

But they are fighting us with economics, and we are letting them win.

TAMARA.

I think the worse part of high energy costs is the restrictions our married children that live a few hours from home feel about traveling. They are on limited budgets and cannot budget in very many travels on the high fuel expenses. Anything that keep grandparents from seeing their grandchildren as often should be a federal offense! I am sure you would agree!

RENEE.

With all due respect, I think you are off track. Yes, prices are rising. No, that does not mean you should vote against climate change legislation.

Please, focus your energy on diversifying our energy sources in the sense of solar and wind power. Do not go for the short-term scheme of drilling for more domestic oil. That would be a short-term fix. We need to think generations down the road, and realize that our current consumption is simply not sustainable.

Yes, I have been impacted by high prices. So have my coworkers and neighbors. But the subsequent changes I see in our lifestyles are wonderful: we drive less, choosing to bike, walk and take the public bus to work or run errands or to recreate. Need less . . . what a solution!

MARGARET, *McCall*.

We are farmers from Idaho Falls. The energy prices are hugely affecting our bottom line. In the past year alone, due to the cost of fuel, fertilizer has gone up four times. Many people do not understand that farmers are not just affected by the cost of putting fuel in their tractors. The rising price of fuel affects every aspect of our business. It is unfortunate that in the news farmers are being portrayed as just raking in the dollars right now while the consumers struggle to buy food at the grocery stores. This just is not the case.

We have no way of staying in business if the cost of the commodities we sell does not go up to compensate for the huge increase in our costs. It is time the American consumers stand up to uninformed environmentalists. Environmentalists are setting energy policy that is going to devastate our entire economy. As farmers, we are the best environmentalists that exist. We care that future generations will have a clean safe place to live and exist. We also believe that the way out of our current problems, without crippling the entire economy, are solved with a multi-dimensional approach. Yes, fuel economy for cars should be increased on a time line that is feasible. We also know that we have to open up new oil drilling and refinery capacity to help stabilize our economy. We also feel that we need to have better means of producing power. Nuclear energy is safe, clean, and reliable. We need to be the leaders in the world of good energy policy and planning.

If we shut down all industry in the United States, we will become slaves to a foreign nation. Do people really believe that food produced in other countries is as safe and reliable as food that is produced domestically? If we do not start now to develop a better approach to our current energy problems, we all be at the mercy of China and oil-producing nations.

MARK and STEPHANIE, *Idaho Falls*.

The President's plan to stimulate the economy was a like a drop in the bucket compared to the rise in gas prices at the pump. The gas prices have doubled from last summer. If you received a 1%, 3% or higher cost

of living increase, you are still short. The increased minimum wage was wasted effort. The increase in gas prices will force an increase across the board, just because this country, especially in states like Idaho, is very dependent on vehicles from semi-trucks to bring food from one state to another to a way to get to work, etc.

I think time, effort and money should be spent on developing alternate energy sources. Oil is a non renewable resource as is nuclear energy. More effort should be placed on energy sources that renew themselves, such as wind power and power derived from the ocean. Right now would be a great time for the development of a combustion engine that is clean and fuel efficient. I believe that there are those inventions already available, just not used.

SHARON.

I, like others, who are so tired of rising fuel costs, would like to see something done about it. Please put something in motion and help get these rising prices lowered. I am not sure what is driving the prices higher. But it is the people that suffer. You just cannot afford to do anything or go anywhere anymore. And that causes depression in a lot of people. My gasoline bill last month was over \$500 and that is outrageous. I drive to the INL site every day and that adds up very quickly.

Please help do something about this.

DONNA, *Rigby*.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO AGNES "AUNTY AGGIE" KALANIHOOKAHA COPE

• Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, I congratulate Mrs. Agnes Kalanihookaha Cope for receiving an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The honorary degree is typically conferred on worthy candidates who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions in areas other than science. The degree will be awarded at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Spring 2009 commencement ceremony.

I wish to acknowledge "Auntie Aggie," as she is fondly known, for her long dedication and inspirational efforts in organizing the practice, preservation and perpetuation of ethnic cultures in the state of Hawaii, particularly the Hawaiian culture. She has also demonstrated a commitment to improving the health of Native Hawaiians—physically, culturally, and mentally. Aunty Aggie is an established educator, talented and respected kumu hula or Hawaiian dance instructor, and an ardent advocate for Native Hawaiians. A few of her many noteworthy accomplishments include—founding the Waianae Coast Culture and Arts Society, helping to found the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, and serving as board chair of Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Organizations.

Auntie Aggie is a true guardian of the culture and the arts. The legacy and testament to her work is the Agnes Cope Community and Cultural Health Award, which is issued by the Brown

and Bakken World Health awards program for the purposes of bringing the community together and working collaboratively to improve world health. However, Aunty Aggie could not have achieved what she has done without the additional support and knowledge of her family and community. I commend all those who have helped in her efforts to be a leader in the Hawaiian renaissance and to keep the Native Hawaiian culture and community alive and thriving.

I would also like to echo University of Hawaii Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw who said, "Spanning four decades, Mrs. Cope's personal dedication and civic contributions to enhancing the health and education of Native Hawaiians and preserving their culture have improved the lives of all citizens of Hawaii." I congratulate Aunty Aggie and challenge the next generation to continue her important work and wish them all continued success in the years to come.●

ABORTION RECOVERY AWARENESS MONTH

• Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I stand today to commend Governor Bobby Jindal, Louisiana State senator A. G. Crowe, and Louisiana resident Cindy Collins for their efforts in making April "Abortion Recovery Awareness Month" in Louisiana. I would like to take a few moments to remark on this important issue.

I would also like to thank the following organizations for their efforts in helping to reduce abortions and fighting for the unborn. I thank Abortion Recovery International, Louisiana Abortion Recovery Alliance, Post Abortion Helpline of Louisiana, Rachel's Vineyard Louisiana, Pregnancy Resource Centers of Louisiana, National Abortion Recovery Helpline, Operation Outcry Louisiana, and Silent No More Awareness Louisiana.

All human life is sacred, and I have worked hard in Congress to advance a culture of life, including banning partial-birth abortions, outlawing abortion drugs, fighting against taxpayer funding of abortions, and strongly supporting adoption and crisis pregnancy centers. I have always been adamant in my support of pro-life and pro-family measures in Congress, and groups and individuals like these are instrumental to these and other advances we have made in promoting a culture of life.

Thus, today, I applaud Governor Bobby Jindal, State senator A. G. Crowe, Cindy Collins, and the many great organizations listed above for their efforts in making April "Abortion Recovery Awareness Month" in Louisiana.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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