

While equality, as a concept, is deeply rooted in our Nation's founding, equality in practice was exceedingly rare in our Nation's armed services before President Truman's action. His order reversed nearly 175 years of discrimination, segregation, and exclusion from the armed services based on race, dating back to the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

The order benefited the armed services as well as the countless men and women—of all races—who have subsequently served in integrated units. Further, the diversity of our service-members has contributed to its being the most capable, strongest military force that the world has ever known.

In an amici brief for the U.S. Supreme Court, former officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps as well as civilian leaders and former Secretaries of Defense agreed that integration of the military was the result of "a principled recognition that segregation is unjust and incompatible with American values," and further that the military's "efficient, effective deployment required integration."

While we all appreciate President Truman's action today, appreciation was not always widespread. The integration order was met with criticism from many who were accustomed to segregation. And, as 1948 was an election year—Truman's first, after he succeeded President Roosevelt many felt that Truman was all but giving away the election by fracturing his party. The doubters and critics make Truman's steadfastness all the more noteworthy.

In the decades that followed 1948, the civil rights movement pushed the entire Nation to make enormous strides towards ending segregation and integrating everything from schools to neighborhoods.

From the Emancipation Proclamation, to the integration of the armed services, to *Brown v. Board of Education*, to the Civil Rights Acts, progress towards racial equality in America has marched forward unceasingly. The integration of the armed services was one of the enormous and critical steps in that march.

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 over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through energy_prices@crapo.senate.gov 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 that today's letters be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Thank you for your excellent newsletter and for listening to your constituency. My story is as follows: We live in Horseshoe Bend and I commute to Boise every day (M-F) for work. We have a large family, and my wife constantly has a need to take our van in to Boise for various family needs—medical, sports, clothing, etc. My income has not kept up with the rising gas prices, and it has made things very difficult. I cannot get my work to let me telecommute; I have chosen to drive a practical car, as economical as possible (Toyota Corolla). My wife has tried to cut back her trips to town to one or two days a week. This has often resulted in no groceries in the house until she can make a run, or I can run after work and miss family time at night. My oldest son, who just turned 18, has started working in Boise the past few months and, since he cannot afford the gas back and forth, has been staying with friends as much as possible, which has been stressful to both my wife and I, but having a job is important to him. Even with all of our cutting back, our family has to cough up about \$400/month just for fuel and the costs keep going up. We want Congress to quickly move to begin developing our own fuel sources within the U.S., as well as find ways to make alternative sources (like solar, etc.) much more affordable for households to implement into our lifestyles.

Thanks for listening!

JONATHAN, *Horseshoe Bend*.

We (my wife and I) are probably some of the fortunate few that had the ability, even though we will be paying for it for years) to convert from "oil" heat to natural gas with a heat pump. This cost came at a very large price. We had been helping our son, an honors student, with his college at Eastern Washington, and now cannot do that due to having the above mentioned bill to pay in addition to trying to stay above selling out our home due to ever increasing costs that a couple on retirement (I am a retired agent law enforcement, 25 year career) just cannot afford.

[We ask that Congress] get a grip on this problem. I, for one, do not believe that this was just an unfortunate set of circumstances, [as it seems that businesses with oil interests are benefitting tremendously from the profits these high prices have created.]

DENNIS and SANDY.

Thank you for your interest in the thoughts from Idaho citizens about the high fuel costs. I think that if a person is still breathing, they are being affected by these price increases. In our own family, we have made every effort to cut down on our driving and making sure we combine our activities to conserve. Maybe these are things we should have been doing all along and I hope we continue to do. This year we have decided to not take a family vacation because of the high costs associated with traveling with a large family and having to drive a large vehicle to accommodate all eight of us. We also love to waterski and were planning on buying a new boat; however, that, too, has been put on hold because it would be too expensive to use it enough to warrant the purchase price.

