

PickensPlan

T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 1.21.10

Total of 55 Placements

- * Print: 8
- * Blog/Online: 42
- * Broadcast: 5

Coverage Summary:

Pickens appeared on Bloomberg TV today to discuss support of natural gas and the NAT GAS Act. A segment of his interview can be viewed here:
<http://www.bloomberg.com/avp/avp.htm?N=av&T=Pickens%20Says%20Natural%20Gas%20Incentives%20to%20Pass%20by%20Late%20May&clipSRC=mms://media2.bloomberg.com/cache/vijDv6qTYONU.asf>

Two wire stories from Bloomberg have been published as well. The first piece includes a supportive comment from Height Analytics analyst Patrick Hughes saying “Following debate on a health-care bill that passed the Senate only with the support of 60 Democrats, and the loss of the late Edward Kennedy’s Democratic seat this week, Senate Democrats want to promote measures that have bipartisan support and Pickens’ bill is one of them.” Pickens believes natural gas legislation will pass by Memorial Day.

Pickens appeared on CNBC’s Mad Money yesterday, where he discussed his new ad campaign – pointing out that national security is a key part of the Pickens Plan. He also focused on the NAT GAS Act, telling Jim Cramer he believes we will have a natural gas bill before Memorial Day. Prior to Pickens’ interview, Cramer sang the praises of natural gas. The video can be viewed here:
<http://www.cnbc.com/id/34959130/>

CNBC posted a piece highlighting Pickens and Cramer’s agreement regarding the potential for natural gas. Cramer also posted a blog on The Street that says while he agrees natural gas makes sense from the perspective of jobs, national security and clean air, he believes there are still some challenges to overcome before natural gas legislation is enacted.

Pickens' interview with John Stossel will air tonight on Fox Business at 8:00 ET. The Washington Post and New York Times mentioned this in their round-ups of what to watch on TV today.

On the Senate floor, Senator Reid highlighted the need to tackle energy challenges to strengthen our national security, environment and economy. He went on to praise Pickens work to create a more secure nation and lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

A couple of outlets, including Bloomberg and CNNMoney.com, reported on the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's opposition to Pickens' TV ad. Jay Rosser is quoted in the pieces saying "the ads were reviewed as part of the approval process at major cable networks, and there were no issues raised."

Highlighted Placements (Full Articles Below)

- Pickens Says U.S. Natural Gas Incentives to Pass by Late May - Bloomberg - 1/21/10
- * Pickens Says Renewable Energy Needs Power Grid Improvements - Bloomberg - 1/21/10
- * CNBC Transcript: CNBC'S Jim Cramer Speaks With T. Boone Pickens, BP Capital Founder & Chairman - CNBC - 1/20/10
- * T. Boone Is Back - CNBC - 1/20/10
- * Nat Gas Doesn't Have the Support - The Street - 1/21/10
- * TV Highlights - Washington Post - 1/21/10
- * What's On Today - New York Times - 1/21/10
- * Senate - Making Legislative Progress - Congressional Record - 1/20/10
- * Arab-American Group Says Pickens Uses 'Racist Tactics' in TV Ad - Bloomberg - 1/20/10
- * Civil Rights Group Calls Pickens Plan Ad Offensive - CNNMoney.com - 1/20/10

Print Placements (Full Articles Below)

- Tax Natural Gas - Lancaster New Era/Intelligencer Journal - 1/20/10
- * Arab-Americans Condemn Ad In Pickens' Push for Natural Gas - The Oklahoman - 1/21/10
- * T. Boone Pickens Brakes Wind - San Diego Daily Transcript - 1/20/10

Blog/Online Placements (Full Articles Below)

- . Cramer's Mad Money - A Boone to Pick with Obama's Energy Policy - Seeking Alpha - 1/20/10
- * Cramer's Lightning Round - Cool Hand Aubrey - Seeking Alpha - 1/20/10
- * Exxon's Global Ambitions for Unconventional Natural Gas - BNET - 1/20/10
- * T Boone Pickens Criticised for Commercial - BaltimoreNews.Net - 1/21/10

- * Albuquerque Express
- * Amsterdam News.Net
- * Argentina Star
- * Austin New.net
- * Australian News
- * Bangkok.News.Net
- * Barcelona News
- * Beijing News
- * Birmingham Star
- * Bombay News
- * Britain News
- * Brunei News
- * Buenos Aires News
- * Cambodia News
- * Haiti News
- * Karachi News
- * Kazakhstan News
- * Kuala Lumpur News
- * Kyrgyzstan News
- * Laos News
- * Macau News
- * Malaysia Sun
- * Myanmar News
- * Nepal News
- * Pakistan News
- * Philippines News
- * Sri Lankan News
- * Taipei News
- * Tajikistan News
- * Turkmenistan News
- * Uzbekistan News
- * Zambia News
- * Zimbabwe.News.Net

HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE

Pickens Says U.S. Natural Gas Incentives to Pass by Late May - Bloomberg - 1/21/10

By Daniel Whitten and Christopher Martin

Jan. 21 (Bloomberg) -- T. Boone Pickens, founder and chairman of Dallas-based BP Capital LLC, said a U.S. bill with new incentives for natural gas vehicles will pass by late May.

"We've got a bill that's set to go," Pickens said in an interview today on Bloomberg Television. "It will pass by Memorial Day." Memorial Day is on May 31 this year.

Pickens in 2008 started a \$60 million promotion for a national energy plan that relies on domestically produced natural gas and wind energy to cut U.S. dependence on foreign oil. Now he's focused on replacing fleet cars and trucks that run on gasoline with those that use cleaner-burning natural gas.

The legislation, which doubles 2005 tax incentives for buying vehicles fueled by natural gas, was offered by U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada in July. The measure has enough support to advance through Congress, Pickens said today.

Following debate on a health-care bill that passed the Senate only with the support of 60 Democrats, and the loss of the late Edward Kennedy's Democratic seat this week, Senate Democrats want to promote measures that have bipartisan support and Pickens' bill is one of them, said analyst Patrick Hughes, with Washington-based Height Analytics.

One-Seat Loss

Legislation needs 60 votes to overcome procedural hurdles in the Senate. President Barack Obama has signaled a willingness to scale back the health-care bill and Democrats including Dianne Feinstein have said the Senate is not going to pass cap- and-trade energy legislation approved in the House in June.

“Leadership is looking to assemble a series of provisions that are far less divisive and that will allow them to get something done as either a down payment on future climate legislation or as a final product itself,” Hughes said in a telephone interview.

The Pickens measure also has the support of Senators Robert Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat, and Orrin Hatch, a Utah Republican. There is a similar bill in the House.

Hughes said he believes the plan could be sent to the president in the second quarter of this year as part of broader energy legislation that also could promote renewable energy sources and efficiency measures.

Tax Credits

Under the plan, tax credits can be used to cover 80 percent of the added cost to buy natural gas-fueled vehicles over conventional automobiles. They would be increased to as high as \$12,500 for passenger cars and light trucks and as much as \$64,000 for higher weight-class vehicles, according to a summary of the legislation. Refueling-station tax credits would be doubled to as much as \$100,000.

There are more than 250 million vehicles on the road in the U.S., and of those 142,000 are powered by natural gas, Pickens said. Pickens, whose plan for autos would initially emphasize heavy-duty trucks, said he’d like to see 1.3 million trucks running on natural gas by 2014.

Pickens said the investment in refueling stations would pay off in decreased dependence on oil from overseas. While a proliferation of natural-gas vehicles would raise the price of the fuel, he said it would still be cheaper than using gasoline or diesel.

Pickens Says Renewable Energy Needs Power Grid Improvements - Bloomberg - 1/21/10

By Christopher Martin and Scarlet Fu

Jan. 21 (Bloomberg) -- T. Boone Pickens, founder and chairman of Dallas-based BP Capital LLC, said wind and solar power development will slow until the U.S. improves its electricity grid.

