

business just over six years ago. I drive anywhere between 100 to 150 miles a day—most of which is miles driving to and from the Ada County landfill (2 to 3 trips a day). I am easily putting \$50+ a day of fuel into my truck. I drive a Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD pulling a dump bed trailer. Basically, I am going through a lot of fuel. The prices are up considerably from a year ago. With the continued rise of fuel, I am given two choices. 1) Ask my builders for more money to pay for the fuel, or 2) Quit my business. Both choices will have a chain reaction in how it affects my life (well-being). My builders will complain. Some will understand and be willing to pay more, others will not want my business because my prices are too high. If I quit my business, I will then have to find other means of income for my family. Six plus years of building a business is a hard thing to give up on. The housing industry in Idaho is not very good right now and with the low amount of work, it affects my income. I currently am making just enough to meet costs. With the addition of high fuel costs it hits me twice as hard.

I do not know what the right answer is to make things better. Off shore drilling for the United States will not have an effect for many years. The people of Idaho and elsewhere need help now. I do not know much about law or the principles of supply and demand—but it would sure be nice if the government could somehow make a drastic cut in fuel prices. I too would like to take vacations around the state or to Utah to see family. This past weekend it cost \$110.00 for my family to make a round trip to Salt Lake City from Nampa. We have a Honda Accord. It will most likely be the only trip we take for the rest of the year.

Sorry for all the mistakes in my writing. I have so much on my mind when it comes to my family's well-being, my business, and fuel prices.

I'd be happy to share more information.

JONATHAN PLUMMER, *Nampa.*

Hello Mike, if you want the answer, here it is. I have traveled this nation throughout my life. I know that from Alaska to California there are thousands of oil wells that sit idle, not pumping at all, at current use over a 150 years of oil in the ground, already drilled no exploration needed, no problems with environmentalists, that is not to mention the millions of gallons of oil that is pumped from the Alaska pipeline directly on to tankers only to leave our country (USA) to be sold to BP or some other company. The Alaska pipeline in the 70's was promised to the American people (one-third of the oil pumped out of the ground in Alaska is pumped back into the ground because the line can't handle it). Now to talk about refineries, the American people have been told we do not have any refineries, we have them in Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, California . . . four of the major oil companies in the USA are held by one holding company, the last I heard, what they are doing is called price fixing (which is against the law, remember the breakup of Microsoft?). Our government chooses to buy our oil from terrorists, only to support further war, help to build indoor ski resorts (in the desert) and manmade islands some of the largest construction projects ever attempted, at the expense of the American people and our economy. When will we stand up for ourselves? "Even China has." We need to use our own oil (reserves) say no more to the oil companies (break them up like in the 1900s) take control for our country and not let big business run it. "Regardless of greed" this is our country and our economy. If the economy fails, what good is money (we are on reserve note not gold standard)? Is not our govern-

ment supposed to be by the people for the people? I can show a direct correlation between the down turn in the economy and fuel prices. Our soldiers are in the Middle East fighting a war we cannot win, and the Terrorists are winning the 911 war by destroying our core (economy) by controlling the cost of our energy (fuel) and we just sit idle. Our government says, in part, it is because we need to go green, but autos are less than 10 percent of the problem.

Here it is:

Use our reserves (oil in our ground).

Give the Alaska pipe line back to the people.

Take our pocket book out of it (political investors).

Tell OPEC what we will pay (not what they will have us pay).

Break up the oil companies (price fixing is against the law).

Let the Middle East take care of themselves. The only value they have is the value the world puts on them. If they are worth nothing then they are nothing.

Brazil is 100 percent self sufficient and fuel is less than \$1.50 a gallon.

We need to stand up and say no, we will use our own oil, you would be amazed how fast the prices would drop, but we would still need to say no, so we can control it and keep control of it (in our country anyway).

Of the people by the people we are the U.S.A.

RICHARD STEPHENS, *Caldwell.*

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO OPERATION HOMEFRONT

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish today to honor in the RECORD of the Senate an organization that is doing phenomenal work on behalf of military families across Georgia.

Operation Homefront Georgia is located in Marietta, GA, and is a charter member of the Operation Homefront national organization that was founded after the horrific attacks on 9/11. The organization provides emergency assistance and morale to our troops, to the families they leave behind and to wounded warriors when they return home. For example, if a military veteran is unable to pay his or her mortgage due to injury or stress from war, Operation Homefront Georgia finds the money needed for the mortgage. If a soldier needs a wheelchair lift in his or her home, Operation Homefront Georgia finds a company that will install it for free. The individuals who are a part of this organization are truly miracle workers.

Operation Homefront Georgia is made up mostly of women, some men, but mostly ladies that leave work every day knowing that they made a difference in somebody's life. My office knows that when Operation Homefront Georgia calls, there is a dire situation on the line and we do all we can to help. They don't take no for an answer, and their insistence pays off.

Our men and women who are going off to fight should be able to know their loved ones at home are safe and sound. With Operation Homefront Georgia, they don't have to worry. This

fine organization makes sure our soldiers return with dignity to a well taken care of family.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank them for all they do.●

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. PHILLIP LEE ROBERTS

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to join with my colleague Senator CHAMBLISS to honor in the RECORD of the Senate Dr. Phillip Lee Roberts, oncologist and medical director of the Phoebe Cancer Center at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, GA.

For decades, Dr. Roberts has diagnosed and treated patients in southwest Georgia with a record of care and devotion that is above and beyond the call of duty in his profession. In recognition of his remarkable work in the field of cancer treatment, Phoebe Putney Health System is dedicating its new cancer pavilion as the Phillip L. Roberts, M.D. Cancer Pavilion.

When Dr. Roberts began his practice in Albany in 1980, there were few oncologists south of Macon, GA. At that time, a diagnosis of cancer was often a death sentence. Dr. Roberts has seen the progression of cancer treatment from the earliest drugs and radiation treatment to the modern methods now used to fight the disease. Today, the progression of medicine and technology allows this remarkable doctor to deliver a message of hope rather than despair to his patients.

Through the years, as technology and cancer treatments have advanced, his steadfast dedication to his patients and his profession has remained strong. Well into his golden years, Dr. Roberts is still at the helm of one of the busiest cancer centers in the southeastern United States. He has yet to slow his pace or his professional battle against the disease he fights daily on behalf of his patients. Not only does he continue a full schedule with patients at Phoebe, he travels weekly to treat patients at clinics in outlying rural areas, where access to health care is still limited and unattainable for many due to economic and social roadblocks.

I am pleased to join Senator CHAMBLISS in acknowledging the great work that is done each day at the Phoebe Cancer Center and the efforts of Dr. Roberts over the past 36 years to provide high quality cancer care. Dr. Roberts certainly deserves this recognition, and we offer our sincerest congratulations on the dedication of the Phillip L. Roberts, M.D. Cancer Pavilion.●

##### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages