

Will any be sent to U.S. soil, even though the Senate voted against it 94 to 3?

Finally, what legal basis does the administration have to release trained terrorists into the U.S.?

Americans want answers. Unfortunately, the administration seems more comfortable discussing its plans for the inmates at Guantanamo with a European audience than it is discussing these details with Americans.

Senator SESSIONS wrote a letter to the Attorney General weeks before his trip to Europe asking about the legality of releasing trained terrorists into the U.S. He sent another one to the same effect on Monday. He still has not heard back.

During the same trip, Attorney General Holder talked specifics about Guantanamo with European leaders. He said that the administration has identified 30 detainees at Guantanamo who are ready for release and that he would "be reaching out to specific countries with specific detainees." And according to reports, the administration has presented at least one country with a list of detainees it would like that country to accept.

Americans want to know that on the issue of Guantanamo the administration is as concerned about safety as it is about symbolism. They are concerned about the administration's plans for releasing or transferring some of the most dangerous terrorists alive. They want to know that these terrorists will not end up back on the battlefield or in their backyards.

At the very least, they should know as much about the administration's plans for these men as our European critics do.

So this morning I would like to ask the Attorney General to provide Congress with any information he has provided to foreign governments about his plans for detainees at Guantanamo. If the administration will not relate its plans to the American people or their representatives in Congress, it should at least relate the details of its conversations on this issue with foreign leaders. This is not too much to ask.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHANNIS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss some of the energy issues currently facing the American economy. First among them is our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

Last summer, we all experienced the consequences of serving the foreign masters who control most of the oil we consume. In July, oil prices climbed to just under \$150 per barrel. Policymakers wrung their hands and scrambled while Americans tried to control their frustration. What did Americans see? They saw prices rising uncontrollably on the global petroleum market. That was especially painful for families. At the same time some at least started to realize that we have abundant reserves right here at home. But these reserves have been actively blocked by Federal policy for over 20 years.

Just how import dependent are we as a nation? Last year we imported about 4.7 billion barrels of oil. Based on an average price of \$100 per barrel, Americans shipped about \$470 billion overseas, nearly half a trillion dollars. That was just for calendar year 2008 alone.

We need to address this problem by expanding every domestic energy source in an environmentally responsible way. This strategy should include clean and renewable sources. I believe in that.

But one might ask: Why raise this issue now? That was last summer, and this year prices are down some. I raise this issue now to note to Nebraskans and to my Senate colleagues that even though prices have relented, our exposure to foreign oil markets has not changed. That alarms me, and it should alarm my colleagues.

I fear the American people are getting set up again. Unfortunately, United States policy on domestic sources of energy hasn't changed much. For too long our Federal policy on domestic energy sources has consisted of three words: No, no, and no. Unfortunately, since this administration has taken office, we have seen evidence of more of the same tired no, no, no policies. First the administration in February canceled 77 leases for natural gas development in the State of Utah. Can we turn our backs on a domestic resource as critical as this one? We know that natural gas is clean relative to other fossil fuels. We know demand for natural gas is only going to increase. We need look no further than the Capitol's own power plant. The Speaker of the House and her own majority leader announced on Friday that we will no longer burn coal to heat the Capitol complex buildings and water.

What is the alternative? It is natural gas. Most troubling, perhaps, we know that natural gas is not easily transported. So increasing demand trans-

lates very quickly into increased price where additional supply is not available. This is not only true for heating; it is especially true for fertilizer and other industrial uses of natural gas. Fertilizer affects my State immensely. For the good of our farmers, for the good of manufacturers, for the good of the Nation, we need to find more domestic sources of natural gas.

If the administration says no to Utah, what about energy exploration in the Outer Continental Shelf, known as the OCS? Since the early 1980s, there has been in place a Federal moratorium of one sort or another on exploration in the OCS. Essentially, most of the Federal waters of the Atlantic and California coasts were off limits to energy development. This is worth repeating. For more than 20 years, Federal policy blocked energy exploration in many of the OCS areas.

Finally, last year, in the face of \$4 gasoline and very angry constituents, the moratorium on OCS exploration was lifted. Unfortunately, it appears to have been a short-lived victory.

In February, the administration announced a delay in the rules for exploration and utilization of the natural gas and crude oil off our shores. The administration assures us that the delay is only to pave the way for "wise decisions." But to a savvy American public, it sounds like more of the same. It sounds like a policy of no, no, and no or at least delay, delay, delay some more, especially when they hear that the same script was used for oil shale leases. That is right. The administration in February also withdrew leases for research and development of oil shale on Federal lands in Colorado and Utah where our oil shale resources are equivalent to 800 billion barrels of oil.

The reason: According to the administration, the leases had "several flaws."

So what is the promise? The administration would offer a new round of oil shale leases for research and development. I will take the administration at its word but, again, it does sound like a broken record: Delay, delay, delay. So Americans, Nebraskans, and this Senator cannot be faulted for being a bit skeptical, for thinking that the most recent delays are simply more of the same. The day will return—unfortunately, perhaps in the not too distant future—when fuel prices will shoot up. Promises that the administration is doing everything it can may very well ring hollow. Americans will know that 77 leases for natural gas exploration were canceled. Americans will know that OCS and oil shale development and exploration was delayed again. Meanwhile their commutes are not getting any shorter. Their electricity bills are not going down. Fertilizer and food prices are continuing to increase.

There has been a lot of talk from the administration about ending our dependence on foreign oil. I welcome that. I want to be a partner in that.