Pickens canceled plans last year to build a \$10 billion wind-power farm in Texas, saying there aren't enough transmission lines to ship the power to buyers. In December, he cut in half his order of General Electric Co. wind turbines to 333 units. He plans to use them for smaller projects in Minnesota and Canada.

"A faster 21st-century grid is what we need," Pickens, 81, said today in a Bloomberg Television interview. "That's held up in the climate bill."

Pickens in 2008 started a \$60 million promotion for a national energy plan that relies on domestically produced natural gas and wind energy to cut U.S. dependence on foreign oil. Electricity generated by gas could be replaced with wind and solar power once the grid is improved.

Now he's focused on replacing fleet cars and trucks that run on gasoline with those that use cleaner-burning natural gas.

A House bill would double some natural-gas vehicle tax credits and double the amount stations would get to install pumps for the fuel, he said.

Pickens expects Congress will pass the Natural Gas Act by late May.

CNBC Transcript: CNBC'S Jim Cramer Speaks With T. Boone Pickens, BP Capital Founder & Chairman - CNBC - 1/20/10

JIM CRAMER, host: If we want to reduce our dependence of foreign oil from oh-so-friendly OPEC regimes, create hundreds of thousands of jobs in this country, if not millions, and combat global warming, then I think nat gas--not wind, not solar--is the solution. Unlike renewable fuels, natural gas is viable now. We've got a 100-year supply of it in the United States. It's 50 percent cleaner than coal. It is 20 percent cleaner than most petroleum-based fuels. And on a barrel-to-barrel comparison, US production of nat gas is double that of oil and close to that of coal. Plus the performance of natural gas stocks, which you know we care about at MAD MONEY--talking about Chesapeake, Devon, Apache, Anadarko, Ultra--range over the last three, five, 10 and 20 years is downright spectacular. Natural gas is simply better. But the one problem the industry has faced over and over and over again is it doesn't have the political clout of, say, the anti-Rainbow, pro-black lung coalition, aka the coal lobby. We need the politicians on our side for a big natural gas push. While Congress is working on a very good nat gas bill right now, the Obama administration hasn't exactly been a friend of this silent but not so deadly commodity. OK, so I got to lighten it up a little. That's why tonight we're thrilled to be speaking to Boone Pickens, who while widely known as a takeover operation in the oil world--I don't think we're allowed to use the term "corporate raider" anymore--is also the most public proponent of using nat gas as a transition fuel, with the eponymous Pickens plan to promote wind, energy and natural gas. Now, this past week in New York, Pickens refocused his plan, de-emphasizing wind and pushing instead for natural gas fuel buses and trucks, basically in line with what we've been promoting pretty much every week since the show began on MAD MONEY.

What are the real prospects of natural gas future in the US? Let's hear from the expert, Boone Pickens, who happens to be the man behind this commercial you may have seen on our network.

Mr. BOONE PICKENS: (From commercial) We have plenty of American natural gas to power our trucks and bus fleets. It's cheaper, cleaner, abundant and it's ours.

CRAMER: Boone, welcome back to MAD MONEY.

Mr. PICKENS: Thanks.

CRAMER: Good to see you, sir. Have a seat.

Mr. PICKENS: Thanks, thanks.

CRAMER: Good to see you.

Mr. PICKENS: Thank you.

CRAMER: All right. First of all, your ad starts off by talking about whether we've been lulled into believing that the energy problems are over and you use Arabic script. Now, it seems like you've decided to go national security, not jobs, not cleaner air. Is that--are you getting a reaction to that, which is a wake-up call for Americans?

Mr. PICKENS: Well, no question it's a national security issue. But at--that was in--that was always a part of my story. The jobs and clean were there too, of course. Domestic fuel. And so, yeah, but it is a security issue because you saw what Podesta came out with this week, and I think that's huge that our State Department recommends we don't visit these countries, and the countries they say don't visit, we are getting over four million barrels of oil a day from.

CRAMER: Well, and this would be a natural issue for President Obama, given the fact that he favors energy independence to embrace. Why has the administration so far been so quiet on this issue?

Mr. PICKENS: Health care. I think that's it.

CRAMER: Well, if that's the case, we're going to hear about it pretty soon, don't you think?

Mr. PICKENS: Coming up. I really believe it's coming up.

CRAMER: You have the votes. I lot of the people I speak to behind the scenes, and these are CEOs of natural gas companies, these are not yahoos, are telling me that you do not--that the industry does not have the votes, the coal industry's very powerful, the utility industry that's wedded to the coal industry's very powerful, and this bill will go nowhere.

Mr. PICKENS: Bet you a hundred dollars we have a bill before Memorial Day.

CRAMER: Not a lot to bet, but I like that. I like that wager. Before Memorial Day. So you think this is going to be resurrected, that Mr.--that Representative Markey is ready--he had some hearings today with Rex Tillerson, the CEO of Exxon. Didn't really sound like either way was going to come out. It sounds like that there's some people very worried about natural gas and clean water.

Mr. PICKENS: This is not in Markey's bill.

CRAMER: Right. It's not in his bill.

Mr. PICKENS: OK. His bill is climate bill. We're talking about the natural gas bill, which is HR 1835.

CRAMER: Why wouldn't he let that come out ahead of his bill?

Mr. PICKENS: We're coming out ahead of his bill.

CRAMER: You sure?

Mr. PICKENS: I--now, hundred bucks, Jim, get on or get off.

CRAMER: I like that level of confidence. Now, I know that you've put up more than a hundred bucks for this campaign, though, haven't you?

Mr. PICKENS: A little more, yeah. Try about 62 million.

CRAMER: All right. Now, Andrew...

Mr. PICKENS: That's if I have a hundred bucks left.

CRAMER: All right. I'll go for the hundred bucks. I'll get an exceptional rider to my contract. In the interest of being fair, you've been on the show a bunch of times. We made a lot of money for our viewers with Clean Energy, CLNE. You have been very up front that you've got a big position in it. Do you think that we ought to start smaller and just try and get the whole country to switch to natural gas, maybe go with these large trucks. And what would that do if we converted large trucks to natural gas?

Mr. PICKENS: That's 1835. That's what that bill is, Natural Gas Act.

CRAMER: Right.

Mr. PICKENS: You get the eight and a half million, eight and a half million 18-wheelers. Now, that's what we call a Class 5 through 8, OK.

CRAMER: Mm-hmm.

Mr. PICKENS: So we get them properly identified. And you don't convert them, they'll be new buys which will create a lot of jobs and all. That eight and a half million of those will get you two and a half million barrels of oil a day. I mean, you will not be importing it. Now you're using natural gas, you've cut out two and a half million. You have cut OPEC in half, that's it. cut them in half. Now, how do you think that's going to fit as far as being able to negotiate? You'll be able to negotiate then. Today, we have nothing to negotiate with. We are a sitting duck is what we are.

CRAMER: No, I recognize that. Now, wind power had been a very big issue for you. Now it's taken a back seat. Why is that?

Mr. PICKENS: No. What happened, wind is priced off the margin.

CRAMER: Right.

Mr. PICKENS: The margin's natural gas. Natural gas is \$5. I've got to have \$7 gas to make my wind deal work, it's that simple. So I've got to wait until natural gas prices go up. But what a wonderful time to move to natural gas when the price is low. A good comparison is that \$5, 1MCF natural gas at \$5 is equal to seven gallons of diesel. Seven gallons of diesel is \$20.

CRAMER: Right.

Mr. PICKENS: It is so cheap we're going to go--if we don't make this deal, Jim, you and I and our generation are going to go down as the dumbest guys that ever came along.

CRAMER: Well, look, I--OK, we've been mystified. I've been mystified because it seems like such a no-brainer. But I've often found that common sense may not play as big a role in Washington as we people, as business people, think.

Mr. PICKENS: We've got the hundred dollar bet.

CRAMER: All right. I see you go back to the hundred dollar bet. I understand. Now...

