

# THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## Letters blog: High oil prices power a 'green' revolution

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-LAGUNA NIGUEL, **Bob Long**: One would think that while the price of gasoline races toward \$4 a gallon on the way to \$5 a gallon that the Obama administration would have announced a strategy to combat this threat to the economy. However, higher cost for fuel fits well with the "green" environmental agenda that wants us out of our "gas-guzzling" cars and into electric cars.

Industrialized countries like China, Russia, India and many others belch tons of pollutants into the air daily without regard to clean air standards. We should all work to get cleaner air and water. Meanwhile, for now, we have a country to run, and oil is its life blood.

Recent Middle East events are a stark reminder of how fragile oil infrastructure and transportation are. This can only get worse when Iran perfects its nuclear capability and uses it to dominate this region. Meanwhile, the administration is beholden to environmentalists. Restrictions on oil exploration and production in the Gulf, off-shore, Alaska and the extraction of oil from vast deposits of domestic oil shale, may make some feel good, but for most of us, depending on others for oil is risky business.

We have our priorities backward. National security, industrial output and jobs come first. Environmentalists need to find a fit within these priorities without impeding America's progress.

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-HUNTINGTON BEACH, **Greg Groh**: We continue to place our economic fate in the hands of unstable and unpredictable Middle Eastern societies. Sure, it would be nice to develop alternative energy sources to eventually replace oil, and some argue development of alternative energy sources will never take place until oil is unavailable or prohibitively expensive, but any viable alternative is decades away. Do we want to destroy what's left of our economy to force the issue now?

Since America has adequate oil reserves available to drill and, we need the oil, why do we allow the status quo to continue? Drill here. Drill now.

At the feet of pirates

-SAN CLEMENTE, **Mike Fitzsimmons**: What should be the response to the Somali pirates killing four Americans [["Pirates kill hostages," Front Page, Feb. 23\]](#)? When we elected presidents with backbone, Thomas Jefferson sent the U.S. Navy and Marines to clean out the African Coast Barbary pirates' rats nest after they seized American trading ships.

The Marines forced two-bit dictators to stop demanding tribute for not seizing American crew and vessels. Those pirates caught seizing ships were hanged. This sent a clear message, "Don't Tread on Me!"

Now we turn the other cheek when slapped in the face. If we catch a pirate, we provide better for him than what he had.

Send U.S. to the rescue

-CORONA, **Noah Marestaing**: I strongly disagree with Christopher Preble's statement in the editorial, ["May be Ghadafi's turn to get booted" \[Feb. 22\]](#), that "The best thing the United States can do [in Libya] is not get involved."

Many, such as Preble, have said that the United States should denounce the protests in Libya. They think that by supporting rebellion, the United States will lead people to imprisonment or even death especially now that the military is responding in force.

However, by ignoring the opportunity to bring change to the world, the United States misses a great opportunity. In a corrupt country like Libya, the only way for its citizens to gain freedom is to overthrow the government. By supporting the protests and ensuring a peaceful transition to a new government, the United States could bring democracy to Libya.

Blame the U.S., again

-HUNTINGTON BEACH, **Gary Arneson**: Once again a Mexican president blames the United States for his country's ills ["Calderon: U.S. doesn't do enough in drug war," Feb. 23]. Before Felipe Calderon, it was Vicente Fox.

I wonder if these presidents ever think about their own country. If they did their jobs and found work for their people or created better living conditions or better law enforcement etc., maybe their country would not be in the shape it is in.

Maybe they should try leading their own country instead of letting the drug cartels lead. How many people flee Mexico daily? How many people living in the United States want to flee and live and work in Mexico? I'm guessing none so, Mr. Calderon, look in the mirror and see who really is to blame.

The pension jackpot

-IRVINE, **Jeffrey Thomas**: I wondered how many people realize how much a private individual would need to receive a guaranteed annual \$100,000 cash flow for life [["Huge jump in educator's \\$100K club," Feb. 21](#)]. So I called a large insurance company and received these numbers for a lifetime annuity: A 60-year-old would need \$1,561,427, a 55-year-old \$1,716,411, and a 50-year-old (the retirement age for police officers and firefighters) \$1,854,041.

These figures do not include cost of living adjustments or other benefits such as medical coverage. I'll bet a lot of taxpayers never realized that so many "public servants" are retiring like millionaires.

Those parasitic unions

-COSTA MESA, **Don Hull**: The horrible truth is that government and labor unions have been running a scam for many years [["All unions not created equal," Feb. 23](#)], colluding with each other to extort all of us. Governments and labor unions are parasitic, because they live off the labor of others – by force.

When government and their own unions sit down to "bargain," they both sit on the same side of the table. There is no one on the taxpayer's side. Thus, there is no incentive for either party to exercise any restraint. That's how we get \$800,000 city managers and \$500,000 police and \$300,000 fire chiefs.

Collective bargaining for government workers used to be illegal. It has always been immoral because it robs the public "legally." We taxpayers should demand an end to it.

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-LAGUNA NIGUEL, **John Seibert**: The innate ability of unions over time is to bargain themselves out of a job. Public employee unions don't seem to realize that the private sector has to pay their wages and retirement benefits. And we in the private sector can only pay so much before we are unable to work hard enough to keep them in the lifestyle they are accustomed to and have something for ourselves.

Enough is enough.

It's basic economics

-TUSTIN, **A. Trujillo Escareño**: Evidently basic economics is not taught in California. Richard Green and many others do not realize that companies – anywhere in the world – do not pay taxes [["Those offshore loopholes, Letters, Feb. 22\]](#). They merely act as government conduits because the taxes are paid by their customers.

If the company is not profitable, they must make a choice: raise prices or go out of business. In that case, they pay no taxes.

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