

right now. I have always voted Republican . . . I don't know if I can vote that way anymore. I can't vote for Obama . . . I would have voted for Hillary, because at least when she was in the White House with Bill the first time . . . the economy was great! But now there is no one to vote for. I wish the nation would make a clean sweep and put everybody out of office because it's the ones that are in there now that have gotten us into this mess.

And another thing . . . if we sell or trade anything to those nuts over across the sea that are selling oil for \$128 a barrel . . . then anything that we sell them should be the same price! I don't care if it's just one paperclip . . . it should be the same price.

This is ridiculous! I also think that because this country is in such a mess, NOBODY should be able to spend more than 10-12 years in office as a senator or congressman. That needs to change.

GINA,
Elizabethton, TN.

Subject: Gas Prices

Senator Alexander my family lives on a fixed income i am on disability and my wife is unable to work due to her health yet she has been turned down for her disability she is practically bed ridden. these high gas prices affect the way we live dramatically we have to decide wether we buy gas to go to the doctor and then not be able to buy the medicine or wether we get to buy something to eat. this not right people should not have to live this way. i have 2 children also so you can imagine the delema this causes when the kids need something and you have to either tell them no because we have to have gas to go to the doctor or the store or medicine, i dont know how you think people on social security are supposed to make ends meet when the ends keep moving further apart. it is not right maybe you senators and congressmen in washington should come down to reality in my world and try to live on less than 2000.00 dollars a month my truck has not been near half a tank in so long it would probably quit running. thank you for your time. my name is William.

i would be surprised to hear from you. I would like to speak with you on this matter. By the way if there is anything you could do to help my wife with her disability i would greatly appreciate it it would help us greatly thank you

WILLIAM.

Subject: My Story

Gas prices are affecting me as a single Mom in more ways than one. Because I have to work, I have had to give up things such as prescription medications that I need monthly (no insurance coverage as of June 30th) and grocery items. My daughter and I cannot afford the luxury of leaving the house on most weekends, and if we do, it is only for necessary items. We cannot afford a simple outing such as a movie or a day trip. My vehicle was repossessed in December 2007 because I had not worked since January 2007 and I simply cannot afford to buy the gas to get to work. It is cyclical. I have to work to pay the bills, but cannot afford to get to work.

I have noticed that items at the grocery store have risen as well due to gas prices, so there are many things I simply cannot buy anymore. My daughter has had to sacrifice time with her friends because I have to save every extra penny to make sure I can get to my new job that may not work out because it is costing, at this moment, more than \$200 a month in gas. When gas prices increase lately, it is usually .10 a gallon. My income has not increased so every month I get further into a black hole that I may not get out of and could possibly lose my home.

If there is not some type of relief soon, there won't be anything left to provide for my daughter.

TINA,
Nashville, TN

Subject: Impact of Gas Prices

Dear Senator Alexander, I am a 61-year-old grandmother struggling to support my mildly disabled daughter and a five-year-old granddaughter who live with me in Joelton, TN. Anna, the five-year-old, has been attending a public magnet Montessori school; she has been there for two years. The gas costs \$115 per month just to take Anna to school. With gas prices so high, we are trying to figure out how to be able to buy food and basics and still be able to buy gas to get Anna to kindergarten.

I have no health or life insurance, because there is just not enough money to go around. I also have no retirement and no more savings left, and because of my daughter's illness, have accumulated a sizable debt.

I was a self-employed professional woman and did OK for most years of my life. I never imagined it would come to this level of difficulty. I'm really scared.

Thanks for asking.

JUDY
Joelton, TN

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time controlled by the majority be divided as follows: 10 minutes for myself, 15 minutes for Senator BINGAMAN, and 5 minutes for Senator SCHUMER.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I came to speak about a personal tragedy in the lives of a Florida family. But I wish to say at the outset, here we go with all this talk about it is a certain way or the highway to solve this energy problem. As I said on the floor of the Senate a few days ago, if we had the political will where we could take a balanced approach of looking not only at now and drilling what is available, but look to the future for alternatives and renewables so that we wean ourselves from this dependence on specifically foreign oil, but also on our dependence for decades in the future on oil as the staple of our energy, realizing that if we continue to do that, we are just going to be digging a hole for ourselves maintaining dependence on oil as the No. 1 source of energy.

Don't we have enough evidence now that when you have to depend on upwards of 70 percent of foreign oil that is not a good economic posture as well as a defense posture for national security for this country?

Don't we have enough evidence now that the United States has only 3 percent of the world's oil reserves, and yet we consume 25 percent of the world's oil production? And is that not enough to get it through our skulls that the way of the future for this country is to cut that dependence on oil and go to alternative sources?

We are confronting on that side of the aisle, that is very cozy with big oil—they want to have it all their way and say, “drill here, drill now,” a simple slogan when, in fact, it is a lot more complicated today. Yet we cannot get agreement to do what all of us deep down understand is the common-sense thing to do, and that is bring a comprehensive measure in which we start doing a number of things at once, including pouring the money into research and development and financial incentives, such as tax incentives, to develop new sources, alternative fuels. That is the way to go. Yet we hear this high-blown rhetoric about “drill here, drill now.”

It is with a heavy heart that I have to continue to say what I just said because all we are is wound around the axle in the Senate since we cannot get anything passed unless we have 60 votes. And if we cannot get the two sides to get along, we have what we have, which is gridlock.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL SNOW

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I come here to speak about an American, who was discriminated against and who lived a life of trying to overcome that discrimination and was not treated fairly by his Government, who unexpectedly died on Sunday. This is Samuel Snow from Leesburg, FL. I want to tell this story because I want people to be outraged, as this Senator is, at the way he was treated by the U.S. Government.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD two articles: one from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer from November of 2007, as well as the St. Petersburg Times from July 28, 2008, after my comments.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, back in 1944, 27 African-American soldiers were convicted of rioting and lynching an Italian prisoner of war at Fort Walton, WA. Among those convicted was Sam Snow.

Following his conviction, he was imprisoned for almost a year, forced to forfeit his pay, and then when he was released from prison, he was discharged with a dishonorable discharge. Until recently, there was no hope of him receiving any kind of future health or retirement benefits from his admirable service during World War II.

Sunday, Sam Snow passed away, not in his home of Leesburg, FL, but in Seattle, WA, because he had gone there, traveling across the country, for a ceremony that the U.S. Army was doing to apologize and award Sam Snow with an honorable discharge because for more than 64 years, Sam Snow had endured this injustice—imprisoned, ordered to forfeit his pay, dishonorably discharged—and it was all