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Senate ENERGY POLICY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I wanted to speak on a matter of strategic airlift capability, but I do not want to get in the way of the sense-of-the-Senate amendment of the Senator from Oklahoma. I would like to say this, if I could. Obviously, we are not going to vote on the energy package that the House passed as an amendment to this bill. The Senator from Oklahoma and I have spoken. I don't think that is appropriate. Having said that, if we have not learned any other lesson from the events of 3 weeks ago, I hope we have learned that this country needs an energy policy.

I finished my active-duty tour of the Navy in 1973 and went to the University of Delaware on the GI bill. My first

recollection of being in Newark, DE, was sitting in a line trying to buy gas for my car. That was 28 years ago. We did not have an energy policy then; we don't have an energy policy today; and we need one today a lot more than we did then.

Mr. President, 28 years ago about a third of the oil we consumed in this Nation was coming from places outside of our Nation's border. Today it is almost 60 percent, and we still have no energy policy. My hope is that by the time we adjourn from this first session later this year, we will have taken up the legislation we are working on in the Energy Committee on which I serve and be in a position to go to conference with the House on a very important matter.