This is your golden opportunity to unfurl old ''Battle Born'' and wave it proudly in the Libertarian breezes.

Come on, all you die-hard conservatives and daffy Obama critics who these days find yourselves chattering endlessly about the evils of pork barrel politics, ''earmarks'' and government waste in general. Take time out from calling into your favorite radio talk show and register your complaint.

This is the time to demand that your local and state officials return the $100 million secured by Senate Majority Leader and Silver State Pork Farmer Supreme Harry Reid in the recent $410 billion federal spending bill. (Meanwhile, Nevada's ''hard-core conservative'' John Ensign voted against the bill after putting his fingerprints on $54 million in earmarks. And he didn't even blush.)

Many conservatives have assailed the latest federal shopping spree for being riddled with ''earmarks'' at a time Congress had supposedly sworn off pork. You can't turn on a television or open a newspaper without running into the criticism.

So here's your chance, Nevada. Demand that your community's portion of the money be returned.

If wicked old Clark County wants to keep its share of the loot, that doesn't preclude the state's rural counties from taking a righteous stand and marking the metaphorical envelopes containing those federal handout checks ''Return to Sender.'' Even if it isn't effective, just think how much publicity your town will generate by tossing that federal handout back into Uncle Sam's face.

Of course, criticizing government waste is easy. Rejecting it when it's your turn at the trough is more difficult. A quick perusal of the particulars of Nevada's $100 million proves this out.

There's $807,500 for the Nevada Fair Housing Foreclosure Effort, and another $507,000 for the Access to Healthcare Network for uninsured Nevadans.

Remember the hepatitis C scandal? There's $523,000 earmarked for the Southern Nevada Health District to fight that battle.

There's nearly $1 million to assist the University of Nevada Health Sciences System nursing program and $856,000 each for the Clark County and Washoe County school districts for dropout prevention.

There's more than $800,000 for University of Nevada, Reno agriculture-related programs, and another $269,000 to help Carson City battle erosion that followed the 2004 Waterfall Fire.

Come on, Carson. Just say no.

While Clark and Washoe counties receive by far the greatest percentage of federal funding for public safety improvements for everything from training facilities to DNA labs, the city of Fernley in Lyon County is due to get $300,000 for law enforcement equipment.

While I've never thought much about the need for invasive weed control, there's $235,000 for those who do at the Nevada Department of Agriculture. Presumably, they'll be controlling invasive weeds somewhere in the middle of Great Basin cattle country.

There's $4.78 million for the Truckee Meadows Flood Control Project, another $2.5 million for Truckee Canal Reconstruction. There's more than $3 million for water treatment at Lake Tahoe and $18 million for ''rural Nevada water infrastructure and water quality projects.''

There's money to study wildlife habitat in central Nevada lakes and to restore the Lahontan cutthroat trout population.

Inside town limits, there's $608,000 to help Wells recover from its earthquake, $150,000 to restore St. Augustine's Church in Austin, $475,000 for the Virginia & Truckee Railroad, $190,000 for the Amargosa Valley Community Center, $300,000 for wastewater treatment in Goldfield, $1.5 million for an interpretive center in Elko, $285,000 for Truckee Meadows Community College low-income student recruitment, and $24,000 to help poor schoolchildren in Lincoln County.

One of my serious favorites is $381,000 for the Nevada Cancer Institute to fund the Hope Coach ''mammovan,'' which will provide cancer screening for women in the state's many rural outposts.

This is a great project, but then I like pork spending.

Don't misunderstand: There's plenty to criticize about earmarks and federal spending. Nevada's list of big government projects made me scratch my head several times.

And there are compelling philosophical arguments to be made against wide-open government checkbooks and big deficits. Frankly, I'll be happy to have that discussion—as soon as lowly, care-worn Nevada finishes getting its share. Until then, I'll refrain from joining the Libertarian chorus.

That's the thing about pork.

It's easy to turn it down until the pig is roasted and the platter is passed to you.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, in a recent column for the Washington Post, ''Obama's 'Science' Fiction,'' Charles Krauthammer exposes President Obama's efforts to destabilize the delicate balance between moral concerns over destroying embryonic stem cells and advancing medical research that can be universally accepted.

President Obama's recent decision to authorize expanded and seemingly unlimited Federal funding for stem cell research eviscerates the delicate balance forged by President Bush by forcing taxpayers to support embryonic creation and destruction. Mr. Krauthammer observed that some may ''favor moving that moral line to additionally permit the use of spare fertility clinic embryos,'' but ''President Obama replaced it with no line at all. He pointedly left open the creation of cloned and noncloned sperm-and-egg derived—human embryos solely for the purpose of dismemberment and use for parts.'' What is most concerning to me, and what Mr. Krauthammer succinctly exposes, is that President Obama's new embryonic stem cell policy is devoid of any ethical standards or guidelines. President Obama's decision makes the federal government the final arbiter in a moral argument that defies many Americans' core beliefs about the creation of life.

