

# NEWS

from  
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**U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS**

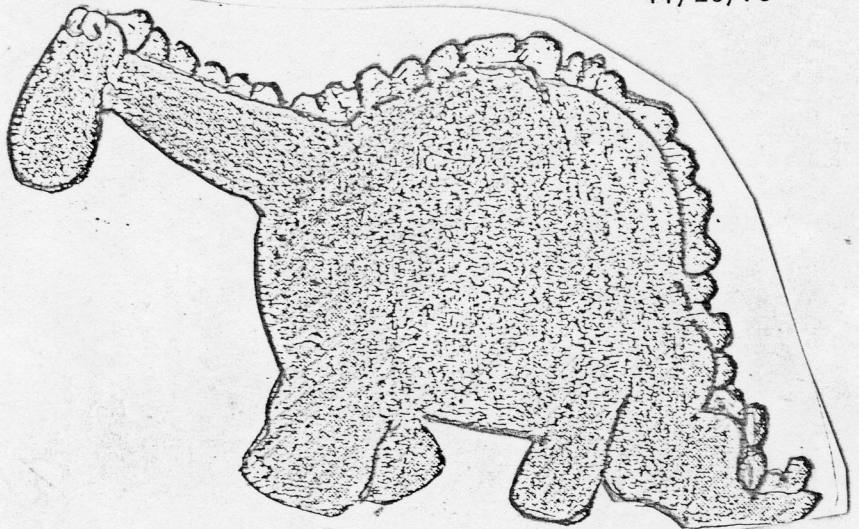
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BACK TO BASICS

FOR OIL PRODUCTION:

TSONGAS ENDORSES DINOSAUR

DEVELOPMENT.



## DOMESTIC OIL FROM DOMESTICATED DINOSAURS

Mr. President, every day Washington gets the message: the simple solution to the oil shortage is to increase production. Newspaper ads have headlines like "Don't Limit U.S. Oil Production" and "Unleash the U.S. Oil Industry." A television commercial with a famous comedian and golfer gushes with eagerness to produce new oil.

Let's face it. New oil production is more appealing than alternative energy strategies. Conservation, for example, is a clear inconvenience to the American people, even though the energy project of the Harvard Business School recommended conservation over all alternatives. Co-generation is kind of like recycling: It seems chintzy. Solar energy sounds too good to be believed. Low-head hydroelectricity is hard to get excited about. Windmills were used years ago: how can we go back to them and call it progress?

My enthusiasm for producing new oil was jolted when I looked between the lines the oil pushers are handing us. All the world's oil is old, and all we do is extract it. Even synthetic fuels -- the summer sensation -- are finite. They are derived from our existing supply of fossil fuels.

Since politicians and the public do not want to change our ways, today I am announcing a new plan to make the new oil that everyone is talking about and counting on.

All this talk about "producing" more oil, but no one is talking about how oil is produced. The old-fashioned recipe for oil comes to us from the Age of Reptiles. Mother Nature put animals and plants in water, smothered them with sediment, and waited. This earthy pressure-cooker produced oil and gas, sometimes as fast as a million years. Experts believe that most oil comes from plants and one-celled organisms. But making new oil from little-bitty plankton and plants is not going to inspire Americans.

This nation's vision must be bigger and better. If we are really serious about producing new oil, I suggest that the best, the simplest, indeed the only solution is a major research and development program in dinosaur resources. We will raise them, bury them, and produce oil from them.

A dinosaur domestication program for new, domestic oil must ask: why not the best? In energy, we continue to believe biggest is best, and so the prime target of dinosaur R & D should be the dignified Diplodocus.

As my distinguished colleagues may recall, the Diplodocus is a warm-blooded beast. The creature runs around 60,000 pounds, and can reach 87 feet in length. It stays in shape with water sports, which are made easier by nostrils right between the eyes. It follows a strictly vegetarian and fish diet.

An Energy Department expert advises my office informally that each 60,000 pound Diplodocus might yield about 20,000 gross pounds of crude oil. That's over 70 barrels of oil per beast. With a modern manufacturing process, we ought to be able to extract most of it.

