

cash-flow—oil. I just cannot accept the policies of this administration to enrich that man.

We have the farmers, and we have the truckers. Mr. President, have you flown lately? Have you looked at your airplane tickets? They put on a surcharge. Nobody can figure out what the ticket costs anyway. If it is a short trip, it is \$20. If it is a long trip, it is \$40.

Have you received a FedEx package lately? There is a surcharge added.

Pretty soon, the American people are going to wake up. A surcharge is going to be on everything. They say: Oil really hasn't affected inflation. Don't be too sure it has not hit yet.

Do my colleagues think we will get relief? We will see what happens on Monday. Anything that happens on Monday is 8 weeks getting to your gas station. That is the harsh reality.

The policy of this administration is more imports. That is it. They never learn by history: 37-percent dependent in 1973; 47-percent dependent when we fought the war in the Persian Gulf; 56-percent dependent now; 65-percent, according to the Department of Energy, in the year 2015 to 2020. Does it behoove us to take action now? I think so.

I told you a little bit about exploration and production. Here is what happened in our employment in energy: 405,000 employed is down to 293,000. That is the position we are in.

Our oil production domestically dropped from about 7 billion to about 6 billion in this period of time because we don't have an aggressive posture. It is not that we do not have oil and gas. This administration will declare victory, I guess, on the 27th if OPEC releases more oil. But I think Americans are going to have to ask a basic question, a simpler question, and that is: Will the administration's actions decrease our oil dependence or increase it? That is the basic question, and the American people ought to understand it.

Next Monday is March 27, and they say there will be an increase in foreign production of another 1 million to 2 million barrels. Then the administration—the Secretary of Energy and the President—is going to claim victory. They will say: We have more oil.

How hollow, because it is going to increase our dependence, it is going to give them more leverage. We are going to have another crisis. They said OPEC could never get together and did not have the discipline. They did. They got together. They would rather sell their oil at a higher price than sell less oil, obviously. They would like to see it somewhere at \$20 to \$25 to keep us on the hook. That is the thought.

I encourage the American people to ask: Is this in our national interest to swallow the administration's claim of victory? If indeed there is a significant increase coming, if we swallow the administration's claim of victory that it is in the Nation's interest to become more dependent on imported oil, or

strike out with an aggressive posture based on American technology and American can-do spirit to develop resources at home in the overthrust belt in my State of Alaska?

I implore my colleagues who want to speak on behalf of America's environmental community, to know what they are talking about. I ask them to get up to ANWR and Prudhoe Bay and take a look at it. See what we have done and look at some other oil fields. Just do not take the word of the self-anointed environmental groups that have a mission. That mission is membership, dollars, and a cause.

I am not suggesting they do not make a significant contribution. The problem is that they refuse to recognize that we are going to be needing crude oil—petroleum products—for a long time. They refuse to recognize that we are better off developing domestically than importing it. They refuse to recognize where we are getting our imports, the significant role of our rock. They refuse to recognize the role of the lives we lost in the Persian Gulf war. They refuse to recognize we have done a pretty good job in developing oil and gas resources. We can do a better job, if given the opportunity.

I do appreciate the time that has been allotted to me today.

I think it is important to recognize that, in all honesty, we do not have an oil policy, we do not have an energy policy. I fear my colleagues from the Northeast are going to be exposed to substantial increases in electricity.

I have the obligation to proceed with electric reliability bills, electric restructuring. But the fact is, they are going to be dependent on fuel oil making electricity. The price is going to be a lot higher than they have ever had before. People are going to be asking, What are you doing about it to relieve the problem? I hope their answer is not solely to increase imports.

I again extend my willingness to travel to the Northeast corridor, my willingness to meet with the editorial writers of the Northeast papers that continually misrepresent facts. I encourage them to give us an opportunity to be heard. I encourage them to come on up and take a look and spend the money so they can objectively make recommendations and decisions upon those to whom they and their papers and their media extend themselves.

I would like them to know that our Governor, and our delegation would love to have you. We will treat you with a level of hospitality that you will find quite suitable and quite comfortable. You might want to bring some long underwear though.

Give us an opportunity to contribute to this country.

The last thing I want to say is, we became a State in 1959. That was 41 years ago, or thereabouts. The rest of the country established their land patterns 100, 150 years ago. We are still trying to develop an economy. We have 700,000 people. We are trying to develop a uni-

versity. We don't have any roads across our State. The Federal Government owns it. We are dependent on natural resources. Our fish are renewable. Our timber is renewable. We also have a lot of oil and gas.

#### MEASURE RETURNED TO CALENDAR—S. 2251

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that S. 2251 be placed back on the Senate calendar.

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

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 14

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1:30 p.m. on Monday the Senate begin consideration of S. J. Res. 14 regarding the flag desecration and it be considered under the following time agreement:

At 1:30 p.m. Monday, following the reporting of the resolution by the clerk, Senator MCCONNELL be recognized to offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute regarding a statute, and it be limited to 2 hours equally divided in the usual form, and an additional 30 minutes under the control of the Senior Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD, with no amendments in order to the substitute, and, if agreed to, it be considered original text for the purpose of further amendments;

Further, following the debate on the McConnell amendment, Senator HOLLINGS be recognized to offer his first-degree amendment regarding campaign spending limits, with no amendments in order to the amendment and time limited to 4 hours equally divided in the usual form, with 1 of the 4 hours under the control of Senator MCCAIN;

Further, that no motions to commit or recommit be in order or any additional amendments;

Further, that at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, the Senate resume the Hollings amendment for up to 2 hours of their designated debate time, equally divided;

Further, that at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, there be up to 60 minutes equally divided between the chairman and the ranking minority member of Judiciary for general debate on the joint resolution;

And, finally, that following the debate on the amendments, the amendments be laid aside, with votes to occur on or in relation to the amendments in the order in which they were offered, beginning at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, with 4 minutes for debate prior to each vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUNNING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. In light of this agreement, there will be no further