I ask unanimous consent that his column be printed in the RECORD and I urge my colleagues to consider his thoughtful views.

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

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 13, 2009]

OBAMA'S 'SCIENCE' FICTION

(By Charles Krauthammer)

Last week, the White House invited me to a signing ceremony overturning the Bush (43) executive order on stem cell research. I assume this was because I have long argued in these columns and during my five years on the President's Council on Bioethics that, contrary to the Bush policy, federal funding should be extended to research on embryonic stem cell lines derived from discarded embryos in fertility clinics.

I declined to attend. Once you show your face at these things you become a tacit endorser of whatever they spring. My caution was vindicated.

President Bush had restricted federal funding for embryonic stem cell research to cells derived from embryos that had already been destroyed (as of his speech of Aug. 9, 2001). While I favor moving that moral line to additionally permit the use of spare fertility clinic embryos, President Obama replaced it with no line at all. He pointedly left open the creation of cloned—and noncloned sperm-and-egg-derived—human embryos solely for the purpose of dismemberment and use for parts.

I am not religious. I do not believe that personhood is conferred upon conception. But I also do not believe that a human embryo is the moral equivalent of a hangnail and deserves no more respect than an appendix. Moreover, given the protean power of embryonic manipulation, the temptation it presents to science and the well-recorded human propensity for evil even in the pursuit of good, lines must be drawn. I suggested the bright line prohibiting the deliberate creation of human embryos solely for the instrumental purpose of research—a clear violation of the categorical imperative not to make a human life (even if only a potential human life) a means rather than an end.

On this, Obama has nothing to say. He leaves it entirely to the scientists. This is more than moral abdication. It is acquiescence to the mystique of ''science'' and its inherent moral benevolence. How anyone as sophisticated as Obama can believe this within living memory of Mengele and Tuskegee and the fake (and coercive) South Korean stem cell research is hard to fathom.

That part of the ceremony, watched from the safe distance of my office, made me uneasy. The other part—the ostentatious issuance of a memorandum on ''restoring scientific integrity to government decision-making''—would have made me walk out.

Restoring? The implication, of course, is that while Obama is guided solely by science, Bush was driven by dogma, ideology and politics.

What an outrage. Bush's nationally televised stem cell speech was the most morally serious address on medical ethics ever given by an American president. It was so scrupulous in presenting the best case for both his view and the contrary view that until the last few minutes, the listener had no idea where Bush would come out.

Obama's address was morally unserious in the extreme. It was populated, as his didactic discourses always are, with a forest of straw men. Such as his admonition that we must resist the ''false choice between sound science and moral values.'' Yet, exactly 2 minutes and 12 seconds later he went on to declare that he would never open the door to the ''use of cloning for human reproduction.''

Does he not think that a cloned human would be of extraordinary scientific interest? And yet he banned it.

Is he so obtuse as not to see that he had just made a choice of ethics over science? Yet, unlike Bush, who painstakingly explained the balance of ethical and scientific goods he was trying to achieve, Obama did not even pretend to make the case why some practices are morally permissible and others not.

This is not just intellectual laziness. It is the moral arrogance of a man who continuously dismisses his critics as ideological

while he is guided exclusively by pragmatism (in economics, social policy, foreign policy) and science in medical ethics.

Science has everything to say about what is possible. Science has nothing to say about what is permissible. Obama's pretense that he will ''restore science to its rightful place'' and make science, not ideology, dispositive in moral debates is yet more rhetorical sleight of hand—this time to abdicate decision-making and color his own ideological preferences as authentically ''scientific.''

Dr. James Thomson, the pioneer of embryonic stem cells, said ''if human embryonic stem cell research does not make you at least a little bit uncomfortable, you have not thought about it enough.'' Obama clearly has not.

KENYA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, two human rights defenders, Oscar Kamau Kingara and John Paul Oulu, were murdered in the streets of Nairobi, Kenya 2 weeks ago. I was deeply saddened to learn of these murders and join the call of U.S. Ambassador Ranneberger for an immediate, comprehensive and transparent investigation of this crime. At the same time, we cannot view these murders simply in isolation; these murders are part of a continuing pattern of extrajudicial killings with impunity in Kenya. The slain activists were outspoken on the participation of Kenya's police in such killings and the continuing problem of corruption throughout Kenya's security sector. If these and other underlying rule of law problems are not addressed, there is a very real potential for political instability and armed conflict to return to Kenya.