Mr. PICKENS: We're going--it's going to be done. I really, truly believe it will be done.

CRAMER: Well, OK. Now, one of the things that I hear about--and I'd love you to be able to refute this--is that people feel that, perhaps because of some of the causes that you have backed, the Democrats in Congress may be not aligned with you because of political causes, maybe because of your backing of the swift boat campaign during a previous election.

Mr. PICKENS: I don't even remember that. You know, at my age...

CRAMER: Well, some of those people down there are like elephants.

Mr. PICKENS: You know, at my age, your memory's not too good anymore. So all I remember is the energy, what we have to do for America. And I think the Democrats are on board.

CRAMER: All right. What do you think about the idea that the natural gas lobbyists have been very slow? Now, we've had Mr. Hackett on from Anadarko and Mr. McClendon on from Chesapeake, and they admit that thought this was such an easy cause they didn't have to put money behind it. Why was the industry itself so unable to get its act together for several years? What is it? Because the technology's come on so fast they didn't realize what they had?

Mr. PICKENS: I think this, let me take you back five years.

CRAMER: OK.

Mr. PICKENS: OK. You didn't have the gas then.

CRAMER: Right.

Mr. PICKENS: When you had the gas, you didn't know how to get it. In the last five years, our technology has--you take Hackett and McClendon, Chesapeake, Anadarko, Sand Ridge, Apache, all of them have advanced so dramatically, and the recoveries are so good, and you've moved up to a point. That's where your 2,000 trillion cubic feet of gas is. Now, let me make a quick...

CRAMER: OK, OK.

Mr. PICKENS: ...conversion, a quick conversion. Two thousand trillion cubic feet of natural gas taken to barrels of oil equivalent is 350 billion barrels. That is twice as much as the Saudis have in oil. I mean, we are, our country, yours and mine and everybody out there, we are a serious energy player. We sit up now to the table for producers, not in the hall as a consumer. I mean, we're real. We've just got to have this administration understand that what has happened to our country.

CRAMER: Well, you're optimistic about it. I wish I could be. Perhaps as we talked offscreen, that maybe I'm being too cynical. I've seen this issue not get as far as I'd like, but it sounds like you've got a good read on it, and I just hope that Boone Pickens, BP Capital Management founder and chairman, is right on this issue. Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. PICKENS: We're going to do it. We're going to do it.

CRAMER: All right. Good to see you, sir. Thank you.

Mr. PICKENS: OK. Thank you.

CRAMER: Stay with Cramer.

T. Boone Is Back - CNBC - 1/20/10

By Tom Brennan

Cramer and legendary energy executive T. Boone Pickens see eye to eye on one very important thing: the potential of natural gas.

Both men want the US to kick its oil addiction and switch to this cleaner commodity. Nat gas emits 50% less carbon dioxide than coal and 20% less than most petroleum-based fuels. And America is sitting on a 100-year supply, which means we could conceivably be far less dependent on the Middle East for our energy needs. Not to mention, the adoption of natural gas in this country would require a mass infrastructure build-out that Cramer said would create much-needed jobs.

And the related stocks are great, too. Cramer has talked endlessly about the amazing returns delivered by Chesapeake Energy [CHK 28.18 0.52 (+1.88%)], Devon Energy [DVN 72.70 0.66 (+0.92%)], Apache [APA 106.53 0.07 (+0.07%)], Anadarko Petroleum [APC 66.20 0.43 (+0.65%)], Ultra Petroleum [UPL 51.58 -0.25 (-0.48%)] and Range Resources [RRC 51.50 -0.19 (-0.37%)] over the past 20 years.

The one problem, though, is that natural gas has had no big-name champion in Washington. And the industry's puny lobby has been elbowed out by coal's much bigger presence on K Street. While Cramer commended the pro-nat gas legislation now working its way through Congress, it's no secret that President Obama is a bigger proponent of so-called clean coal.

But then there's Pickens, who has taken up the banner and is cheerleading the cause to anyone who will listen. He just revised his eponymous plan to de-emphasize wind power and focus more on nat gas, which is exactly what Cramer has promoted on Mad Money.

There are few other people with a better idea of natural gas' future, and that's why Cramer invited Pickens back to the show.

By Jim Cramer

What I wouldn't give to be as bullish as Boone Pickens was last night on "Mad Money" about the prospects of Congress going full out on incentivizing trucking companies to use natural gas fleets.

What I wouldn't give to think that Congress is now going to get behind natural gas and the president will mention it in the State of the Union address and that by Memorial Day we will have a law that will be on the way to cutting half of OPEC imports.

Yep, Boone Pickens, who is the driving force and largest investor behind Clean Energy (CLNE - commentary - Trade Now), which is building the infrastructure to service those 18-wheelers with natural gas, says there are no dissenters on this one and that he has the votes. He says it will come out ahead of general climate legislation in the chute because President Obama needs a win and this will be it.

He felt so confident that he bet \$100 on it right in front of the TV cameras.

To which I say, he will have no problem affording it if he's right because it would be easy to see Clean Energy going right to \$30 if this happens because the legislation is basically a federal mandate for a higher stock price.

Nevertheless, count me as a disbeliever, an apostate. I don't think that nat gas has much support at all in Congress. The lobbyists for coal, chiefly Southern (SO - commentary - Trade Now), the utility, have a ton of power and even as Pickens says that's irrelevant to natural gas prospects, whenever natural gas comes up in the debate "clean coal" is right there defeating the much cleaner fuel. Not only that but in Wednesday's Congressional hearings about natural gas drilling techniques, despite some excellent testimony by Rex Tillerson, the CEO of Exxon Mobil (XOM - commentary - Trade Now), about how there is no evidence of any environmental damage, including water contamination, I didn't hear any ringing endorsements.

Exxon is on the congressional griddle because of its XTO Energy (XTO) purchase, and I think there are plenty of people in Congress ready to fight natural gas drilling onshore the way they fight regular drilling offshore.

Pickens isn't a dreamer. Natural gas makes too much sense to dream about it from the perspective of jobs, national security and clean air. His energy "independence from OPEC" ads are attention-getting. But his method is all big splash, and his talk is too polarizing and too mercantile for me to believe that, in this environment, this Congress will help anyone who has a lot of money, even if it would be good for America.

Put it this way: My fingers are crossed about congressional and presidential hope for natural gas, and I think it could happen. But not on Boone's timetable. That's a timetable that could disappoint as surely as the health care timetable for the Democrats.

Just way too aggressive.

At the time of publication, Cramer had no positions in the stocks mentioned.

Jim Cramer is co-founder and chairman of TheStreet. He contributes daily market commentary for TheStreet's sites and serves as an adviser to the company's CEO.

TV Highlights - Washington Post - 1/21/10

"The Deep End" (ABC at 8 p.m.), about five young (and super-attractive) associates trying to make it out alive of a prestigious Los Angeles law firm, is previewed by Hank Stuever. Damon travels to Georgia to see an old flame as "Vampire Diaries" (CW at 8) returns with new episodes, but he's not just there to reminisce -- he needs her help to open the tomb.

"Stossel" (Fox Business Network at 8) discusses what role the government should have in energy innovation with guests including energy investor T. Boone Pickens and author Robert Bryce.

The government puts Brennan's lab on lockdown on "Bones" (Fox at 8), as agents demand the forensics team look into a set of highly classified remains that may be the result of a presidential assassination.

"Live From Lincoln Center" (MPT at 8) features "Joshua Bell With Friends @ the Penthouse," as the violinist performs with friends including Kristin Chenoweth, Frankie Moreno and Marvin Hamlisch.

Socially awkward Leslie decides that throwing a dinner party is the best way to get to know a possible new boyfriend on "Parks and Recreation" (NBC at 8:30).

On a "Grey's Anatomy" (ABC at 9) episode titled "I Like You So Much Better When You're Naked," Izzie returns to the hospital looking to make up with Alex, and there's high tension among Teddy, Cristina and Owen.

