

C-SPAN LIVE VIEWER CALL-IN WITH SEN TIM WIRTH (D-CO)

Thursday morning, March 22, 1990

C-SPAN Host: "I saw a picture of you with your car, loading it up with. . . .was it LP?"

Senator Wirth: "Well, I have a Jeep. . . .a Jeep Cherokee and I converted that to compressed natural gas so that my jeep runs both on regular fuels and compressed natural gas. And when I'm in Denver, I try to run it all the time on compressed natural gas because it runs ten times cleaner than the car does. . . ."

C-SPAN Host: "Does it run with as much power?"

Senator Wirth: "Absolutely the same. It runs ten times cleaner than running on gasoline. We just took it down to the State Health Department and had it tested. And it runs in the State Health Department's laboratory. It runs. . . .you know. . . .the wheels are going round and round and it runs the same course on gasoline and on natural gas. . . .absolutely extraordinary. . . .the difference in emission."

C-SPAN Host: "How much. . . .I know that's kind of a demonstration for you, but how much does it cost you to, say, fill up? Do you fill up with cubic feet or gallons? How does it work?"

Senator Wirth: "You fill up with the equivalent of gallons and it costs 50 cents a gallon. What's your gasoline cost? A dollar a gallon anyway, right? It's half the price."

C-SPAN Host: "How many miles per gallon?"

Senator Wirth: "The same, exactly the same. And, you know, this is a domestic fuel as well. Senator Wilson and I are saying: Hey, wait a minute. What's happening in this country is we're getting more and more dependent on imported oil. 53% of our oil last month came in from overseas and that number is going up in the United States. We're importing more and more and more oil. Well, we say, let's use this opportunity as well to see if we can develop domestic fuels. . . .natural gas and ethanol made out of corn and so on. Those are all fuels that are domestically made so it makes us less dependent on Mr. Khadaffi and those other savory characters in the Middle East that are right now dominating the world oil market."

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If you do not receive all pages, please call Kristin Wennberg at 202-626-7975.

NOTE:

John:

Sen. Wirth made some interesting comments about his car that runs on alternative fuels last week on one of our call-in programs.

Thought you might be interested. I've sent along the quotes.

-Kristin Wennberg