

Nunn—joined Senator BYRD and introduced the War Powers Resolution Amendments of 1988, known as S.J. Res. 323. Senator Boren later joined as well as a cosponsor of this legislation in June 1988. I humbly state today that I was the only Republican cosponsor of the legislation. This piece of legislation, however, was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where it remained.

Subsequently, on January 25, 1989, I again joined Senator BYRD, but this time along with five of our former colleagues—Senators Boren, Cohen, Danforth, Mitchell, and Nunn—and introduced the War Powers Resolution Amendments of 1989, known as S. 2. Our former colleagues and I proposed legislation to modify the War Powers Resolution of 1973.

These amendments were intended to: require the President to consult with six designated Members of Congress “in every instance in which consultation is” required under the War Powers Resolution of 1973; require the President and the six designated Members of Congress to “establish a schedule of regular meetings” to “ensure adequate consultation on vital national security issues;” establish a “permanent consultative group” within Congress, which would be comprised of 18 Members of Congress; and require the President to consult with the permanent consultative group at the request of a majority of the 6 designated Members of Congress, unless the President determines that consultation needs to be limited for national security purposes.

Unfortunately, neither of these proposed pieces of legislation were voted on by the Senate. However, I subsequently cosponsored another similar piece of legislation, the Peace Powers Act of 1995, sponsored by our former distinguished majority leader, Senator Bob Dole. Hearings were held on this piece of legislation by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where it remained.

For over 35 years, despite these and similar legislative efforts, no modifications were made to the War Powers Resolution Act of 1973. Today, there still remains no clear mechanism or requirement for the President and Congress to consult before committing the Nation to war.

It is this Senator’s opinion that the Nation benefits when the President and Congress consult frequently, deliberately, and meaningfully regarding matters of national security—and that is exactly why I felt compelled to bring to my colleagues attention the important work recently completed by the National War Powers Commission.

The National War Powers Commission was formed in February 2007—by the University of Virginia’s Miller Center of Public Affairs, which is directed by Virginia’s former Governor Gerald L. Baliles—to examine the respective war powers of the President and Congress. The University of Virginia, the College of William and Mary, Rice Uni-

versity, and Stanford University served as partnering institutions.

On July 8, 2008, after more than 13 months of study, the Commission released their report and recommendations. I wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues the important work done by this distinguished Commission to the War Powers Consultation Act of 2009. I strongly recommend that those interested in this important subject contact the University of Virginia’s Miller Center of Public Affairs and also review a copy of the Commission’s comprehensive report, titled “National War Powers Commission Report,” which can be accessed at the Miller Center’s Web site, www.millercenter.org.

The exemplary work by the National War Powers Commission, concluded with the following recommendations: the law purporting to govern the Nation’s decision to engage in war—the War Powers Resolution—has failed to promote cooperation between the two branches of government; the War Powers Resolution of 1973 is ineffective at best and unconstitutional at worst; and the War Powers Resolution of 1973 should be replaced by a new law that would, except for emergencies, require the President and Congress to consult before going to war.

I would specifically like to draw my colleagues attention to the Commission’s legislative proposal, the War Powers Consultation Act of 2009. This proposed legislation contains four key components. These key components are: First, this legislation would replace the War Powers Resolution of 1973. It would ensure that Congress has an opportunity to consult meaningfully and deliberately with the President regarding significant armed conflicts, and would ensure that Congress has the opportunity to express its views as part of a consultative process.

Second, this statute would create a process that will encourage the two equal branches of government to cooperate and consult in a way that is deliberate, practical, and true to the spirit of the Constitution.

Third, the act would establish a “Joint Congressional Consultation Committee” with a “permanent, bipartisan joint professional staff” with access to all relevant intelligence and national security information.

Fourth, and finally, the act would require the President to consult with the Joint Congressional Consultation Committee “[b]efore ordering the deployment of United States armed forces into significant armed conflict”—lasting longer than one week—and would mandate regular consultation thereafter.

I have always believed that Congress has an important and central role in the decision of the deployment of our men and women of the armed forces into harm’s way. Undoubtedly, the War Powers Consultation Act of 2009 would provide Congress and the President a well-defined mechanism for consulta-

tion on matters of the use of force in armed conflict.

The decision to commit our country to war is by far one of the most critical decisions that faces our Nation’s leaders. This proposal seeks a concrete and pragmatic solution to a longstanding problem that is only getting more difficult in a time where our Nation will continue to face unconventional threats and warfare.

I urge my colleagues to review this important material and work together, with the next administration, to find a solution to this ever-present debate between a President and the Congress over their respective constitutional powers.

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 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:

It is a most interesting subject [to] bring up, the escalating prices of oil and the reason they are so high. I am tickled to hear that you believe in exercising our own resources here in our own country.

I have done a lot of research on this very subject and just happen to know a lot of people that are directly associated with or are involved in the Alaska oil situation and the reason for the billions that we spent on the pipeline to begin with. I also know that there is enough oil in Alaska to last us for two hundred years . . . but Washington does not seem to want to take that option. They are more interested in foreign oil and the foreign oil policy, even at the expense of our own country and fellow Americans.

Are you aware of how much natural gas they pump right back down into the ground using 747 Jet engines to do it with? If you are not aware, you need to be aware of it and if it does not madden you, then I can only question your way of thinking. Don’t take my word for it, do the research.

If you are truly aware of what is really going on and you are truly in favor of exercising our own resources, then I am behind you one hundred percent. I am just not real sure how we are going to get the ugly politics out of Washington D.C., and I am an optimist, but on this one, it forces me to be a pessimist. I believe it has gone too far and is way out of control at this point.

I also know that we could be buying gasoline for our vehicles for less than a \$1.50 a