

S. 2221. A bill to continue for 2000 the Department of Agriculture program to provide emergency assistance to dairy producers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 2222. A bill to provide for the liquidation or reliquidation of certain color television receiver entries to correct an error that was made in connection with the original liquidation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2223. A bill to establish a fund for the restoration of ocean and coastal resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2224. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to encourage summer fill and fuel budgeting programs for propane, kerosene, and heating oil; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WARNER:

S. Con. Res. 92. A concurrent resolution applauding the individuals who were instrumental to the program of partnerships for oceanographic and scientific research between the Federal Government and academic institutions during the period beginning before World War II and continuing through the end of the Cold War, supporting efforts by the Office of Naval Research to honor those individuals, and expressing appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the Office of Naval Research; to the Committee on Armed Services.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BOND, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INOUE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. HAGEL):

S. 2214. A bill to establish and implement a competitive oil and gas leasing program that will result in an environmentally sound and job creating program for the exploration, development, and production of the oil and gas resources of the Coastal Plain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A COMPETITIVE OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, let me advise you, yesterday at the close of business, the posted price of oil was \$34.13 a barrel. The Dow was down 374 points. The share price of one com-

pany, Procter & Gamble, plunged 30 percent as a consequence of their third quarter profits falling off because of the high cost of oil.

We have a crisis in this country. Today, I rise to introduce legislation on behalf of myself and 33 other Members that I believe, and they believe with me, offers the United States its best chance to reduce our dependence on foreign oil; that is, by producing more oil domestically.

We have seen the oil price rise in the last year from roughly \$10 to over \$30 a barrel. That is a pretty dramatic increase. There is an inflation factor associated with this. While we have not really addressed it, it is fair to say that for every \$10 increase in the price of a barrel of oil, there is an inflation factor of about a half of 1 percent. Alan Greenspan has been quoted as saying, "I have never seen a price spike on oil that I have ever ignored."

So we are now in a situation where we have seen heating oil prices in the Northeast reach historic highs this winter, nearly \$2 a gallon. We are seeing a surcharge on our airline tickets of \$20. You do not see it at the counter where you buy your ticket; of course not. You do not know what the price of a ticket generally is because they have so many prices between point A and point B. But it is there. It is \$20. The American public ought to be questioning that. They at least ought to be aware of it, if they do not question it.

Regarding diesel prices, we saw the truckers come to Washington, DC. Diesel prices are the highest since the Department of Energy began tracking.

We are in a crisis. We have to do something about it. There are many factors that contribute to the price structure of each particular fuel, but underlying all of these, without a doubt, is our reliance on imported crude oil. We are 56-percent dependent on foreign crude oil. The current reserves indicate we are consuming twice as much crude in the U.S., as we are able to produce domestically.

I had the professional staff of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee trying to do a forecast, with the Department of Energy—we have a net decline because we are using more crude reserves than we are bringing in—about what time the bear goes through the buckwheat; that is, when perhaps we are looking at \$2 a gallon, \$2.50 a gallon for gasoline. Relief is not in sight as yet.

The worst part of it is this did not come without some warning. Those of us from oil-producing States, my State of Alaska, the overthrust belt—Louisiana Senators, Texas, Mississippi, other areas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Utah, Wyoming—have been predicting the dangers of increased dependence on imported oil. The administration, Department of Energy, has forecast by the years 2015 to 2020 we will be approaching 65-percent dependence on imported oil. The problem with that is it looks now as if that is a goal rather

than a forecast. They are not taking any steps to relieve us of that dependency.

The facts, I think, are staggering. If you look at what is happening in this country, domestic production has decreased 17 percent since 1990. That is a fact. Consumption, however, has increased 14 percent. I have a chart to show this. It shows, I think very clearly, what is happening in this country.

We are seeing the demand, and that is the black line here, going, in 1990, from 16 million to 19 million barrels per day. So what is happening is we see a constant demand going up. Then what happens on the offset? Where is the crude production? The crude production is declining, from 7.4 to a domestic production of 5.9.

This reflects the reality of what has been happening. This should not come as a great surprise to the Department of Energy, the Clinton administration, or the Congress of the United States. This has been coming for some time.

In one year, total petroleum net imports rose 7.6 percent. So, as we look for relief, we look towards imports. Now we are 56-percent dependent. What does it mean? It means we do not learn from history. We do not learn much. In 1973, when we had the Arab oil embargo—some people remember the gasoline lines around the block—at that time, we were 37-percent dependent on imported oil. We said it would never happen again. We said we would create a Strategic Petroleum Reserve to ensure we were not held hostage.

What did other countries do? Different things. The French, for example, said they would never be held hostage by the Mideast again, and they departed on a nuclear program so that today the French are over 90-percent dependent on nuclear energy. We do not have that situation in the United States. I simply point that out to direct attention to what some countries have done with their energy policy vis-a-vis others. What we have done is very little.

We fought a war over in the Mideast, didn't we? We fought that war, Desert Storm, to keep Saddam Hussein from invading Kuwait and taking over those oil fields. During Desert Storm, we were 46-percent dependent. Today we are held hostage to aggressive OPEC pricing policies. What has our response been?

Secretary of Energy Richardson went to the Mideast. Some suggest it was the greatest hostage recovery effort since the Carter administration sent the military to Tehran. He went there and said: We have an emergency in the United States. We have a crisis. We need you to produce more oil.

Do you know what they told him? They looked him in the eye and they said: We are going to have a meeting March 27 and we will address our policies then.

That is hardly responding to an emergency, particularly at a time when he reminded them of how quickly