

the minority leader (or in the event of the absence of either of such leaders, from his designee). The prohibition contained in the preceding sentence shall not apply to the Committee on Appropriations or the Committee on the Budget. The majority leader or his designee shall announce to the Senate whenever consent has been given under this subparagraph and shall state the time and place of such meeting. The right to make such announcement of consent shall have the same priority as the filing of a cloture motion.

(b) Each meeting of a committee, or any subcommittee thereof, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by a committee or a subcommittee thereof on the same subject for a period of no more than fourteen calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in clauses (1) through (6) would require the meeting to be closed, followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee or subcommittee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in interests of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets of financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(A) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(B) the information has been obtained the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

(c) Whenever any hearing conducted by any such committee or subcommittee is open to the public, that hearing may be broadcast by radio or television, or both, under such rules the committee or subcommittee may adopt.

(d) Whenever disorder arises during a committee meeting that is open to the public, or any demonstration of approval or disapproval is indulged in by any person in attendance at any such meeting, it shall be the duty of the Chair to enforce order on his own initiative and without any point of order being made by a Senator. When the Chair finds it necessary to maintain order, he shall have the power to clear the room, and the committee may act in closed session for so long as there is doubt of the assurance of order.

(e) Each committee shall prepare and keep a complete transcript or electronic recording

adequate to fully record the proceeding of each meeting or conference whether or not such meeting or any part thereof is closed under this paragraph, unless a majority of its members vote to forgo such a record.

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### TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

JOHN SUNUNU

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I have really enjoyed working with John Sununu.

John Sununu grew up in Salem, NH, and is one of eight children. He was first introduced to public service at a young age, when his mother served as chairman of the local school board.

John attended public schools, graduated from Salem High School, and received bachelor's and master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

John also earned a master's degree in business administration from the Harvard Graduate School of Business.

John Sununu first ran for public office in 1996, winning election in New Hampshire's 1st District and serving 3 terms in the U.S. House.

In 2002, John defeated both an incumbent Senator and the sitting Governor to become the youngest Member of the U.S. Senate.

As a Senator, John distinguished himself as an innovative legislator, bringing his extensive background in science, engineering, and small business to his work in Washington.

Senator Sununu has been a staunch advocate for low taxes, smarter regulation, and civil liberties.

Since he is still a young man at the age of 44, I suspect that we will be hearing a lot more from John Sununu in the years to come.

I wish him well in his future endeavors.

GORDON SMITH

Mr. President, Gordon Smith has served the people of Oregon extremely well.

Before coming to the U.S. Senate, he served as director of the family owned Smith frozen foods company in Weston, OR, where he created jobs and spurred economic growth.

Gordon Smith entered politics with his election to the Oregon State Senate in 1992, and he became president of that body in 1995.

Since winning election to the U.S. Senate in 1996, Senator Smith has worked with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle on critical issues.

Senator Smith chaired the Special Committee on Aging, and he also served on the following Senate committees: Commerce, Science and Transportation, Energy and Natural Resources, Finance, and Indian Affairs.

Senator Smith has also courageously led the effort to educate Americans on ways to prevent the tragedy of suicide of young men and women.

In 2004, I was so proud when President Bush signed the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, authorizing \$82

million for suicide prevention and awareness programs at colleges.

Because of his business experience, he was a Senate leader on issues and regulations that impede economic growth.

Senator Smith also distinguished himself by championing rural Oregonians, including the many farmers and ranchers throughout the mountains and lake areas of his beautiful State.

I thank Gordon Smith for his dedication and service, and I wish him well.

TED STEVENS

Mr. President, Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska has served in the U.S. Senate for 40 years, and is the longest-serving Republican Senator in history.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed working with Senator Stevens, and it has been a true privilege to collaborate with him on some of the most important issues facing our great Nation—including energy, health care, and national defense.

Senator Stevens' service to the United States didn't begin when he stepped inside this chamber. Rather, his service began decades earlier—during some of the most harrowing days of World War Two.

Senator Stevens was part of the Greatest Generation who fought and won that global struggle for freedom—flying a C-47 in the China Burma India Theater.

Incredibly, over 1,000 of Senator Stevens' fellow airmen died "flying the hump" and elsewhere in the Chinese Burma India Theater—a sobering reminder of the high price of freedom.

For his heroic efforts, Senator Stevens later received two Distinguished Flying Crosses and two Air Medals, as well as the Yuan Hai medal awarded by the Republic of China.

After the war, Senator Stevens completed his education at UCLA and Harvard Law School, and then moved to Alaska, which was then a U.S. territory.

In the city of Fairbanks, Senator Stevens practiced law for several years, until he came to Washington, DC, to serve in the Eisenhower administration, and also to lobby for Alaska's admittance into the Union—a mission that succeeded in 1959.

When Senator Stevens returned to Alaska, he ran for—and won a seat in the Alaska House of Representatives, and later became House majority leader.

Then, in December 1968, Governor Walter J. Hickel appointed him to fill a vacancy in the U.S. Senate.

In 1970, the voters of Alaska ratified that choice by electing Senator Stevens to finish that term in a special election, and then re-electing him six more times.

Senator Stevens' achievements are legendary in this chamber—including chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, the Appropriations Committee, the Commerce Committee and President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate—from January 2003 to January 2007.

For his many decades of service, Senator Stevens has received and accepted numerous honors—including having the Anchorage International Airport named after him.

