

if not all of these opportunities materialize, consumers will still be far better off than they otherwise would have been under a restructured or bankrupt US Airways.

One final point: United's recent labor woes should not be a factor in evaluating the merger. These problems—similar to problems experienced by American and Continental in the past—are not unusual in the aviation industry and are transitory in nature.

In conclusion, we need to be realistic about the prospects for US Airways. Consumers will be better off hitching their wagon to a big and strong United Airlines than a financially endangered US Airways.

ALTERNATIVES TO OIL SHOULD BE PURSUED

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the September 24, 2000, Lincoln Journal Star. The editorial expresses concern about some of the proposals which have been offered to address rising oil costs. As the editorial emphasizes, the U.S. should encourage alternatives to oil such as wind energy and other renewable sources. Clearly, ethanol provides an attractive alternative which helps the rural economy while helping to meet energy needs.

[From the Lincoln Journal Star, Sept. 24, 2000]

OIL PRICES GENERATING BAD IDEAS

More than a quarter century has passed since Americans waited in lines to buy high priced gasoline.

There was plenty of time to find new energy efficiencies and develop diversified energy resources. Now we're paying the price for letting things slide.

You'd think the view of the future should have been a little better from those high seats in gas-guzzling SUV's.

Gas prices have spiked to their highest level in the past 10 years. A barrel of crude has tripled in price to almost \$40 in the past two years. American concern might not have reached the emotional levels in Europe, where truckers blocked roads in protest, but it won't take much for panic to spread.

Before oil price hysteria takes away good judgment, a few bad ideas need to be spiked.

Too bad it's already too late to block Vice President Al Gore's proposal to dip into the Strategic Oil Reserve. That should have been recognized immediately as a blatant political ploy to smooth things over until after the election. Even Clinton's own Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers said using the petroleum reserve would be "a major and substantial policy mistake."

As Sen. Chuck Hagel noted in a speech on energy this week, the 570 million gallons in the reserve were set aside for acute disruptions in the oil supply caused by war or other national emergencies.

An election is not a national emergency. Things could get worse quickly. Already Iraq's Saddam Hussein has starting making threatening noises. His hand is on the spigot of 2.3 million barrels of oil a day in the International market.

The motivation to protect fixed-income Americans from surging prices for home heating is understandable, but relief from high winter heating bills should be provided under existing programs to provide assistance based on need. Tapping the petroleum reserve provides price relief to well-to-do Americans who should be able to absorb the price hikes on their own.

Another short-sighted idea pushed in the United States since prices began rising is to drop taxes on gasoline. The problem with that approach is that it would remove the primary source of funding for highway construction. What good is cheaper gas if the roads are falling apart?

Still another bad idea (endorsed by Hagel, we note with dismay) is to permit oil development in the coastal plains of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. That development, for only an estimated 16 billion barrels of oil, would disrupt caribou calving grounds and migratory patterns that have existed for centuries.

A better approach to high oil prices than jeopardizing fragile environmental areas is to encourage alternatives to fossil fuels. Already available in the market, for example, are BMWs that run on hydrogen. Even in Lincoln consumers can purchase hybrid autos from Honda and Toyota that run on both gasoline and electricity.

Just this week Gov. Mike Johanns pointed out that Nebraska ranks sixth in the nation in terms of wind energy resources. "We are the Saudi Arabia of wind," Johanns boasted. The cost of producing electricity by wind turbine has dropped from 40 cents a kilowatt-hour in 1979 to 4 to 5 per kilowatt-hour.

Retired Iowa farmer Chuck Goodman will earn more than \$8,000 this year for the turbines he has on an acre of land. This harvest season, he said, that same acre would earn him only \$100 to \$200.

Development of a coherent national energy policy is long overdue, as Hagel pointed out in several venues last week. It's important, however, that perspective not be limited to the current obsession with oil prices. Government interference to force cheaper prices is not the answer. The best long-term government response is to work within the framework of the free market to encourage development of new energy sources.

IN HONOR OF CARA L. DETRING, RESIDENT OF MISSOURI AND FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN LAND TITLE AS- SOCIATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2000

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representative BLUNT, Representative CLAY, Representative DANNER, Representative GEPHARDT, Representative HULSHOF, Representative MCCARTHY, Representative SKELTON, Representative TALENT and me, I submit the following in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in honor of a Missourian whose career deserve recognition. Cara L. Detring is about to become the first woman president of the American Land Title Association, and this distinction merits notice in the RECORD for the 106th Congress. The American Land Title Association membership is composed of 2,000 title insurance companies, their agents, independent

abstracters and attorneys who search, examine, and insure land titles to protect owners and mortgage lenders against losses from defects in titles. Many of these companies also provide additional real estate information services, such as tax search, flood certification, tax filing, and credit reporting services. These firms and individuals employ nearly 100,000 individuals and operate in every county in the country.

Cara's rise does not surprise me or others who know her. A former municipal judge for the city of Farmington for eight years, Mrs. Detring has never shrunk from leadership. As a second-generation title person and a third generation attorney from both sides of her family, Cara currently is President of Preferred Land Title Company, one of the premier title insurance agencies in Missouri with six offices in Farmington, Cape Girardeau, Potosi, Fredericktown, Desloge, and Perryville. Cara is also chairman of the Board of Directors for Metro Title, Inc., President of Preferred Escrow Company, and she still maintains her private law practice focusing on estate planning and real estate law. Cara Detring is a member of the Legal Education Committee of the Missouri Bar Association and was a director on the Board of Meramec Legal Aid Corporation for eight years. And as an example to women, she was named Woman of the Year, 1990, by Women of Today. In 1991, Cara received the "Title Person of the Year" award from the Missouri Land Title Association.

As a title agent, Cara's responsibilities include assurance through diligent searches of the public record that properties consumers buy come with all ownership rights intact; in other words, come with "clean" title. When purchasing a home or other real estate, one actually doesn't receive the land itself. What is acquired is "title" to the property—which may be limited by rights and claims asserted by others.

Problems with title can limit one's use and enjoyment of real estate, as well as bring financial loss. Title trouble also can threaten the security interest your mortgage lender holds in the property. Protection against hazards of title is available through a unique coverage known as title insurance. Unlike other kinds of insurance that focus on possible future events and charge an annual premium, the insurance is purchased for a one-time payment and is a safeguard against loss arising from hazards and defects already existing in the title. Some examples of instruments that can present concerns include: deeds, wills and trusts that contain improper vesting and incorrect names; outstanding mortgages, judgments and tax liens; and easements or incorrect notary acknowledgments.

In spite of all the expertise and dedication that go into a search and examination, hidden hazards can emerge after completion of a real estate purchase, causing an unpleasant and costly surprise. Some examples include a forged deed that transfers no title to real estate; previously undisclosed heirs with claims against the property; and mistakes in the public records. Title insurance offers financial protection against these and other hidden hazards through negotiation by the title insurer with third parties, payment for defending against an attack on title as insured, and payment of claims.