

other sectors of our economy. Agriculture is a prime example. The Federal Government works diligently to open and maintain international market access for U.S. agricultural producers. This was highlighted very recently by the announcement that Japan would ease its restrictions on U.S. beef imports. Certainly, this is meaningful to my State and the States of others who are in this Chamber right now. This has been a major goal of the current and previous administrations for years, and Japan's decision was hailed by the administration and many Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. Everyone knows it is a great deal because when you sell products abroad, you both generate wealth at home and expand the size of the market, thereby increasing opportunities for expansion.

The Federal Government should adopt the same perspective with LNG exports. LNG exports will create jobs across the country, bring more wealth to our Nation from abroad, and grow our economy—all at the same time. Meanwhile, we will be providing needed fuel for our allies—Japan, Korea, NATO, and Thailand—who will consequently be able to reduce their reliance on the Middle East.

So it is something that is good for everybody. It is good for our country; it is good for our economy. And all you have to do is, if you want to see that, look up to North Dakota. As I mentioned, a great independent producer, Harold Hamm from Oklahoma, is up there right now, and his biggest problem is they are fully employed.

We have a similar situation in my State of Oklahoma. We have expanded our production to the point where we are not feeling some of the grief you hear in the discussions from the other people on this floor. So I would encourage us to look at this export to keep this market, to get those other 1,600 wells working. This is something that can certainly happen.

THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

I notice my time is expiring, but I want to mention something that came out in the State of the Union Message. I hope I will have a chance to do this later on today.

When the President was talking about greenhouse gas, as he has been talking about for a long time, he made several comments. I think this was talked about more in the State of the Union Message than anything else he talked about.

Yes, it's true that no single event makes a trend. But the fact is that the 12 hottest years on record have all come in the last 15.

That is just flat wrong. Even NASA's James Hansen, who officially has been the leader on the other side of this issue, admits that global temperature standstill is real, and mean global temperatures have been flat for the last decade. Later on I am going to go over

one by one the statements he has made. I would only suggest that this is something we need to keep in mind.

In 1895, we went into this hysteria at that time because there was a cold snap: We are all going to freeze to death. Another ice age is coming. We are all going to die.

In 1920, it was the same thing except it was a heat spell. This, obviously, wasn't true at that time, but everyone was getting hysterical. These 20-year cycles keep coming and going. You can set your watch by them. Except in 1945, it was another cold spell that lasted until 1975. The interesting thing about this is that 1945 was the year that had the largest release of CO₂ of any time in the history of this country, and that precipitated not a warming trend but another cold trend. The warming trend, of course, came in 1975.

Anyway, these are cycles. God is still up there. We are going to have these cycles take place. Later on today, hopefully, I want to take each statement that the President has made and show that those statements weren't right.

One thing that is true—one thing that no one disagrees with—is that the cost of having some type of a cap-and-trade system that the President wants would be between \$300 billion and \$400 billion a year. By the admission of the past Director of the EPA, Lisa Jackson—when I asked the question: If we were to incur all these taxes, would something we do in the United States affect the release of CO₂ worldwide, She said: No. Because the problem isn't here. The problem is in China. The problem is in India and other places.

So, again, for those who believe that CO₂ is causing global warming or other climate disasters, keep in mind, even the EPA Director appointed by President Obama agrees that would not reduce any CO₂ worldwide.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks, the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. PAUL, be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE SEQUESTER

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I am not sure where the Obama administration is getting all of its talking points on the sequester, but the President might want to consider hiring a fact checker.

Even before the sequester took effect, Education Secretary Arne Duncan declared that schoolteachers were getting pink slips. A few days later he had to walk those comments back. He said he was referring to a single school in West Virginia. But when the Washington Post contacted the superintendent of that school, he said not one teacher had gotten a pink slip because of the sequester.

Then President Obama suggested that all of the people who keep the Capitol clean would be suffering a pay cut. But that wasn't true either, according to Capitol Superintendent Carlos Elias.

We have been repeatedly told that the sequester would trigger drastic layoffs of Federal workers. Yet on Monday alone the Federal Government posted literally hundreds of job advertisements.

Finally, just yesterday, when asked to provide evidence for the claim that 70,000 children would be denied access to Head Start because of the sequester, the White House had no details. While the President has been out there playing Chicken Little, Members of Congress have been waiting for the White House to send over its budget.

The law requires the President to transmit a budget by February 4, and we have been now advised his budget will not be forthcoming until March 25. Ironically, that will actually be after the House and the Senate have taken up our own budget, and we will have no input from the President on his proposal.

A few weeks ago I said a second term offers the President a second chance. I still remain hopeful that President Obama will eventually be persuaded to adopt a serious approach for long-term deficit reduction and long-term economic growth.

One of the great tragedies in America today is the fact that our economy is growing so slowly that unemployment rates remain unacceptably high—roughly around 8 percent. That is only after many people have simply given up looking for work. Now more than 20 million people are either out of work or they are working part time when they would prefer to work full time. But that is not going to happen until we get the economy growing again—and that is not going to happen until we get our hands around our long-term deficit and economic growth.

I realize the President and Democrats want to take the House of Representatives back in 2014. The President probably remembers the Halcyon days of 2009 and 2010 when his party controlled the White House, the Senate, and the House. That got us ObamaCare, a \$1 trillion stimulus, and a whole lot more debt, and the Dodd-Frank law—which was targeted at Wall Street but which hit Main Street, including a lot of our community bankers.

There is a time for campaigning and there is a time for governing. But the 2012 election occurred 17 weeks ago and the 2014 election will not occur for another 20 months. Now is the time for governing, not for delivering more partisan stump speeches. In order to govern, the Senate needs to pass a budget, something this Chamber has not done for more than 1,400 days. Over that same period our gross national debt has grown by \$5.5 trillion and we have experienced the weakest economic recovery since the Great Depression.