

TASK Read the following speech.

I came to office promising an ethics reform to end the culture of self-dealing and today that ethics reform is a law. While I was at it I got rid of a few things in the governor's office that I didn't believe our citizens should have to pay for. That luxury jet was over-the-top. I put it on E-bay.

I love to drive myself to work and I thought we could muddle through without the governor's personal chef although I've got to admit that sometimes my kids sure miss her. I came to office promising to control spending by request, if possible, but by veto, if necessary.

Senator McCain also, he promises to use the power of veto in defense of the public interest and as a chief executive I can assure you it works. Our state budget is under control, we have a surplus and I have protected the tax payers by vetoing wasteful spending nearly half a billion dollars in vetos. We suspended the state fuel tax and championed reform to end the abuses of earmark spending by Congress. I told the Congress 'thanks but no thanks' on their Bridge to Nowhere. If our state wanted to build a bridge, we were gonna build it ourselves.

When oil and gas prices went up dramatically and filled up the State Treasury I sent a large share of that revenue back where it belonged, directly to the people of Alaska. And despite fierce opposition from oil company lobbyists who kind of liked things the way they were, we broke their monopoly on power and resources. As Governor I insisted on competition and basic fairness to end their control of our state and return it to the people. I thought to bring about the largest private sector infrastructure project in NA history and when that deal was struck, we began a nearly \$40 billion natural gas pipeline to lead America to energy independence. That pipeline, when the last section is laid and its valves are open will lead America one step farther away from dependence on dangerous foreign powers that do not have our interest at heart.

The stakes for our nation could not be higher. When a hurricane strikes in the Gulf of Mexico this country should not be so dependent on imported oil that we are forced to draw from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve and families cannot throw more and more of their paychecks on gas and heating oil. With Russia wanting to control the vital pipeline in the Caucasus and divide and intimidate our European allies by using energy as a weapon. We cannot leave ourselves at the mercy of foreign suppliers.

To confront the threat that Iran might seek to cut off nearly a fifth of the world's energy supplies or that terrorists might strike again at Abqaiq facilities in Saudi

Arabia, or Venezuela might shut off its oil discoveries and its deliveries of that source.

Americans, we need to produce more of our own oil and gas and take it from a gal who knows the north slope of Alaska we've got lots of both.

Our opponents say again and again that drilling will not solve all of America's energy problems as if we did not know that already. But the fact that drilling won't solve every problem is no excuse to do nothing at all. Starting in January in McCain, Palin administration we're gonna lay more pipelines and build more nuclear plants and create jobs with clean coal and move forward on solar, wind, geothermal and other alternative sources. We need American sources of resources, we need American energy brought to you by American ingenuity and produced by American workers.

And I've noticed a pattern with our opponent. And maybe you have too. We have heard all the dramatic speeches before devoted followers and there is much to like and admire about our opponents. But listening to him speak it's easy to forget that this is a man who was offered two memoirs but not a single major law or even a reform, not even in the State Senate. This is a man who can give an entire speech about the wars America is fighting and never use the word victory except when he is talking about his own campaign. But when the cloud of rhetoric has passed, when the roar of the crowd fades away, when the stadium lights go out and those Styrofoam Greek columns are hauled back to some studio lot. When that happens what exactly is our opponent's plan? What does he actually seek to accomplish? After he has done turning back the waters and healing the planet? The answer is to make government bigger and take more of your money and give you more orders from Washington and to reduce the strength of America in a dangerous world. America needs more energy, our opponent is against producing it. Victory in Iraq is finally in sight and he wants to forfeit, terrorist states are seeking nuclear weapons without delay, he wants to meet them with our preconditions. Al-Khaida terrorists still plot to inflict catastrophic harm on America and he is worried that someone won't read them their rights. Government is too big, he wants to grow it. Congress spends too much money, he promises more, taxes are too high and he wants to raise them, his tax increases are the fine print in his economic plan and let me be specific, the democratic nominee for President supports plans to raise income taxes and raise payroll taxes and raise investment income taxes.....