

**Thank God It's Friday!**

February 6, 2009



Hanging out with Boone Pickens was the highlight of our week. What a guy. I'd like to grow-up to be just like him when I am 80 years old: Sharp as a tack; Verbal and vocal; Funny...very funny; Irreverent; Clever; Passionate about his work....and not a bad dancer! His prior lunch dates this week were with Citizen GW Bush in Dallas, then Senator Reid and Speaker Pelosi in DC...and don't forget he saved the best for last: Jude and Mike in Las Vegas!

Still an Oakie at heart, Boone has made and lost countless fortunes while drilling for oil and gas in and around Texarkana, but now it's all about his plan for USA energy independence which features WIND, SUN, and NATURAL GAS with an emphasis on what he knows best: Natural gas, the key to the Pickens Plan, which is so abundant in the USA that we do not depend on foreign imports.

WHY use natural gas for 18-wheeler trucks, buses, truck fleets? It's cheap and 50% cleaner than crude which is especially important in California where air pollution is a year-round problem. WIND can immediately replace natural gas-produced electricity. Two major problems solved.

We all know the USA represents 4% of world population but consumes 25% of the world's oil. If you can stand one more stat: 70% of our oil is imported leaving us highly dependent on unfriendly nations and on a fossil fuel that depletes each year, ergo, the term RENEWABLE energy which makes common sense.

So what's our American Energy Plan? We have none. Every president since Nixon has promised an energy plan to eliminate foreign reliance. None of them delivered. While 4 decades passed us by, imported oil skyrocketed from 24% in the 1970s to current 70%. We need to do something now. The comprehensive Pickens Plan could work ...at least it's a start with many more pros than cons.

In his Inaugural Address, President Obama said: "And for the sake of our economy, our security, and the future of our planet, I will set a clear goal as president: In 10 years, we will finally end our dependence on oil from the Middle East." Boone asserts that Obama is the guy who will finally change our government's laissez-faire energy policy because it's not working and is destroying our economy. Also, his PLAN creates 138,000 jobs within a year and 5 million jobs within 10 years which dovetail with Obama's jobs target. Mr. Pickens clearly understands this crisis like no other. On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Boone will host a forum for developing wind and solar energy and improving the grid that moves electricity around the country. We'll keep you posted or you can take a look at his website at [www.pickensplan.com](http://www.pickensplan.com).

Today, returning to the office wearing new & improved rally caps, we were greeted by a booming stock market, UP 217 points at the close. Bonds and Preferred stocks joined in the fun. Today's rally began with traders covering their short positions. Then, investors rejoiced over some Happy-Talk from Ken Lewis who runs Bank of America by declaring "categorically no" when asked if he'll need **more** government money. Finally, after the close, the SENATE cut a tentative deal on the new STIMULUS PLAN ...then young Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner is scheduled to unveil his Bank Rescue Plan on Monday at noon. We expect to hear the usual words like accountability, transparency, responsibility and disclosure but will be listening for the HOW of it all: HOW will the bailout money make the roundtrip from the US Treasury and back again to repay the loans, advances and investments to the banks and insurance companies.

We like the timing of Geithner's report and expect it'll boost stock prices even higher. Buckle your seat belts. It's gonna be a fun ride next week as our new government leaders try to CHANGE how the government manages economic crises.