

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Oil dependency dangers

By Lee Hamilton

Over the years, Americans have been consistently aware of the cost of what President Bush called our addiction to oil. Yet we are ever more dependent on foreign energy.

America's rising dependence on foreign sources of oil and gas is one of our greatest policy failures. This has been principally a failure of political will.

Just what are the costs of our addiction? To begin with, our economy is dangerously vulnerable because of the necessity of oil and gas to heat our homes, power some industries and, most important, keep vehicles moving. Because of this dependency, we suffer economic shocks when access to oil and gas is threatened: the OPEC embargo, the Iranian revolution, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the war in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina, and militia attacks in southern Nigeria are just a handful of incidents that have driven up oil and gas prices, slowing growth and making life harder for millions of Americans.

This dependency is a huge constraint on foreign policy. Because most of the world's known energy reserves are in the Persian Gulf, every recent president has called this region vital to American interests, and we place an inordinate amount of attention and spend vast amounts of resources trying to keep the region stable. Above all, we are tied to a rigid tradeoff with the Saudi royal family: We guarantee their security; they guarantee affordable prices for oil.

We are open to the charge of hypocrisy. Western money that floods the Persian Gulf has helped to further Islamist causes, notably the spread of radical Islamic schools and, in some cases terrorism. Oil money provided a seed for nuclear programs in Iraq and Iran. Meanwhile, our ability to deal with threatening yet energy-rich states like Iran is curtailed because of their ability to drive up the price of oil, and leaders in Venezuela or even Russia have some leverage over the United States. Finally, our pursuit of other goals – for instance, Israeli-Palestinian peace – is constrained because of the need to maintain access to oil.

As countries such as India and China develop a need for more oil and gas, the global demand for energy will increasingly outpace the available supply. This could lead to increased competition for resources, driving the U.S. further into unstable regions like West Africa and Central Asia. The worst-case scenario is that the great power competition for energy will become violent.

Yet the greatest long-term threat posed by our current energy dependence may be environmental. Burning fossil fuels accounts for much of the emissions that pollute our atmosphere. Without increased energy efficiency and more renewable sources of energy, global climate change could prompt irreversible damage to our environment, changing weather patterns, new diseases and eroded coastlines.

We need new fuels, vehicles and standards of efficiency, all of which demand more resources for research and development of new technologies, and a greater willingness to change entrenched ways of doing things. But imagine a world in which the U.S. was less dependent on foreign oil and gas: Our economy would be less vulnerable to sporadic shocks, foreign policy would be free from an enormous albatross, and the environment would be rescued from its gravest danger. Meanwhile, the shift to new technologies could prompt new modes of job creation and economic growth.

By choosing not to become less dependent on foreign oil and gas, we have chosen to live with an intolerable burden; though it enables today's politicians to avoid tough choices, this choice mortgages our future. But if we choose to start freeing ourselves from this burden, we can leave our grandchildren safer, prosperous and cleaner country.

Lee Hamilton is the director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. From 1965 to 1999, he served as a U.S. representative from Indiana.

Web poll

Each week the *Comet* polls its readers on a different topic. Vote online at carrollcountycomet.com starting each Thursday, and then click the *Comments* link to send us an email voicing your opinion. The best responses will be printed anonymously the following week.

Last Week's Results:

How do you think the inventory tax issue should be resolved?

0%-Increase EDIT tax.
2%-Wait for a year.
15%-Decrease spending.
1%-Do nothing.

Total responses: 18

Right now, sitting on the kitchen counter are two distractions to the blank page sitting before me. These distractions come in the form of all too familiar sized boxes of Girl Scout Cookies. One box is red and brown and filled with wonderful peanut butter and chocolate concoctions called Tagalongs. Tagalongs get their name from the calories one hauls around forever after eating the entire box in one sitting.