Michael tries to impress a potential client on "The Office" (NBC at 9) by remembering some of the best moments at the dysfunctional Dunder Mifflin paper company -- which, loyal viewers, is also known as a "clip show."

Sam and Dean intentionally get themselves admitted to a mental hospital on "Supernatural" (CW at 9) when a former hunter, currently institutionalized, asks them to come investigate a case.

Liz takes her crew on a road trip to boost morale on "30 Rock" (NBC at 9:30), but big boss Jack insists on tagging along and ruining everything.

A mayor's aide is killed on "The Mentalist" (CBS at 10), and Patrick Jane helps in his own special, slightly psychic way to solve the case.

"Ace of Cakes" (Food Network at 10) gives Duff the mission to create a New York Stock Exchange-themed cake, with a chance to ring the opening bell.

Con men go after a widow on "Burn Notice" (USA at 10), and Michael and Fiona try to help before they strike.

Doesn't it seem like they've been around forever? The cast of "Jersey Shore" (MTV at 10) says goodbye in the first season finale, and then hello in a reunion special right afterward at 11 p.m.

Actor Billy Crystal stops by "The Jay Leno Show" (NBC at 10), along with actress Zoe Saldana.

"Late Show With David Letterman" (CBS at 11:35) hosts actor Harrison Ford and musical guests the Blind Boys of Alabama with Lou Reed.

Robin Williams is a guest on "The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien" (NBC at 11:35), and Barry Manilow performs.

-- Emily Yahr

What's On Today - New York Times - 1/21/10

By Kathryn Shattuck

8 P.M. (Fox) BONES The lab tightens security when Brennan (Emily Deschanel, right) and her team are ordered to work on a highly classified government case, leading Booth (David Boreanaz) and his boss (Diedrich Bader) to bend some rules to get at the reason for the investigation. Meanwhile Cam (Tamara Taylor) worries that her adopted daughter, Michelle (Tiffany Hines), is keeping a secret.

7 A.M. (ABC) GOOD MORNING AMERICA George Stephanopoulos interviews President Obama at the White House; Billy Zane talks about his new series, 'The Deep End' (see below); and the warning signs of Alzheimer's disease are examined.

8 P.M. (Fox Business Network) STOSSEL John Stossel looks at the roles of the government and private sector in energy innovation. Guests include the financier T. Boone Pickens and Randal O'Toole of the Thoreau Institute.

8 P.M. (13) JOSHUA BELL WITH FRIENDS @ THE PENTHOUSE Classical and pop musicians alive and dead (really) join Mr. Bell, the violinist, in a genre-blurring concert at the Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse at Lincoln Center. The program features Sting, in a rendition of 'Come Again'; Kristin Chenoweth ('My Funny Valentine'); Chris Botti ('I Loves You Porgy'); Nathan Gunn ('O, Cease Thy Singing, Maiden Fair'); Marvin Hamlisch ('I'll Take Manhattan'); Frankie Moreno ('Eleanor Rigby'); Regina Spektor ('Left Hand Song'); Tiempo Libre ('Para Ti'); and Carel Kraayenhof ('Oblivion'). In the second movement of Grieg's Violin Sonata No. 3 Mr. Bell is 'accompanied' by no less than the composer and pianist Rachmaninoff. The feat is accomplished by Zenph software, which has captured the nuances of Rachmaninoff's key strokes and pedaling from a 78 r.p.m. recording made in 1928 with the violinist Fritz Kreisler and will enable a special Steinway piano to replay the performance by itself. The living pianist Jeremy Denk, a frequent collaborator with Mr. Bell, also performs.

8 P.M. (Ovation) LATER ... WITH JOOLS HOLLAND The musical mix includes Grizzly Bear, Gurrumul, Manic Street Preachers, Paolo Nutini and Taylor Swift.

8 P.M. (NBC) COMMUNITY Jeff (Joel McHale) wants to keep his new girlfriend hidden from the gang. Troy (Donald Glover) and Britta (Gillian Jacobs) have secrets of their own but are willing to share. In 'Parks and Recreation,' at 8:30, Leslie (Amy Poehler) decides to follow an awesome date with Justin (Justin Theroux) with a dinner party at her place. In 'The Office,' at 9, Michael (Steve Carell), Dwight (Rainn Wilson), Andy (Ed Helms) and Pam (Jenna Fischer) try to impress a potential buyer for Dunder Mifflin with their high-profile contacts. And in '30 Rock,' at 9:30, Liz (Tina Fey) takes the show on the road to boost morale and gets blamed when things don't go as planned.

8 P.M. (ABC) THE DEEP END Attractive first-year associates claw their way up the ladder of a top-tier Los Angeles law firm. In this series opener Dylan (Matt Long) is assigned a pro bono custody case; Beth (Leah Pipes) keeps quiet when a 90-year-old man assumes she's his daughter; Liam (Ben Lawson) lures a client to the firm under false pretenses; and Addy (Tina Majorino) speaks up and gets noticed.

9 P.M. (CBS) CSI: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION Was it the wife on the fairway with a 9-iron? The team investigates the murder of a superstar golfer whose body is discovered during a high-profile tournament. Rocco Mediate, Gary McCord, Duffy Waldorf and Natalie Gulbis -- professional golfers all -- play themselves. David Feherty, above, a golfer turned broadcaster, and the hairstylist Jonathan Antin also appear.

9 P.M. (History) FOOD TECH Bobby Bognar, the leader of the band the Piper Downs, follows some well-loved foods from the production line to the table, and throws in a morsel or two of history. The series begins by dissecting a cheeseburger and fries, and answers that pressing question: How do sesame seeds stick to the bun?

9 P.M. (ABC) GREY'S ANATOMY Izzie (Katherine Heigl) shows up in the hope of reconciling with Alex (Justin Chambers).

10 P.M. (USA) BURN NOTICE The show returns to find Michael (Jeffrey Donovan) and Fiona (Gabrielle Anwar) helping a widow evade some vicious con men. Elsewhere someone goes to extreme measures to get Michael's attention. Tyne Daly guest stars.

10 P.M. (MTV) JERSEY SHORE The cast members bid Seaside Heights farewell for the season. At 11 they reunite to rehash the highs and lows -- and lows -- of the summer. KATHRYN SHATTUCK

Senate - Making Legislative Progress - Congressional Record - 1/20/10

Mr. REID. Mr. President, visiting with Nevadans, as I have done during these past several weeks, it is impossible not to be motivated to get back to the business of legislating. It is impossible to ignore their grief over growing foreclosures or the uncertainty of unemployment or the frustration of fighting insurance companies for their families' health.

It is just as evident that the people of Nevada and the Nation need us to work toward sensible solutions rather than drown once again in the partisan bickering that consumed much of last year.

Some elections go your way; some elections go the other way. It is the nature of democratic politics in a very diverse Nation. But regardless of an outcome of an election, as I have said many times, the American people demand that we work together as partners, not partisans, to improve their lives. That is as true after Republican victories as it is after Democratic victories.

In the first half of the 111th Congress, even with the minority's minimal help, [S6] we made significant progress. While last year's final few months were dominated by a debate over health insurance reform that will save lives, save money, and save Medicare, that historic step was only one of many accomplishments that we are proud to have passed last year.

We began this Congress determined to strengthen and stabilize the economy for working families. That is why we immediately cut taxes for the middle class and small businesses. That is why we immediately started the Lilly Ledbetter legislation to equalize pay for women in America. That is why we started the process of creating good-paying jobs here at home and investing in our future.

Just last week, the White House Council of Economic Advisers found that as many as 2 million Americans have the stimulus to thank for their jobs, as does the growing gross domestic product. But there is more to do, that is for sure.

