

price fixing. What has happened is the world demand is monstrous, and the cartel and others that are not part of it want to hold supply down to let prices go up.

And what do we do? We sit here in the U.S. Congress, wring our hands, and complain and worry and talk about President Bush needing a plan. Look, he gave us a plan. If you want to argue about how he did it, go ahead, but look at it and see what it will do. For the most part, the things in that plan are exactly what America needs. We need to maximize our own production of oil. It will not be sufficient, but we can do some things. We need to maximize the production of natural gas. We need to maximize the potential use of coal. We need to build every alternative into our national plan. Wind energy and solar energy need the incentives that are required. And, yes, in the end we have to put some incentives in to get started with nuclear again. But we do not have to have all of these. We need the basics. You cannot even get those done.

So from my standpoint, I hope we will quit blaming, quit wringing our hands, quit talking, especially on the other side of the aisle, about what we need to do, when, in fact, they are denying the very things they say we need to do by not voting for the things they are talking about. In fact, I think we could go through the RECORD and find that many on the other side have gotten up and made speeches about what we need to do, and you could go down and tick them off, and most of them are in the Energy bill. Most of the things they talk about are in the Energy bill, but for some reason they would rather talk about it than vote for it. They would rather talk about it than offer amendments and get the thing going.

I think what we ought to do soon is offer a bill and offer a unanimous consent suggestion that we put it up here and we have 10 amendments on each side and then we proceed to vote. I think that would be a fair way to handle the energy crisis of America. It would say, quit fooling around. You get 10 amendments. That ought to be enough to get your purposes out there. We get 10. Then it is over with, and we vote. But I am sure if you tried that, every excuse in the world would be forthcoming. Nobody will say: We need an energy bill. Let's do something. They will say: Oh, no, it doesn't have this. There is a chance, a risk we will get hurt. They won't take care of this and they won't take care of that and we will get nowhere.

So I close by saying I was also privileged to hear the President speak this morning. The Senator from Texas talked about it. I, frankly, have nothing but admiration for his fortitude, his strength, and his determination. I think if the United States and its people can quickly assess the blame with reference to the prisons and get on with letting our President and the military people stabilize Iraq and let

them begin to decide their future as free people who do not have to worry about getting killed, the sooner we can let that happen, the sooner America will be back on the right track. But I am not sure that everybody in this country wants to get that over.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have 1 additional minute.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I close by saying I would hope that as we prepare to go out for recess, everybody in this body will examine their conscience, examine their positions, and that maybe they can come back and say: Let's sit down. Let's get an energy bill. Let's get the maximum kind of flexibility for production of alternatives in this country. Let's see if we can't make the American electric energy grid more powerful, stronger, more reliable, and see that it can grow and prosper.

It is our future. How we energize it is our challenge. We cannot do it with natural gas alone. We have to have alternatives. That is what we had proposed. We must decide that we are going to try. I chose this committee—left the Budget Committee—because I knew how important this was, but, frankly, I never thought there would be so many people who wanted to make it so hard for us to get an energy policy as has happened. I could not believe it, as a veteran Senator. Frankly, I am amazed there are still those on the other side who want to blame somebody, want to tell us what we ought to do but do not want to vote for anything.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, as Senator DOMENICI prepares to leave the Senate floor, I thank him for his tenacity and his earnest desire to lead us to a balanced energy policy. I think he knows there are plenty of us on this side who do want to reach the right balance, and I have enjoyed trying to provide a little bit of that balance.

Mr. BIDEN. Madam President, will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. CARPER. I am happy to yield.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BIDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Democratic side be given an additional 10 minutes of morning business, with the time equally divided between Senator CARPER and myself. Before the Chair acts on this request, I am told it has been cleared by the Republican side.

Mr. DOMENICI. We have no objection.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I wonder if the Senator will yield for 30 seconds?

Mr. CARPER. I yield.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I say to the Senator, I heard your remarks, and I do want to say to the Senator, that while I do not know your overall feelings about an energy bill, I will say on a couple of very difficult issues that I think are very important that were contentious—and many people on your side did not think we ought to do—you stood tall because you understand that we need diversification and you are not afraid to make votes. And I thank you for that.

Mr. CARPER. I thank the Senator.

Madam President, on a brighter note, with respect to energy policy, a week or so ago we passed a major bill called FSC/ETI. Some people call it the JOBS bill or a trade bill. But provisions of the Energy bill were incorporated in that legislation, important provisions that include incentives for renewable forms of energy—solar, wind, geothermal—and incentives to encourage people to buy more energy-efficient vehicles, hybrids, fuel-cell vehicles, to make them more affordable, to get more of them out on the road, and using less gasoline and diesel fuel, and also incentives for us to begin converting to a greater use of what I call biofuels—ethanol—and something we do in Delaware a lot on the Delmarva Peninsula where we take soybean oil and mix it with diesel fuel.

They were able to do something good for the environment and actually reduce significantly our use of diesel-powered vehicles.

While it is still mid-May, we have a fair amount of time to go before we finish here. Before we finish, I hope we will find common ground on the rest of the energy policy, and that it is also respective of our environment and the clean air concerns we have, and gives the States the ability to recover damages for their drinking supply that has been damaged by MTBE.

GUEST CHAPLAIN RABBI BERNHARDT

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I express to Senator BIDEN my appreciation for his inviting a wonderful woman, a rabbi from Delaware, to come here to be our guest Chaplain, and to say how pleased we are, all of us, to welcome Ellen Bernhardt. She gave the invocation about 40 minutes ago. I told her it was one of the best invocations I have heard in the 3 years I have been privileged to be a Senator. It was as good as any I have heard. We thank you for not only coming to bring the blessing of that invocation, but to remind us about what really matters.

I also thank her for just what she does in Delaware. She has been a rabbi, I think, about 17 years. She is a native of Philadelphia. For the last 11 years or so, she has run a school in Delaware which is, I believe, the only Jewish day