In December 2007, Kenya made international news headlines as violence erupted after its general elections. Over 1,000 people were killed, and the international community, under the leadership of Kofi Annan, rallied to broker a power-sharing agreement and stabilize the government. In the immediate term, this initiative stopped the violence from worsening and has since been hailed as an example of successful conflict resolution. But as too often happens, once the agreement was signed and the immediate threats receded, diplomatic engagement was scaled down. Now over a year later, while the power-sharing agreement remains intact, the fundamental problems that led to the violence in December 2007 remain unchanged. In some cases, they have even become worse.

Last October, the independent Commission of Inquiry on Post-Election Violence, known as the Waki Commission, issued its final report. The Commission called for the Kenyan government to establish a special tribunal to seek accountability for persons bearing the greatest responsibility for the violence after the elections. It also recommended immediate and comprehensive reform of Kenya's police service. Philip Alston, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings, echoed that recommendation in his report, which was released last month. Alston found the police had been widely involved in the post-election violence and continue to carry out carefully planned extrajudicial killings. The Special Rapporteur also identified systematic shortcomings and the need for reform in the judiciary and Office of the Attorney General.

Despite these official reports, there has been very little action toward implementing these recommendations. The Kenyan government has not taken steps to establish the special tribunal. The police commissioner and attorney general, both heavily implicated in these problems, remain in their respective posts. Meanwhile, reported scandals involving maize and oil imports suggest that public corruption in Kenya remains pervasive and may be getting worse. This is generating increased public resentment that can easily be exploited by armed militias and turn violent. I am especially worried about these heightened hostilities given the tensions expected to surround Kenya's census, which is scheduled for later this year and the potential for them to flow over into next year's constitutional referendum, and ultimately the 2012 general elections.

There is a lot of talk these days about conflict prevention. I see no greater opportunity for conflict prevention in Africa right now than in Kenya. The international community needs to coordinate its efforts to ensure the Kenyan government addresses these fundamental problems of governance and rule of law. The United States has a key role to play in this regard, especially given our longstanding and historic partnership with Kenya. To that end, I was pleased that FBI Director Robert Mueller visited Kenya 2 weeks ago and delivered a very clear message: ''Public corruption should be a priority for all investigation and prosecution agencies in the country.'' We need to consistently reiterate that message and we need to back it up with concrete actions that both support reform and sanction individuals found guilty of kleptocracy.

In the months ahead, Kenya must get more attention from our senior government officials. I hope the Obama administration's nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs will be ready to give it that attention and develop an effective strategy for preventing conflict there. Allowing the status quo to persist will be far more costly in the long run. Kenya is an extremely important country for the stability of the Horn of Africa and East Africa; it is a country of great talent and entrepreneurship, rich history and diversity. With all those strengths, a promising and peaceful future is possible for Kenya and we must help its people to attain it.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

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

Gas prices have not only affected our family for our vehicle but also in heating fuel. We live 15 miles from town and from our jobs, costing us an increase of $400–500 a month. Our heating bills went from $89 to $389 a month. That has had great impact our family. I am sure that it has on many families. Our hope is that our legislators will find us the resources that available to lower the costs. The cost of living is above our wages for many people. Be it the wind and solar power something needs to done. Thank you for your time.

CINDY.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I am an architect and travel to construction sites. It is obvious. The cost goes up so I compromise with my clients; the price goes up a little to them and my already slim margin goes down. Everything is affected: transportation costs more so building materials cost more so we get less buildings and infrastructure for our money. My family gets to do less together.

The nonsense is everywhere. In Boise our Mayor wants to reinstitute a street car system. Why not create better bus schedules so people will ride and save billions? The ''environmentalists'' do not want us to recover our own resources because they are looking at the processes of oil, timber and mining of 50 and 100 years ago, not giving credit to the enormous progress those industries have made in their processes.

We have become a nation that consumes exponentially more than it produces. If we do not repair that imbalance, it will consume us destructively! Get the supply side in balance. Use our own resources. Bring much manufacturing home. (The unions have already priced themselves out of the market. They may have to give a little.) Extract our own resources in the environmentally safe and sound ways that are now known. Then do not export our resources.

Lastly, as I have been saying for 20 years, explore and support development of all logical alternative energy sources.

Thanks for the opportunity to do my own pontificating!!

DAVID, *Boise*.

Because all of the food in our area is trucked in the price of groceries is naturally going to go up. I worry about the young people that do not have large incomes and have