

Now, I ask the leader: Is it correct, in your view, that what Senator McCAIN was saying is that while the benefits of production would take some years to achieve, there could be an immediate psychological benefit simply from the decision that we were going to do this, such as the \$20 reduction in the price of a barrel of oil following shortly after the President's announcement that he was going to lift the moratorium on offshore drilling?

Mr. MCCONNELL. My understanding of Senator McCAIN's position is the same as my good friend from Arizona. I believe he states correctly the position of his senior colleague from Arizona on this important issue of whether it would be useful for America—the third-largest oil producer in the world, sitting on vast reserves—to expand the usage of those reserves, particularly on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Mr. KYL. Secondly, Mr. President, the second question. The Republican leader said a moment ago that speculators were betting on scarcity and the majority is doing everything to prove them right.

With respect to a decision to begin production off our shores on the Outer Continental Shelf, is it the Senator's opinion that this would have a beneficial effect on drawing down the price of futures in the oil market because the decision would be seen as a commitment to produce more?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would say to my friend from Arizona, my view on that is probably not as significant as others. For example, the famous oilman, T. Boone Pickens, who has been in town this week and who has met with Republicans and Democrats, has made it quite clear that he thinks we ought to be doing all these things, both on the find-more side, which would certainly involve greater use of the Outer Continental Shelf which is currently off-limits. He thinks we ought to be doing all these things. I gather that most experts understand the law of supply and demand, and if you increase supply and diminish demand, you are working in tandem to get gas prices down. I think it makes elementary good sense that that is the only way we will be able to make progress on this issue.

Mr. KYL. I thank the leader.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### WARM IN WINTER AND COOL IN SUMMER ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3186 which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 835, S. 3186, a bill to provide funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Mr. DURBIN addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 10:30 a.m. shall be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The assistant majority leader is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was going to ask unanimous consent to speak as in leader time on behalf of Senator REID, who is not here, following Senator MCCONNELL.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DOMENICI. Reserving the right to object, I understand the remaining time until 10:30 is already allocated, half of it to the Democrats and half to us. From our side, I intend to claim our half, and I will use it when the time arises.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time until 10:30 is equally divided.

Mr. DOMENICI. Does the Senator from Illinois desire to speak now? Is that what he is saying? I am glad to let that happen.

Mr. DURBIN. Yes. I ask to be allocated the Democratic time, and I am going to yield to the Senator from Missouri to begin that.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, might I clarify? There was no objection to the assistant leader speaking as part of the Democratic time as it is now allocated; is that right?

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to yield to the Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I would like to ask, if I could, the minority whip one brief question before he leaves the Chamber. I notice you all were trying to clarify the position of our colleague from Arizona on drilling, and this is simply a yes or no question. Does Senator McCAIN support drilling in ANWR?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I am happy to respond. I was not only clarifying his position but ensuring people understood what the majority leader said about his position was incorrect. Senator McCAIN does not support drilling in ANWR, but he does support drilling off our coastal shores and the Outer Continental Shelf.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant majority leader is recognized.

#### GAS PRICES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the motto of the Republicans in the Senate is: Talk more, produce less. Do you know what we offered them this week? We said to the Republicans: Here is the opportunity of a lifetime. Do you have a position on speculation? Do you think it is an issue? If you do, put your proposal on the floor and we will put our proposal on the floor. We will have an equal vote requirement, equal de-

bate time. We will go at it and we will let the Senate decide. We are not going to write your version of the speculation, you would not write ours, but you have every right to do that. The Republican response was: No, we are not interested in that. We don't think speculation is a problem.

Well, they ought to meet with the CEOs of the major airlines. They ought to spend a minute talking to them about what they feel because they are paying the jet fuel costs and they are cutting back on service and they are cutting back on employment. That is the reality of what they face today. Speculation, manipulation is a major concern. We have a responsible approach to it. The Republicans refuse to offer an alternative. OK. That is their decision.

Then we said to them: Why don't you present your energy bill? The Republican leader came to the floor with a litany of things the Republicans believe in. For over a week we have said to them: Put it in a bill offered on the floor. They have said: No, no. We would rather come to the floor and complain, rather than come to the floor and debate our approach.

I listened to the Republican leader as he came to the floor, and it is very clear to me. They don't want a debate and a vote. They want this issue to drag out forever and ever, amen. That is not what the American people want. They want us to tackle this thing, offer alternatives on the floor, debate them up or down, go forward.

It troubles me when the Republican leader repeatedly says—incorrectly—that when it comes to energy, from the Democratic view, we want to deal with speculation and, in his words, “do nothing else.” He forgets the whole second part of this—the Energy bill we are proposing on the Democratic side and they are going to propose on the Republican side. We offered them that. They turned us down.

I might also say there is no idea how many amendments the Republicans are going to offer. Two days ago, Senator KYL and I were on the floor, and he said there were 25 amendments. Senator SPECTER walked up and said: I have 2, so make that 27. Then Senator KYL said: Come to think of it, I have one too. We are up to 28. That was 2 days ago. This is growing similar to bacteria in a petri dish as the Republicans meet in their conference and dream up more amendments. That is good. It shows a creative mind at work, and it is a great exercise, but it isn't what the American people are asking for.

If you have a good set of ideas, offer them. You want to bring up more nuclear power, Senator DOMENICI? Put that in your package. You want to have more offshore drilling, put it in your package. You want to have coal to oil, put it in your package. If you believe in it, stand and fight for it. But they will not. They will not fight for it. They want to run. Run to the press and