I have had since 1988.

5. \$39.00 phone bill . . . which was supposed to reduced several months ago through my social worker, an still remains at the normal price and I do not have long distance.

6. \$30-40 electricity monthly . . . do not have an air conditioner for summer but do open my windows and use my ceiling fans that helps.

7. \$125-and up in winter for gas to run my heater monthly . . . that is after I receive fuel assistance which for some reason only lasts 1-2 months and only use the heater to warm up the area so can start my wood stove which is usually one-half hour.

So if I am lucky, all I can afford to do is put up to \$20.00 a month in gas which gives me almost 1/4 tank and that has to last the month.

I have medical problems that mean many trips to the doctor and pharmacy, and with such a low amount of gas I have to depend on others for rides when I run out of gas.

Thank you for your sincere concern and we are all hoping and praying that gas will once again come down to where people like me can afford to purchase more.

LORETTA LOWERRE, *Nampa.*

First of all, I am disappointed that you provide prefixes for all kinds of people except the only class of people (with one exception—MSgt) that have official (not courteous) titles in these United States—the military. My title is Colonel.

Second, from your letter on gas prices that you sent me, you are starting to understand that the Congress holds most of the blame

for high oil (and thus gas) prices. Congress has failed to act in the thirty years since the last gas crisis, continually failing to take responsible action to make sure domestic supplies are developed and used to reduce dependence on foreign oil.

It should be clear that the single most deleterious action of Congress over the last forty years was the Environmental Protection Act. It has desperately needed revision since the early seventies and because it was not, the economic impact on America has been extreme. The inability to build domestic gas refineries, increase domestic oil production and take advantage of resources in ANWR are only a few of the unintended and disastrous impacts of that act. An environmentalist has only to write a single letter to cause the price of any such proposal to escalate exponentially. The latest case of the proposed nuclear reactor in Idaho is an example. One man writing one letter can cause the waste of hundreds of thousands of dollars to "prove" the lack of environmental impacts of such a proposal.

The price of a house in Idaho has risen by 10-15 percent, for instance, because of the ludicrous and technically flawed environmental studies and reactions on the spotted owl.

Still no action in Congress to alleviate the situation. We simply need someone to stand up and take the actions necessary to replace political correctness with what used to be common sense.

So the bottom line, Senator, is that Congress bears the responsibility to stop passing stupid laws and start reigning in those that are hurting the nation's ability to do the right things rather than the politically correct things. Do you have the courage to start?

ROBERT KEENAN, *Meridian.*

You asked what the high gas prices are doing to me. It has become very difficult to even do normal things. I cannot afford to go up town and buy necessary things. Since I am on Social Security Disability my sister and I have been living off my money. Since my sister does not have a car and I cannot afford to buy one for her, nor could I afford the gas. She would love to go to work. How would she get there? Idaho, and particularly this area has a really horrible public transportation system. It truly is a disgrace to our state. My sister walks as much as possible. Our nation needs to stop depending on foreign oil. I love all the animals and have tried to protect them as much as possible, but we need to start taking care of our families first.

The oil companies are making over the profit margin; that is disgusting by itself. I do not trust one thing they say or do. Therefore, we need to have alternative fuel. The wind can run electricity. The air can fuel a car, water can do both, after seeing the pictures of a car that runs on air. America, the greatest country in the world needs to step up to the plate. Oil companies need to step up to the plate before they become the dinosaurs. Therefore, we need to drill. Do it. Many families like mine are being devastated by the high gasoline prices which makes high food prices we cannot afford. Thank you for your time.

MARIAN RUHLING, *Nampa.*

Hello—This is in response to a solicitation from Senator Crapo regarding personal stories on how high energy prices are affecting lives.

Greed is the source of most of the world's evil. I know I sound like an ideologue, but please read on.

It is hard to disaggregate the effects of the high cost of energy from other economic hits

our family is experiencing. When construction activity slowed in Valley and Adams County, wage earning families left our valleys looking for jobs elsewhere. So long, Tamarack?