We protected consumers by cracking down on abusive credit card companies, and we have been trying to do that for a long time. Last year, we were able to get it done, finally—to get under control the abuses credit card companies have been doing to the American people for so long. We cracked down on mortgage fraud scams, the scams that take place when times are tough. We changed the law. We rooted out corporate fraud. But there is more to do.

We started to thaw our frozen credit markets so Americans can get the loans they need to buy a car, send a child to college, or start a new business. But there is more to do.

We are helping responsible homeowners keep their homes, and helped more homeowners to keep the equity in their homes. We helped more families to buy their first home. A lot of people can claim the idea for the first-time home buyer tax credit. The idea came, as far as I know, from Johnny Isakson of Georgia. It was a tremendously important program that is still going on. We extended that. But even though we have done that, there is more to do.

We helped millions of children stay healthy by expanding CHIP. We extended it by about 14 million children who can go to the doctor when they are sick or to the hospital when they are hurt. We made it easier by far for these kids to get the help and care they need.

We made it harder for tobacco companies to prey on these children. We learned, and we have known for some time, that the tobacco habit starts, most of the time, when you are a teenager. With this legislation we had been trying to pass for decades, we were finally able to get it done—to focus on tobacco companies and why there has to be control placed on them. Even though we have done that, there is more to do.

We extended unemployment insurance for millions and extended COBRA subsidies so those struggling to find work can feed their families, fuel our economy, and afford decent medical care. But there is more to do.

We supported the travel and tourism industries, which will create tens of thousands of jobs and cut our deficit by hundreds of millions of dollars. Even after having done that, there is more to do.

We helped hundreds of thousands of drivers afford more fuel-efficient cars and trucks. It was such a good idea—cash for clunkers—that now I heard on the news that Japan is going to do it. That will be a boon for American car manufacturers because Japan said those Japanese people who decide to use the Cash for Clunkers Program can buy American cars. Even though we have done that, there is more to do.

With the national service bill named for Senator Kennedy, we made it easier for more Americans to serve their country like our heroes of generations past. With one of the most important conservation bills in many decades, we protected public lands for generations to come. But there is more to do.

We have given our troops, veterans, and their families the support they deserve, including better battlefield equipment, better care for our wounded warriors, and a well-earned pay raise. We also cut waste and fraud in the Pentagon's purchase of military weapons. But there is more to do.

This Congress also made history by pursuing justice and ensuring equality for every single American. With a hate crimes bill that bears Emmett Till's name, we stood up for those who were victims of violence because of their race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. With the fair pay bill in Lilly Ledbetter's name, we stood up for those who are targets of discrimination in the workplace because of their gender or background.

We passed overdue appropriations bills, new appropriations bills, and an honest, responsible budget that makes sound investments in every part of our country. The Senate confirmed President Obama's outstanding nominee for the Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor.

It is a long list of accomplishments, but I assure the Senate that we are just getting started. We have a lot more to do.

In the coming year, we will ensure all Americans can access affordable health care, and we will deny insurance companies the ability to deny health care to the sick, and we will slash our deficit in the process.

We will help more Americans keep their homes and their jobs, and we will continue to help our economy not only recover but prosper once again.

We will continue to create new jobs, including good-paying clean energy jobs that can never be outsourced. You can see throughout the country that happening. A week ago Monday, 2 days ago, I was in a place about 35 miles outside of Las Vegas at the Harry Allen plant that is going to be the most clean natural gas facility for producing electricity in America. About 700 men and women were working on that construction project. At that construction project, there were people walking and running and doing the jobs they needed to do, with trucks moving back and forth.

The reason we were there is because the Western Area Power Administration, WAPA, under the stimulus bill we passed, had the ability to do loans that were very low-interest loans. We were there to announce a public-private partnership between WAPA and others, which will bring electricity from the northern part of the State to the southern part of Nevada for the first time in Nevada's history.

We became a State in 1864. Why is that important? It will allow Nevada to be energy independent in 2 1/2 to 3 years. Just as important, we also will be able to produce far more electricity than Nevada needs because now, with this power line that will create hundreds and hundreds of jobs, we will also have a lot of energy projects for that full 250-mile area. They will be able to do solar, wind, geothermal and bring that onto the power line. That is only the first phase. After that, it has been agreed by WAPA that they can do stage 2, which will bring electricity from the Northwest into Nevada and, of course, California and the whole Southwest. That is a good project and an example of good-paying clean energy jobs that can never be outsourced.

We will tackle our daunting energy and climate challenges, and by doing that we will strengthen our national security, our environment, and our economy.

We need to look no further than Boone Pickens, who talks about this every day of his life. We will have a more secure Nation, and we will lessen our dependence on foreign oil. We will use the resources we have, among which are wind, Sun, geothermal, and now we are the largest holder of natural gas of any country in the world. That is what Boone Pickens is talking about—using our own energy, not continuing importing oil.

As we do all these things, we will continue to leave a seat at the table for our Republican colleagues. Whether their caucus comprises 40 or 41 members, each composes this body of 100. Our individual caucuses—one that will have 59 and one that will have 41—should all be united within the walls of this Chamber and not defined by the aisle that divides the desks.

Today is the first anniversary of the first time our President addressed our Nation as our President. One year ago today, standing on steps just a short distance from here, he reflected that our Nation had chosen "unity of purpose over conflict and discord." He asked us to put aside the differences and dogmas that paralyze our politics.

We can answer that call this year—not just because President Obama requested it but because the American people justly demand it.

By and large, those in the minority have shown, so far, far too little interest in working with us. More important, they have shown far too little interest in working on the interests of their constituents.

Mr. President, I called my office early this morning and asked my faithful assistant, Janice Shelton, to arrange a call for me to talk to the new, soon-to-be Senator from Massachusetts, Scott Brown. I look forward to visiting with him. I look forward to welcoming him to the Senate and asking him that he work with us. It is certainly a conversation I look forward to.

I hope in this new year we will resolve to leave partisan political motivation behind. I hope we will share and renew the motivation to get to work, to legislate for the good of this country.

Arab-American Group Says Pickens Uses 'Racist Tactics' in TV Ad - Bloomberg - 1/20/10

By Margot Habiby

A new T. Boone Pickens television commercial promoting U.S. energy independence uses "racist tactics" offensive to people of Arab descent and should be pulled, an Arab-American civil rights group said today.

The advertisement begins with Pickens reading two sentences which flash across the screen in Arabic, then in English: "Go back to sleep America. The oil crisis is over." Men with guns stand in front of burning oil fields as "ominous" music plays, according to a statement by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in Washington.

“The whole tone of the advertisement suggests that the foreign oil that the United States is dependent on comes only from Arab countries,” according to the statement. It cited Energy Department statistics showing that the largest oil exporters to the U.S. are Canada and Mexico.

Jay Rosser, a spokesman for the billionaire energy investor, said in an e-mail, “The ads were reviewed as part of the approval process at major cable networks, and there were no issues raised.”

Pickens, chairman of Dallas-based BP Capital LLC, said in November that he has spent \$62 million on “the Pickens Plan,” an initiative he began in 2008 to encourage the reduction of oil imports. It calls for the use of domestic natural gas to fuel buses and trucks and for wind energy to run power plants.

Ad ‘Provocative’

The advertisement is “fairly provocative,” Rosser said in a video posted to the PickensPlan.com web site on Jan. 18.

“Given the attempted terrorist attack over the Christmas holidays, what Americans want is a solution to our growing national crisis that is associated with our ever-increasing dependence on foreign oil,” he said in the video. “So our ad will call attention to that.”

A Nigerian, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, tried to blow up a Dec. 25 Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit using explosives in his underwear, according to the U.S. Justice Department. Nigeria, the fifth-largest oil exporter to the U.S. in the first 10 months of 2009, is not an Arab country.

The Yemeni branch of al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attack. Yemen, an Arab country which borders Saudi Arabia, listed no oil exports to the U.S. in 2007 and 2008, according to the Energy Department.

The Pickens commercial’s “characterizations of an entire people in a region of the world are inaccurate, offensive and outright discriminatory,” according to the ADC’s statement.

