

rising oil prices. I am a single mother of three, working full-time as it is, but now thinking about taking on another job because of the cost of gas. Our family has tried to plan a week visit to the coast for the past few years, and the cost of gas has controlled our plans! This is taking a toll on my budget and our family, knowing that every month, there is never any extra. The other option for me is to turn to a welfare program. Which is more beneficial—more people on welfare or using our oil reserves? What makes it most frustrating is that the United States has the oil! Help us out. I would like to travel somewhere with my children before they are grown up and gone.

SOPHIA, Pocatello.

With regards to your recent query about the effect of the gas prices on our family: yes, the high prices have forced changes on our family. We now combine trips to save fuel, and I now commute to work by bicycle three times a week and am losing weight doing it. We are putting much more pressure on management to allow telecommuting.

Are these all bad things? Is this a drastic problem? No, actually this is most probably a good thing. For the first time in years we, as a nation, are using less gas. While it will definitely have an impact on our lifestyle, the problem can be mitigated by lifestyle changes (carpooling, mass transit, cycling, downsizing to smaller vehicles). There are many ways to do this and virtually every nation in the world besides the U.S. has done it.

The real concern is two-fold, both of which can be considered failures by our elected officials. First, the lack of affordable mass transit. For years, our leaders have refused to lead on this situation and instead buried their heads in the sand, preferring to believe that gas will always be at \$1/gallon. Something like a 50c/gallon tax years ago would have provided for an efficient infrastructure, reduced the demand and possibly reduced the current price increases.

The second failure is the misguided use of ethanol in the attempt to pretend that we are actually doing something to reduce our emissions. This is in reality nothing more than a subsidy to agri-business at the cost of increased food prices. Corn ethanol is nothing but a smokescreen that is contributing to increased food prices. If we are serious about ethanol, then let us import sugar cane and make the ethanol from the cane, or, even better, let us create ethanol plants in the countries that grow the sugar cane. That way we would be helping these countries, most of which are dirt poor, provide employment and earn hard currency. In turn, we would reduce our emissions without adding to the food price increases.

Yes, I know that you wanted a lot of whine-a-grams so that you could parade them in front of Congress and try and open the Arctic Refuge to drilling to benefit the oil companies, even though they are making obscene profits, but maybe we should look at reality. Drilling offshore and in the Arctic will not reduce prices. Oil companies have found that people can afford \$4/gallon gas and will manipulate the situation to keep gas prices high. The only real solution is to reduce our consumption. Let us provide business with incentives for telecommuting and usage of green energy. Let us provide communities with help and incentives for the creation of bike-paths as well as options like light rail etc.

This way we can provide for the future, reduce emissions, reduce demand for gas and in turn reduce oil and food prices. But in order to do this we need to look beyond the old mentality that got us here. Drill and consume, drill and consume is no longer going

to work. It will provide nothing more than a short term minimal respite.

We look to you as one of our leaders to promote a long-term viable solution. Thank you for your time in considering this.

ROBERT.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOEL M. LEVY

• Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a truly inspirational New York figure, Dr. Joel M. Levy, on the occasion of his retirement from the YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities Network, NIPD, after 40 years of dedicated leadership of the organization.

Over this time, Dr. Levy has spearheaded the development of YAI/NIPD from a small and struggling agency into one of the Nation's leading providers of service for people of all ages with developmental and learning disabilities. In particular it is at the forefront of understanding and treatment of autism.

He has played a pivotal role in leading the social revolution which has transformed the landscape of the disabilities field and which has dramatically improved the lives of thousands upon thousands of individuals and families.

Dr. Levy's tireless efforts have created countless opportunities for those with developmental disabilities to experience greater independence, productivity, and joy through community living, meaningful employment, and volunteer activities. Furthermore, he has ensured that persons with disabilities have access to quality health care, in turn promoting their physical, mental and overall well-being.

And of great importance, Dr. Levy has positioned YAI/NIPD as an internationally acclaimed professional organization renowned for its conferences, training materials, research, and publications in this field.

In the course of his distinguished career he has clearly created a Place of Hope for all people with developmental and learning disabilities and their families.

I feel privileged on behalf of all New Yorkers to have this opportunity to salute and commend the outstanding achievements of Dr. Levy. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. DORGAN for the Committee on Indian Affairs.

*Yvette Roubideaux, of Arizona, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, for the term of four years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. GREGG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAUFMAN, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 951. A bill to authorize the President, in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the historic and first lunar landing by humans in 1969, to award gold medals on behalf of the United States Congress to Neil A. Armstrong, the first human to walk on the moon; Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr., the pilot of the lunar module and second person to walk on the moon; Michael Collins, the pilot of their Apollo 11 mission's command module; and, the first American to orbit the Earth, John Herschel Glenn Jr; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 952. A bill to develop and promote a comprehensive plan for a national strategy to address harmful algal blooms and hypoxia through baseline research, forecasting and monitoring, and mitigation and control while helping communities detect, control, and mitigate coastal and Great Lakes harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 953. A bill to provide for the establishment of programs and activities to increase influenza vaccination rates through the provision of free vaccines; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 954. A bill to authorize United States participation in the replenishment of resources of the International Development Association, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 955. A bill to authorize United States participation in, and appropriations for the United States contribution to, the African Development Fund and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, to require budgetary disclosures by multilateral development banks, to encourage multilateral development banks to endorse the principles of the Extractive

Industries Transparency Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 956. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exempt unsanctioned State-licensed retail pharmacies from the surety bond requirement under the Medicare Program for suppliers of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 957. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that victims of public health emergencies have meaningful and immediate access to medically necessary health care services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 958. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to guarantee comprehensive health care coverage for all children born after 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 959. A bill to provide for the extension of a certain hydroelectric project located in the State of West Virginia; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 960. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide access to Medicare benefits for individuals ages 55 to 65, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable and advanceable credit against income tax for payment of such premiums, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BAYH, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. Res. 125. A resolution in support and recognition of National Train Day, May 9, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 540

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to liability under State and local requirements respecting devices.

S. 614

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 614, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots ("WASP").

S. 645

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 645, a bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to modify the Department of Defense share of expenses under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

S. 738

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 790

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 790, a bill to improve access to health care services in rural, frontier, and urban underserved areas in the United States by addressing the supply of health professionals and the distribution of health professionals to areas of need.

S. 909

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 909, a bill to provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, and for other purposes.

S. 944

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 944, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretaries of the military departments to give wounded members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces the option of remaining on active duty during the transition process in order to continue to receive military pay and allowances, to authorize members to reside at their permanent places of residence during the process, and for other purposes.

S. 949

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 949, a bill to improve the loan guarantee program of the Department of Energy under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, to provide additional options for deploying energy technologies, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 16

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 16, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President of the United States should exercise his constitutional authority to pardon posthumously John Arthur "Jack" Johnson for the ra-

cially motivated conviction in 1913 that diminished the athletic, cultural, and historic significance of Jack Johnson and unduly tarnished his reputation.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 952. A bill to develop and promote a compressive plan for a national strategy to address harmful algal blooms and hypoxia through baseline research, forecasting and monitoring, and mitigation and control while helping communities detect, control, and mitigate coastal and Great Lakes harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2009. This bill would enhance the research programs established in the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 and reauthorized in 2004, which have greatly enhanced our ability to predict outbreaks of harmful algal blooms and the extent of hypoxic zones. But knowing when outbreaks will occur is only half the battle. By funding additional research into mitigation and prevention of HABs and hypoxia, and by enabling communities to develop response strategies to more effectively reduce their effects on our coastal communities, this legislation would take the next critical steps to reducing the social and economic impacts of these potentially disastrous outbreaks.

I am proud to continue my leadership on this important issue and I particularly want to thank my counterpart on this key piece of legislation, Senator BILL NELSON. My partnership with Senator Breaux on the first two harmful algal bloom bills proved extremely fruitful, and I am pleased that Gulf of Mexico—whose coastal residents are severely impacted by both harmful algal blooms, also known as HABs, and hypoxia—will continue to be so well represented as this program moves into the future. I also want to thank the bill's additional co-sponsors, Senators CANTWELL, CARDIN, VITTER, LANDRIEU, BOXER and LEVIN for their vital contributions. We all represent coastal States directly affected by harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, and we see first hand the ecological and economic damage caused by these events.

In New England blooms of Alexandrium algae, more commonly known as "red tide" can cause shellfish to accumulate toxins that when consumed by humans lead to paralytic shellfish poisoning, PSP, a potentially fatal neurological disorder. Therefore, when levels of Alexandrium reach dangerous levels, our fishery managers are