11-19-1973

Congressional Record S. 20844 - The Energy Crisis

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches/1142

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Mike Mansfield Papers at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mike Mansfield Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
THE ENERGY CRISIS

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, on November 7, 1973—and we are still in the month of November—the President addressed the Nation, outlining the steps to deal with energy emergency. In his address, he said:

That is why it is time to act now on vital energy legislation that will affect our daily lives, not just this year, but for years to come.

We must have the legislation now which will authorize construction of the Alaska pipeline—legislation which is not burdened with irrelevant and unnecessary provisions. We must have legislative authority to encourage production of our vast quantities of natural gas, one of the cleanest and best sources of energy.

We must have the legal ability to set reasonable standards for the surface mining of coal.

And we must have the organizational structures to meet and administer our energy programs.

And therefore, tonight, as I did this morning in meeting with the Congressional leaders, I again urge the Congress to give its attention to the initiatives I recommended 6 months ago to meet these needs that I have described.

Finally, I have stressed repeatedly the necessity of increasing our energy research and development efforts. Last June, I announced a 5-year, $10 billion program to develop better ways of using energy and to explore and develop new energy sources. Last month I announced plans for an immediate acceleration of that program.

Mr. President, action taken on energy legislation recommended by the President is as follows:

Alaska pipeline (S. 1081)—passed by both Houses of Congress and signed into law (Public Law 93-158) by the President on November 16, 1973.

Surface mining reclamation legislation (S. 459)—passed the Senate October 9, 1973. Minerals Subcommittee in the House Interior Committee has completed markup and has introduced a clean bill.

Energy research and development bill (S. 1263)—the administration opposes the bill. It does not want a law; they want only appropriations. Open hearings by the full committee on June 31 and June 22; July 1 and July 12. Full committee markup session October 23, October 31, and November 2. Markup scheduled for November 16 had to be postponed because of floor debate on S. 2689. One more day will be needed to complete markup.


Deregulation of gas (S. 2506 and S. 2648)—before Committee on Commerce in the Senate. Open hearings held October 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, 1973. Administration withdrew bill.

Department of Energy and Natural Resources Committee (S. 2135)—pending before Senate Government Operations Committee. Open hearings held July 31 and August 1 and 25, August 7 and 8. Additional open hearings will be held but not yet scheduled.

Department of Energy and Natural Resources Committee (S. 2135)—pending before Senate Government Operations Committee. Open hearings held July 31 and August 1 and 25, August 7 and 8. Additional open hearings planned after Thanksgiving.

This is what the Senate has done:

Emergency bill (S. 2589)—final passage at 6 p.m. today.

Allocation bill (S. 1570)—on the President’s desk.

Strategic Petroleum Reserve (S. 1586)—ready for mark-up.

Conservation Policy for Energy (S. 2176)—on the Senate Calendar; reported by the Committee.

Coal Conversion Act (S. 2652)—hearings in December.

I think the record will speak for itself. Again I want to say, as I have many times, that I think the Senate is to be commended for the outstanding job it has done. I include both Democrats and Republicans in my commendation. They are to be commended for the cooperation, interest, and energy they have shown in bringing out energy legislation. The Senate is to be commended as a whole not only for having considered the legislation but having passed it, as well. The record of the Senate will speak for itself, and the Senate has not confined itself to rhetoric or to messages, but has acted on the basis of a cooperative attitude and the best interests of the Nation as a whole.

Mr. FANNIN. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished majority leader for his comments on what the Senate has been able to accomplish. We all realize that the Senate has done a remarkable job.

Mr. FANNIN. I certainly pay tribute to the chairman of the committee, the Senator from Washington (Mr. Jackson) and the members of the committee. I am very proud that the Republican members of the committee have been so faithful in making quorums and working on the legislation.

I join the majority leader in praising the Senate, but I also am very pleased to commend President Nixon for the position he has taken and for his dedication to accomplishing the objectives we all share. He has proclaimed a goal of self-sufficiency to be reached by 1980, one that will require a great deal of effort to reach.

I also commend the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers Morton, because as we all realize he has been very diligent in his efforts in this area.

We have a serious problem. We are experiencing shortages because we are using much more energy than ever before. We are unfortunate in that respect, but we have the capacity because of the natural resources in this country to achieve the goals the President has set.

Fortunately, we have almost one-half of the known coal reserves in the world. The Senator from Montana is very fortunate to have in his own State a vast amount of coal.

So we have many reasons to be hopeful, in spite of the shortages that have
November 19, 1973

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

S. 20845

resulted from the way in which we have exhausted our energy resources.

I feel the programs we are carrying forward do not address all the issues with which we must contend. We should not in a sense create our fuel at a much greater extent than is now the case. The President has recommended that we go forward at a faster pace. The chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has advocated spending vast sums of money for research and development programs. On these we are working with the House, and with the Executive Department.

The administration is dedicated to the same end and I feel that we must approach this matter on a bipartisan basis. This has been true all through the hearings we have held. I do not want colleagues to realize that the Republicans are dedicated, just as the Democrats are, to reaching this goal.

I want to extend my appreciation to the distinguished majority leader for bringing this legislation up at this time.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I thank the distinguished senior Senator from Arizona for his gracious and kind remarks.

As far as the Senate is concerned we will be prepared all year to cooperate and to go half way and more than half way if need be to cooperate with the administration to carry out the business of the Nation.