The second box is a new entry to me. It is mostly yellow on the outside. Inside is the promise of something wonderful called Lemon Coolers. According to packaging, the Lemon Coolers have reduced fat. So it follows that if I sit and eat the entire Lemon Coolers box of cookies in one sitting I will be less fat. Right? When I sit down at my desk to write, it often seems that distractions pop up everywhere around me. If there aren't cookies on the counter it will be something else. Suddenly there will be garbage to take out, papers to straighten on the table, a coat to hang up. The humidifier will likely appear to need filling and so too, the paper clip container may look a tad low.

Personally, the worst thing about distractions is that they get me so way off track.

Off track, that's what happened to charitable giving when every worthy cause started asking for our old cars.

A lot of it has been a ruse!

The Illinois Attorney General's office recently reported that over 4,000 autos in this region supposedly donated to charity never wound up going to charity. No good came from all that "giving." However, you can bet somebody made money.

And IRS has gotten interested in this out-of-control fad. New tax rules for 2005 restrict the charitable donation to what the charity actually sold the donated car for, not the over inflated figure many taxpayers were using in valuing their gifts. There's new paperwork that the charity must produce and the taxpayer must attach if the deduction exceeds \$500. No paperwork, no deduction.

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



Distractions

Weeks passed.

Calls were made.

Then, one evening, out of the blue, a hauler called on his cell phone from somewhere on I-65. He needed directions to Adams Township. The hauler was from Indianapolis. An hour later the hauler pulled up in a semi with a flat bed attached. On the flatbed were two sorry looking autos. A third car was hooked precariously on the back of the flat bed, two wheels in the air, and two wheels on the ground. It was an accident waiting to happen.

"Does it drive?" The hauler pointed to the old yellow van he was picking up from us. Mind you, this guy had arrived with a full load. There was no place for him to hang a fourth vehicle off his flat bed. He had made no advance arrangements. He had no information about the vehicle he was picking up.

The old yellow van did indeed run. But it had been sitting unused for some time. I had no idea whether it was necessarily up to a drive to Indianapolis.

But the "charity hauler" had no misgivings about driving it back to Indy. Except, he wasn't the one that would be behind the wheel. He had an assistant. His 17-year-old granddaughter had accompanied him on the trip. He handed her the keys.

"Follow close," he said.

The charity folks would have been... horrified or ashamed, I'm not sure which.

The next day I called to complain. Nobody I spoke with was much interested.

Well enough about that. There's something on the kitchen counter that requires my undivided attention.

Where to Write

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www.senate.gov

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e-mail: R24@ai.org

Restaurant Inspections

Correction

The restaurant inspection for B&B Pizza in Burlington was incorrectly reported in last week's *Comet*. The B&B Pizza registered no violations at the routine inspection on 2/9/06 by the Carroll County Health Department.

Solomon's Grill

Routine inspection: 2/15/06
Summary of violations: 2 critical
Packages of raw pork and chicken were being stored above the biscuits in the refrigerator. Correct by 2/15/06
Consumer advisory was not provided for under-cooked eggs. Correct by 30 days

Parrett's Meat Processing

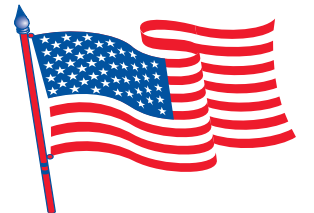
Routine inspection: 2/16/06
Summary of violations:
No violations noted

Delphi Mid-Land Meals

Routine inspection: 2/16/06
Summary of violations:
No violations noted.

Marriage Licenses

Brady J. Denlinger, 20, of Rossville and Monica S. Bauman, 19, of Delphi.



Circuit Court Judge Donald Currie

New filings are from public records available in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi. Other information regarding judgments and marriage dissolutions is gathered from public records found in the clerk's office.

A complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage on real estate was filed in National City Home Loan Services vs. John Harshbarger and Karey L. Harshbarger.

A complaint was filed in Palisades Collection LLC Assignee of AT&T vs. Edgar M. Stephens.

Charges were filed by the State of Indiana against the following: Samuel J. Boehning was charged with Count I, conspiracy to commit burglary; and Count II and Count III, burglary.

