

Natural gas prices have more than tripled just this year in many parts of the country. The impact on millions of our citizens has created another major crisis.

We have seen the economy of California, the sixth largest economy when compared to all the nations of the world, brought to its knees by the recent energy shortages. Blackouts have struck in unpredictable patterns, disrupting lives. Unfortunately, California is only the first of many areas that are likely to be impacted by the lack of past coherent policy.

It has been terribly frustrating to me to recognize that most of these problems were caused by our own actions, or lack of actions. We have had help falling into these traps, of course, from OPEC for example. But much of these problems are completely predictable. Actions could and absolutely should have been taken to drastically mitigate the severity of the impacts.

I appreciate that Senator MURKOWSKI has taken care in his bill to recognize and emphasize that there is no one "silver bullet" to solve our nation's energy problems. His bill creates opportunities for all of the major energy sources to maximize their contribution to our nation's energy needs; that's the only credible approach to the severity of the current issues.

His bill recognizes that no single energy source represents a vast untapped resource, ready for immediate exploitation. It recognizes that solutions have to include options that impact our needs in the near term, like more natural gas and safe pipelines, as well as approaches that have much longer lead times, like nuclear power and renewables. And while natural gas enables relatively near term impacts with only modest pollution concerns, it is a finite resource and any credible national energy policy has to address a future without readily obtained supplies of natural gas.

Solutions have to build on our existing major national energy providers, like the coal and nuclear plants that provide more than 70 percent of our electricity today. And where these large providers have risk areas, like air emissions from coal and a credible national strategy for spent nuclear fuel, we must work diligently to address the risk areas. Where the past administration argued that these risks meant we should minimize the contribution from these sources, we should instead face the reality that these sources represent some of our major national strengths and end biases against their success.

The days of arguing for massive research and incentives only for one single source of energy and only for improved efficiency, as if they alone can solve our nation's long term energy needs, must be put far behind us. They need to be recognized for what they are, important components of a coher-

ent national energy strategy, and absolutely not a "silver bullet."

This National Energy Security Act addresses virtually all of these widely divergent, but critically important, areas of national policy. I enthusiastically support the act as a vitally necessary step in achieving the energy stability that our citizens demand.

In selected areas, like coal and nuclear, additional bills may prove useful to target actions on these specific sources. I'm working on such a bill for nuclear energy, and Senator BYRD has a legislative thrust for clean coal. These bills can build on the National Energy Security Act and strengthen it in some key areas.

I salute the efforts of the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for his untiring efforts to advance this bill. It's not easy to include in one package a set of initiatives that impact all of the major sources of our Nation's energy. From new incentives for oil and gas exploration, to improved pipeline safety, to creation of vitally needed new domestic oil fields, to major expansion of our current woefully inadequate clean coal programs, to strong support for renewables, and to measures to ensure that nuclear energy remains a viable and strong option for our Nation's energy needs—this bill covers the whole range.

I'm proud to join Senator MURKOWSKI as a cosponsor of his National Energy Security Act of 2001 and urge my colleagues to join in supporting this key initiative.

NOMINATION OF JOSEPH ALLBAUGH

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, on February 15, 2001 the Senate voted 91-0 to confirm Mr. Joseph Allbaugh to be Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. I was absent from this vote due to a pre-scheduled surgery that afternoon. Had I been in the Chamber on February 15, I would have voted for Mr. Allbaugh, and my vote would not have affected the outcome on this unanimous demonstration of support for this confirmation. I look forward to working with Mr. Allbaugh at his post at FEMA. This agency is the critical link in the ability of our communities to prepare for and recover from natural disasters which inevitably strike our nation.

THE CHILD CITIZENSHIP ACT OF 2000

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today marks a special day in the lives of tens of thousands of American families. Families who have adopted children from other nations, providing them with safe environments, good food, a good education, and most importantly, loving homes.

Traditionally, adoptive families have had to endure a lengthy and expensive

bureaucratic process, and navigate through a daunting maze of paperwork, as they have tried to secure U.S. citizenship for their foreign-born adopted children. All that changed first thing this morning when the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 took effect. This important act of Congress, which passed the Senate unanimously last October, cleared the way today for approximately 75,000 children adopted from abroad to become Americans. When these children went to sleep last night, they were in naturalization limbo. When they woke up this morning, they were citizens of the United States of America. I send my warmest welcome to these new young Americans.

In some cases, adoptive parents were not aware of the need to file applications for citizenship for their adopted children. Many of these children grew up to discover they were not considered U.S. citizens. Some have faced the possibility of having to return to a country they have never known. The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 corrected this injustice.

Today, families in Colorado and across this Nation, celebrate the automatic citizenship of foreign-adopted children who meet the requirements outlined in the act. For the O'Neil family of Englewood, Colorado among many such families across the state and our nation, it is a day of great joy.

Today is a day when we greet many new U.S. citizens. I wish to extend my congratulations to our newest and youngest citizens and their families, as well as to my colleagues who worked so diligently to make this day possible.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN CRANSTON

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, one of the first times I ever came to the Dirksen Senate Office Building, a location where I now have my Senate office, was on December 12, 1969, some 20 months after my injury in Vietnam, when I was summoned to appear before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs about how the Veterans Administration was handling returning Vietnam war veterans. That meeting was chaired by a tall, lean Senator from California named Alan Cranston and it was the start of a three decade friendship. Thus, in 1974 after experiencing what hopefully will prove to be my only electoral defeat, in the Democratic Primary for Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, one of the first people I turned to was Senator Cranston, who generously accepted my offer to come out to California to campaign for his successful re-election. Then, after the General Election, he came to my aid by serving as guest-of-honor at a fund-raising dinner to pay off my campaign debt. And to top it off, Senator Cranston helped me get a job as a special investigator for the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, which is where I was serving