The resulting reduced school enrollment (now compounded by the end of Craig-Wyden) in our districts led me to being one of the teachers RIF'd from the Council School District. Fortunately, I found work part-time in the McCall School District. Unfortunately, this 70 mile, round-trip commute (in my 2000 140,000+ mile Dodge AWD Caravan—needed for unpredictable roads) costs me \$9.00-\$12.00 a trip! I would like to buy a more fuel efficient Subaru—but I cannot afford to.)

My school-age children suffer because programs are being severely reduced—Shop and Art are gone. Some high school courses will only be offered every other year. Summer school for poor learners is truncated. Field trips? Sports? Are you kidding? Both are severely reduced. How can our small-town children go out and experience the world when there isn't even money for gas?

As consumers, our family lives so far from "the source" that not only gas, but also milk and other basic commodities seem to cost at least 25 percent more than they did a year ago. Last year I was able to find milk for \$2.29 gallon; now milk costs close to \$4.00/gallon. Healthy bread costs close to \$4.00/loaf. As a family, we certainly have not received a COLA to offset these price increases.

As middle-class professionals (my husband is a forester) and as parents, the drain on our budget means belt-tightening for any of "fun things" like vacation trips. Additionally, we have experienced a health crisis (and have met our catastrophic limits). I now must commute to Fruitland (140 miles round trip) every 2 weeks for chemo; in the fall I will need to commute 5 days a week for radiation for 6 weeks! (My doctor cavalierly denied me two prescriptions for drugs since they are also available OTC. "They only cost a few dollars." He casually shrugged off my request for RXs. Well, the two drugs cost more than \$30 altogether. I do not think that the upper-middle-class and upper-class have a clue that there is an exponential difference between a few bucks (a latte) and \$30—a chance to visit a museum or movie, or half-way fill up a gas tank to make it to a chemo session!)

I believe that our tax system rewards the rich on the backs of the poor and middle class. I believe that oil companies and owners of stocks are making fortunes as the little guy suffers.

I believe we should take global warning seriously and allow tax credits for the development of alternative energy. We need to take recycling very seriously. We also need to be a world economic partner on a fair playing field (Kyoto convention), quit out-sourcing to countries that do not provide the labor protections we do to our workers, and build respectful relationships among all peoples and all cultures—as a first step to world peace and understanding and a step away from the ugliness of war.

I also believe that limiting population growth and sharing the world's resource's equably is the only way we will ever establish peace on earth.

Locally, for our family, what have been the effects of high energy costs? Higher food and medical costs, loss of job, reduced school programs for my children, dwindled savings, "making do" with older cars and housing needs, fewer amenities, no vacation. Glad you asked.

LYNN, *Fruitvale.*

I read your letter sent out today.

Glad to hear that at least one of our Senators in Washington gets it. I hope there are

more of you in DC that can support the policies you want to support in your letter.

We do need to start drilling again in the US and Off-Shore. We need to make sure that we take precautions to avoid damage to the environment. We cannot sacrifice one for the other. But we must start drilling again, and do so in a respective manner of Mother Nature.

And we are going to need some new refining capability. Again, do it new technology and with respect to our environment. Build it in Eastern Idaho—we have the space and we could use the jobs and economic boost. Tough to get oil here, but if they need a place for it, bring it here.

We must start the nuclear programs again. We need to build some new reactors soon. I do not know for sure, but I am betting some of our older reactors are getting long in the tooth, and if they go off the grid, then what happens? Besides we need more power and money spent to renew our grid system.

We need to take a serious look at Ethanol. I am not sure it is all it is being promoted to be. I am not sure the benefits outweigh all of the costs. With the flooding in the Midwest, I wonder what the cost of corn will be now? But it is not just food issues, but the processing issues as well.

