

FOR THE RECORD

By RALPH VOSS

I hope you read last week's story about Harvey Buhr of Bonnots Mill and his Hitec LLC firm that has developed a processor that converts old tires into oil, gas, carbon and steel, all without creating any environmental pollution.

After 25 years of working to develop this piece of equipment, Buhr appears to be only months away from the commercial launch of a

process that can turn many hundreds of millions of tires into many hundreds of millions of gallons of oil similar to diesel, many hundreds of millions of gallons of a gas similar to propane and millions of tons of high-quality steel and carbon.

The ramifications of this process are truly breathtaking. We are not only talking about the development of energy,

which we desperately need in this country to keep energy prices from spiraling out of control, but we are talking about the creation of jobs that are even more desperately needed than energy.

How many people will some day be employed manufacturing these processors? How many people will be employed in operating them?

That an idea as good as this should come from the private sector is not a surprise to those of us who understand that government policies do far more harm to the economy than any good that may come from them.

While the federal government will be wasting trillions of dollars trying to get windmills to make economic sense, the Harvey Buhrs of this country will be creating energy that doesn't need a permanent federal subsidy to compete.

Another good example of government versus private sector is natural gas. The president recently put most of our offshore oil reserves off-limits to drilling. And don't forget the vast reserves in Alaska that cannot be tapped. But in spite of every effort to thwart the success of companies drilling for oil, more and more natural gas is being discovered in this country -- so much in fact that experts are saying that within a decade this country will be exporting natural gas. This is a far cry from just a few years ago when natural gas prices in the country were going so high plastics manufacturers that use natural gas to produce their base product had to move many plants to other countries where natural gas could be

purchased at more reasonable rates. This is just one more example of how the federal government has destroyed jobs.

Another aspect of our energy policy is the benefits we are bestowing on countries that hate us. At \$3 gas, which we are rapidly approaching, we are sending almost half a trillion dollars per year to nations like Saudi Arabia that is financing Al-Qaeda and Russia that is selling nuclear technology to Iran.

As this column is written Tuesday morning, it appears Obama and Congressional Republicans have cut a deal that would extend the Bush tax cuts for all tax brackets for a year, extend unemployment benefits for another year and reduce Social Security taxes for everyone for a year. The cost of this turkey is a mere \$900 billion over two years. That's right, another almost half a trillion in debt per year on top of the \$1.4 trillion deficits we are currently running. That's almost \$2 trillion in deficit spending for each of the next two years.

As a Republican I'm embarrassed beyond imagination. If this insanity flies, I hope Tea Partiers destroy both parties.



Holidays Are Approaching

Are Your Teeth As Bright As They Can Be?

If you're looking for a whiter, brighter smile, look no further than your dentist. We have options to fit your