

plans and research with diverse sources. I am not opposed to nuclear. I just do not like the feeling of being manipulated. Just yesterday the spokesperson for Saudi Arabia expressed concern about the price of oil. They can see the writing on the wall if it stays like this. They increased supply while insisting that it is not a supply issue.

Other sources that are much more progressive have pointed out that legislation passed late in 2000 deregulated the energy futures. It was suggested on NPR today that Congress could reverse that decision and change the price of energy in one month. You can tell I would sit on the other side of the aisle if I was in Congress but with [the President] making such a fuss about supply and demand I doubt we are going to see any bold action from Congress.

I have pulled the points for the following paragraph from "Mother Jones" July-August 2008. You may not like the source but let us discuss the facts. I am referring to an omnibus spending bill passed on or about December 15, 2000. Yes, President Clinton was still in office then. Senator Phil Gramm slipped in a 262-page measure called the Commodity Futures Modernization Act. It contained a provision lobbied for by Enron that exempted energy trading from regulatory oversight. This is primarily about California electricity and the mortgage securities fiasco but I am sure that this regulation or other similar has allowed the current run up in energy futures. This could be regulated. The regulations put in place after the Great Depression were sound and it has been a disaster to undo many of them.

Personally, the high energy prices have had little impact on me. I am, at least for now, still an overpaid engineer at Micron. I have purchased another old Saturn and my wife is driving that more and driving the Bonneville less. GM is saying how much it would take to raise the CAFE standards, but many of us have increased the mileage of our cars by 20 percent for about \$200 and we have not disabled emission systems or lied to the engine computer. My car has averaged 55 mpg for the last year and will do about 50 mpg at 65 mph.

The changes are primarily aerodynamics and a little hotter air fed into the engine. Some have bypassed emission systems but many have not.

That is not much of a story but I hope it gets you to thinking about some of these in a new light.

Thanks.

ERNE, *Meridian*.

Because of the gas prices we hardly go anywhere other than work and the store. Most of this energy crisis has been brought about by the speculators—these are the same people who brought on the sub-prime mess. They have to be stopped because they are ruining our economy. The cost of oil has nothing to do with its availability; it is pure speculation on the part of commodity traders. If these scavengers are not reigned in, the world economy is in for a depression. As soon as the energy bubble bursts, they will move to a new bubble which is food and, because of them, millions will starve. One of the other driving forces behind oil prices is the Federal Reserve (which is neither federal or reserve) lowering interest rates and devaluing the dollar. The banks are out for only themselves and they do not care what happens to the rest of us. The Federal Reserve needs to be done away with—because of the Fed's printing and Congress's spending habits, we are in big trouble.

We can barely afford the price of gas to go to and from work so vacations are out this year and so are a lot of other things. [How] are people, especially senior citizens on a

fixed income, going to heat their homes this winter? This is going to hurt Idaho businesses because any extra money is either spent on food or utilities.

Nobody believes the government figures on inflation (which are out-and-out lies) or the figures on unemployment. We are getting tired of the government lying to us and thinking we are too stupid to figure it out. There is nobody to for vote for or against in either the Democrat or Republican Presidential race. I am . . . tired of wasting my vote on the lesser of 2 evils . . .

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO THE SILVER STAR FAMILIES OF AMERICA

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I honor in the RECORD of the Senate the Silver Star Families of America, upon the completion of \$1 million in donated volunteer hours and materials to remember and honor the wounded and ill of our armed forces.

The Silver Star Families of America was founded on April 11, 2005, and received 501(c)3 status on December 5, 2005. The Silver Star Flag and Banner are symbols of remembrance and honor for the wounded soldiers and their families as well as anyone wishing to honor those wounded during combat while honorably serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The goal of the Silver Star Families of America is to recognize the blood sacrifice of our wounded and remember their efforts by honoring them with the Silver Star Banner. The Silver Star Families of America also advocates for the wounded and assists in educating their families and the public concerning their plight.

I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with the Georgia representative of Silver Star Families of America, Trish Benefield of Rome, GA, on a number of occasions while she organized State and local events and hospital visits to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces and their families who have sacrificed so much on behalf of our Nation's freedom.

Ms. Benefield, chief Steven J. Newton, founder of Silver Star Families, national president Janie Orman, and volunteers across the country have donated 47,912 hours valued by the Veterans Administration at \$934,763. They have also donated over \$40,000 in Silver Star Banner distribution and \$30,000 in direct aid for items such as services to homeless and near-homeless veterans, care packages, and support of hospitalized veterans and other programs. This achievement is a noteworthy one, and I am proud to recognize this accomplishment today. •

##### RECOGNIZING THE RED CLOUD INDIAN SCHOOL

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, the Red Cloud Indian School is worthy of much acclaim. Founded by Franciscan Sisters and Jesuits in 1888 as the Holy

Rosary Mission, they strove to teach and maintain Oglala and western knowledge for the youth of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and its surrounding areas. In 1969 the school changed its name to Red Cloud Indian School out of respect and appreciation for the great Chief Red Cloud who petitioned the government to allow the establishment of the school. Today nearly 600 students are enrolled in classes spanning every grade from kindergarten through twelfth. The school is private and 97 percent of its funds come from private donors, as students are required to pay only a minimal fee to attend. Classes include a wide range of subjects, such as math, science, history, ethics, and Lakota culture. Combining this wide range of education helps retain the Lakota heritage while preparing students to enter the larger society.

Red Cloud Indian School has made postsecondary education a priority and has done an exceptional job educating and preparing its students for the world. Seeking 100 percent college matriculation, the high school proudly touts that, in 2004, 94 percent of its graduating class pursued post-secondary education, the highest rate of any Indian school in the country.

Since 1999, 32 Red Cloud students have received the Gates Millennium Scholarship. The Gates Millennium Scholarship Program was originally funded through a \$1 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 1999. The program has two main goals: to encourage academic success and to provide absolute financial support to excellent minority students who have financial constraints that could otherwise inhibit their ability to attend college. To date, over 12,000 people have been awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

The recent Gates Scholarship recipients of Red Cloud Indian School are as follows:

1999—Candace Brings Plenty;

2001—Sarah Yellow Boy and Lawrence Vigil;

2003—Donnel Ecoffey;

2004—Carmen Fourd, John Cross Dog, and Marie Zephier;

2005—Jason Clifford, Blue Dawn Little, Shayna Richards, and Sarah White;

2006—Rianna Albers, Jordan Herman, Larissa Little Moon, Dallas Nelson, Marissa O'Bryan, and Brandi Shortman;

2007—Monique Claymore, Sammi Herman, Samantha Janis, Tanner O'Daniel, Matthew Shoulders, Kaylynn Two Bulls, and Allison Weston; and

2008—David Anaya, Dylan Fills Pipe, Season Frank, Danielle Hudspeth, Chante Knight, Stevie Tobacco, Vern White Butterfly Jr., and Audrey White.

Congratulations to the Red Cloud Indian School staff, students, and families. Their sustained success is very admirable and is worthy of the highest praise! •