I see the biggest concern in our family with our two oldest children who are raised and on their own. One has graduated with a Master's degree in business and has chosen a teaching profession, but she can barely make ends meet as it is. Now, with the cost of fuel, she may lose her small, modest home or be forced to take on a roommate in order to make up the difference in the gas prices. Our other adult child is working full time and going to school part time because he needs the extra income to pay for fuel. This is affecting my husband and me; however, I see it affecting the next generation even more. The high cost of housing combined with the high fuel costs and grocery costs is making it impossible for many of them to just get by, let alone put any money away in savings.

I wish I had all the answers, but I do not. I am trusting in good people like you that I have voted for to help us as a nation get back on our feet. Thank you for all you do. Please keep listening to the citizens of Idaho. I know if we work together then we can make positive changes for all of our futures.

Sincerely,

JACKIE, *Rigby*.

I do not have a story to share. I just want to let you know that I think increased drilling and refining should be down the priority list. That is living in the past and pretending the future will be different. It will not. In order to protect the air that supports us, we should ride the horses of alternative energy, efficiency, conservation and nuclear energy.

Thank you,

ROGER, *Hailey*.

Higher fuel costs equate to higher food and material costs which translate to a smaller disposable income for everyone. It is like we all took a big cut in pay! I do not want our country to end up as a gilded "third-world" nation with meaningless currency. There is a person out there who made an important clip on YouTube that every American should see: YouTube—Joe, American Challenges the Presidential Candidates—as this individual makes some valid points and offers some course of solution to deal with our oil dependency on countries who do not really like us except for our money. Please watch it. Thanks.

HOWARD.

I personally am appalled at the prices and how steadily they have risen. I understand that there are some things such as inflation and supply and demand; yet, what the oil industry is doing falls under neither category. It, instead, is falling under the category of monopoly, which I feel the government has yet to do anything about. A few things I would like to see in honest:

(1) Either for the government to stop subsidizing crude oil and gasoline, and/or for a ceiling to be put upon profits brought in. They claim, noting again, that it is supply and demand, as well as problems in the Middle East. Only approximately 20%, in a recent study, of our oil usage comes from there, anyway. So why are the prices so high?

(2) Stop the push for attempts at subsidizing and pushing for nuclear energies as there is an overwhelming stance against them and you will never be able to pass anything soon enough to fix the problem at hand. Also, in this category, I feel that it is a pointless endeavor as there is no place to place the waste [other than on site, and the citizens of Idaho, and other states, will not stand for mere on-site storage]. Yucca Mountain has no chance of opening in any point in the near future [even if possible, it is already filled over capacity from open plants at the

moment]; therefore it would have to be on-site.

[Both of the aforementioned are a waste of taxpayer dollars to subsidize and make pushes for. Instead of spending billions of dollars on a failing industry and something that is not going to last much longer, and one where so much has to be spent between construction, security, and pro-nuclear advertisements, I propose the following.]

(3) Invest in ever-growing renewable energy sources. There are many other players in this field that we can look to for examples, as they have found and harnessed extraordinary means that can provide for their base load energy needs. The amount of money that the government has spent on renewable energy pales drastically in contrast to the amount that is spent needlessly in a failing industry. If that same amount of money were to be applied to another for even but a year, you could expect even greater leaps and bounds in production and energy output. As conservative as Idaho is I propose that WE as a state pursue this choice. Yes I understand that in doing so Congress fears that it will lose backing from INL and other proposed plants within the state, not to mention the taxes that are brought in by such industry. Yet at the same time with as much as we have to give them in tax breaks and subsidies just as incentives places it on par with those of renewable energies, as those would be eager to establish and maintain plants without such things [therefore receiving full taxes from those companies].

I appreciate your efforts to ask the opinions of the citizens of this great state, and I hope and pray that you, as well as the rest of Congress, heed them. Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER, *Boise.*

[I am very frustrated as it seems that Congress does not solve the problems that confront our country. We need new leadership.]
ROY.

The high gasoline prices have prodded me to change my driving habits and, by doing so, have saved on fuel costs. I have done one simple thing. I just slowed down 5 miles per hour. I drive a ¾-ton pickup truck, and that alone has increased my fuel mileage 8%–12%. I emailed you to suggest that you introduce a bill in the Senate to lower the speed limit on all interstate highways, just like what was done in the 70s. That alone would decrease gasoline usage substantially.

