

nonadversarial way by getting money to take care of their damaged bodies and minds, has not been administered properly, but we are working on that now. Until we get a resolution of that problem, we will be down here every night or every other night reading these letters.

This is a letter from a man named Scott Bono and his wife is Laura Bono, and they tell about their child and how their child became autistic after he received vaccines. Now they have done a mercury toxicity test on their son which shows that he has quite a bit of mercury in his body, and the way he got that mercury into his body was through these vaccinations. They say in this letter, "When Jackson was first diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder at 20 months old, he had just experienced a four-month regression beginning days after his August 9, 1990 shots. He received HiB shot, with 25 micrograms of mercury, on July 25." And 2-weeks later he received on August 9 a DT shot with 25 micrograms of mercury in it. He had received, prior to that, 75 micrograms of mercury from other shots, and the boy became autistic shortly thereafter.

The parents were not aware of and did not get their child into what was called the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund, which has a 3-year statute of limitations, which means that if they did not get into it within 3 years of finding out he was autistic and they believe the cause was vaccines that they could not get into the fund. We have thousands of families that were not aware of the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund, who never applied, and those people have been left out in the cold.

Let me tell my colleagues the results of just this one family's problem.

Since he became autistic, their medical expenses have cost \$578,980. Their insurance companies have paid \$306,000 of that, but including food and everything else that they are providing for this boy for his special needs, it is costing them \$35,000 in after tax dollars to take care of this child, and when we add all this up, it is over \$600,000 in medical needs and therapy and food for this boy. Actually, they are in a very difficult financial situation because of that.

We have families that have sold their homes, have gone bankrupt, have borrowed money until they are about to go bankrupt to take care of their children's needs, and those people are confident, as I am, that their child was damaged by the mercury in these vaccines.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have got to do something about that. We have to either change the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund to allow these people to get in there where their child and his problem is going to be reviewed by a special master, and if there is merit to their claim, this Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund should take care of that. If we do not get that, then the

next thing we ought to do is allow them to be able to go to court to sue the pharmaceutical companies.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, I will be back here tomorrow night and I appreciate the Chair being liberal with his time. We have got to solve these problems for these kids. We cannot leave them out in the cold. The President said he was going to leave no child behind, and we should not leave these children behind.

#### GASOLINE PRICES AT THEIR HIGHEST IN HISTORY

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, last weekend when I was home in Oregon I noted that gasoline prices have reached the highest level in history, and I know that my State was not alone. We apparently have the fourth highest prices in the United States. Other States are even higher, and I assume that records were set everywhere.

That might be well and good if it was all due to free market forces and the underlying cost of doing business, but I fear it is not.

We have been through this before. During the first Persian Gulf War, Desert Storm, we saw a huge run-up in oil and diesel prices and aviation fuel which caused a tremendous amount of dislocation in the economy, but the economy was nowhere near as fragile as it is today. Then we found out a little bit later that the oil companies had taken advantage of the war, war profiteering. They had, in fact, raised their prices far in excess of the underlying costs of crude and any other additional costs they might have incurred because of the war in Iraq.

Now here we are a decade later. Again, it appears that the United States will soon be at war in Iraq, and we are seeing record prices at the pump, and again, they are talking about the underlying price of crude and the instability of demand, but the increases at the pump and the increases for the aviation industry and the increases for the truckers far, far, far exceed the increases in the underlying costs of crude, and plus, many of these oil companies are selling themselves their own crude oil or they have hedged the price or they have special deals with the OPEC cartel.

No, plain and simple, they have begun war profiteering this time before the war has started. It is time for Congress to take action.

The economy is weak. Three hundred and eight thousand people lost their job last month. A number of airlines are teetering on the edge of bankruptcy, and a number of them say that if a war happens and fuel goes up any more, costs them \$180 million per penny, they will not be in Chapter 11 reorganization bankruptcy; they will be insolvent and out of business, cost-

ing tens of thousands more jobs and more harm to the economy, all so a few multinational oil companies can squeeze excess profits out of American airlines and families and truckers.

The President needs to take action. He could release fuel from the National Petroleum Reserve, the oil reserve, but he has chosen not to do that. So I have introduced a bill to give him more specific direction to give him authority once held by President Richard Nixon to stabilize the price of fuel with a fair rate of return to these oil companies and making them justify a run-up in price beyond a price that has prevailed a year ago today, and secondly, to have the President draw down the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in order to help drive down prices, mitigate supply, require the oil companies now and in the future to maintain minimum inventory levels so they cannot cry wolf and jack up the price every year when they switch from home heating oil to gasoline and all those things they love to do and then they have a refinery fire, nothing anyone could ever expect.

Ban the export of Alaska oil. We are going to hear arguments we should allow drilling in ANWR, but guess what, all the Alaska oil can and probably will be exported because this Congress, against my will, lifted the ban on the export of Alaska oil.

Finally, this administration is all for free trade. OPEC is not free trade. That cartel, those people, Saudis and others, are conspiring to drive up the price of oil, setting the price of oil in violation of all the agreements of the World Trade Organization. I am not a big fan of that organization, but this administration, who loves it and wants to expand its authority, should use the authority it has to object to that price fixing. It violates all of the tenets of GATT and the World Trade Organization.

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So it is time for strong action here in Congress and at the White House to stop the war profiteering, the price gouging, driving more Americans out of work, bankrupting the airlines, idling trucks and the commerce of this country, all so a few multinational oil companies can run record profits for the next couple of quarters.

Choice seems pretty easy to me. We will see what my colleagues and the President think.

#### APPOINTING A SPECIAL ENVOY FOR HUNGER

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, last week I wrote U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan requesting he appoint a special envoy to respond to the hunger crisis throughout the world. U.N. special envoys have been appointed to respond to