

way in terms of the technology we have available to us and the limitations that we also face as Americans.

I thank the Chair for serving as the Presiding Officer and allowing me to make these comments.

I yield the floor.

**EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS**

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate extend morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**VOTE EXPLANATION**

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I have advised the Senate leadership that I will be necessarily absent from the Senate for the balance of this week. Today, were I able to be present for the vote on final passage of S. 2731, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, I would have voted in favor of the bill.

**GERALDINE TABOR HALL**

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn that Mrs. Geraldine Tabor Hall has passed away.

Gerry, as her friends called her, was the wife of Judge K.K. Hall, or K.K. as his friends called him. She was a retired registered nurse, a great West Virginian, and a very dear friend. My beloved wife Erma and I spent many an evening with the Halls. We would often stay with Gerry and Judge Hall when we were in Charleston, and always found her to be a most gracious and generous hostess.

Over the years, Gerry and Erma became particularly close. They enjoyed each other's company immensely. Maybe it was because they had so much in common.

Both Gerry and Erma were as elegant as they were "down home," and both were perfect partners to their husbands.

Both had a lot to put up with in their husbands, busy public servants whose careers required a great deal from their wives. They were both patient, deeply kind, and tremendously devoted to the

State of West Virginia. Neither ever sought the limelight, but each accepted a certain amount of standing in it.

Both Gerry and Erma were supremely good listeners. Judge K.K. Hall could be quite a character. He had a grand sense of humor, and Gerry was always sure to laugh at his stories. And when I delivered a speech or performed with a good string band back home, Erma listened attentively and nodded along. Both women had heard it all time and again, but there they were, always with their warm smiles, hearty laughs, and steady applause, as if it were the first time.

Like Erma, Mrs. Hall was a most gracious host. During my long and bitter 1982 Senate election, I recall how often she would answer the door late at night to find myself and my able assistant during that campaign, Jim Huggins, standing on her porch, expecting to spend the night in the comfort and shelter of the Hall home. This often occurred without warning, and, not infrequently, very late at night. But Gerry never complained, never portrayed the slightest annoyance. She not only provided us with a place to stay for the night, she cooked a solid breakfast for us in the morning, and then would send us on our way to our next campaign stop.

I will miss this lovely and gracious person. But I am sure that she and her devoted husband, K.K., are together now. And Erma is there. And K.K. is practicing a tale to tell when we are all reunited again. And Erma and Gerry will laugh and applaud as if they had never heard it before.

**THE SCENT OF THE ROSES**

(Thomas Moore)

Let fate do her worst,  
 There are relics of joy,  
 Bright dreams of the past  
 That she cannot destroy.  
 That come in the nighttime  
 Of sorrow and care,  
 And bring back the features  
 That joy used to wear.  
 Long, long be my heart  
 With such memories filled,  
 Like the vase in which roses  
 Have once been distilled;  
 You may break, you may shatter  
 The vase, if you will,  
 But the scent of the roses  
 Will hang 'round it still.

**CHANGES TO S. CON. RES. 70**

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, section 312(c) of S. Con. Res. 70, the 2009 budget resolution, permits the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to adjust the section 312(b) discretionary spending limits and allocations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 for legislation reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee that provides a certain level of funding for fiscal year 2009 for four program integrity initiatives. The initiatives are: continuing disability reviews and supplemental security income redeterminations, Internal Revenue Service tax enforcement, health care fraud and abuse control, and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews.

The Senate Appropriations Committee reported S. 3230, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009, on July 8, 2008. That bill contains provisions that fulfill the conditions of section 312(c) for adjustments related to continuing disability reviews and supplemental security income redeterminations, health care fraud and abuse control, and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews.

In addition, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported S. 3260, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2009, on July 14, 2008. That bill contains provisions that fulfill the conditions of section 312(c) for Internal Revenue Service tax enforcement.

As a result, for fiscal year 2009, I am revising both the discretionary spending limits and the allocation to the Senate Appropriations Committee for discretionary budget authority and outlays. The amount of the adjustment is \$968 million in budget authority and \$892 million in outlays. The revised discretionary limits and allocations for discretionary budget authority and outlays are the appropriate levels to be used for enforcement during consideration of the fiscal year 2009 appropriations bills.

I ask unanimous consent that the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 70 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—S. CON. RES. 70; REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 312(c) TO THE ALLOCATION OF BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAYS TO THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE SECTION 312(b) SENATE DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS**

In millions of dollars	Initial allocation/ limit	Adjustment	Revised allocation/ limit
FY 2009 Discretionary Budget Authority .....	1,011,718	968	1,012,686
FY 2009 Outlays .....	1,106,112	892	1,107,004

REMEMBERING SENATOR JESSE  
HELMS

Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I was saddened by the news of the death of our former colleague, Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

He was a man of strong convictions, even if it meant being in opposition of his own party. He fought for what he believed, and he stood by his word. It was a privilege to work with Senator Helms, even though we disagreed on policy matters, we were able to do what we could for the love of our country.

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this magnificent Senator and a great American, and a true patriot. He will be missed.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to my honorable colleague, Senator Jesse Helms. North Carolina's longest serving popularly elected Senator, Jesse was a good friend and a true conservative. I join the entire Nation in mourning his passing.

Jesse was born in Monroe, NC on October 18, 1921. He attended Wingate University and Wake Forest University and had a successful career in newspapers, first as a sports reporter for The Raleigh Times and later as the paper's city news editor. He also served as a recruiter for the U.S. Navy during World War II and worked in radio and television.