Thank you for your ear.

BOB.

I have had to dedicate 15% more of my budget to fuel costs [for my commute to McCall]. I try to carpool in the months where my schedule allows it. I work in fire dispatch on the Payette National Forest, and most days from April to October, I do not know when I am going home.

My deep belief is that digging for more oil is putting a “band-aid on a crack in the dam.” Digging for more oil, especially in the ANWR area, is horrific and not worth the long-term damage that will be done for such a short-term solution. I think the fuel cell technology is a very promising route to put into research and development. There are some stations in California that are wind and solar powered. As I understand it, the more people using it, the cheaper it gets. What would REALLY be ideal is to get a converter for gasoline cars to switch to the fuel cell technology.

Thanks for your time and caring about what I think!

CORAL, *New Meadows.*

I received your e-mail about the costs of energy going up and up. I see that conversa-

tion is now a priority. I remember when this administration laughed at the idea. Maybe you could tell us what percentage of the oil from Alaska goes overseas. Also, how much refined gas and diesel are shipped overseas where the cost and profit are much greater. In all your years in the Senate, what types of alternate energy other than ethanol have you supported? Everything I read leads me to believe than making corn-based ethanol uses about as much energy as is produced. There are other crops (such as sugar cane) and weeds that are much more energy-efficient to produce. [Why has Congress only focused on mandates for] corn-based ethanol?

Thank you for any response.

STEVE.

We own a small excavation business. We give our 22 employees paid vacation, medical insurance, and six paid holidays just to keep those good, trained employees, that we have been employing, most we have had for 12-27 years. Our industry in Boise right now is as close to the bottom of the barrel as we have seen in 30 years in business. We have had years where we struggled to keep those good employees and keep them working to support their families. But when fuel and heating costs are going out of control, skyrocketing as they are, we are second guessing whether we can stay doing what we love, and what we are good at. That would, in turn, take away the livelihoods of each and every employee we have and ourselves.

I am a woman-owned business, and in Idaho, they've even removed the requirement for large General Contractors to use a certain percentage of DBE or WBE's in their Federally-funded contracts. As of this year, there are no requirements to help the WBE or DBE and now most of the General Contractors are self-performing that work. So we small companies are being hit very hard from all directions. In order to recoup these costs we have had to raise our prices, which, in turn, hurts everyone else and does not help us in the bidding world, either. We have bid 60 projects in the past two months and got two very small jobs, and we have bid many with only a small percentage over our costs. Those receiving the bids are several hundreds and thousands under our costs. This cannot go on much longer before many of us are priced right out of the market and out of business. When you own dump trucks, excavators, backhoes, etc. that use diesel fuel, which happens to be the most expensive, it is staggering. Our fuel costs have tripled over two years.

On a personal level, we rethink how and where we go. Both my husband and I have no family here and must drive or fly to visit them. Those trips are cut to one a year and maybe not at all. I personally have always planned where I go to do grocery shopping and plan my trip so I do not backtrack, and use the best routes, utilizing the fuel to the best of my ability. Even though that helps, with prices as they are, it does not put a dent in it.

We definitely need help—getting these prices back to a livable level. Those individuals who are retired and on fixed incomes, which I am nearing in the next couple years, are even more critically hit. My parents are in their 80s and struggle all year, as they were born in the years where their Social Security payments are minimal and Congress decided would be too extensive to repair. My mother, who has worked since she graduated from college all those years ago and up until she was 75, receives \$300/month in Social Security. [That amount is not enough to live on.] With medicines they absolutely need to survive at their age, they are left with little or no money for fuel in their small budget. It is not only fuel for vehicles, but it is the fuel

for our homes and businesses as well. It is also the products we purchase. Pipe is a petroleum product and it is sky high right now. Like I said, it is hitting us from all levels and angles.

This is very brief, but I felt I must speak up. If we do not use our voices and sit back and do nothing, no one will hear or understand our plight.

Thanks for asking and I hope Congress will listen!

BETTY, *Boise.*

Forget the sob stories. Do something! If nothing takes place, [Congress should be prepared to hear from the grassroots throughout the country, those who need solutions, not more promises.]

