

our distinguished colleagues were there when this resolution was considered earlier: Senator GRASSLEY, Senator SANTORUM, our current Secretary of Energy, a good friend of mine, Senator Abraham. I also note the distinguished Presiding Officer of the Senate, Senator CHAFEE, was also a cosponsor of that resolution.

I am hopeful we will be able to do as the Senator from Kentucky said and that is apply the same principle to this administration as was applied to the Clinton administration. Every administration ought to be pushing OPEC to increase oil production. We certainly ought to take action when the Saudi oil minister was saying he wasn't even contacted.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the article from the Reuters news service. The title of this article is "Saudi Says Not Heard From Bush Over OPEC Oil Cut."

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Reuters News Service, Apr. 1, 2004]
SAUDI SAYS NOT HEARD FROM BUSH OVER
OPEC OIL CUT

VIENNA, April 1.—Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said on Thursday he had not been contacted by the Bush administration over OPEC's decision on Wednesday to cut crude output by one million barrels per day.

U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham told a House of Representatives committee on Thursday President George W. Bush had spoken to most of the leaders of OPEC nations about global crude oil supplies and rising prices.

But Abraham declined to respond to a lawmaker's question about whether the president had specifically spoken to Saudi Arabia, the cartel's largest member which led a push this week to cut OPEC production by one million barrels per day in April.

Asked if the United States had expressed its disappointment to him over the cut, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal told reporters:

"I didn't hear this from the Bush administration. I'm hearing it from you that they're disappointed."

The Bush administration faces growing pressure from Democrats to take action amid record-high U.S. retail gasoline prices.

In the run-up to Wednesday's OPEC meeting, the administration abandoned its so-called "quiet diplomacy" and instead said publicly that it was pressuring OPEC to delay a production cut.

Its request was supported by OPEC members Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, but opposed by Saudi Arabia, a longtime U.S. ally.

Abraham said Bush administration officials may have spoken to Saudi officials in recent weeks.

"We are very disappointed with the decision (OPEC) made yesterday and obviously are evaluating what we might" do, Abraham added.

U.S. crude fell 50 cents to \$35.26 on Thursday after losing 1.4 percent on Wednesday on news of a huge build in U.S. crude inventories and the Saudi foreign minister said earlier the fall justified the cartel's decision.

"As you have seen, since we reduced production in OPEC the price went down. This reflects the veracity of the position that Saudi Arabia has taken that there is an excess capacity on the market rather than shortages," he said.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I will be back on the floor in the days ahead to talk about this critical question. It seems to me what is coming in this country on this oil issue is a perfect storm. The combination of the fact this administration is unwilling to push OPEC over its production cuts, the fact the Federal Trade Commission is unwilling to do anything about these anticompetitive practices or even investigate this refinery closure in Bakersfield, which has great implications for the west coast, all of these factors are coming together to create what I believe is a perfect storm for the gasoline consumer in this country. Given that consumer spending is what is driving our economy right now, we cannot afford to have these high gasoline prices continue or, as I fear, escalate to \$3 a gallon.

We will continue to focus on the question of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, swiping oil out of the private sector and squirreling it away into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve at a time when it already has a very high level and national security questions are being addressed. But that is not the focus of my comments today. The focus of my comments today is every Member of the Congress ought to be very troubled when the Saudi Foreign Minister says he wasn't contacted by the administration over these production cuts.

We ought to do as was done in 2000 when the Senate, led by a number of our distinguished colleagues on the other side of the aisle who moved ahead on a resolution to boost oil production by OPEC. We ought to do the same now and stand up for the American consumer.

I yield the floor.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3010. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. KOHL)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1086, to encourage the development and promulgation of voluntary consensus standards by providing relief under the anti-trust laws to standards development organizations with respect to conduct engaged in for the purpose of developing voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3010. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. KOHL)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1086, to encourage the development and promulgation of voluntary consensus standards by providing relief under the anti-trust laws to standards development organizations with respect to conduct engaged in for the purpose of developing voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

TITLE I—STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2003

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Standards Development Organization Advancement Act of 2003".

SEC. 102. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) In 1993, the Congress amended and renamed the National Cooperative Research Act of 1984 (now known as the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993 (15 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.)) by enacting the National Cooperative Production Amendments of 1993 (Public Law 103-42) to encourage the use of collaborative, procompetitive activity in the form of research and production joint ventures that provide adequate disclosure to the antitrust enforcement agencies about the nature and scope of the activity involved.

(2) Subsequently, in 1995, the Congress in enacting the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) recognized the importance of technical standards developed by voluntary consensus standards bodies to our national economy by requiring the use of such standards to the extent practicable by Federal agencies and by encouraging Federal agency representatives to participate in ongoing standards development activities. The Office of Management and Budget on February 18, 1998, revised Circular A-119 to reflect these changes made in law.

(3) Following enactment of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995, technical standards developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies have replaced thousands of unique Government standards and specifications allowing the national economy to operate in a more unified fashion.

(4) Having the same technical standards used by Federal agencies and by the private sector permits the Government to avoid the cost of developing duplicative Government standards and to more readily use products and components designed for the commercial marketplace, thereby enhancing quality and safety and reducing costs.

(5) Technical standards are written by hundreds of nonprofit voluntary consensus standards bodies in a nonexclusionary fashion, using thousands of volunteers from the private and public sectors, and are developed under the standards development principles set out in Circular Number A-119, as revised February 18, 1998, of the Office of Management and Budget, including principles that require openness, balance, transparency, consensus, and due process. Such principles provide for—

(A) notice to all parties known to be affected by the particular standards development activity,

(B) the opportunity to participate in standards development or modification,

(C) balancing interests so that standards development activities are not dominated by any single group of interested persons,

(D) readily available access to essential information regarding proposed and final standards,

(E) the requirement that substantial agreement be reached on all material points after the consideration of all views and objections, and

(F) the right to express a position, to have it considered, and to appeal an adverse decision.

(6) There are tens of thousands of voluntary consensus standards available for government use. Most of these standards are kept current through interim amendments and interpretations, issuance of addenda, and