

have the free exercise of ideas and debate, not to stifle discussion here on this floor.

Some of the Senator's more profound contributions initially appeared extraordinarily controversial. Only after they were entered into debate did their meaning take root and the controversial become the accepted. People here can honor the legacy of Senator Moynihan by doing the time-honored work of Congress, debating, listening, legislating, and working together in committee and in the House Chamber; and seize the tremendous opportunities to deal with world peace, the protection and economic security of our families and safeguarding the environment.

In honoring the memory of Senator Moynihan in practice, we will be honoring the trust that has been given to us by our constituents. We too can be larger than life rather than a side show while the real drama is worked out in some back room. We can reflect our own hearts and visions and the needs of our communities rather than being orchestrated by focus groups and special interests. Part of what characterized Senator Moynihan's genius was simply that he presented ideas regardless of the short-term public relations and political consequences. This meant that some people in Washington, D.C., were nervous working with him. It made it harder for some of the powers that be and the media pundits, but as the Senator proved time and time again, it made it easier to push America to do the right thing.

As someone raised in an often bipartisan or even nonpartisan Oregon political culture, this simple truth seems so obvious but somehow elusive in today's Washington, D.C. By doing our job as legislators, as independent, thoughtful representatives, we can make vital contributions during the most critical times since we were fighting Hitler and recovering from the Depression. I suspect the Senator himself would deem that to be a most fitting tribute to his legacy.

LET US DECLARE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of news, of course, about the war in Iraq. Where are we going and how long is it going to take to win the military battle. I think it is important that we do not underestimate the length of time it is going to take for the transition after we win the military battle. Bradley Smith and now some former Iraqi officials have suggested at least 2 years, maybe 2 years of martial law to get a society and a people who for most of their adult lives have never lived under any rule except Saddam Hussein. The transition to a democracy is going to

take time. Brad also suggested that we should have a military base in Umm Qasr, down in the southeast corner of Iraq. How does all this play into probably the most extensive oil field potential for oil in the world in that country of Iraq?

This last weekend, some suggested that we are fighting in Iraq because of our dependence on foreign energy. While that is not true, the consequences of our dependence are certainly serious. This first became very clear to many of us during the Arab oil embargo during the early 1970s when at that time I was serving on the presidential oil policy commission. We need this foreign energy because it is a vital component for fostering economic growth, but considering the situation in Iraq, regardless of the consequences and the sluggishness of the economy, we need to reduce our energy dependence by serving and developing new sources of energy, and that need has probably never been greater in this country. This is why the energy bill passed out of our Committee on Science last week will be on the floor very shortly.

Oil and natural gas account for 39 and 23 percent of overall energy usage in our country. In the United States, domestic production of petroleum is nearly 8 million barrels a day, which includes 5.8 million barrels of crude oil and 2.2 million barrels of natural gas liquids; 8 million barrels a day in the United States. And while 11 countries have more petroleum reserves, we are currently the second largest producer in the world, behind only Saudi Arabia. Most of the new petroleum exploration taking place in the United States today is done by smaller companies. The bigger companies have decided they want to bypass the regulatory process, the environmental influence and the fact that we have already explored much in the United States for oil. So what we have left in the United States is mostly the smaller companies that are making this exploration.

Historically, conservation has been the primary method of reducing our dependence. It has been successful and we have seen American energy efficiency increase dramatically. Since 1970, GDP, our gross domestic product, has risen by 170 percent while energy consumption is up by only 42 percent. The energy bill will help us do even better with a focus on more efficient appliances, electricity generation and certainly automotive transmission. Because a growing economy would tend to increase use, the energy bill boosts our efforts to develop alternatives to petroleum. Today, America consumes about 19 million barrels of petroleum a day, about 44 percent of which is motor gasoline. That means a new motor fuel would have a dramatic impact on U.S. usage. The energy bill increases research into ethanol and biofuels made from agricultural crops. Science and research get substantial increases from language that we have added to the bill

in order to develop and perfect emerging technologies, including fusion energy and neutron source power, we have heard a lot about hydrogen cells for automobiles, and certainly improved clean coal technology.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, our dependence built up slowly over decades. Unfortunately it may also take decades to reduce that dependence, even under the best of circumstances. Shocks and problems will continue to cause many problems for our economy and our foreign policy. Still, if we act now, research can secure the energy that the American economy needs to grow and produce and it can result in more and better good-paying jobs, not only for our generation but for our kids and our grandkids.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISIT TO BELFAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as you may know, President Bush is in Northern Ireland today to hold meetings with Prime Minister Blair to discuss and to strategize about the ongoing war in Iraq. While I understand that this important war summit will take up much of his time and energy, it is my hope that the President will take some time to discuss with Prime Minister Blair the current peace process in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, later this week, April 10 to be specific, will mark the fifth anniversary of the Good Friday Accords which set up the power-sharing government in Northern Ireland. Unfortunately, this power-sharing government has been suspended since October. Prime Minister Blair and his counterpart in Ireland, Bertie Ahern, have been negotiating for months with the representative parties to come up with an agreement that will allow for resumption of the Belfast Assembly.

As reported in today's New York Times, it seems the two prime ministers are planning to unveil an emergency formula that they hope will break the impasse and put the power-sharing government back on track. Mr. Speaker, while this is obviously good news, I worry that Prime Minister Blair will not go far enough to ensure that there is a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. Mr. Blair must take immediate steps in providing all residents of Northern Ireland the basic rights that they deserve. I hope that President Bush will use his influence with the Prime Minister to call on him to provide the people of Northern Ireland with a basic bill of rights. It is quite obvious to me that without a binding document that lays out the rights and liberties for all residents of Northern Ireland, the Belfast Assembly and the Good Friday Accords will not accomplish the goal of a permanent peace.