could end up outside the United States, and the Northeast would still shiver this winter. With refineries running at near capacity and Middle East tensions rising, chances already are slim that tapping the reserve will make much of a lasting dent in energy prices.

Senate Energy Committee Chairman Frank H. Murkowski, a critic of using the reserve to tinker with market prices, wants the Energy Department to explain how all this could happen. ''If the stated purpose for the swap was to supply the Northeast with home heating oil, why wasn't there a contractual obligation that made sure it will get there?

Good question. The possible answers aren't pretty, though. Either the Energy Department conducted an incomplete review of credentials, or these are blatantly sweetheart deals. Consumers deserve an answer.

TRUCK SIZES AND WEIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk to my colleagues about the issue of bigger and heavier trucks on America's highways. As many of my colleagues know, I am a strong proponent of keeping the current truck size and weight limitations in place. Last year, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and I sent a letter to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, signed by 60 other Members of Congress from districts along Interstate 95. The letter urged the chairman to reject any effort to increase the 80,000-pound weight limit for trucks traveling on any part of I–95.

Earlier this year, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 306, the safe highways resolution, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA). House Concurrent Resolution 306 expresses the sense of the Congress that the Federal freeze on triple tractor trailer trucks and other longer combination vehicle, LCVs, should not be lifted and the current Federal limits on heavy truck weight should remain in place.

Now since April, this legislation has gained over 135 House cosponsors. Additionally, the legislation is supported by a number of public safety and law enforcement organizations such as AAA, the National Public Health Organization, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, the National Association of Police Organizations, and the National Troopers Coalition.

Mr. Speaker, probably the best argument against lifting the Federal 80,000-pound weight limitation or freezing the current geographic limit taking on LCVs is force equals mass times acceleration. It is simple high school physics. The bigger the truck, the harder it is to stop; the harder it is on the highway itself; and in the event of an accident the harder it hits anything in its path.

Additionally, a number of truck drivers that I have talked to have told me that bigger trucks are more difficult to handle and more stressful to drive. There is no doubt that heavy trucks have inherent dangers. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, in 1998 more than 5,000 Americans died and an additional 128,000 were injured in heavy truck accidents. Allowing trucks to get heavier only increases the danger. Heavier trucks are more likely to roll over, suffer from braking problems, and deviate from the flow of traffic, increasing the danger of a collision.

Moreover, the heavier the truck, the more likely a collision with an automobile will be fatal for the occupants of the car.

As many of my colleagues on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure know, the United States Department of Transportation recently released the Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Study. This study took 4 years to complete and is the most definitive study of its kind on the topic of truck size and weight. The study projected that LCVs would have fatal accident rates 11 percent higher than single trailers if they operated nationwide. Additionally, heavier trucks will have a heavier impact on America's highway infrastructure. Again, according to the Department of Transportation study, nationwide operation of LCVs would add $53 billion in new bridge reconstruction costs. This is a particularly important concern to my constituents in Massachusetts, as well as to many of my colleagues in the Northeast, where bridges are significantly older than in most other parts of the country.

In addition, there would be $266 billion in lost time and extra fuel burnt by auto drivers stuck in traffic because of bridge work. But traffic safety is not about statistics or abstractions. The damage done by motor vehicle accidents has a very human face. For me, that face most recently in the face of Linda Russell. Linda is a nursing supervisor at the University of Massachusetts Hospital in Worcester. She was badly injured when her car collided with a tractor trailer. As a result of the collision, Ms. Russell's right foot was almost completely severed, and she will be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of her life.

She wrote me in June of 1998 urging me to ask the Department of Transportation to accelerate the issuance of a final rule requiring tractor trailer trucks to be equipped with reflective tape.

□ 1615

A number of my colleagues have asked me why I introduced House concurrent resolution 306 when there are already Federal restrictions in place. The answer is that I have worked in Washington long enough to know that the status quo is only the status quo. If one feels passionately about an issue, one needs to be proactive. The smallest changes add up incrementally.

For example, in 1974, States were given the option to increase maximum truck weights on interstate highways from 72,000 to 80,000 pounds and to permit operations of a twin 28-foot double trailer truck. Less than 10 years later in 1982, Congress forced every State to permit these bigger rigs.

Mr. Speaker, I will just end by simply saying that I want to thank my colleagues for standing with me in supporting this legislation, and I urge the next Congress to take this issue up early on next year when we reconvene.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HANSEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, during morning business, I made some comments about missed opportunities of our foreign policy and how, as we look back over these past 8 years and judge whether we are better off or worse off here in the United States of America, it is good to take a look at the foreign policy situation, because, in fact, the world is a more dangerous place, and we are, in fact, more vulnerable and more threatened as a result of 8 years of a Clinton-Gore administration.

When we look into why that is the case, what caused this to happen, we find a foreign policy that has really been characterized by photo opportunities on the one hand and lack of consistent attention on the other hand, and it has not served us as well as it might, and we have missed important opportunities at a time when the world is waiting for the world's dominant power to show clear vision and signs of leadership for the next century ahead.

As we look at some of the hallmarks, trying to go back over these past 8 years of the Clinton-Gore administration, we have found that betting on people rather than on institutions in an evolutionary process was a big problem. Putting our money on guys like Milosevic is a bad bet; and Milosevic was, in fact, the guy we put our money on in Dayton for a short-term gain in the Balkans. Unfortunately, it led to long-term trouble; and we are still not out of it there. And Milosevic, while he has now been finally removed by the people of his country in a more evolutionary way, he nevertheless still is a factor, but more important, he is still a war criminal. We have dealt with Milosevic not as a war criminal in the Clinton-Gore administration, but as

somebody who we can trust in negotiations. That was a very poor choice.