Civil Rights Group Calls Pickens Plan Ad Offensive - CNNMoney.com - 1/20/10

By Hibah Yousuf

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee on Wednesday attacked a commercial for Texas oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens' energy independence plan for being prejudiced.

The advertisement for the Pickens Plan, which aims to end America's dependence on foreign oil and instead invest in American natural gas, begins with a voiceover of the billionaire saying "Go back to sleep America. The oil crisis is over," and flashes the words first in Arabic and then in English across the screen.

Then Pickens himself takes the screen and says, "I don't think so," and proceeds to explain that the American "economy is bleeding billions for foreign oil, importing nearly 70%, much of it from countries that don't like us" while showing images of men with guns next to burning oil fields.

In a statement released Wednesday, the Arab-American civil rights group objected the ad's lettering and images and said the characterizations of Arab people are "inaccurate, offensive, and outright discriminatory."

A spokesperson for the Pickens Plan said "the ads were reviewed as part of the approval process at major cable networks and there were no issues raised."

The domestic drilling backlash

The ADC said that the images are intended to scare Americans into action at the expense of Arab Americans' heritage or descent, engender hate and perpetuate bigotry and ignorance, and suggested that the advertisement be pulled.

"ADC supports a policy of energy independence," said the group's president Mary Rose Oakar in a statement, "but it is unacceptable that Mr. Pickens is trying to gain support for his own program by reinforcing false stereotypes of Arab countries and their people to the detriment of all American citizens, particularly those of Arabic descent."

The group also rejected the ad's tone which suggests that the United State's depends primarily on oil from the Arab world.

According to data from the Energy Information Administration, the United States imports the most oil from Canada, then Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Still, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, which boasts a majority of the world's oil reserves and is the only area where oil production is expected to grow, threatens to hike oil prices.

The advertisement is available to view on the Pickens Plan Web site.

PRINT COVERAGE

Tax Natural Gas - Lancaster New Era/Intelligencer Journal - 1/20/10

Let's think about this for a moment:

Natural gas is in high demand. It costs less than oil and pollutes less than coal. Natural gas from Pennsylvania could easily be piped to markets throughout the Northeast. That leaves the state perfectly situated to benefit from its unique geography.

Nearly two-thirds of Pennsylvania - 65 million acres - sits atop the Marcellus Shale formation, which is said to contain enough natural gas to supply the nation's needs for roughly 100 years.

And imposing a severance tax on natural gas, as is done in every other state that extracts natural gas, could bring in millions of dollars and help Pennsylvania bridge its budget gap. Had a severance tax been in place this year, it would have raised \$107 million.

But the state does not have a severance tax because some lawmakers, who received campaign contributions from gas-drilling companies and their lobbyists, convinced the governor that a severance tax would undermine the state's attempts to nurture this nascent industry.

That argument now carries about as much weight as Conan O'Brien does at NBC. Last week, five commercial bidders - Chesapeake Energy Corp. of Oklahoma City, Exco Resources of Dallas, Seneca Resources of Houston, Anadarko Petroleum Corp. of Houston and Penn Virginia Corp. of Radnor - bid \$128 million to drill on 32,000 acres of state forest land. The bid - \$4,020 per acre - was nearly double what the state expected to receive. That alone should put to rest any questions lawmakers have about the profitability of this emerging industry.

It's important to note that if the industry takes off, as expected, it will lead to an infusion of revenue to state coffers from corporate and personal income taxes and the sale of gas to various outlets.

Pennsylvania is sitting on a golden opportunity. In his address to the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry in July, oilman T. Boone Pickens said if estimates are correct, Pennsylvania has one-fourth of all the natural gas reserves in the nation.

Twenty-eight states now impose severance or oil and gas production taxes. West Virginia reaped \$328 million from its gas and oil taxes in 2007.

Rendell went along with Republican lawmakers a year ago, removing the severance tax from budget negotiations.

He said last week, in light of the rising prices drilling companies were willing to pay to lease state forest lands, that he intends to re-introduce a severance tax in this year's budget address.

His plan also ought to include legislation to protect water supplies that can be compromised if drilling companies do not follow specific rules.

More than 800 Marcellus wells now operate in Pennsylvania. That number is expected to shoot up in the years ahead.

The gas rush is on. Drillers expect to make a sizable profit from the state's natural gas reserves. A severance tax will help ensure that the state benefits from the drilling as well.

Arab-Americans Condemn Ad In Pickens' Push for Natural Gas - The Oklahoman - 1/21/10

The Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee is upset about "provocative and inflammatory images and overtones" in a television advertisement for the Pickens Plan. The group condemned the ad for oilman Boone Pickens' push to use natural gas instead of foreign oil, claiming it perpetuates inaccurate and offensive stereotypes of Arabs. It called for the ad to be withdrawn. A Pickens Plan spokesman defended the ad. "The ads were reviewed as part of the approval process at major cable networks and there were no issues raised," the spokesman said.

T. Boone Pickens Brakes Wind - San Diego Daily Transcript - 1/20/10

By Larry Stirling

When I met Mrs. Pickens at the Pickens' Del Mar home, I asked the one question that had been puzzling me about the great man: "Why," I blurted "does he start his name with T?"

Mrs. Pickens' kindly answer to my inane inquiry was that Mr. Pickens is the son of Thomas Boone Pickens Senior. So they called the son by his middle name to avoid confusion with his father Tom.

Since the social setting allowed only one question and I had wasted mine on the superficial, I had to learn more about this remarkable man by listening to his talk that evening and later at a Rotary luncheon, and then read his biography.

Without leaving his Texas oil patch, Mr. Pickens competed in the big leagues of corporate raiding along with the likes of the Bass Brothers, Saul Steinberg, and Carl Icahn and no doubt was on "A" list for Michael Milken's annual Predator's Ball.

When the greedy decade ended, Mr. Pickens shifted many of his billions and much of his attention to America's energy future.

Mr. Pickens became the Pied Piper of natural gas and created the specter of much of our continent being covered by wind farms to reduce our dependence on the demon "foreign oil."

Recently, reality set in, and Mr. Pickens was the first to break ranks with the fantasy energy people by cutting his order for General Electric wind turbines in half. He diverted the remainder of the reduced order from the proposed Texas Pampa Wind Farm to locations in Canada and Minnesota.

What happened to the dream?

The truth is that a major reliance on wind and solar is a verisimilitude, something that sounds so true that it has to be true but it just ain't.

Infeasible technologies such as solar, wind generation are touted by those who stand to profit from university studies, government subsidies and consumption forced by public policy.

It is true that enough sun light daily falls on the earth to provide all the energy that people will ever need. After all the sun powers directly or indirectly everything on Earth already.

But in order to convert sunshine to electricity, the Stanford journal "Energy and Environmental Science" concluded that covering (a mere) 1.3 percent of the Earth's surface with solar panels would supply all our electrical needs.

The only problem is 1.3 percent of the surface equates to 2 million square miles of solar panels, which would cover roughly half of the entire United States.

Scientific American magazine estimates the cost of such to be between \$100 trillion and \$200 trillion.

More importantly, the manufacture of 2 million square miles of solar panels would require enormous energy resources not presently available other than via fossil fuels.

Once the resultant solar power is generated in the sunnier climes, it would then have to be "wheeled" across a non-existent network yet to be designed that would be "smart" enough not to waste much of the energy through impedance or "line drop."

And, of course, the sun does not shine all the time and certainly never at night nor does the wind constantly.

To complete a switch to alternative energy would include the manufacture and installation of 3.8 million large wind turbines: machines that would require massive fossil energy to manufacture and transport.

Wind machines also employ gear boxes that use "rare earth" magnets whose neodymium is available only in China thereby replacing our dependence on world-wide crude oil to complete dependence on China.

And if we ever do shift our automobiles from gasoline to solar-and wind-generated electricity, we will need massively more lithium-ion batteries.

