

the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. In a time of continual wrangling over the appropriations process, tight budgets, veto threats, and differences between the House and Senate, Chuck has been a steady leader and a working dynamo. We have been extremely fortunate to have the right man as staff director in very difficult times.

Chuck also serves as the chief clerk of the Homeland Security Subcommittee which funds the agencies that merged to form this cabinet level department. In the aftermath of September 11, Chuck provided key advice and direction about the wisest ways to protect against future terrorist attacks and address the staggering destruction in New York State and at the Pentagon. He has worn the two hats of staff director of the full Appropriations Committee and clerk of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, which I continue to chair, with grace and with ease.

This really should come as no surprise. Despite his youth and unassuming demeanor, Chuck has served five Presidents, beginning with President Carter.

Before he joined my Appropriations staff, Chuck worked at the Office of Management and Budget during the Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush administrations.

In 1978 Chuck began his government service as a Presidential management intern at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. From 1978–1985 he served as a budget analyst for the Department of Health and Human Services. From 1985–1990 Mr. Kieffer was special assistant to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. From 1990–1995, he served as chief appropriations analyst for the Office of Management and Budget, and from 1995–2001 he was acting associate director of legislative affairs at the OMB until he joined my staff as deputy staff director of the Appropriations Committee in 2001. In 2001, Chuck Kieffer won the Robert G. Damas Public Service Award.

As I step aside as chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the coming days, I am thankful that Chuck has agreed to stay by my side as the chief clerk of the subcommittee on Homeland Security. We can all sleep a little more soundly knowing that such a talented person as Chuck Kieffer is helping to adequately and effectively fund the Department charged with keeping Americans safe from harm here at home.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SENATOR BYRD'S SWEARING IN

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today we begin the 111th Congress. As it is every two years, this is a moment for new beginnings, but also an opportunity to bid farewell to some dear friends of ours as they move on to the next chapters in their remarkable lives.

While it is always a joy to see this moment—to see the pride visible in not only the Members' faces, but their families' as well—this year's is especially poignant for me.

Each of the men and women who have taken this oath during my time in this institution has made an impression on me—influencing my life, my work—in one way or another.

But 50 years ago this week, two Members were sworn in—one who is here today and another who remains here in spirit—each of whom had a singularly important impact on me:

My father, Thomas Dodd, who represented my State of Connecticut, and our esteemed colleague and friend from West Virginia, ROBERT C. BYRD.

I was only a boy then, but I remember that moment as if it were yesterday, seated with my family in the gallery above, as we looked down on my father, as he began what would turn out to be the final chapter in a public life—a life that had already taken him from Norwich, CT, to Washington, DC, as an FBI agent and lawyer at the Department of Justice; to Germany where he served as a prosecutor at the famous Nuremberg Trials, before returning to our Nation's Capital to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Fifty years later, I take no small amount of pride in noting that in each of these endeavors, my father proved to be ahead of his time—an advocate for universal health care, a proponent of sensible gun safety laws, an early voice warning of the effects of violence on TV and the dangers of drug addiction; and an insistent defender of those whose human rights were being denied.

Indeed, it would not take long before a fellow freshman made his own mark, becoming not only this body's President pro tempore and the longest-serving Member in its history, but the undisputed master of this body's arcane parliamentary procedures, an award-winning author and historian and the foremost champion of sunlight in government.

Today, as the whole world watches these historic moments, we should note that it was ROBERT BYRD who staved off the threat that the Senate might become “the invisible branch of government” by ensuring that our proceedings be televised.

Some two-and-half decades ago, when I was sworn in myself, it was my colleague from West Virginia who handed me a small book—a pocket-sized Constitution. For all I know, he did this for every freshman Senator.

His message was simple: as a Member of the Senate, you are a temporary custodian of this document.

And so, I kept that book. For 28 years, I have carried it with me in my back pocket—Saturday, Sunday, every day of the week to remind myself how important this document is, the values and the principles that are incorporated in it.

Senator BYRD has put it better than anyone: “The limits that the Constitu-

tion places on how political power is exercised have ensured our freedom for more than two centuries.”