LARRY and RITA.

I would like to see exploration into better public transport, and an emphasis on conservation before I'd like to see any of the other alternatives that you have proposed to deal with rising energy prices. I am fortunate to be one of those Idahoans (at least for now) who aren't feeling the pinch of rising energy prices. However, in a democracy, I believe that Americans deserve to have choices besides cars for their transportation needs. And, especially in a time of the increasing peril of climate change, I believe that having access to public transport and promoting conservation are critical in this conjuncture in time. I know that these ideas may not be popular, but if we are going to continue to survive as a species, we need to ask ourselves how much of a sacrifice we are willing to make. I have grown up in Idaho, and have left Idaho, but let me tell you (as I am sure you know), it is a special place, and we need to do all that we can to protect the beauty of this wonderful state.

Sincerely,

CARISSA, *McCall.*

I have a employee driving over 75 miles roundtrip from outside Caldwell, where housing is affordable, to Boise. She cares for a spouse in poor health. She asked about 4 ten-hour days. As a key employee in a small office, she needs to be here each day. Small business does not carry “fungible positions” where others can cover.

A second point in your letter did not reach the bottom line—Will you support drilling in ANWR and off the coast of Florida? I do, even if we merely “prove up the reserves”.

TOM.

We need to develop as many resources in this country and build new refineries. Thanks,

MIKE.

Not only has the price of gas affected what I pay at the pump, but I also work in automotive repair when people have to pay the higher prices. They drive less, which means they do not come into my shop, and when they do, they cannot pay to fix what they need.

LEON.

Please do not take the careless and short-sighted “solution” that you propose to this problem. Please do not drill for more oil and further damage this planet to the point of no return. We need smaller cars, public transportation, and alternative energy development. And [many Americans would benefit by more exercise like walking.]

BARBARA JANE, *Boise.*

My wife and I are on fixed income. We are retired at ages 69 and 66. The fuel costs have affected the cost to fly to the point that we

will not fly. We, therefore, conserve spending. That is good for us, but not the economy. We strongly support the development of alternatives to oil. We strongly oppose the development of our own oil resources. We wish to consume as much foreign oil as feasible first. We have moved to improving our green choices. We strongly, strongly, strongly oppose taxing the gasoline companies. Rather, we would offer them large subsidies, tax breaks, etc. to become energy companies, developing alternatives to oil. We saw the Brazil story and their path to energy independence. We can do it also. We also saw that the U.S. car companies are ready for bio/electric fuel. Let us go. Assist industry and the people who work, give industry incentives.

Thank you,

RAY and RHEDA.

LONG-TERM CARE

Mr. WYDEN. Since my days of working with the Gray Panthers in Oregon, I have been aware of the special obligation that we have to both our younger and older citizens who are in need of long-term care services. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 was a watershed in efforts to make life safer and more dignified for individuals living in long-term care institutions.

Since 1987, the long-term care industry has continued to evolve in ways that require another look at the state of long-term care. In a constantly changing for-profit and nonprofit industry, Federal and State governments need better information about the organizations and staff who provide care to residents of long-term care. Individuals, families, and service providers also need good information about long-term care to make informed decisions about their options.

Chairman KOHL, I laud you and your colleagues who have thoughtfully identified current or emerging problems in long-term care. The Nursing Home Transparency and Improvement Act of 2008, S. 2641, makes important strides in helping us to get more substantive information about nursing home ownership and staffing. It strengthens the Nursing Home Compare Web site and provides additional information for the general public. I am therefore pleased to become a cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. KOHL. Thank you, Senator WYDEN. Given your long commitment to aging and health issues, your support is especially important and meaningful.

Mr. WYDEN. While I am pleased to support the legislation, I do have some concerns about the bill as it is written and hope that we can work together to make some changes to the bill. It has been helpful for me to talk about the bill with the many fine people who operate nursing homes in Oregon and others. And these folks have identified what I think are legitimate concerns with the bill.

Mr. KOHL. I would appreciate hearing of those concerns, Senator.