Bolivia and Chile control the world's lithium supply and already there is not enough to replace the existing fleet of lithium battery needs let alone supply the 1.3 billion cars that will be on the road by 2030.

Solar cells require tellurium and indium, which along with the required platinum, is expensive and in short supply. There is not enough of any of the three to replace the present world inventory of photovoltaic cells.

And while these devices generate renewable energy their manufacture does not. And there is no history to show how long the first-generation solar or wind array would last before having to be replaced.

The real energy alternative is geothermal, located throughout the entire world just a few miles down and readily available under current mining technology.

The reality is that wind or solar are not viable alternatives. Thus subsidies and research on them are wasted.

Much better to research mitigation measures for coal and oil pollution and improved vehicle efficiency and get on with mining the earth's unlimited supply of nearby clean, renewable geothermal energy.

No wonder T Boone Pickens decided to brake wind.

Stirling, a former U.S. Army officer, has been elected to the San Diego City Council, state Assembly and state Senate. He also served as a municipal and superior court judge in San Diego.

BLOG/ONLINE COVERAGE

Cramer's Mad Money - A Boone to Pick with Obama's Energy Policy - Seeking Alpha - 1/20/10

By Miriam Metzinger

Stocks discussed on the in-depth session of Jim Cramer's Mad Money TV Program, Wednesday January 20.

Special Guest: T. Boone Pickens

Legendary investor T. Boone Pickens and Cramer share a common passion - natural gas. Mad Money viewers are familiar with the much-repeated thesis of natural gas's advantages; it is 50% cleaner than coal and has 30% fewer pollutants than petroleum. The United States has plentiful reserves of the fuel and implementing natural gas as an energy solution could create thousands of jobs. T.Boone Pickens was critical of the government's focus on the healthcare debate, when solving the problem of dependence on foreign oil should be the first priority. Not only does this issue touch upon environmental concerns and the problem of unemployment, but oil addiction is a security hazard; Pickens noted the irony of mass imports from countries which are too dangerous for the average American to even visit.

T. Boone Pickens has invested considerable money and time to convince the public that natural gas is the right solution. The United States has twice as much natural gas as Saudi Arabia has oil, and enough to fulfill the nation's needs for the next century. Pickens' proposal would put 8 million large natural gas-driven vehicles on the road. This reform alone would create a significant number of jobs and would reduce foreign oil imports by half. He hopes to see some type of natural gas legislation in place by Memorial Day.

Cramer's Lightning Round - Cool Hand Aubrey - Seeking Alpha - 1/20/10

By Miriam Metzinger

Stocks discussed on the lightning round session of Jim Cramer's Mad Money TV Program, Wednesday January 20.

Bullish Calls:

Chesapeake Energy (CHK): "I do believe that he (CEO Aubrey McClendon) does have a pretty good, cool hand on things... cool hand Aubrey, between \$5 and \$7, we are fine with that company ... I see every time that I read about a new shale, he has got stake in that new shale... this guy is everywhere, he is doing a great job... if Boone Pickens is right, and we have got a Natural Gas Act that comes up by Memorial Day... I will tell you without any doubt that I think Chesapeake could go up 50%...is a winner and a keeper."

Qualcomm (QCOM): "I'd rather see you in Qualcomm (than Clearwire.)"

Polo Ralph Lauren (RL): "Why don't you switch into something higher? Ralph Lauren is working his butt off and doing an excellent job."

Air Products and Chemicals (APD): "Air Products is a consistent grower, that has done a great job, it is exactly right in this environment... I think that it goes higher... I think that you do have horse sense."

Marathon Oil (MRO): "The cheapest oil and refiner play in the country..."

Bearish Calls:

Clearwire (CLWR): "That will put you in your car... you will be living in your car with that Clearwire... No, you have got to sell that.... It has had a nice run... that is speculative technology... I have got to tell you, this Clearwire has been around forever... It is like a vampire... I do not want to touch it."

True Religion Apparel (TRLG): "Too expensive... I did not like the last quarter... I happen to be a big aficionado of retail... Why don't you swap higher?"

BPZ Resources (BPZ): "Oh you know, a Latin American oil company... nothing the matter with it, nothing to write home about... I prefer a little dividend action, that one does not have it..."

Exxon's Global Ambitions for Unconventional Natural Gas - BNET - 1/20/10

By Kirsten Korosec

Much of the talk about unconventional natural gas has focused on the development within the United States, in large part because it could give the country greater energy independence. But ExxonMobil has set its long-term sights a little higher. The largest U.S. energy company has a global vision for unconventional gas – a point Rex Tillerson, its chairman and CEO, emphasized in a congressional hearing Wednesday on its acquisition of independent natural gas and oil producer XTO Energy.

The \$31 billion all-stock acquisition of XTO Energy (plus an additional \$10 billion in debt) would cement Exxon's role in unconventional gas production, an industry that has exploded in the U.S. in recent years due to improvements in technology. XTO is a major holder of unconventional gas plays including the Marcellus Shale.

Tillerson told members of the subcommittee on Energy and the Environment, that Exxon intended to develop XTO into a global unconventional gas producer once the acquisition was complete.

"As we have studied the unconventional resource space globally, we have identified it has enormous potential, certainly here in the United States, which I know we're most interested in today," Tillerson said during the hearing, which was broadcast via Webcast. "But there are enormous unconventional resources globally in many countries that would be very important not just to their country, but to the global energy balance.

Tillerson added ExxonMobil has taking up acreage positions in unconventional gas plays in countries around the world. He later said XTO's Fort Worth, Texas corporate office would become Exxon's global unconventional gas headquarters. He envisions transferring some of Exxon's research and development team to the global headquarters.

Exxon's research and development expertise is an important component in this acquisition. T. Boone Pickens, the billionaire energy investor who is pushing for legislation to switch heavy duty trucks to natural gas, noted the R&D component in an interview this week with Reuters.

"I love Exxon getting into the play, the reason being, XTO is not an R&D company," Pickens said in an interview with Reuters Insider. "That just isn't their persona. Exxon has plenty of R&D and Exxon will figure out how to get more gas out of the shale and they'll spend a lot of money. And with it, the rest of the industry will prosper by what they do on their R&D."

T Boone Pickens Criticised for Commercial - BaltimoreNews.Net - 1/21/10

A commercial for Texas oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens' has been criticised by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee for its perceived prejudicial content.

The advertisement for the Pickens Plan, an energy independence arrangement, says it aims to end America's dependence on foreign oil and instead invest in American natural gas.

The advertisement begins with a voiceover of the billionaire saying: "Go back to sleep America, the oil crisis is over."

Apart from being spoken, the words are also flashed up in Arabic and then in English.

Pickens explains that the American economy is "bleeding billions for foreign oil; importing nearly 70%, much of it from countries that don't like us."

The advertisement is peppered with images of Arab men with guns next to burning oil fields.

The Arab-American civil rights group has objected by calling the ad and its characterization of Arab people: "Inaccurate, offensive, and outright discriminatory."