Each of these men taught me, in different ways, that we cannot defend and protect the vision of the Framers if we are ignorant of the Constitution's history and the rule of law.

And so today, as we look forward to the 111th Congress and all that we hope to achieve, may we also remember this gift that was given to all of us in the 86th Congress all those years ago. May it continue to shine for many, many more.

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, particularly in light of our economic times. 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:

My wife and I are retired with fixed retirement incomes and our IRAs and annuities. We live about six miles from Moscow. We are now limiting our trips to town and will reduce/eliminate the travel we had planned this summer. We use our Ford 500 that gets about 29MPG instead of our pickup as much as possible. Our home is heated with wood pellets, but we wonder if wood pellets will be available next fall because of the failing timber industry.

We have little hope that gas prices will decrease. Both of the Presidential candidates have bought into the global warming hoax and do not want to develop our oil resources. We expected it of the Democrat candidate but are very disappointed in John McCain's position. It is difficult to believe that he thinks the liberal environmental industry will vote for him because he claims to be an “environmentalist”.

We feel that [the candidates] should visit ANWR and see that it is not like the Grand Canyon. It is a frozen desert where the oil resource could be developed with little impact. We encourage you to help change positions on oil development. [Our country] will miss a golden opportunity if they do not use the “drill here, drill now, pay less” position. Thank you for asking for our opinion.

NED and ARLEEN, *Moscow.*

I was thrilled to hear that there was a venue for public input to the increasing energy prices. I drive a VW Jetta, which gets great gas mileage, and I have a decent job, but the price of gasoline has caused me to reconsider many things that weren't really hard decisions before. I have begun buying generic items and do not visit my favorite coffee hut as often because it is not 'on my way' to work, therefore requiring more gas, and for the price of my favorite latte, I could buy a gallon of gas. I am beginning to classify everything as whether it is a need or a want, and dramatically cutting out the want. The problem is that many of the needs are becoming expensive. My son's day care has now increased their prices to cover their increased fuel costs. Food has become expensive, prompting my husband and me to start a garden. I have often wondered how others manage when they work minimum wage jobs, and have a family to support. To some extent, I am glad that prices have escalated, because it makes us address this issue and become more environmentally responsible. It also forces us to become more self-reliant, both as individuals and as a nation.

I would love to see public transportation become more available, however I am not sure how feasible or cost efficient that would be given how spread out we are. Even here in Idaho Falls, I am not sure how well that would work. I work for the INL, so of course I am going to suggest further research into nuclear energy and the possibilities there. It is always frustrating to hear that Congress will not pass a budget, forcing labs to function under continuing resolutions that prevent new research from starting. This is research that could change the way that we, as a nation, look at energy, and reduce our dependence on oil. Hybrid vehicles present an interesting potential, but the purchase price is not an incentive to buy one. Is there a way to provide incentives to automakers that produce these vehicles? This could allow them to produce and sell these vehicles at a lower cost, and then make them more attractive to the consumer. These are just a few suggestions.

Thank you for the work that you and the committee are investing in this issue.

BRANDY, *Idaho Falls.*

I am a resident of Bingham County and would like to share my story on how the high energy prices are affecting me and my family. I am an INL employee and have to travel to and from work, a total time of about one and a half hours every day. If I have to drive to work it will cost \$80 a week; if I ride the INL bus, it is \$22.50 a week. Still a portion of my paycheck goes to travel. I pay approx. \$1,150 a month in utility and energy bills. I make on average \$2,500 a month. The rest goes to mortgage groceries and supplies for the family, i.e. diapers, wipes, baby food etc. . . . We all have houses and yards to upkeep, to keep sprinklers working, grass trimmed and weed free, and that costs money. I have had to scale back my plans with my family dramatically to upkeep my assets. There will be no vacations this year, no more trips to the local drive-in for ice cream after a hot day, and certainly no running through the sprinkler to conserve on the water bill. My wife (who is from Fiji) has not been able to see her family for six years now. We were planning a family trip this year to see them. Well, not anymore; a six thousand dollar trip for a family of four is unheard of. Guess we will have to see what next year brings. My property taxes rose from \$1,400 to \$1,850 this year. Did not we pass a bill last year generating a fund to lower this sort of thing? I certainly did not benefit from that.

