

The Liberal Response to the Rise in Oil Prices

(Reagan, The Republicans and Mc Donald's drive through windows are the cause of the rise in oil prices)

Let's look backwards for a moment. Reagan pulled the plug on shale oil experimentation in Colorado and sold off the shale reserves to the oil companies' pennies on the dollar (300 years of oil in these formations!). The unions / Michigan Democrats in collusion with the Republicans shot down any effort on conservation with regard to the auto industry. Our meddling in the Middle East goes back to the late 19th century. If you have a moment read: "American Theocracy" by Kevin Phillips. You just need to read the beginning as it deals with oil and the Middle East. By the way... he is a Republican!

You need to get beyond a few mantras. Refinery capacity has not peaked out. What has happened is that the refineries are more efficient. The companies have NOT requested building permits. In fact, Shell tried to sell off and moth ball a refinery in California. Their goal was to cut capacity thereby raising prices.

ANWAR: Not really enough oil there to make a big difference. Better oil field coming on line in deep water well in the Caribbean. Should be on line next year.... this one WILL make a difference.

Ethanol requires more petroleum input than bio fuel output. Not to mention it exasperates inflation (food).

So what are we left with? Options:

Europe is probably the better model. Their cars are small and run on efficient diesel. Our auto companies really do know how to make small gas efficient cars..... It's their dirty little secret. We need to rapidly invest in public transit. I saw France's 250 mph train whiz by.... (And when are we going to dump our antiquated English measurement system.... That would save big bucks... Who would want one of our export products if it were not in metric? Reagan killed this conversion too!)

Simple things: Tax carbon. Clinton tried this but the Republicans killed the idea. Cap and trade is basically a tax on carbon with a new name. Re brand and sell? Take carbon tax revenue and 1) invest in solar and wind. Price oil products at exactly what it really costs! Dump subsidies and allow the market to set the price.... How Republican can I be? The price of patrolling the shipping lanes (protecting big oil) and our war in Iraq are subsidies for Big Oil.

Little things: Outlaw drive through windows at Mc Donald's.... Prohibit garages / car dealerships from putting stickers on cars saying that the car needs oil changes as opposed to when the manufacturer says the oil needs changing. I saw a report on this and it's staggering how much oil is used needlessly. Stick it to the railroads to comply with their agreement (Again Reagan) to do away with public transit. The agreement called for allowing the railroads to dump their passenger service but only if they allowed Amtrak to have priority over the rails..... i.e. freight trains have to be pulled over to a siding allowing passenger trains priority. Today our local passenger trains can be hours late if not days late. Train service between Sacramento and San Jose has been cut! Rapid bus service between Roseville/ Rocklin and Sacramento is over loaded but there are NO funds for added bus service. Bike lanes go no where..... And oh...yes.... double nickel may come back: 55mph!