

enemy that we cannot surrender to or give ground to. Their objective is fear. Their method is death. They will never be appeased. If we were to withdraw early, we would abandon Iraq to violence, but we also would cause irreparable damage to this country.

It is not about Iraq, it is about defending America. We were attacked on our soil. The cut-and-run caucus is always there. Surrender is always their option. They are appeasers. An appeaser is someone who throws his friend to the alligators hoping they eat him last. No man lives when freedom fails. The best men rot in filthy jails. Those who yell, "appease, appease," are hanged by those they tried to please.

My wife and I have been married 46 years. We have 20 kids and grandchildren, and I say this: We are winning the war on terror, and winning it in their territory. I ask God to richly bless the decisionmakers and the troops.

#### GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, there have been several speeches today—I was not here, but I got a briefing—about the high gasoline prices, and I want to clarify some of the comments raised by the minority leader today and his Members in the press.

The minority is so eager to blame others for high gas prices they seem to ignore the fact that they do not bother to consult the media when they have a deadline. I am more interested in reducing high gasoline prices for American families than to bluster the selfish political advantage, unlike the minority.

I took the time to consider the non-partisan experts of the Energy Information Administration and what they had to say. According to the EIA, there are three reasons leading to high gasoline prices. First, the Nation has not fully recovered from hurricane damage. Twenty percent of the domestic oil production and three refineries, representing nearly 5 percent of refining capacity, remain offline. However, offshore production is resuming and refineries are restarting. The EIA points out that the industry delayed maintenance to maximize production following the hurricanes. Today they must switch over to summer blends.

Yet the focus is on the politics. The senior Senator from New York charged the refiners are purposely withholding capacity from traditionally operating at 90 percent to the current operation of 85 percent. In demanding an investigation, that Senator also implied that the refiners should not maintain their facilities to ensure a safe work environment for employees or they should not switch to special summer blends.

One thing was clear. The senior Senator from New York did not bother to consider the fact that nearly 5 percent of domestic refining capacity is still

offline due to hurricanes. Mr. President, 90 percent minus 5 percent equals 85 percent, as the investigation found.

Second, companies are increasing inventories to hedge against potential disruption in the future. Most of the time, the minority would call such risk management responsible but not when they celebrate the misfortune of the American people.

The third reason has to do with MTBE, and I won't get into that. I will only say this. I am the chairman of a committee that is called the Environment and Public Works Committee. It is our responsibility to handle most of the problems. We are in an energy crisis. There is no question about it. But for any Democrat to stand on the floor of this Senate and try to point the finger at Republicans for high gasoline prices is really absurd.

I have sat there and watched the votes take place. We are not able to vote on ANWR in northern Alaska. Right down party lines, Republicans are supporting it, the Alaskans are supporting it, the Democrats are opposing it. We are not able to go offshore and take advantage of the tremendous reserves that are there. It is right down party lines. Right down party lines they stopped us from being able to have tax incentives to go after marginal production.

I am from a State that has marginal production. There is a statistic that if we had all the marginal production flowing today that has been plugged in the last 10 years, it would be more than we are currently importing from Saudi Arabia.

Lastly, in the area of nuclear energy, it goes right down party lines.

I had a refinery bill that would have coupled with some of the closed military bases and said cities can use EDA grants to go in there and set up refineries and employ people and increase our refining capacity, and it was blocked right down party lines.

So the Democrats are clearly responsible for these problems we have in trying to increase the productivity, increase the production that is potentially out there today.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:45 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:12 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 25, 2006, at 9:45 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 24, 2006:

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ANITA K. BLAIR, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, VICE MICHAEL L. DOMINGUEZ.

##### NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

MARK V. ROSENKER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE ELLEN G. ENGLEMAN, TERM EXPIRED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DIRK KEMPTHORNE, OF IDAHO, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE GALE ANN NORTON, RESIGNED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DANIEL S. SULLIVAN, OF ALASKA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS), VICE EARL ANTHONY WAYNE.

LESLIE V. ROWE, OF WASHINGTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU.

ROBERT S. FORD, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA.

ANNE E. DERSE, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN.

##### EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

PAUL A. DENETT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR FOR FEDERAL PROCUREMENT POLICY, VICE DAVID SAFAVIAN.

##### THE JUDICIARY

DANIEL PORTER JORDAN III, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI, VICE TOM S. LEE, RETIRED.

PHILIP S. GUTIERREZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE TERRY J. HATTEB, JR., RETIRED.

GUSTAVO ANTONIO GELPI, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO, VICE HECTOR M. LAFFITTE, RETIRED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ERIK C. PETERSON, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE J. B. VAN HOLLEN, RESIGNED.

##### FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE AGENCIES INDICATED FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED, FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

##### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ANITA KATIAL, OF ILLINOIS  
ERICH KUSS, OF NEW YORK  
MORGAN A. PERKINS, OF MARYLAND  
MARK A. PETRY, OF INDIANA  
SUSAN B. PHILLIPS, OF VIRGINIA  
KARINA RAMOS, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL M. RIEDEL, OF MARYLAND  
CHARLES L. RUSH, OF FLORIDA  
JUSTINA L. TORRY, OF MISSOURI

##### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SANDILLO N. BANERJEE, OF WASHINGTON  
DANIEL T. CROCKER, OF CALIFORNIA  
MARY A. NANDI, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REX KENNETH MOSER, OF TEXAS

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

##### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

HELEN L. PETERSON, OF CALIFORNIA  
SCOTT D. POZIL, OF WASHINGTON  
CHRISTINA A. SHARKEY, OF FLORIDA

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

COLLEEN ELIZABETH ALTSFOCK, OF WASHINGTON  
HEIDI R. AROLA, OF MINNESOTA  
ANTHONY WALTER BAIRD, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
JOSHUA NATHAN BAKER, OF FLORIDA  
NATALIE ASHTON BAKER, OF TEXAS  
MAY GANAL BAPTISTA, OF CALIFORNIA  
CHASE A. BEAMER, OF CALIFORNIA  
LAURA L. BIEDERBACH, OF CALIFORNIA  
DANIEL R. BISCHOF, OF FLORIDA  
STEVEN ROBERTS BITNER, OF CALIFORNIA  
MICHAEL F. BRENNAN, OF TEXAS  
ROBERT CHRISTOPHER BRONK, OF NEW YORK  
BENJAMIN A. BROWN II, OF VIRGINIA  
GINGER MARIE CAMPBELL, OF CALIFORNIA  
SUSAN CAROL CHEATHAM, OF CALIFORNIA  
CHRISTOPHER J. DEGNAN, OF VIRGINIA  
ZOLA DERETIC, OF CALIFORNIA  
DANIEL J. ERNST, OF FLORIDA  
Y. ROBERT EWING, OF VIRGINIA  
SHARON K. FEATHERSTONE, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES BRENNAN FENNEL, OF NEW JERSEY