The city council in Blackfoot is working on getting a windmill turbine farm set up in

the Wolverine canyon, east of Blackfoot. I am in favor of that if we were to actually benefit from it. From what I gather the power that generates from these turbines will be sent to California. If we have to wake up every day to look at these turbines, then we at least need to benefit from them! I have worked out at the INL Site for about four years now; I work around the only test reactor in the world. Every day, when I walk around it, I wonder, why cannot we have a reactor to generate power for all of southeast Idaho? Let us bypass Idaho and Utah Power and anyone else that sends power to us and generate our own. We will not be damming up rivers causing problems for the salmon habitat or building turbines that could hurt the bird migration. Or causing some other environmental issue with the way wildlife runs its course. Let us build a generation reactor in the desert at the INL that will provide power to all of southeast Idaho. This could probably be the cleanest source of energy we have ever used. Let us open up Alaska to drill for oil, become more dependent on ourselves instead of foreign oil.

JOSHUA.

Thank you for the opportunity to direct comments to you on a specific topic of great concern.

My wife and I are nearing retirement (currently 58 years old), and our home is paid for. However, our home was built in the 1970s under a program promoted by Utah Power & Light, which encouraged constructing total electric homes using ceiling cable heat. UP&L even gave monthly energy "discounts" for being total electric. Later . . . much later . . . those discounts were deemed to not promote energy efficiency and were taken away. Even though Idaho electric rates remain relatively low, our home of 2,100 sq ft costs over \$300 a month to heat in the winter. We are concerned that increasing energy rates will force us out of our home when we are no longer working fulltime. No incentives are provided for conversion and with ceiling cable there is no duct-work to convert a furnace to . . . so natural gas or propane is not economically feasible.

Solution—Construct a nuclear power plant on the desert of the INL. Find a willing commercial owner, provide some US government incentives to build a new version to use as a model nationwide, offer an incentive to Idahoans on the grid to get a discount & sell the rest of the power to Utah, Nevada & California. Speed the process of approval & construction. Sell bonds to help build it but do something.

I know it is an overly simplistic suggestion but we need to do something about energy in this country or our economy will grind to a near standstill.

TED.

Like everyone else in America, higher energy costs affect me more every day as the price of everything I purchase climbs. I am very frugal and have been barely make ends meet as it is. It makes me physically sick with worry when I think about the future. What is going to happen when I cannot afford to pay my bills? Who do I stop paying first? Do I stop paying my rent? My utilities? What about all the medical bills I owe? (I have no medical insurance . . . but that is another letter for another day.) Will I lose my home? Will I get sued by my creditors and then get my wages garnished? What about the \$100 I pay every month to the Social Security Administration for an overpayment of my disability benefits? What will happen to me when I cannot afford to pay that? I cannot be optimistic anymore and think somehow someone will save the day. No one has offered up any realistic solutions

that I have heard. Getting a tax break for the summer will not do a whole lot of good when [other prices remain high due to] the price of oil in the preceding 12 months. Making the oil companies pay more taxes will not solve the problem.

It just makes my blood boil to listen to [politicians] sugar-coat our problems. This country is in crisis. The powers that be have chosen to put their heads in the sand over the environment and now it is too late to find a "green" solution to the immediate energy needs of our country. We need to drill for oil . . . now. It is sickening that after all that has happened in our past with regard to our dependence on foreign oil that we find ourselves here. President Bush thinks he's going to win the war on terror by sending our troops to die in the Middle East? The terrorists will defeat us by using our dependence on them. While everyone looks for a bomb and we lose our civil liberties one by one, they will steal our way of life.

When I got my stimulus rebate check, I spent it all and went to a family reunion. It occurred to me as I was coming home that it is very likely that I will not be able to go next year, or any year in the foreseeable future. It will simply cost too much. The only reason I could afford it this year is because of that rebate check. I cannot imagine that I will have the ability to save enough money to go next year because it will cost too much to put a roof over my head and food on my table.

So, Mr. Crapo, my story is simple. The state of the nation makes me afraid and angry.

KATHY.

