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BILLS PERSPECTIVE VII

One of the primary things that our country learned from Germany in WWII was the need for adequate infrastructure. The Autobahn made it easy to travel unimpeded from place to place, easy to transport military support etc. to where it was needed.

General Eisenhower soon became President Eisenhower and the Interstate Highway System came into being. When something becomes common, we often don't appreciate it as much as we should.

I remember travelling from central Baldwin County, Alabama to Butler County, Alabama (my Dad's hometown) as a child prior to the completion of I-65. The trip took most of the day. Now, that same trip is about 2 hours. The interstate system is an incredible asset to our country.

If petroleum is the life-blood of our economy, then infrastructure is the arteries the life-blood flows through.

The August 2007 failure of the I-35 Bridge in Minneapolis should have been a wake-up call. Since then, data shows we have approximately 70,000 bridges in the country in disrepair. Nearly 1/3 of bridges in urban areas are listed as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete for the country in total that is about 1 in 4. The I-10 Bridge across Mobile Bay and George Wallace Tunnel beneath the Mobile River is the biggest bottleneck in the US on that highway.

We need massive improvements in our highways, waterways, airports, pipelines and, especially, the electrical grid. Upgrades are needed in our communications infrastructure as well.

President Obama tried to ram through a spending bill in 2014 that included (according to Obama) many non-controversial measures, but it was filled with controversy. It included creating new bureaucracy at the federal level, extended unemployment benefits, created tax credits for un-employed and funded numerous social pet agenda programs of the president. Of the \$447 billion proposed, only \$50 billion was actually designated for actual infrastructure.

The next POTUS will have the task of leading the country to tackle this issue head on. My hope is that legislation will be passed that is only about infrastructure and not ancillary things. The longer we put it off, the more it will cost. How will we pay for it? Maybe we should stop funding our enemies?

To enjoy our coming prosperity, we also need adequate infrastructure.