Now there are chronic critics-- pessimists who dislike innovation.

They may say that there are no more Diplodoci, and that we cannot make them in a laboratory.

I say that reports of their death may be greatly exaggerated. We all know how things get blown out of proportion in the news. Have we really been looking for them lately, or just going our own separate way? And what about the Loch Ness Monster? Dinosaurs dominated the earth for over one hundred million years. It's awfully hard to believe that they would just disappear.

I am hopeful that at least a couple of these economy-size sauropods can be captured somewhere, maybe while munching on their daily quarter-ton diet. Then highly-trained counselors could encourage a meaningful relationship between them. Before too many generations, the civilized world would be crawling with the creatures.

It is possible that Dinosaurs other than Diplodoci may produce themselves first. Varieties that flourished toward the end of the Age of Reptiles would be ideal because that was the earth's prime time for oil formation. Half of North America was covered with water. Genetic experts might mate a Tyrannosaurus Rex with a Duck-Billed Trachodon. This could create a heavy, high energy breed that wouldn't be flashing its teeth all the time.

If we must start from scratch in a test tube -- a rather large test tube -- the Diplodocus should be our national goal. Let the energy doomsdayers scoff. I am confident the nation that achieved lasers, lunar landings, polio vaccine and the Gong Show can produce an uncomplicated dinosaur. Modern technology may even cut production time under the million-year mark.

To make oil from deceased Diplodoci, technicians would store them under heat and pressure in the absence of oxygen. Ages ago this happened only infrequently. For example, a Stregosaurus basking by a fast-flowing stream might fall in and drown -- and end up centuries later as oil beneath sedimentary rock. Now we can ensure proper, oil-producing burial for all dinosaur resources.

A related benefit is that cradle-to-grave care for domesticated dinosaurs is "labor-intensive." Dinosaur oil production will create many needed jobs.

Let's not forget that dinosaurs will be right at home in our future climate. The end of the Age of Reptiles had a hot, steamy climate with water everywhere. The industrialized world is headed in the same direction because of the "greenhouse effect" caused by increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels. Thus one dividend of using more coal and gas will be a whole earth surrounded by hot air laden with carbon dioxide. Another cause of the greenhouse effect is the disappearance of half of the world's forests in the past 30 years. At the present rate, two-thirds of what remains will be gone by the year 2000.

The greenhouse effect is expected to warm the globe and melt part of the polar icecaps. Eventually the United States may be two islands -- Appalachian Island and Rocky Island -- with dinosaurs in swamps all around. Offshore drilling rigs in places like Kansas will overflow with new oil. Deposits near abandoned vaults of nuclear wastemight even gush with oil that glows in the dark.

One final point in favor of massive dinosaur oil production is safety. Dinosaurs' high-energy systems do not create dangerous hydrogen bubbles. There is not record of a single human life ever being lost in a dinosaur accident. The Diplodocus, in particular, has only a small mouth and none of the anti-social tendencies of the Tyrannasaurus.

Mr. President, a crash program for domestic oil from domesticated dinosaurs may have complications, but it sounds so good. Washington craves simple solutions that sound good, as demonstrated by the deification of synthetic fuels. It's impolitic to point out certain realities. For example, just 4 pounds of coal per person in the world will be mined this year and any more than that is more than your fair share.

We can fill the air with rhetoric about how the U.S. is "the Saudi Arabia of coal" until the air is so filled with carbon dioxide, particulates and other junk that it is unfit to breathe. We could become "the Saudi Arabia of conservation," but that's too boring and too easy. We prefer the hard path.

We like the large-scale, high-risk route. We are loaded with bravado and billions to shelter our lifestyles from reality. And so we might as well go all the way with the dream that old ways will save us in a new age.

So much has been said about producing new oil -- let's give it a try. Yes, it will take a million years, but our descendants will thank us. And more importantly, it will give aid and comfort to all the politicians and oil executives who talk about oil production. And it will give Americans something to feel good about while we are shivering in the cold and in the dark after consuming all the oil from Mother Nature's first round of oil production.

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