

It's high because demand is greater than supply, is why it's high. It's high because there's new factors in demand on the international market, namely China and India. It's also high because some nations have not done a very good job of maintaining their oil reserves—some of it because of bureaucracy, some of it because of State-owned enterprise. And it's a difficult period for our folks at the pump, and there's no quick fix.

You know, when I was overseas in the Middle East, people said, "Did you talk to the King of Saudi about oil prices?" Of course I did. I reminded him two things: One, you better be careful about affecting markets—reminding him that oil is fungible; even though we get most of our oil, by the way, from Canada and Mexico, oil is fungible. And secondly, the higher the price of oil, the more capital is going to come into alternative sources of energy. And so we've got a plan that calls for diversification, but it's—our energy policy hadn't been very wise up to now.

Anyway, I'm going to dodge the rest of your question. [*Laughter*] Thank you for your time.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. at the Hilton New York. In his remarks, he referred to King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 8226—National Poison Prevention Week, 2008

March 14, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Since 1962, National Poison Prevention Week has helped to raise awareness about the dangers of potentially poisonous medicines and household chemicals. During this week, we underscore our commitment to protect our fellow citizens from accidental poisonings and to educate families about the preventive steps that can be taken to ensure the safety of our young people.

More than 2 million poisonings are reported each year across the country. In order

to help prevent these poisonings, parents should place household chemicals out of the reach of children, keep items in their original containers, and read the labels and dosages on all products thoroughly before use. Installing carbon monoxide alarms in homes to help monitor air quality can also save lives.

To learn more about the ways to keep children safe and help prevent poisonings, I encourage all Americans to visit the Poison Prevention Week Council website at poisonprevention.org. In case of an emergency, individuals can contact the nearest Poison Control Center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-800-222-1222. By taking precautions, properly supervising children, and knowing what to do in an emergency, we can protect the health and well-being of more Americans.

To encourage Americans to learn more about the dangers of accidental poisonings and to take appropriate preventive measures, the Congress, by joint resolution approved September 26, 1961, as amended (75 Stat. 681), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week of March each year as "National Poison Prevention Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 16 through March 22, 2008, as National Poison Prevention Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week by participating in appropriate activities and by learning how to prevent poisonings.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 18, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 19.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the Gridiron Club dinner at the Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel.

March 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

March 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Nashville, TN, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Fred Pancoast. He then met with Karla G. Christian, associate chief of pediatric cardiac surgery and director of pediatric cardiac surgical education, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

In the afternoon, at a private residence, the President attended a Republican National Committee luncheon. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mimi Alemayehou to be the U.S. Director of the African Development Bank.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rear Adm. Jonathan W. Bailey to be Commissioner of the Mississippi River Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Clifford Smith to be a member of the Mississippi River Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Karen P. Hughes and Charles M. Younger as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Military Academy.

March 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President participated in an interview with Susie Gharib of PBS's "Nightly Business Report."

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham of the Bahamas, Prime Minister David Thompson of Barbados, and Prime Minister Dean Barrow of Belize to the White House on March 20.

The White House announced that the President will host President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea and his wife, Kim Yoon-ok, at Camp David on April 18 and 19.

The President declared a major disaster in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms and flooding from February 10–14.

March 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with National Mathematics Advisory Panel Chairman Larry R. Faulkner, who presented him with the panel's final report.

The White House announced that to commemorate Saint Patrick's Day, the President will host Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland at the White House on March 17.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will travel to Ukraine, Romania, and Croatia in April.

The President declared an emergency in Illinois and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by record snow and near record snow on February 5 and 6.

The President announced his intention to nominate Barbara McConnell Barrett to be Ambassador to Finland.

The President announced his intention to nominate David R. Hill to be Assistant Administrator (General Counsel) at the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate T. Vance McMahan to be Representative of the U.S. on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members