

the statement that there is no end in sight. To put this in some sort of perspective on a personal level, 80 percent of the Nation's 35,000 laundromats have raised prices in the past year due to high natural gas prices. Folks who have to take their laundry to the corner Sit and Spin are facing, every day, prices that increased over the past several weeks and months and may well increase into the future.

That is why we need to respond and respond expeditiously. If you take it beyond the personal level to the industry level, the U.S. chemical companies are closing plants. They are laying off workers. They are looking to expand their own production, not domestically but expand it abroad, as a result of high prices.

Next year, the United States is expected to import, to bring into this country, approximately \$9 billion more in chemicals than it will export.

American industry is caught between regulations, on the one hand limiting the supply of natural gas, and regulations encouraging its use on the other. The result is rising gas prices with some industries cutting jobs. Again, I want to keep coming back to jobs because it is an Energy bill, an energy security bill, but it is also a jobs bill. We find some of these industries not just cutting jobs but sometimes being priced out altogether. And, of course, consumers are being hit with higher and higher electric bills.

We need to diversify our sources of energy. We must do so in a way that lessens our reliance on foreign sources. So when you summarize and step back, our energy policy should be one that is consistent with our foreign policy; that is, it is independent and it is secure. By increasing America's domestic production of clean coal, of oil and gas, nuclear, ethanol, solar, and other renewable energy sources, we increase not just our energy supply but we increase our national security.

Furthermore, by passing the comprehensive energy package we will be creating jobs; as I mentioned, as many as 500,000 jobs. Indeed, the Alaskan pipeline, for example, will create at least 400,000 jobs alone. The hundreds of millions of dollars that will be invested in research and development of new technologies will not only benefit the environment, which we know will be benefited, but it also will create new jobs in engineering, in math and chemistry, science, physics.

So, in summary, we cannot continue to dither or delay. We need to focus over the next 4 days on this bill, bring amendments to the chairman and ranking member, bring them to the floor for debate so we can vote.

We simply cannot let the behind-the-scenes political maneuvering in any way deny the American people energy that is cleaner, that is more abundant, and, indeed, more secure.

We need to take action this week for the sake of our economy, for our national security, and ultimately, and

what is probably the bottom line, for our fellow Americans who are paying these bills each and every month. It is time to pass an energy policy for the 21st century. I am confident we can do so this week.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting minority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let the RECORD be spread with the fact that every Democrat in the Senate supports an Energy bill. There is not a single Senator who opposes an Energy bill.

I know that the distinguished majority leader has talked about our having been on this for 16 days—and we have been. But many of them have been extremely short days—Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings; a few days here and a few days there.

I think what we have to be concerned about is not how many days we have spent on it but the question is, Is this bill as good as it should be? I think the answer is a glaring no at this stage.

We have been willing to work with the majority to find consensus on a host of issues. There is not a single Senator on the other side of the aisle who I have worked more closely with than the chairman of the Energy Committee, the distinguished senior Senator from New Mexico. Not only have I worked with him on the Energy bill but I have worked with him on the Appropriations Committee. He and I have done energy and water bills for years. I have great respect for him. I know how badly he wants an Energy bill. He tells me once or twice a day. I know how important it is for him to move this bill through the Senate. But we can't move a bill through the Senate that doesn't have debate on important issues such as climate change, CAFE, electricity, renewable portfolio standards, and the tax title.

We on this side of the aisle are concerned about jobs. When we look at the last administration and 8 years, President Clinton created 25 million jobs. This administration and this President—as long as we have kept records where we have lost jobs—lost 3 million jobs in the private sector. I think that says it all.

On the Alaskan pipeline issue, I offered that amendment on the floor. That amendment passed. I am glad it did pass. We support that. It is good for the economy. It is good for the security of this Nation to bring that gas from Alaska. We want to do that.

We talked about Medicare legislation and doing that more quickly. Of course, that was bipartisan legislation. It makes it a little easier.

We have a number of northwestern Senators who are desperate to work out something on the electricity title. They could not get a copy of—it is a major title to this legislation—until late Friday night. Some got it but

most didn't get it until yesterday; then to be asked, as we were yesterday, to go right to the electricity title.

There are three amendments pending. I think without any question we can have a vote on CAFE by 10:45 or 11 o'clock, according to how much time the opposition takes on it. I think we can do that quickly. We have discussed it with Senators LEVIN and STABENOW. Of course, there are others on the majority side who joined with these Senators on another CAFE amendment. That should take a very short period of time—I would say an hour or something like that, I would estimate.

Then we have to figure out some way as to what will be done with the Campbell amendment. Then there is nothing to stop us from going to the electricity title. There will be some debate on that. It is an extremely important issue for us.

As I said, I have the highest respect and regard for my friend from New Mexico, the senior Senator.

I don't see how we can do this bill this week. We are going to try. It is not as if this is some guerrilla attack. We have been saying all along that we need more time than this to complete the bill.

But on this side of the aisle, we recognize the importance of this legislation. We want to do what we can but there are certain issues that require debate and deliberation. We are going to make sure it takes place. If we have to stay in through next week, we have to stay in through next week. But there are issues that are so important to this country that we have to make sure that whatever bill comes out is the best bill we can get.

RESERVATION OF LEADERSHIP TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 14, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 14) to enhance the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Campbell amendment No. 886, to replace "tribal consortia" with "tribal energy resource development organizations."

Durbin amendment No. 1384, to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve the system for enhancing automobile fuel efficiency.

Durbin modified amendment No. 1385, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to provide additional tax incentives for enhancing motor vehicle fuel efficiency.

Bond modified amendment No. 1386, to impose additional requirements for improving automobile fuel economy and reducing vehicle emissions.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.