Aristide in Haiti, another poor choice; a man who is an authoritarian, no friend of the United States, and has receded Haiti from the democratic promise it showed in the early 1990s. By betting on Aristide, I think we have done that country no favor at all.

Foday Sankoh in Sierra-Leone. Probably, CNN has shown the most gruesome shots of butchery, of children going out and maiming children, drugged children going out and maiming children, being used as instruments of war. This is a person the Clinton-Gore administration chose to try and do business with. When CNN pulled the cord on that and they showed Foday Sankoh for the brutal dictator and terrorist that he is, the Clinton-Gore administration retreated from that, and so far we have nothing to replace it.

So when I talk about a hallmark of betting on the wrong guy, that has been one of the problems. Another has been appeasement. We have seen continuously wishful thinking that said, if we could just get these people to go along with us, we will be all right, and we will offer them carrots. Well, we have to remember that the wall came down in Berlin because we were dealing from strength. They had no place to go in the Soviet Union and the United States of America was on the side of right and we were on the side of strength and eventually we prevailed because of those things.

Now we are going to North Korea and we are seeing extraordinary, extraordinary and, I would say, amazing scenes of our Secretary of State basically recognizing a dictatorship that is has enslaved most of its people, including its children. This is not just enslaving them physically, this is mind control as well, because the indoctrination in North Korea is total. I have been there, and I have seen it. Here, for whatever reason, we are suddenly finding our new best friend, the smiling Kim Jong Il. He is still the same old Kim Jong Il, he is not our best friend, he is a dangerous dictator, and it is a thoroughly Communist country. I do not understand why we are trying to do him a favor.

As we go through and look beyond the appeasements that we could talk about in Russia and China, let me skip to some bad judgment, bad judgment such as we have seen in the Middle East by trying to do a good job, and I give the President credit for that, but by forcing the agenda so fast for whatever motivation that it broke the framework. That was not good judgment; and we are seeing tragically tonight, every night on television, scenes of what happens when one forces a situation beyond its evolutionary capability to deal with it.

We have seen in Iraq apparent, Desert Fox. We bombed the heck out of them, and what happens? We end up winning a very short-term gain and losing our window into Iraq. We do not truly understand what is going on there now. We have lost our eyes and ears, Iraq is evermore dangerous and is now reasserting itself as a leader in the Arab world, as an evermore dangerous enemy of the United States with greater capabilities. We did not do what we needed to do there.

Mr. Speaker, this is a subject that will continue on, because this is a subject that matters to America; and I will be talking more about this in sessions to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ELIMINATION OF THE DEATH TAX WOULD BENEFIT ALL AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, for quite some time, we have been hearing from our friends on the other side of the aisle that Republican attempts to abolish the death tax is just a sop to the rich and that few ''regular'' folks would ever benefit from its elimination.

I would like to bring to the attention of the House an article that appeared in The Denver Post this weekend entitled ''Death, Taxes end Rancher's Dream.'' The article describes the plight of the Laurence family who have for the last couple of generations been eking out a living from an 1,800 acre ranch in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

Merrill Laurence died 4 years ago and the family has been struggling ever since to keep the tax man at bay. They have run out of time and resources. Soon, the auctioneer's gavel will fall; and the ranch will be sold to developers. November 11 will be the date that ends a 180-year history of the Laurence family ranching heritage. This family will be moved off the land and homes will be built where the ranch now stands.

But the proceeds from the sale will not accrue to the heirs. They do not want the sale. They will not receive very much at all of what comes from that sale. The money raised by this forced sale will go to satisfy the demands of the IRS.

I can assure my friends on the other side of the aisle that there are real people out there who are affected by the death tax and who are far from ''fat cats,'' that phrase that we so often hear them employ when attempting to foster class hatred in this country. These people and hundreds of thousands, millions others like them all over the United States are regular, hard-working tax-paying families who, in fact, have made only a couple of mistakes in their lifetime. Like Mr. Laurence, many of them work too hard, accumulated too much, according to, again, people on the other side of the aisle who keep talking about the death tax as something that so few people would get and so few people deserve the elimination of the death tax.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that there are lots of people who actually are, as I say, hard working, and they are not the top 1 percent, as we have often been told, of this Nation's income-earners who would benefit by the elimination of this death tax. They are people like Mr. Laurence who, as I say, he made a few mistakes. He worked too hard. He died before a new President could take office.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will soon be able to reintroduce this idea, the elimination of the death tax, and we will soon pass it; again, this will be the third time, and it will be signed by the next President of the United States, because it is a tax that needs to be eliminated, it is an unfair, unjust tax that people like the Laurences of Colorado are now being forced to pay and, as a result, being forced to sell their own heritage.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF ASSISTANT TO THE HONORABLE JAMES A. LEACH, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Ginny Burrus, staff assistant to the Honorable JAMES A. LEACH, Member of Congress:

OCTOBER 26, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony issued by the District Court for Iowa, Johnson County.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that it is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House to comply with the subpoena.

Sincerely,

GINNY BURRUS,
Staff Assistant.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT SCHEDULER TO THE HONORABLE JAMES A. LEACH, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Jill Rohret, district scheduler to the Honorable JAMES A. LEACH, Member of Congress:

OCTOBER 26, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony