

empowered to make change. That's what the NPR has done. Its given Government workers the freedom to try something new.

Eliminating bureaucracy through reengineering Government programs reflects just one area for action set out in the NPR report. There are 384 innovative recommendations contained in the report, covering such matters as work force restructuring, agency streamlining, reforming procurement practices, expanding the use of information technology, and improving regulatory systems.

While many of the NPR recommendations were the type that could be acted upon immediately at the agency level, 173 required congressional action to be fully implemented.

During the 103d Congress, 30 bills containing NPR action items were signed into law. Among the most notable are the Government Management Reform Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-356), the Federal Acquisition Improvement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-335), the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act (Public Law 103-226), and the Federal Employee Family Friendly Leave Act (Public Law 103-338).

While it will take several more years to see the NPR agenda fully enacted, the measures I have listed were passed by wide margins and with bipartisan support. This is a clear indication that a government that works better and costs less is something we all seek.

I certainly hope that Republicans will continue to cooperate with this Democratic initiative and work with us to get more NPR legislation passing during the 104th Congress. The American people deserve the continued results it will bring.

The September 1994 report on the NPR's first year included 1,500 customer service standards which constitute a major step toward a results-driven Federal Government. Let me share just a few examples of these standards. The IRS has promised that taxpayers will receive their tax refunds within 40 days if they file a paper return and 21 days if they file electronically. The SBA has promised to complete reviews of loan applications within 3 days, based on a newly developed one page application.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission promised that the public will be able to report on and learn about unsafe products 24 hours a day by calling an 800 number. The Commerce Department has promised to provide the latest information on overseas markets on a compact disc which it will mail within 24 hours of a customer making contract.

Each of these reflects a standard that is clear and measurable. Knowing just what to expect from Government is becoming a new and rewarding experience for many, thanks to the NPR.

During the months ahead, the Government Reform and Oversight Committee will closely examine the changes the NPR has wrought, as well as the new administration proposals that make up the second phase of its reinvention effort.

While much has already been accomplished, there are still Americans who are dissatisfied with how their Government works. They present the challenge to all of us—rank-in-file Federal employees and Members of Congress alike—to improve the responsive-

ness of Government and the quality of service our Government gives.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR LAURENCE W. "BILL" LANE, JR.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ambassador Laurence W. "Bill" Lane, Jr., an outstanding citizen of California's 14th Congressional District who has been selected to receive the National Parks and Conservation Association's 1994 William Penn Mott, Jr., Conservationist of the Year Award in honor of his lifelong commitment to parks.

From the moment Ambassador Lane arrived in California in 1928, he has distinguished himself in the fields of conservation, government, and commerce.

While a student at Stanford University, he was a packer and mountain guide in Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks. Over the years, his love of nature led him to chair the California Desert Conservation Area Advisory Committee, serve on the President's National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere, chair the President's National Parks Centennial Commission, and serve as the Secretary of the Interior's representative on the Steering Committee for the 75th anniversary of the National Parks. Most deservedly, he is a recipient of the Secretary of the Interior's Conservation Service Award.

In government, he has served at the international level as U.S. Ambassador to Australia and Nauru, as well as Commissioner General and Chairman of the Foreign Delegation of the International Ocean Exposition in Japan with the rank of Ambassador. I am also very proud of the service he provided closer to home as the first elected mayor and councilman of Portola Valley, where he currently resides.

Ambassador Lane became well known to many people as the publisher of Sunset magazine and chairman of Lane Publishing Co., now merged with Time Warner. He is still a consultant to Time Warner and a member of the board of Time, Inc.

Despite all of his activities, he has still found time to be a devoted husband to his wife, Jean, and a caring father for their three children—Sharon, Bob, and Brenda.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Lane is truly an exceptional individual who has performed outstanding work for our nation and our national parks. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for being awarded the prestigious William Penn Mott, Jr., Conservationist of the Year Award.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an arti-

cle in yesterday's Washington Post by John Solomon outlining those who profited from the health care debacle last year. Once again, the Clinton administration has demonstrated that those in their inner circles can benefit while the rest of middle-class America wrestles with the ongoing problems associated with the lack of health care coverage. According to this article, there are some who made as much as \$100,000 in consulting fees. It seems to me that we as a Congress can and will do better—and at no extra cost to the American people.

I hope my colleagues will take the time to read this informative and enlightening article.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 22, 1995]

HEALTH CARE REFORM PLANNERS: INNER CIRCLE, TOP FEES

(By John Solomon)

The White House touted the long hours and sacrifices of those who crafted its ill-fated health care plan, but it turns out that the work brought healthy rewards for a small cadre of advisers and contractors.

Some businesses got six-figure contracts. For select advisers, there were consulting fees as high as \$49 an hour, allowing some to be paid up to \$100,000, according to a review of records released this week.

The payments were made in spite of a warning from White House lawyers to use full-time government employees, not consultants.

The Clinton administration has declined to say how much was spent developing its health care plan. But amid the ruins of President Clinton's Health Security Act, records obtained by the Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Act lay bare a multimillion-dollar hired bureaucracy.

The Republican Congress has begun its own review.

The primary beneficiaries were professional consultants, with specialties ranging from projecting long-term health costs to writing legislation.

In all, the White House tapped about 1,000 people for work and advice on the plan. Most of the high-profile experts worked for free.

The few who were paid were members of a White House inner circle, hired as consultants for an extended period to work on Hillary Rodham Clinton's health task force and working groups and beyond, although White House lawyers cautioned against it.

"To avoid ethical difficulties, the members of the cluster groups, and especially the heads of issue working groups, must be full government employees," aide Atul Gawande wrote health adviser Ira Magaziner in a Feb. 2, 1993, memo.

Gawande said the White House counsel's office had advised that payments were "not clearly in violation of any law" but it "would give antagonists leverage for attacking us in the press and possibly in legal channels."

Avis LaVelle, assistant secretary for public affairs at the Department of Health and Human Services, said the consultant payments were necessary to attract top caliber advice without expanding the permanent federal work force.

Critics disagree. "I think it is a very dangerous trend to have this kind of private-public partnership where it insinuates into the very process of government corporations and individuals that stand to profit from it," said Jane Orient, head of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, which successfully sued to force the White House to disclose task force working documents.

HHS paid at least a dozen advisers to Hillary Clinton between \$33 and \$49 an hour in consulting fees. Among the highest paid was Walter Zelman, a former California state official and activist for the citizens group Common Cause. He received \$101,649 in consulting fees between January 1993 and March 1994, at a rate of \$48.39 an hour, according to HHS records. Zelman left the administration after the plan's defeat.

Another top consultant was Brian Biles, who was paid \$97,950 over the same period. Biles, a former congressional staff aide, began as a consultant and eventually was hired as a deputy assistant secretary at HHS. He recently left for the private sector.

The AP identified at least 18 members of the working groups as receiving \$851,620 as HHS consultants. They included:

Clifton Gaus, former director of Georgetown University's Center for Health Policy Studies: \$87,336 at \$357 a day. He now heads the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research at HHS.

Roz Lasker, a University of Vermont medical professor and former analyst with the Physician Payment Review Commission: \$85,151 at \$46.48 an hour. She works full time at HHS.

Lawrence Levitt, a former California state insurance official: \$70,429 at \$33 an hour. He has left the administration.

Arnold Epstein, a Harvard University medical professor: \$47,999 at \$48.78 an hour. He has returned to his job.

At the same time, some medical professionals who volunteered their time to advise the task force could not even get their travel costs reimbursed. "I paid for the privilege," said Norman Fost, a University of Wisconsin researcher who absorbed \$7,000 in travel expenses.

He wrote a letter in March 1993 seeking reimbursement for colleagues who were "experiencing more severe hardship." His plea fell on deaf ears.

Several contractors also were hired for technical tasks. Some work multiple hats.

VHI Lewin, a Washington-based consulting firm, did numerous studies for both proponents and opponents of health reform. At the same time, the company was paid by the government to analyze the Clinton plan's impact on long-term care and academic hospitals.

Meantime, VHI Lewin produced what it called an independent study of the economic assumptions in the administration plan. The company picked up the tab for the study, touted repeatedly by Cabinet officials as independent proof that the plan was solid.

The company maintains it did not have a conflict in doing both jobs, saying the personnel who worked on the federal contracts were kept separate from those who did the public analysis.

"We were doing studies for a wide variety of people, including people who opposed the Clinton plan very ardently as well as people in the government," founder Larry Lewin said. "And we tried to do that and maintain the balance so no one side could make the claim they were exerting influence over our objectivity."

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA LACKS TRUTH IN CONTRACTING CLAUSE

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, as you, more than anybody, are aware, today marks the start of the second half of the Contract With America's 100-day campaign. Even though we are 50 days into the legislative process, only now are the details beginning to surface of how the contract will impact on the lives of working people and hinder the ability of our Nation's cities and towns to meet the demand for local services.

Yesterday, the Phoenix Gazette featured a preview of the difficulties the city of Phoenix will face if the legislative proposals contained in the contract are enacted into law. According to the Phoenix's city manager, the program cutbacks called for under the contract will reduce the city's finances by \$10 to \$20 million. The budget items at risk in the city include funding for mass transit, job training, meal programs for the elderly, and emergency utility bill assistance.

Mr. Speaker, what the Contract With America lacks is a "truth in contracting" clause. The contract is being billed as a program that will get the Government off the backs of the people. What communities like the city of Phoenix are beginning to discover is that it will force local governments to abandon the people they seek to serve.

I commend my colleagues to read the Phoenix Gazette article.

[From the Phoenix Gazette, Feb. 22, 1995]

GOP CONTRACT CLOUDS CITY'S FINANCES—\$20 MILLION AT STAKE FOR PHOENIX WHEN FEDERAL CUTS ARE ENACTED

(By Russ Hemphill)

In recent years, Phoenix has survived a slumping economy, layoffs and cutbacks.

But the Republican Congress' Contract with America could be one of the city's biggest challenges yet, officials said Tuesday as they began work on next year's estimated \$1.27 billion municipal budget.

"There really is an extraordinary cloud over us," City Manager Frank Fairbanks said, referring to potential cuts in federal funding.

Fairbanks said "even a conservative guess" would peg federal cuts of Phoenix funds at \$10 million to \$20 million.

"It's not a question of if they cut, it's a question of how much they cut and where they cut," Vice Mayor Craig Tribken said.

"Actually this year's city budget is much improved," Fairbanks said. "If we didn't have some other situations, we would be in a very strong position . . . to respond to some of the community service needs."

Fairbanks said before potential federal cuts are considered, the City Council will have an estimated \$4.7 million for favored projects.

But Phoenix officials estimate at least \$20 million to \$52 million of the city's \$99 million in annual federal funding is at risk.

The highest-risk funding, they said, include \$8.4 million to \$8.9 million for mass transit, job training and human service grants that include meals centers for the elderly and emergency utility bill assistance.

Medium-risk funding includes \$11.9 million to \$42.8 million for programs that include public housing assistance and community development block grants.

President Clinton and Congress have made "strong declarations that the budget needs to be cut," Fairbanks said. His administration understands that, but any significant federal cuts in funding will mean a substantial cut in services to the community," he said.

Councilman Sal DeCiccio said the city should accept the federal cuts without complaint. "The bottom line is the federal government is spending money it doesn't have," DeCiccio said.

"The United States of America is having some problems right now and we all have to chip in," he said.

Fairbanks urged the council to use restraint when committing money to new programs, in anticipation of federal cuts.

"Together, we must prepare for that situation," he said.

Complicating the council's job is timing.

The city will wrap up its budget this summer for the 1995-96 fiscal year. However, some of the federal budget cuts won't be known until September, city officials said.

"The challenge of this is, you not only don't know the amount, you also don't know" which program will be cut, Fairbanks said.

THE INTEGRATED SPENT FUEL MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1995

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 1995

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced the Integrated Spent Nuclear Fuel Management Act of 1995. This is comprehensive legislation designed to address our national problem with high-level nuclear waste by providing workable solutions for managing used nuclear fuel from America's commercial nuclear powerplants.

Nuclear powerplants currently provide more than 20 percent of America's electricity. They do so by harnessing the heat from uranium filled fuel rods to produce steam that turns electric turbines. When the energy in these fuel rods is depleted, the rods are removed from the reactor's core and placed in pools of water.

Where they go next is the focus of this legislation. In Sweden, used fuel rods will eventually go directly to underground storage. In France, the rods are chopped up; the radioactive materials within them are separated and then reprocessed into new fuel rods. These completely different approaches meet both the energy and the environmental needs of their respective countries.

In America, spent fuel rods go nowhere because there is nowhere for them to go. This elliptical sentence accurately describes the nexus of our peculiar problem with nuclear waste: We have been producing thousands of tons of post-reactor wastes over a period of decades without providing a place for their ultimate disposal. The wastes from over 100 nuclear powerplants have accumulated and continue accumulating at 70 sites in more than 30 States.

Nuclear wastes didn't come as a surprise problem like DDT or ozone depleting compounds. We have known from the earliest days of the nuclear era that spent fuel and other nuclear wastes would need the most careful attention. In those early days, however,