Scott B. Spencer was charged with operating a motor vehicle after forfeiture of license for life.

Tammy Pancake was charged with Count I, dealing in meth; Count II, conspiracy to commit dealing in meth; and Count III, dealing in marijuana.

Bryan W. Pancake was charged with Count I, dealing in meth;

Count II, conspiracy to commit dealing in meth; and Count III, dealing in marijuana.

Bryan W. Pancake was charged with Count I, dealing in meth; and Count II, possession of marijuana.

Tammy Pancake was charged with Count I, dealing in meth; and Count II, possession of meth.

Julie A. Gardner was charged with Count I, conspiracy to commit dealing in meth; Count II, possession of meth; Count III, possession of marijuana; and Count IV, visiting a common nuisance.

Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith

Superior Court judgments are gathered from public records on file in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi.

An agreed finding and judgement was ordered in State of Indiana vs. Donald Hickman II and Marsha Hickman et al, in the sum of \$2,613.00 along with real estate transfer.

Causes filed by the State of Indiana against the following were dismissed: Chad D. McDonald; Aysha C. Guffey; Dominique A. Shanks; Nathan D. Delgado; Meredith L. Boyd; Lorena A. Downs; Rachel N. Wright; John R. Everett Jr.

In State of Indiana vs. Roger Guinn, 41, Burlington, the defendant pled guilty to Count 1, operating while intoxicated, endangering a person and was sentenced to 180 days, suspended, and one year probation.

New Filings
The following are the misdemeanor charges filed by the Carroll

County Prosecutor, on behalf of the State of Indiana.

Victor Humphrey was charged with public intoxication.

Steven M. Lively was charged with Counts I and II, operating while intoxicated, endangering; Count III, open container; and Count IV, habitual substance offender.

John R. Everett Jr. was charged with theft.

Joseph Trueblood was charged with check deception.

Tonya L. Pettiner was charged with check deception.

Ronnie L. Pearson was charged with harassment.

Paul B.A. Stout was charged with check deception.

Jerry L. Hoaks was charged with public intoxication.

Peggy J. Hershshire was charged with harassment.

Frederick J. Heath Jr. was charged with battery.

James H. Nelson was charged with operating while intoxicated, endangering.

charged with operating while intoxicated, endangering.

Joseph R. Chadwick was charged with Counts I and II, domestic battery.

Jolene M. Boller was charged with Count I, possession of meth; and Count II, possession of a controlled substance.

Novae L. Gatewood was charged with Count I, possession of cocaine; Count II, possession of paraphernalia; Count III, expired driver's license.

Jessica L. Perry was charged with Count I, operating while intoxicated, endangering; Count II, open container; and Count III, driving left of center.

Brandon J. Wood was charged with Count I, operating while intoxicated, endangering; and Count II, operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license.

Dianna L. Loeffler was charged with operating while intoxicated, endangering.

Scott A. Barnhart was

charged with Count I, operating while intoxicated, endangering; and Count II, left of center.

The following cases were dismissed: Argent Healthcare Financial Service vs. Michael A. Hoffman; Harry W. Jones vs. Thomas Buelt; Donald Surber vs. Tall Timbers Marina.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Sheriff Sale -Hall 713	3B
Sheriff Sale -Adams 813	3B
Zolper -Estate 812d	3B
T.L. School -Add'l App. 812	3B
Sheriff Sale -Flora 813	3B
Sheriff Sale -Fletcher 813	3B
Alcoholic Beverage -Renewals 912	3B
Sheriff Sale -Henry/Pearsons 913	3B
Town of Yeoman -Annual Report 913B	3B
Camden Library -Capital Report 913B	3B
Highway Claims 911	3B
Commissioners -Grant 911	3B
Sheriff Sale -Beckner 913	3B
County Claims 911	4B

Questions concerning Indiana's Open Door and Public Access Laws may be directed to the state's public access office, at 1-800-228-6013.