BROADCAST COVERAGE

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1. Mad Money (Rebroadcast)

DMA: N/A

CNBC (---) National

Spot Cost: \$986

01/20/2010

11:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Est. Audience: 86,614

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:13:24 Later -- we have plenty of American natural gas. Energy boon. Could we be closer than ever to breaking our addiction to foreign oil? Cramer goes one-on-one with Boone Pickens. 00:14:58

[CC] 00:25:50 Coming up -- we have plenty of American natural gas. Energy boon. Could we be closer than ever to breaking our addiction to foreign oil? Cramer goes one-on-one with Boone Pickens. 00:26:05

[CC] 00:29:38 If we want to reduce our dependence on foreign oil from, oh, so friendly OPEC regimes, create hundreds of thousands of jobs in this country, if not millions, and combat global warming, then I think nat gas, not wind, not solar, is the solution. Unlike renewable fuels, natural gas is viable now. We've got a 100 year supply of it in the United States. It's 50% cleaner than coal, 20% cleaner than petroleum based fuels and on a barrels to barrels comparison, U.S. production of nat gas is double that of oil and close to that of coal. And the performance of the stocks, Chesapeake, Devin, Apache, Anadarko, Range, over the last , 5, 10 ,20 years downright spectacular. Natural gas is simply better. But the one problem the industry has faced over and over again is it doesn't have the political clout of, say, the anti-rainbow pro-black lung coalition, aka the coal lobby. We need the politicians on our side for big natural gas push. While congress is working on a very good nat gas bill now, the Obama administration hasn't exactly been a friend of this silent but not so deadly commodity. I have to lighten it up a little that's why tonight we're thrilled to be speaking to Boone Pickens, who while wildly known as a takeover operator in the oil world --

Is also the most public proponent of using nat gas as a transition fuel with the Pickens plan to promote wind, energy and natural gas. Now this past week in New York, he refocused this plan de-emphasizing wind and pushing instead for natural gallons fueled busses and trucks, basically in line with what we've been promoting pretty much every week since the show began on "Mad Money." What is the real prospect? Let's hear from the expert, Boone Pickens, who happens to be the man behind this commercial you may have seen on our network. We have plenty of American natural gas to power our trucks and bus fleets. It's cheaper, cleaner, abundant and it's ours. Boone , welcome back to "Mad Money." Thanks, Jim. ... It sounds like you have a good read on it. I just hope Boone Pickens, Capital Management founder is right on this. Good to see you. Stay with Cramer. 00:38:41

[CC] 00:44:31 Yeah. Caller: Jim, I'd like to get your opinion on Chesapeake and their hedging strategy. That does mystify me. I hope it doesn't mystify Aubrey McClendon, who is the ceo. I believe he has a pretty cool hand on things. Between five and seven we're fine with that company. Every time I read about a new shale, he's got stake in that new shale. He's everywhere, doing a great job. If Boone Pickens is right, if Boone Pickens is right and we've got a Natural Gas Act that comes up by Memorial Day, I will tell you without any doubt that I think Chesapeake could go up 50%. Chk, it's a winner. It's a keeper 00:45:33

[CC] 00:57:22 If Boone is wrong on that natural gas bet, it's going to be slim pickins. This has been "Mad Money I'm Jim Cramer, and I'll see you tomorrow!
00:58:12

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2. Mad Money

DMA: N/A

CNBC (---) National

Spot Cost: \$2,802

01/20/2010

06:00 PM - 07:00 PM

Est. Audience: 300,434

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

00:25:41 Tease: Boone; Mad Mail; V; Boone Pickens. 00:26:09

00:29:09 TZ; Boone: Cramer talks with Boone Pickens, who is a proponent of using Natural Gas as a transition fuel. Cramer says if we want to reduce our dependence on foreign oil from Opec regimes, create jobs, and combat global warming, Cramer thinks Nat Gas is the solutions. Cramer says natural gas stocks, Chesapeake, Devon, Apache, Anadarko, Ultra, Range, is spectacular. Cramer says it doesn't have the political clout of the Anti-Rainbow Pro Black Lung Coalition, aka the coal lobby. The Obama administration has been a friend of Natural Gas. SI; Boone Pickens, BP Capital Management Founder and Chairman, says you saw what Tedessa came out with this week, discusses the State Department recommending we don't visit these countries, and these are the countries we get oil from, says it's not in Markey's bill, we're talking about the Natural Gas Bill, which is HR1835, discusses the Natural Gas Act, discusses cutting Opec in half, talks about Chesapeake, Anadarko, Sanridge, Apache advancing dramatically. Cramer says Mr. Hackett from Anadarko has been on, and Mr. McClendon has been on from Chesapeake and they admit they thought it was an easy cause they thought they didn't have to put money behind it. V; Wind Turbine. Cramer says Andrew Littlefair made money with Clean Energy. GR; Clean Energy. Cramer says Rep. Markey is in hearings today with Rex Tillerson, the CEO of Exxon. V; TV Commercial featuring Boone Pickens and website: PickensPlan.com. 00:38:37

00:41:37 TZ; Lightning Round: Cramer responds to calls from viewers. GR; TD AmeriTrade. PI; caller asks about Clearwire. GR; Clearwire. Cramer says to sell. Cramer says to go with Qualcomm. PI; caller asks about APD. GR; Air Products and Chem. Cramer says Mr. McGlady was on, Cramer says it will go higher. PI; caller asks about Chesapeake. GR; Chesapeake Energy. Cramer says Audry McClendon, the CEO, has a good hand on things. Cramer says if Boone Pickens is right and we have a natural gas act, CHK will go up. PI; caller asks about BP Resources. GR; BPZ Energy. Cramer likes Marathon instead. PI; caller asks about True Religion. GR; True Religion. Cramer says it's too expensive. Cramer says to go with Ralph Lauren. Cramer says Tindle Mill has the best barbecue in town. 00:46:29

00:49:55 TZ; Mad Mail: Cramer responds to emails from viewers. Cramer has done homework on Analogic. GR; Analogic. Cramer says not to buy Analogic. Cramer talks about Neutral Tandem, which he said was a buy, and now it's down. GR; Neutral Tandem. Cramer says to sell Neutral Tandem. GR; email thanks Cramer for the interview with Sen. Kaufman. Cramer says the viewers son should go to Warden. GR;

email asks about Nisource, NI. Cramer likes Nisource. GR; email asks about Linear Technology, LLTC. Cramer says it's a great tsunami play, says it's not as good as Apple which Cramer owns for his ActionAlertsPlus.com, no. Cramer says it should have been considered like C Gate and Cree which were up today. Cramer says Boone Pickens will owe him 100 bucks. 00:54:29

00:56:59 Close: Cramer says if Boone was wrong on the natural gas play, it will be Slim Pickens. 00:57:11

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3. Squawk On The Street

DMA: N/A

CNBC (---) National

Spot Cost: \$4,389

01/20/2010

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Est. Audience: 546,176

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

00:03:35 Commodities: Crude oil is down in price during the trading session. V: Live at NY Merc. GR; NYMEX Crude Oil. GR: Crude Curve. A build in inventory numbers may have been due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. GR: Energy Prices. T. Boone Pickets says natural gas could stay in the six to 6.50 range this year. GR: Natural Gas. Bertha Coombs reporting. 00:04:33

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4. Fox & Friends

DMA: N/A

Fox News Channel (---) National

Spot Cost: \$12,356

01/20/2010

08:00 AM - 09:00 AM

Est. Audience: 1,742,823

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:02:12 Video of what the people in Haiti don't need. Just an hour ago, a magnitude 6.1 quake rocked the island. Yeah, it's true. We have reporters on the ground with the latest details. This is Boone Pickens, watching "Fox and Friends." great show. Watch it every morning. Powerful successful entrepreneur, T. Boone Pickens, it seems he was here a short time ago. He was 00:03:37

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5. Fox & Friends

DMA: N/A

Fox News Channel (---) National

Spot Cost: \$11,836

01/20/2010

07:00 AM - 08:00 AM

Est. Audience: 1,743,995

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

00:12:43 Tease: Senate Race; T. Boone Pickens. 00:13:13

00:43:12 Tease: T. Boone Pickens. 00:43:24

00:46:30 TZ; T. Boone Pickens: T. Boone Pickens has a new ad showing our country is spending billions of dollars for foreign oil from countries that don't like us and we should invest in natural gas. Mention: Podesta study. V; Pickens ad. SI; Pickens said it is scary and we are paying for both sides of the war. Pickens said I'm focused on OPEC. Pickens is pushing both wind and natural gas . He is concentrating on natural gas for heavy duty 18 wheeler trucks . Will create American jobs.Pickens said the Natural Gas Act has 127 sponsors led by John Larson from CT. 00:50:05