

3 years ago. Meanwhile, natural gas storage levels are at their lowest in almost 3 decades. Chairman Greenspan warns that the volatility in the price of natural gas could eventually contribute to "erosion" in the economy. We simply cannot afford that.

American industry, at the same time, is caught between regulations limiting the supply of natural gas and regulations encouraging its use. The result of that is we have rising gas prices, with some industries cutting jobs or being priced out altogether, and consumers getting hit with rising electric bills.

As we talked about a lot this week, and looked at the various amendments, we absolutely must diversify our sources of energy. We must do so in a way that lessens our overall dependence on foreign sources.

America's energy policy should be consistent with our foreign policy in the sense that both should be independent and secure—*independent and secure*.

By increasing America's domestic production of sources of energy—whether it is clean coal, oil and gas, nuclear, solar, or other renewable energy sources—we increase not only our energy supply but our national security.

In closing, I want to say one other thing about the comprehensive nature of a national energy policy. We will, by doing so, create needed jobs. The Energy bill, it is estimated, will create at least 500,000 jobs, and we know it will save even more. The Alaskan pipeline, for example, will create at least 400,000 jobs alone. The hundreds of millions of dollars that will be invested in research and development of new technologies will not only benefit the environment but will also create new jobs. These are the types of jobs that are increasingly important, I would argue, in this century—jobs of engineering, mathematics, chemistry, physics, and science.

Thus, I am committed, as majority leader, to get a comprehensive national energy bill passed as soon as we possibly can. We hear the Democrats warning, darkly, of a weak economy and increasing unemployment, while we, as Republicans, are talking about taking action and making our economy strong with such action.

So again, Mr. President, we will return to this bill. We will dispose of the remaining amendments, and we will deliver to the American people energy that is cleaner, more abundant, and more secure.

In addition to the Energy legislation which we spent most of the week on, we actually touched on a number of other very important legislative matters. The Senate last night passed the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill. We were able to consider a number of amendments, and as the Democratic assistant leader said earlier today at the opening of the Senate this morning, it was remarkable to see how that bill was handled on the

floor. It came together in a bipartisan way, in a way that really is a good model for us in handling this type of legislation when it comes to the floor.

I thank the chairman and ranking member and Members on both sides of the aisle for their cooperation in moving us forward and passing that very important bill.

We also passed this week the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act. I am pleased the Senate was able to consider that bill to address the tragedy that is occurring, as we speak, in Burma and the issues of freedom and democracy for which we have fought so hard in other parts of the world. It shows we understand, that we are caring, we are compassionate, and we will take action when freedom and democracy are challenged.

I thank the majority whip, the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, Mr. MCCONNELL, for bringing that bill to our attention and bringing it to the floor.

We also passed the Women Business Centers Preservation Act which was sponsored by our colleague, Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE. In addition, we were able to clear a number of executive nominations. Just a few minutes ago I was looking at the nominations that are pending, and I will continue to work toward clearing these nominations on the Executive Calendar and scheduling rollcall votes as necessary.

(Mr. BENNETT assumed the Chair.)

A WEEKEND OF CELEBRATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, there are two other issues I wish to quickly mention. It has to do with important holidays that occur this weekend. Sandwiched between Memorial weekend and the Fourth of July, Flag Day often gets overlooked. Believed to have been started in 1885 by a Wisconsin schoolteacher, the purpose of Flag Day, June 14, is to celebrate the birthday of the American flag. It gives us all the opportunity to reflect on the great Nation that the American flag symbolizes.

The American flag is recognized worldwide as a symbol of democracy and freedom. It is the flag which leads us in every American battle and many struggles of freedom in foreign lands. It flies over our Capitol Building. It is unfurled at public events, large and small. It even flies on the face of the Moon.

I encourage my fellow citizens to pause tomorrow evening at 7 p.m. and join in the annual recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The first pledge we make, after all, is to that Flag of the United States of America.

Also this weekend we celebrate Father's Day. All across the country families will be honoring their dads with special dinners, handmade gifts, and probably goofy ties for one or two dads across the country, and rightly so. Every day we learn more and more about how vital fathers are to the well-

being of their families, and especially their children.

Children with involved loving fathers, as compared to children without fathers, are more likely to do well in school, to have a healthy self-esteem, to show empathy, to avoid drug use, to avoid truancy, and to avoid criminal activity.

The National Fatherhood Initiative, a nonprofit organization devoted to promoting responsible fatherhood, reports that today's fathers are present in their children's lives more than ever.

The phenomenon of father absence has stopped growing. Dads in two-parent families are spending more time with their children than fathers did a generation ago. What is more, these fathers seem to be more active and more nurturing. Indeed, that is progress.

Perhaps even more heartening is the large number of national surveys which find that young men identify fatherhood and family time as a major priority. Indeed, that is great news.

On Saturday, let us salute our flag and, on Sunday, America's dads. From a grateful Nation, happy Flag Day and happy Father's Day.

SEQUENTIAL REFERRAL OF NOMINATION

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that when the Governmental Affairs Committee reports the nomination of Michael Garcia, PN 451, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, the nomination then be sequentially referred to the Judiciary Committee for a period not to exceed 15 days of session; provided further, that if the nomination is not reported by that time, the nomination be automatically discharged and placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. DOLE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2003

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 2 p.m., Monday, June 16. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin consideration of S. 1, the prescription drug benefits bill, as provided under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, on Monday, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 1, the prescription drug benefits bill. Under a previous agreement,