Wind Power should be promoted as well. But a Nuclear Power Plant is much easier on the eyes than 1000 wind towers, and not as susceptible to the changes in the wind.

Coal alternatives should be looked at as well. We need to check if the benefits we can gain from technology like coal gasification are valid and have low impact. Some of the claims you hear and read about look promising. But as I am learning with Ethanol, there may be some significant costs to chase this type of technology.

But the short of it—we need to develop our energy and become more independent. The amount of jobs created would be incredible in the process. You want a better health care system and less unemployment and less government care programs—just set the energy companies loose (for a change) and see this economy rebound in a heartbeat. These energy companies can afford health care plans and benefits for their workers. Our current policies are killing us—and I really hope there are enough Senators and Representatives in DC to turn this around. We have been shooting ourselves in the foot for more than 20 years. Guess it took that long for the “brain” to finally realize the pain in doing so.

Good Luck.

STEPHEN KAISER, *Rigby.*

TRIBUTE TO ARDIS DUMETT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Ardis Dumett for her 20 years of service to the U.S. Senate and the people of Washington State. Ardis has served on my staff for the last 16 years of her distinguished public career. For 4 years prior to her service in my office, she worked for the revered Senator Henry “Scoop” Jackson. On January 20, Ardis retired from my office. We are sad to see her go and hope that she enjoys her well-earned retirement.

Throughout her career, Ardis has been a thoughtful and dedicated public servant. Initially, as my constituent services director, she led by example in her commitment and compassion to the constituents of Washington State. Covering immigration and environmental casework, she ensured the people of my State were well served by their Federal Government.

As the director of special projects in my Seattle office, she worked on numerous issues on my behalf over the years, ranging from the environment and emergency response to tribes and the transfer of military property. She worked tirelessly to guarantee that our State’s people and communities received a fair process—and often a successful outcome—when working with Federal agencies. Over the years I have received many notes from constituents thanking me for Ardis’ diligent work.

I would like to thank Ardis for her years of service to me and the people of Washington State. Her career is a tremendous example of public service; and her dedication to her work is truly appreciated. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2009

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I am proud to be involved for a third year in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, UCWIP, an exchange program in which outstanding college students from Australia’s top universities compete to serve as interns for the U.S. Congress. The program is in its 10th year of bringing the Washington experience to our friends from Australia, firsthand. In addition to working in congressional offices, the program provides students with a number of other opportunities and activities including visits to historic sites, visits to government agencies, meetings with government leaders, and educational events.

This year, Nicholas Tam, a student from Melbourne University in Australia, is taking a 2-month hiatus from his law degree to help me serve Idaho constituents. Of the program, Nick says, “Working with Senator CRAPO has been a gateway to developing a nuanced, sophisticated understanding of the United States and its precise position and role in the world. UCWIP has been culturally enriching and enhancing of my own professional development. It has been a real privilege to aid in the advancement of strong conservative principles whilst working here in the United States Senate.” Nick is a terrific temporary addition to my staff and, like past interns, an intelligent individual, hard worker and personable.

Director Eric Federer and his wife Daphne have shown a decade of tireless commitment to enlarging the educational experience of Australian students. Now with 81 program alumni, this educational and highly successful exchange program has earned a rightful place among leading international academic exchange opportunities. I am honored to continue to participate in this well-crafted and successful program.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to

the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 181. An act to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and to modify the operation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice that is unlawful under such Acts occurs each time compensation is paid pursuant to the discriminatory compensation decision or other practice, and for other purposes.

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. 26. Concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment of the House.

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-547. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Golden Parachute Payments” (RIN2590-AA08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 24, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-548. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations; Rio Grande City, Texas” (MB Docket No. 08-141) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 24, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-549. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementation of Short-term Analog Flash and Emergency Readiness Act; Establishment of DTV Transition ‘Analog Nightlight’ Program” (MB Docket No. 08-255) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 24, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-550. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the certification to Congress on the effectiveness of