My wife and I own and my wife operates a child day-care in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Since the price of fuel has spun out of control and with no resolution in the near future we are actively attempting to sell or will shut the doors on the business in the next two months. The price of fuel is driving everything else up so high that we need to raise our prices to make up for the increases and we are in many cases simply pricing ourselves out of our customers ability to pay. Many of our customers [have to choose] between day care or paying for fuel, grocery, natural gas, etc. In many cases, one of the parents quit their job to stay home with the kids and simply tighten up their belts and live with the minimums. If I did not have a good job working for a subcontractor to the DOE and had enough income to take care of the day to day and not depend on the business, I would be in bankruptcy court.

The fuel cost drives not only our vehicles; it drives every aspect of our day to day lives. I am worried that if a radical solution is not set into motion that we will be looking at a depression in this country. My grandparents went through the first one, and I hope that my family will not have to see similar times. Allowing a small population of the world to control the vast majority by controlling them with out-of-control energy prices is not right. I have a problem with so few becoming so wealthy while so many suffer. We have vast oil resources in the lower 48, and we all know the resources that are in Alaska. The Alaskan pipeline did not destroy the landscape or cause the caribou to go extinct like some of the environmentalists would like us to believe. Maybe we should allow our government that is funded by our tax dollars to step in and get involved with the refining of oil in our country and quit depending on someone who actually do not like us very much for our energy. We need to use what we have and we need to not allow the activist groups to tie our hands when we want to use it. If anyone even mentions drilling in Alaska the activist groups go crazy and it make

me wonder who is funding these groups to keep our hand tied. The short term fix is to use the oil that we are setting on while we work on the research and development required to assist or solve the long term problem.

DAVID.

Senator, I could sit here and gripe about the high energy costs. However, I regard the problem as a collective problem, not something one sector or another of the economy has done. We are all aware of how the costs are spiraling out of control, and there are things we can all do to mitigate the pinch in our wallet. Every one of us is guilty to varying degrees. Consider the following:

First, each of us needs to be a lot more concerned with conserving. We can all make one trip instead of three to the store. We can carpool. We can reduce some of our recreational activities to use less fuel getting there and while there. Turn off the lights. Use the energy efficient light bulbs. Use mass transit. The list goes on and on.

Second, Congress has got to work out a balanced approach to energy availability. Hydro power is still the most efficient, but has been hogtied by the environmentalists who not only do not want new power production, and even want to remove power production that is in place. Nuclear power has been similarly placed into the nether land of total environmental disfavor. The record of these two sources is not perfect, but they are not guilty of producing greenhouse gasses and making the Arabs richer and richer either. They have a place in our infrastructure, and Congress needs to make it happen before we give away all our wealth to Islamic radicals and Communists. Begin a plan to reduce and eliminate foreign import of oil, then make it stick.

Third, Congress needs to greatly improve incentives for domestic production of oil. Use the oil shale resources we have all over the country. Allow drilling in areas where the likelihood of new fields is good, with a great deal of care nevertheless. Use clean coal production methods for power.

Fourth, Congress should tax the windfall profits of the oil companies. Use that money for refunds to vehicle owners and taxpayers. There is no excuse on God's green earth for an oil company to make more profits in a fiscal quarter than the GNP of 80% of the world's nations in a year.

O.K. I have run out of time, but not ideas. I just wanted you to know we are all in this together, and either we solve it together, or the mess will get worse and worse. All of you in Congress need to quit quibbling and do something.

LON.

I appreciate the opportunity of letting you know of how the high costs of fuel/energy are impacting me.

I feel lucky—I have a good job and make above average pay. However, I am at a point in my life when I need to be able to save for retirement. My wife and I have raised our children and have recently been able to start saving for retirement. With the current prices of fuel, we are not able to save as needed to ensure that we will have the required funds to retire.

I have discussed the high price of fuel with several contract workers. They are not planning any type of vacation travel and, in most cases, are fearful of the future. Most are not even sure that they will be able to take care of their necessities if prices continue to skyrocket.

There is a business here in Idaho Falls that purchases plasma. I watched a news report detailing how busy they currently are. Many who are selling their plasma are doing it just

to make ends meet. The place is so busy that they are turning people away.