Again I want to say, as I have said many times, I have never been more proud of the Senate in my many years down here, than I have this year.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. President, I regret that this bill does not address the overriding issue of energy supply. Unfortunately, the Senate refused to face up to this critical problem. On many occasions the Senate displayed a greater anxiety over the popular issue of a pollution-free environment than was reflected a clear understanding of the significance of an adequate energy supply to keep America warm, jobs assured, and to maintain America's industrial, domestic, and military needs guaranteed reasonable fulfillment as only domestic resources can.

Whether we like it or not, neither Executive order nor legislative action can long suspend the laws of supply and demand. Whether we like it or not, petroleum and natural gas costs will rise. World demand and the supply situation assures that.

Sooner or later America will take steps—must take steps—to make domestic reserves of oil and gas more plentiful.

When homes are cold, jobs shut down, schools are closed, and industry is slowed, there will be a clearer understanding by Members for the need to increase supply.

The danger is that Americans may blame Industry; buy the phony line that Government management of this complicated industry is the solution to their problems.

I hope that in conference a better bill might result.

Time is running out.

Thus, with misgiving I voted for the bill. I hope the Senate will act on both sides of the aisle for their diligent attention to that task. I pay tribute to the staffs on both sides of the aisle for their long hours in perfecting the bill, the time they spent on weekends trying to pull together the recommendations that were made by both the majority and minority members of the committee.

It has been a joint effort, and despite my disappointment in the final result, I must say that it has been a real privilege to work with such fine, dedicated people, both on the committee itself and on the staff.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Mr. President, since this seems to be a time for taking stock and looking at the ledger, insofar as the energy problem is concerned, let me say, not necessarily with the distinguished majority leader, but so we may put the record in some perspective, that the President was in June of 1971 when President Nixon delivered the first energy message delivered by any President of the United States, calling the attention of the country and the world to the developing problems in the energy field.

And while I share the sense of pride and the admiration for particular Senators and for particular committees that have done a good job in this field. I think it is still in order to point out that, as far as Congress as a whole is concerned, it is still a fact that until the final adoption of the conference report on the trans-Alaska pipeline bill, which was adopted very, very recently, none of the major legislation requested by President Nixon had theretofore been delivered to his desk.

I might just point out that, while it is true that various committees are working on other pieces of legislation, the fact is that Congress as a whole had not delivered on legislation requested having to do with, dealing with, that super-tankers can deliver oil to the eastern seaboard. It is still a fact that Congress as a whole has not produced the electric power siting legislation requested by the President, which is desperately needed to produce more power. And it is still a fact that Congress has not delivered on legislation setting up a Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

So I merely make these points to keep the record in some perspective—yes, to give credit where credit is due, and there is a lot of that can be passed out, but beginning in June of 1971 and various messages thereafter, President Nixon has called attention to this problem and has requested specific legislation to be enacted by the Congress, and the fact still remains that Congress has not delivered on legislative proposals, little in terms of actual enactment of bills.

I want to associate myself with the remarks made by the distinguished Senator from Wyoming (Mr. HANSEN) when he points out that this legislation today does little more than provide a vehicle for allocating the shortages. It does nothing to increase the production of energy resources. And one of the major things that Congress has to turn its attention to is passing those legislative items that are going to produce more oil, are going to produce more coal, are going to produce more electric energy, because only through more production and providing a way of being self-sufficient in the energy field are we as a nation going to have the answer that we really need and must achieve.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I, too, want to put things in perspective, and I thought I did, and I am not speaking for the Senate, and when I say the Senate, I mean the whole Senate.

The distinguished acting minority leader states that in 1971 the President sent his first message. May I say that on July 16, 1970, Senator Jennings RANZOW introduced legislation, cosponsored by Senators of both parties, to establish a National Commission on Fuels and Energy. This was to be a joint executive-legislative body to make a comprehensive study of the Nation's energy needs and how best to meet them.

May I point out also, once again, that fact of the seven proposals sent to the Congress by the President, the Senate had passed the Alaska pipeline bill. The Senate has passed the surface mining reclamation bill. The administration does not want legislation on energy research and development. All it wants is money, and it opposes the bill before the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

With respect to the Outer Continental Shelf leases in the Santa Barbara Channel, the administration has withdrawn the bill.

The deepwater ports facilities bills, which the distinguished Senator from Michigan has mentioned, are ready, as far as the Senate is concerned, to go to mark-up, which will occur after Thanksgiving.

On the deregulation of gas bills—No. 6—hearing have been held beginning in October, and we anticipate they will be ready to be reported out of the Commerce Committee soon.

As far as the bill relating to the establishment of a Department of Energy is concerned, that is now pending before the Senate Government Operations Committee, and additional hearings will be held after the Holiday.

But what the President did not send up, and what the Senate has done, is S. 2589, the emergency bill passed this June 9, 1970, the allocation bill, now on the President's desk; S. 1586, the strategic petroleum reserves, ready for markup; S. 2176, conservation policy for energy; and the Land Conversion Act, S. 2652, the Coal Conversion Act, hearings on which are to be held in December.
I think we have done a pretty good job up here, and again I want to say that, as far as the Senate is concerned, the President will not lack in cooperation in this or any other field, because I think the record of this institution will prove itself on that basis today, and I have every confidence it will in the future.