Back in 1993, when I first arrived in the U.S. Senate, I was one of only seven female Senators, and if the Senate was a men's club, then the Appropriations Committee was its inner sanctum.

There was not a single woman on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, but that is where I wanted to serve.

I explained to Senator Stevens—who was then the ranking member of the committee—that Texas has more Army soldiers than any other State, more Air Force airmen and women stationed in Texas than any other State, and our defense industry builds everything from fighter aircraft to Army trucks to artillery systems to sophisticated electronics equipment for the Pentagon.

Therefore, I hoped to be able to serve on that committee.

After some careful thought, Senator Stevens agreed, and welcomed me to the Committee.

Senator Stevens has been known to show dramatic performances on the Senate floor, keeping wandering eyes focused on the urgent issues that need to be addressed.

One day, during a mark-up in the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Stevens, who chaired the committee at the time, grew very animated and laid down the law.

When a frustrated senior Senator told Senator Stevens that “there was no reason to lose your temper,” Senator Stevens glared back and responded, “I never lose my temper. I always know exactly where I left it.”

Senator Stevens acknowledges his quick temper; but those who know him see the other side—a compassionate heart.

I will never forget when a group of protestors gathered outside of the Appropriations Committee conference to demand increased funding for breast cancer research.

One particularly agitated advocate got in Senator Stevens' face and said, “If men were dying of breast cancer, you wouldn't think twice about increasing the funding.”

Needless to say, those words made quite an impact on Senator Stevens, but probably not what this advocate anticipated.

When Senator Stevens walked back into the conference, he repeated the charge and then looked around at his mostly male colleagues.

He knew that at least 6 of them suffered from prostate cancer.

He also noticed that the bill they were considering didn't fund prostate cancer research.

But thanks to the excellent suggestion of the woman in the hallway, he became an advocate for breast cancer research and prostate cancer research. Senator Stevens became a leader on these issues.

He has been a champion of a strong national defense and of the men and women who serve in the military.

I wish him and his family the best.

#### CRISIS IN GAZA

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, when President Obama is sworn into office next week, he will inherit an extremely complex and challenging crisis in the Middle East. Since Israel commenced military operations in Gaza to defend its citizens against rocket attacks more than 1,000 have died in Gaza, many of them civilians, while 13 Israelis have died. In spite of this carnage, Hamas refuses to surrender and continues to fire rockets into Israel. No clear resolution is in sight.

As a practicing physician, I find this conflict heartbreaking. Israelis live in constant fear that a rocket attack will snuff out an innocent life. Families in Israel go to bed at night wondering if a rocket will slam into their home. At the same time, Palestinians have nowhere to run from a terrorist organization that uses its own civilians as human shields.

While we all mourn the loss of innocent life, the world must recognize that Hamas deliberately created a situation in which Israel was forced to respond as any sovereign nation would while under attack. Israel, and every nation, has the right to self-defense.

What makes Hamas's actions particularly abhorrent and barbaric is the fact that they are making decisions, I believe, based on a perverse political calculation. While publically condemning Israel, Hamas's leaders and sympathizers in Iran and elsewhere privately welcome the suffering of the Palestinian people as a political opportunity. Hamas knows better than anyone that virtually every area of the densely populated Gaza strip is a civilian area. In Gaza, refugees have no place to seek refuge. The terrible unintended consequences and loss of civilian life we've seen in Gaza is part of Hamas's design and goal.

The United States and the next administration can play an important role in preventing Hamas from achieving its goals. What many on both sides long for is not just the cessation of violence but a real, lasting and durable peace. Some believe this is impossible, but it is in the interest of all sides to work toward this goal.

I trust President-elect Obama will avoid the false choice between unapologetically defending Israel's security and creating hope and opportunity for people on both sides of the conflict who want the same degree of freedom, peace and opportunity for themselves and their children. As Israel's most important ally, the United States should never waver in our commitment to Israel's security. The strength of that assurance is itself one of our most important contributions in the region because it creates the security and stability that are a

prerequisite for meaningful negotiations.

At the same time, we enhance security in the region by assuring Palestinians in Gaza with our words and actions that they are not forgotten and that we hear their calls for peace and an end to violence. I've delivered 4,000 babies and I grieve with the pregnant women in Gaza who are being turned away at hospitals because their own leaders have held their lives and the lives of their children in contempt. The next administration can legitimize and support those mothers' pleas for peace while condemning and marginalizing Hamas's tactics of terror.

I believe President-elect Obama has the judgment and temperament to not only maintain our vital support of Israel, but to also create hope in the region and help Palestinians embrace alternatives to Hamas's brand of violence and despair. He will have my prayers and support and I hope he can have the prayers and support of the American people as he confronts this difficult challenge.

#### 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:

Well, gas prices have a direct impact on my driving habits. I have been trying to use the public bus at least twice a week to get to work. It takes me about 35 minutes more each way, but if I plan my after work errands needing a car for one day, then I can bank that extra time for the bus ride. I'm lucky to live in Boise where there is some type of public transportation. My husband works the night shift in Meridian, so he is forced to use the car. The cost of food is a shocker, but again, fuel costs have contributed to that also. There are more of the basic and less of the goodies at the checkout. I do not think our family will be flying anytime soon, and if we vacation somewhere besides home, it will still be within a short day's drive. All in all, I worry more about those families who were barely surviving before, what will become of them now?