In the 1950s, Helms began to pursue his interest in politics, working on Willis Smith's U.S. Senate campaign and later in his Senate office. Helms also worked on Senator Richard Russell's Presidential campaign and I. Beverly Lake, Sr.'s gubernatorial campaign. After these efforts, Jesse went back to journalism serving as the Capitol Broadcasting Company's executive vice president, vice chairman of the board and assistant chief executive officer. From these positions, Jesse gained local celebrity as a conservative commentator on the Raleigh-based television station.

His notoriety in the area led to a 4-year position on the Raleigh City Council. Jesse remained at the Capitol Broadcasting Company until 1972, when he became the first Republican elected to the Senate from North Carolina in the 20th century. Jesse served North Carolina well as a chairman of both the Agriculture and Foreign Relations Committees. While in the Senate, Jesse was a conservative leader who worked tirelessly for small government, sound foreign policy and strong communities.

After serving five terms in the U.S. Senate, Jesse retired and returned to North Carolina, where he wrote and published his memoir, *Here's Where I Stand*. He also continued his work with the Jesse Helms Center, a nonprofit organization started in 1987 to promote the principles Jesse felt so strongly

about—democracy, free enterprise and strong values.

In my time with Jesse in the Senate, I knew him to be honest, hardworking and committed to the people of North Carolina and this Nation. It is fitting that he passed away on Independence Day, as Jesse was certainly an independent man who loved this country and the values for which it stands.

Jesse is loved and will be missed by his wife of 66 years, Dorothy; his son Charles; his two daughters, Jane and Nancy; and seven grandchildren. He was an inspiration to many and will be remembered for his dedication and many contributions to North Carolina and this Nation. I ask the entire Senate to join me in recognizing and honoring the life of Jesse Helms.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH  
ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through [energy\\_prices@crapo.senate.gov](mailto:energy_prices@crapo.senate.gov) to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today.

I ask unanimous consent to have the following letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Thanks for this opportunity. In short:

- (1) Increase domestic oil production.
- (2) Expand nuclear energy.
- (3) Reduce the speed limit to 65 mi./hr. This alone saves me 15% on my car fuel consumption and is an immediate reduction in oil usage.
- (4) Do not use our food supply to produce alcohol for additive to the gasoline. It reduces the gas mileage, is harmful to some of the engine parts and has a large effect on the supply and cost of our food. The site did research on this about 20 years ago, and built a plant around Aberdeen, which to my understanding, was not successful. At least it did not stay in operation very long.

I have other ideas on energy policies and savings if you would like to discuss them.

FERROL, *Idaho Falls.*

Senator Crapo, Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns over the dependence of foreign oil issues that we currently face.

My business partner and I own a small construction company in Meridian. We do new residential construction as well as re-modeling in Meridian, Boise, Nampa, Mountain

Home, Horseshoe Bend, Star and other Ada, Canyon, Boise and Elmore county towns. As you mentioned in your letter there is great distance between towns here in the great state of Idaho. Our traveling cost, as well as incurring the fee increases by our sub-contractors and suppliers is moving so high—so fast that a bid to perform work which is normally good for 30 days actually is out of date the next week!

We are normally not very political guys, but we have actually been affected to the point that we have started a website along with a petition to Congress to authorize drilling here in America [www.DrillforAmericanoil.com](http://www.DrillforAmericanoil.com) went online officially last week (June 13, 2008).

We truly appreciate your efforts on our behalf regarding this matter and hope that we can work together as a community and nation to resolve this crisis.

Respectfully,

ED and ED, *Meridian.*

We, our families, have been unable to get together to enjoy ourselves because of the high prices of fuel. I do not understand why we have to pay the same price for fuel as all other countries when we have all of the necessary reserves and fuel available here in this country. Everyone keeps telling us that we have save for future generations, I say baloney to that as let us take care of ourselves first and then if anything is left over, give to the future.

Nuclear energy is safe now that we better understand how to use it. Wind power is fine except when the wind is not blowing or solar power when the sun shines. With solar, it won't produce much on a sunny day and nothing for wind power, so we have to buy a lot of very expensive batteries and some means to keep them charged when we do not have the wind or sun. What then?

VERN.

To Whom It May Concern: The cost of fuel today is really beginning to hurt the Idaho consumer. On the national level, most of us here in Idaho are on the poverty level or at least very close to it, and those of us who are retired it is just double hurt.

Most of the people who live in my small community are retired and/or very elderly, and this fuel rip-off is very damaging to us. The elderly are forced to keep their temperatures so low in the winter, and still cannot afford \$4+ for our heating oil, so we sit around with blankets in winter.

The fuel costs are very hard to handle up here in Nezperce, primarily because we are forced to drive long distances to do our shopping. Another problem is fuel costs are even higher in these small communities than it is in larger towns, so we get a double hit with the cost of fuel.

For eight years, conservatives had control of Congress and Senate and they did nothing for the conservative voters. There are many voters that tell me they think they will stay home this November because, quite frankly, they feel it does no good to vote for people who will not help us. We have let a few loud far-left people control the future for all of us, not letting us do in new exploration, or any new fuel ideas etc. The effect of fuel prices is passing off to everything we buy, and everything we do.

I could go on forever but to no gain; so, to whom it may concern, if we do not do something soon, all we will do is make all our enemies rich, and bring this nation to its knees.

JOHN, *Nezperce.*