

Yesterday, I came to the floor to speak on that issue. The senior Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID, came later to say I was unnecessarily, righteously indignant about the Energy bill. You are darn right I am righteous and sometimes indignant when the American consumer is paying \$2 per gallon at the pump—and some more than that—and they should not have to be. But they are, and the reason is because the Senate has not acted. No, passing the Energy bill tomorrow is not going to bring the price of gas down at the pump. But if you are in a hole and it is getting deeper and you are still digging, you ought to stop digging. But we have not stopped digging. We have not put policy in place that would begin to fill in the hole that will get us into production and that won't be a major risk to this economy in pulling this growth down because the American consumer is going to have to re-juxtapose some of their budgets. If they are paying \$400 or \$500 a year more for gas at the pump, let alone the cost of electricity and home heating fuel, they are going to be spending less in the market, and that is just the consumer.

I get righteously indignant when the farmer in Idaho—or in Nevada for that matter—goes to the bank and gives his budget or her budget for the year, and they have not factored in a 30- or 40-percent cost of energy because diesel fuel went through the roof. The bill—if we pass it tomorrow—won't make a difference. The bill will encourage production of domestic oil. It will encourage the development of more natural gas. It will encourage and incentivize the building of necessary infrastructure, such as the Alaskan natural gas pipeline. It will encourage the use of renewable fuels such as ethanol. It will encourage more renewable energy. It will strengthen the future of the nuclear energy option. It will promote clean coal technology. It will promote hydrogen as a new technology for surface transportation. It will promote energy efficiency. It will increase the R&D on a variety of technologies. It will establish mandatory reliable rules for our electricity grid. It will promote investment and expansion of electricity.

No, it is going to take a while for this country to get back into production. But we have not placed the tools in the tool box to allow us to get back into production. So we have become increasingly reliant on foreign sources for our energy. On March 22 of this year, you were paying \$1.74 at the pump. On April 4, you were paying \$1.78. In May, you paid \$1.84, and now you are paying \$1.94—in some instances nearly \$2, and in other States more than \$2.

Some are suggesting that we ought to quit filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, that we ought to cut that off. That would not make a difference in the price of oil at this moment because we have lost the capacity to produce. We have to reinvest if we are going to gain that capacity.

Yes, the Saudis are being a bit duplicitous. They said here is our baseline and what we want, and we only need to make \$28 on our barrel to fund our country's needs. They are making well over \$30 today. Finally, just yesterday, the Saudi oil minister said the OPEC producers ought to increase the official output ceiling. Well, that statement alone knocked the price of crude oil off \$1 and, slowly but surely, that will be felt back at the pumps again. What that echoes is that we are not seeing the price of energy improve in our country or determining the future of energy. The Saudi oil minister, by his statement alone, is making that decision and fixing the price, or impacting the price at the pump.

Why do we need a national energy policy? Here is another reason. From 1981 to 2003, we lost a huge chunk of our oil refining capacity. In 1981, we had 324 refineries. Today we have 149 refineries, and they are operating at between 92 percent to 94 percent capacity. The Clean Air Act, the cost of retrofitting, the regulations, and the ability to finance simply took us out of the market and brought down those refineries.

My time is up. The reality is this Senate ought to vote on a national energy bill, and it ought to vote now so we quit digging the hole deeper. Put the tools in the tool box and get this country back into production. And you are darn right I am righteous about it because I don't think our consumers ought to have to pay the bill.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS STRENGTH (JOBS) ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1637, which the clerk will report.

The journal clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1657) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to comply with the World Trade Organization findings on the FSC/ETI benefit in a manner that preserves jobs and production activities in the United States, to reform and simplify the international taxation rules of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Cantwell/Voinovich Amendment No. 3114, to extend the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12 p.m. shall be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I assume each side would approximately have 25 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, 26.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we will allocate that time with 10 minutes to the

manager of the bill. There will be 5 minutes for Senator CANTWELL, 5 minutes for Senator VOINOVICH, and 5 minutes to Senator SARBANES.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada, Mr. ENSIGN, is recognized.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise to briefly talk about the underlying bill and the vote we are going to have on cloture, but mostly to discuss the Cantwell amendment related to the temporary extension of unemployment benefits.

Mr. President, we had a vote on a similar amendment earlier this year, but the amendment before us today was redrafted to reflect changes in high unemployment states. First I want to talk about whether we should extend unemployment benefits—a temporary extension of the Federal program—based on the current unemployment situation. Then I want to talk about some of the details of Senator CANTWELL's amendment and the changes that are in her amendment.

The employment picture in this country is looking up by all measures. In the past, employment was looking up according to the household survey, which is the survey that measures employment, including those who are self-employed, people who contract with the Government, and those on payrolls.

But, there are two surveys of employment. The payroll survey does not include people who are self-employed. It does not include small contractors who contract with the Government, and there are a lot of those people today. So the household survey is a more accurate survey of overall employment in this country.

In the past, the household survey and the payroll survey have paralleled each other. There really has not been a difference, so people mainly paid attention to one survey, the payroll survey.

In the past couple of years, we had a recession that was followed by a recovery. It has been called a jobless recovery. But, recessions always have a peak of jobless claims during periods of higher unemployment after recessions.

This is a chart of the last several recessions, and we can see the gray areas are the recessions. These dark lines are a measure of the unemployment rate. We can see after the recessions, either right at the end of the recessions or just after the recessions, we can see the peak in unemployment. This indicates there is always a lag in people being hired after recessions have ended. As the economy starts growing, people are still a bit unsettled in their businesses—Should we rehire people?—and so that peak of unemployment lags after recessions.

We have passed that peak. We had the recession. The recession occurred at the end of the year 2000 and going into the year 2001. We had this recession followed by a slow recovery. And then we had September 11 hit, which just decimated the economy in many areas, especially the tourist economy,