J. Jones said he recognizes the irony that someone in Virginia might be receiving food stamps because he lost a job through outsourcing. "In an ideal world, I wish we could forego these cards and provide help to those suffering in Virginia as defined by present or former food-stamp clients," he said.

Food-stamp coupons are not longer given out. The federal government now issues electronic benefit-transfer (EBT) cards, which operate much like debit cards.

A Florida recipient gets a card from the state Department of Social Services with a limit on how much the person can draw. J. P. Morgan handles the monetary transfers for a fee. His company also runs the call center. J. P. Morgan has call centers in Bangalore and Pune, India, and a center for automated calls in Delaware, Jones said. He said only about 10,000 of the 400,000 monthly calls are by Virginians to go to people in Delaware, Jones said. He said only about 10,000 of the 400,000 monthly calls are made by Virginians to go to people in Delaware.

Repeat calls for comment to J. P. Morgan Chase & Co. in New York City were not returned.

[From the Associated Press]

PRIVATE CONTRACTORS MAY HANDLE FOOD STAMPS

(As reported by Ira Dreyfuss)

WASHINGTON—The Agriculture Department says it would consider letting a state hire private contractors to sign up people for food stamps, even though federal law says government workers should handle the job.

Eric Bost, undersecretary for food nutrition and consumers, said the contractor policy is aimed at states that want to set up call centers with help lines. Some of these contracts are being made by Virginians to go to people in Delaware. The rest go to the automated call center.

"It is more important than ever that the United States maintain an abundant and reliable energy supply; and, frankly, we are not going to achieve that kind of comprehensive national energy policy already passed three times in this House.

While the recent rise in energy costs has caught many consumers by surprise, it is important to remember that the energy supplies and price concerns are nothing new. Many of us in Congress, especially on this side of the aisle, along with energy industry observers and analysts, have long been warning of the energy train wreck that is about to happen.

And it is not just about oil and gas.

A national energy policy must address a relicensing process for hydropower dams that has become a cumbersome, expensive, and inordinately expensive proposition.

Indeed, I am more optimistic than ever about the potential for nuclear power. One of the ways in which we can reverse the mistakes of the past decade and start down the right track toward a stable domestic energy marketplace is through the expanded use of clean nuclear energy.

Nuclear power stands out as an obvious answer to the many energy-related challenges we now face. Back home, the Idaho National Energy Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and the Argonne National Laboratory-West are working on the next generation of nuclear reactors. Their vision for nuclear energy is one that will provide America's energy consumers with a cheap, reliable, environmentally friendly and inherently safe source of electricity.

I believe that the Idaho labs are headed in the right direction, and I am committed to helping them achieve their mission to enhance our Nation's nuclear power capabilities. I want to share with Members just a few reasons why I believe in the potential for nuclear power:

First, nothing is burned in a nuclear reactor; there are no emissions into the atmosphere. In fact, nuclear energy is responsible for over a 90 percent reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions coming from the energy industry since 1973.

Second, nuclear power is a safe, reliable abundant source of power. Not only does the world contain plenty of resources for fueling nuclear reactors, but existing and emerging technologies will solve the complexities of storing and recyling spent nuclear fuels.

Finally, nuclear energy is a homegrown technology. Thanks to the men and women who have worked in Idaho's labs over the past 5 decades, our Nation has long been the world leader in nuclear technology and continues to be the world's largest consumer of nuclear energy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DeFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

INVESTING IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I want to follow the chain of thought of the distinguished gentleman from Ohio and indicate the importance of focusing on employing America's workers.

I am very proud to be able to salute a businessperson in my community by the name of Anthony Chase, who...