

Ma Bell in the 70's. That will teach them and smash their monopolies.

ED.

SENATOR CRAPO: I have a serious concern about energy prices. I live in Blackfoot, and work in Pocatello and Idaho Falls (ISU). At this rate, I may have to find a job in Blackfoot. Gas prices are affecting us more than in most states due to our rural status. I think you should continue to represent our concerns about high gas prices. Can we get the corporate officers from Chevron, Exxon, etc., to testify in Congress as to why our prices are so high? Can we convince the Middle Eastern oil barons to bring their prices down? I have supported you on many issues. I was especially thankful for your support of the Dia del Nino program at the Sixth Grade School in Blackfoot when your office donated hundreds of books to the kids. Please continue to support us on our concerns about the exorbitant energy prices, especially the high cost of gasoline at the pump. Somebody has to be held accountable for these skyrocketing prices. Thanks for all you do!

AMANDO.

DEAR SENATOR: Thanks for asking, but there is no real point in more words and stories and talking. [The auto industry has received special treatment for many years, including avoiding] significant increases in fleet mileage standards. Congressional-supported research for alternative energy sources was removed from the most recent energy bill. [Oil company executives are making exorbitant salaries, and many other rumors and concerns have surfaced about job losses and energy research]. I like Senator McCain's ideas for instituting an entire new green energy industry in the U.S. That would support your ideas for alternatives. Heaven—and Mother Nature—knows that Idaho, with geothermal and biomass and hydro and enough solar and wind, is conveniently at the crossroads and on the power grid to score big time on this. But that takes a federal government commitment toward schools [similar to what] the Sputnik shock created. I am afraid the libertarian/conservative "get government out of our lives" mentality will end that.

Is not \$4 gas really America's best energy policy? That this is what it will take to change thinking on mass transit, improved mileage vehicle design and purchases, ride-sharing, central city dwelling, buy local and regional food?

So, our stories? Well, trip-chaining to reduce shopping trips, [supporting efforts to improve community transit systems which will also improve inversion and air quality concerns.] Staying home rather than flying or driving on vacation.

This exercise of providing anecdotes is a waste of time. The issue and solutions have been [around for many years, but not implemented. Too often, we, the people, feel ignored by those who simply talk about solving the problems, but do not take any substantive action. We are all working for the American Dream, but there are so many issues that are ignored—roads and bridges deteriorating, borders and ports unsecured, financiers unregulated, food and drug operations poorly monitored, military qualities diminishing, public school standards disappearing.

On this one issue, [everyone is affected—] getting to work, emergency vehicles, cross country 18-wheelers, sales trips, plane trips and freight, school buses.

Thanks for your attention.

RICHARD, Boise.

Being 18, maybe I do not have the full perspective on issues, but the correct energy

policy seems too simple to be wrong. As an American, what I demand is action! Something needs to be done already! Nothing has been done for 30+ years, so there has been plenty of time to talk and argue. Now is the time when action is needed. Congress needs to just listen to the men and woman in energy-related fields for the solution. Do not listen to those who do not know what they are talking about. I have grown up in the 'hub' city for the Idaho National Lab and have full faith that if you let the men and women who work there, and similar places throughout the country, "attack" the energy problems that they can and will solve the problems promptly and efficiently; they have the ability, so please just give them the funding, initiative, and faith to get the job done!

As for how energy prices affect Idahoans differently than the majority of the country is that everything here is so spread out. A trip to the next town can be 60 miles, and the only way to travel is by vehicle. Also, in our area, many people drive trucks, but, unlike other areas, the people who drive those type of vehicles here do so because they have to, meaning it is central to their business, which maybe hard to imagine for those who are used to riding in taxis and subways but is absolutely true.

Thank you, Senator Crapo; out of all of our politicians, I feel like you are actually trying to do good for the country!

BOBBY, Idaho Falls.

SENATOR: In all of your e-mails on this subject of energy, I have yet to read about any active support for the trillion or so recoverable BBIs of oil that are locked up in shale in the Green River area. It was approved for some exploration, and then it disappeared off of the energy screen.

Why are we not doing anything or very little in the way of federal support for the source? I believe that one of the oil companies developed a method for extraction in situ which gets rid of the problem of shale exploding like popcorn when it is mined and retorted. This source was explored in the seventies and was found to have been economical to produce until oil went back to 10-15 a barrel after the last crisis.

KEN, Sandpoint.

DEAR SENATOR CRAPO: As an answer about how the price of gas affects here in Oldtown, you might say we are in the center of being anywhere. Any major shopping that my wife and I want to do, we must travel a minimum of 50 miles, to either Spokane, Washington, or to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Using my wife's car for those trips is no great hardship, but still I am out at least 20 dollars for fuel. If it is something I need to haul and drive my pickup, I can figure, about \$50 for the round trip. All well and good about getting a more fuel-efficient vehicle, but being retired and living on my SS, puts a crimp on any major purchases.

ROSS, Oldtown.

#### RECOGNIZING NELSON MANDELA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today, I am pleased to recognize a man whose work has touched so many people in Africa and beyond, and whose life has demonstrated the power of transformation. Tomorrow, former South African President Nelson Mandela will celebrate his 90th birthday and I would like to send him my very best wishes.

As I have traveled across Africa, I have witnessed the respect Mandela

commands and the pride he evokes in all Africans, across borders and boundaries. It is nearly unmatched. He is a symbol of the enduring truth that even the most intractable systems of repression and violence can be overcome with courage and persistence.

The lessons of Mandela's leadership are made that much more remarkable when juxtaposed with another African liberation leader, Robert Mugabe. Upon being released from jail after 27 years, Mandela chose to pursue a path of reconciliation rather than retaliation. When he became President in 1994, he continued that approach and worked to unite the country around his vision of a "rainbow nation." After one term, he stepped aside as President, realizing that institutions must take precedence over individuals in building a stable democracy. Though South Africa certainly had its share of problems since—including a skyrocketing rate of HIV, increasing political turmoil and a recent wave of xenophobic attacks against immigrants—Mandela continues to be a voice for peace and stability, a voice of and for all people of South Africa. The contrast with the continued bloodshed and repression in neighboring, Zimbabwe is stark.

President Mandela's vision for South Africa not only sought peace within its borders, but also beyond them. In 1993, he famously said that human rights would be "the light that guides our foreign affairs." After leaving office, Mandela continued to embody that vision in South Africa and across the continent as he focused on building support for this critical principle—whether with civil society groups or government officials. He has been actively involved in peace processes around the world and a leading advocate for global action to address HIV/AIDS. His willingness to speak out against injustice wherever it festers has inspired and challenged all of us.

I am gravely concerned that the current South African leadership is moving away from this vision. Its unwillingness to publicly criticize recent abuses in Zimbabwe or allow for an expanded mediation is undermining pressure on the Mugabe regime to accept a transitional government. In addition, the announcement by the South African Government that it will oppose the International Criminal Court's indictment of Sudanese President Al-Bashir is deeply disappointing. I have deep respect for the leadership South Africa demonstrates on the continent and that is precisely why I challenge its leaders to play a more active and constructive role in efforts to promote peace, security, and democracy.

Mandela's legacy challenges not only South Africa, but all of us who care about the future of Africa. There is a tendency to look for easy answers or quick fixes to the challenges facing the continent today. Mandela's life is testament to the reality that sustainable peace and democracy require continued investment and long-term vision. They