I worry about my own children. The future is bleak. Never in my life have we had such a dim outlook—not in America.

It is time for drilling (in an environmentally safe way). It is time for nuclear power to come out of the closet. We need to quit letting the environmentalists run this great country. I am an avid outdoors man. I love Idaho. I live here for the beauty and activities related to the outdoors. I have faith that we can fix the problems and move forward. I do not believe that we have to ruin the outdoors to make things right.

Thanks for your help

DAVID.

When BEA was granted contract of Idaho National Laboratory, [the lab director] held a meeting and asked what they could do to improve the INL. My reply was to better inform the public about nuclear energy and the benefits. During these trying times we are facing, and the extremes of the future, we must have extreme plans to counteract. The only solution is to minimize our use of natural resources. How do we do this? Every structure, school, home, office, storehouse, etc. shall be converted to electricity derived from nuclear power generating facilities. All of the natural resources shall be reserved for transportation and emergency needs. No longer can the government not be in direct competition with private affairs. When it is for the better of the people then it is the right thing to do. Nuclear energy is the only solution. We need to inform the public and gain support for a cleaner more efficient future. I am excited to be involved with any help I can provide with this matter.

ROY.

I am a hospice nurse and my patients rely on me to make home visits so they can have the care they need and deserve at the end of their lives. Without this service, many dying patients would have uncontrolled symptoms and unable to get to the doctor. Driving distances are great for me as I [care for] people in outlying areas, sometimes averaging 50-100 miles a day to see everyone. This cost in fuel is very hard to manage and at times nearly forces me to feel like returning to the hospital rather than providing this much needed service due to cost prohibitiveness of my work from fuel cost.

CHERYL, Boise.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOHN MCRAITH

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, it is with great admiration and respect that I take this time to recognize one of Kentucky's most distinguished citizens, Roman Catholic Bishop John McRaith, who retired as the third Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro.

Bishop McRaith's service over the last 26 years in the Diocese of Owensboro—which consists of 32 counties with 79 parishes, 3 high schools, 2 middle schools and 13 elementary schools—has made him a legacy in the community.

In addition to being a large diocese, Owensboro Diocese is one of the more diverse dioceses—home to a large number of Hispanic Catholic immigrants, along with a priesthood that recruits

men from Latin America, Asia, and Africa. The work done by Bishop McRaith and the priests at Owensboro Diocese has increased church attendance to levels that are considered among the highest in the Nation.

Bishop McRaith has left his community a better place because of the authenticity and kindness of his services and faith. While I am sad to see him retire, I am comforted knowing that those who learned from him will continue the good work that he displayed each day. On behalf of all of those who are part of the Owensboro Diocese, I thank Bishop John McRaith for the grace and strength he brought to western Kentucky.●

TRIBUTE TO HARRIET CORNELL

• Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I am proud to congratulate the Honorable Harriet Cornell on her historic selection as chair of the Rockland County Legislature for a fifth consecutive year. Harriet is the first chair of the legislature to hold the office for 5 consecutive years.

Harriet Cornell has been a member of the Rockland County Legislature since 1984. In her first year of office, Mrs. Cornell founded the Legislature's Commission on Women's Issues and invited community leaders to participate in the formulation of public policy. She is also the chair of the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Committee.

Her long record of accomplishments led the Journal News naming her as one of 25 people who made the greatest impact on Rockland County during the 20th century. As chairwoman, Mrs. Cornell's priorities have included protection of our environment, enhanced educational resources, improved health services for women and children, homeland security, Rockland's transportation infrastructure, and smart land use planning. Under her leadership, she has brought together elected officials from every level of government in Summit meetings to collaborate on these issues.

I commend Mrs. Cornell for her many years of devoted public service to the citizens of Rockland County.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the following resolutions:

H. Res. 1. Resolution that Lorraine C. Miller of the State of Texas, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives; That Wilson S. Livingood of the Commonwealth of Virginia, be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives; That Daniel P. Beard of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and That Father Daniel P. Coughlin of the State of Illinois, be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

H. Res. 2. Resolution notifying the Senate that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that NANCY PELOSI, a