Mr. WYDEN. There are two issues of particular concern where I hope we

may be able to get agreement on modifications. First, the bill calls for increased civil monetary penalties and requires that they be placed in escrow in advance of adjudication of an alleged violation. This provision could be especially burdensome to smaller nursing homes that already operate close to the margin. I think it would be useful to review the size of the proposed fines but especially the escrow provision. Tying up thousands of dollars in escrow would be particularly difficult for small nursing homes and especially unfair for homes whose alleged violations were later found to be without merit. I also believe it raises due process concerns in terms of imposing penalties before a matter has been finally settled.

Mr. KOHL. We will certainly review those provisions in light of your concerns.

Mr. WYDEN. The other issue of concern in the legislation concerns the requirement that every nursing home that is part of a group of nursing homes with common ownership and annual revenues of \$50 million or more be subject to annual audits. Many of the nursing homes in Oregon are family-run businesses. A few of our Oregon owners operate groups of nursing homes that would meet the criterion for annual audits of each of their nursing homes. I am concerned that the cost of annual audits would be financially burdensome for them and for small nursing home chain owners in other parts of the country.

Mr. KOHL. I appreciate the care with which you have reviewed the Nursing Home Transparency Act. I will take under serious consideration the issues that you have raised. Again, your cosponsorship of this legislation is important in view of the many efforts you have made and continue to make to improve the lives of America's older citizens.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RETIREMENT OF JAN REINICKE

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, at the end of August, Jan Reinicke will retire after 10 years of distinguished service as executive director of the Iowa State Education Association. Jan began her career in the classroom, serving as a speech and English teacher in the Iowa towns of Cincinnati, Coon Rapids, and Fort Dodge, earning the love of her students. Nearly four decades later, she concludes her career as one of the most respected educator-leaders in my State of Iowa.

Jan previously served as a lobbyist on the ISEA staff from 1980 to 1994, and as associate executive director from 1995 to 1998. At every stage, the key to her success has been that her roots have remained firmly planted in the classroom, and her passion has been to enhance the professionalism and stature of the teaching profession.

I have always loved what Lee Iacocca said about teachers. "In a completely rational society," he said, "the best of us would be teachers, and the rest would have to settle for something less." Fortunately, in Iowa, so many of our best—individuals of intelligence and talent like Jan Reinicke—do go into teaching. But, unfortunately, these idealistic and dedicated professionals do not always receive the support and compensation that they deserve.

That is why Jan has dedicated herself to lifting up the teaching profession in my state. Thanks to her leadership and advocacy, the Iowa Legislature passed two major salary improvements for Iowa teachers.

In addition, Jan is a passionate believer that teachers and other educators should take charge of their own profession. To that end, she has devoted herself to strengthening the Iowa State Education Association both as a union and as a professional association, more effectively advocating for teachers and other educators. Her vision led to the creation of teacher quality committees, giving teachers a larger voice in professional development and in determining the course of their schools.

A wise person once said, "Those who dare to teach must never cease to learn." Jan agrees wholeheartedly. This is why she led the charge to establish ISEA's Professional Development Academy, which provides relicensing courses for teachers, as well as the opportunity to earn graduate credit. Under Jan's leadership, the association also created the Faculty Quality Plan to ensure that every student has access to quality teachers and a rigorous curriculum.

As a teacher, as an education lobbyist, and as the top executive at ISEA, Jan Reinicke's bottom line has always been the same: ensuring a quality teacher in every classroom, and a quality public education for every child.

There is an old saying that we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. Jan Reinicke has always given generously to those around her as a teacher, mentor, and leader. She leaves a living legacy in terms of an enhanced teaching profession in Iowa and a strong, respected Iowa State Education Association.

I know that Jan Reinicke has many wonderful plans for retirement, and that she intends to give of herself generously as a volunteer. I join her colleagues and friends across Iowa in thanking her for a job superbly done, and in wishing her a long and happy retirement.●

HONORING GIFFORD'S ICE CREAM

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, with summer in full swing, I wish to celebrate a small business from my home State of Maine that has been satisfying our sweet tooth with delicious ice cream for several decades. Gifford's Ice