

Opinion

Mild recession is good for America

By JOHN VOGEL

CONGRESS foot-dragged through the infamous bailouts — in a time when time lost is money lost. Reason: Their salaries and benefits weren't going up in smoke.

History tells us what happened while President Herbert Hoover procrastinated on addressing his era's recession: the Great Depression. That's a gut fear for most of us — excepting for too many in Congress.

But there's one huge take-home lesson for us all: America suffers from its prosperity.

A recession is a time of reckoning for our individual lifestyles, our society's

values and our nation's economic priorities. It's a corrective moment for overindulgence — long overdue.

This recession has thrown a bucket of cold reality on petroleum oil speculators, dropping crude prices, natural gas and propane prices and, yes, even fertilizer prices. It's already forcing consumers to think "eat at home" and about

buying direct from farmers and in bulk. Vegetable gardens are "in" again.

Homeowners already are cutting back on debt. Consumer savings are beginning to rise. Hopefully, we can become wiser and more frugal from this recession. Now, if we could just hook congressional salaries and benefits to economic performance, we'd all be better off.



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"I really like it," said Gary Cook of Paul, Idaho, after spraying 3,000 acres with the new AccuBoom remote section control installed. "Flushing and cleaning out the booms was a snap. And in the end, it saved me time, chemicals and energy."

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