

who is the chairman of the social studies department at Central Falls High School. The students will compete for national honors in joining 1,200 students from across the Nation in Arlington VA; and Washington DC, from April 29 to May 1.

The competition involves students demonstrating their knowledge of constitutional principles and their relevance to contemporary issues. Making the feat more impressive is that 14 of the 25 students from Central Falls High School learned English as a second language. Some of the students or their parents are natives of Portugal, Mexico, Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Mozambique, Colombia, Liberia, Poland, and Vietnam.

I will be visiting these award-winning students in their classroom on April 10 to wish them the best of luck in this competition. I am very proud of their accomplishments. They have shown that hard work and desire, along with proper parental and educational support, can overcome any language barriers.

I'd like to offer my congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Brousseau and his students: Kelly Bianchi, Berta Couto, Elizabeth Diaz, Elizabeth Gartska, Linda Layous, Juan Menzano, Christine Patricio, Hannah Tarawali, Alexandra Zaldana, Janet Blandon, Yolanda DaSilva, Michelle Doucet, Martha Gutierrez, Rebecca Lussier, Nelci Paiva, Celina Sackal, Halena Taveira, Melenie Casto, Daisy Diaz, Susan Freitas, Melanie Kowal, Mike Macedo, Beatriz Patino, Kathy Siwy, and Agnes Wec.

FAA SHOULD BE AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY

HON. JIM LIGHTFOOT

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to restore the Federal Aviation Administration to independent agency status. The legislation will also provide the FAA with the major personnel, procurement, and finance reforms needed to keep America's air traffic control system the best in the world.

Although our national air transportation system is the best in the world—it should be better. As a pilot and flight instructor, I've seen a lot of problems with the FAA bureaucracy. And I've heard from far too many people who've had first-hand experience with the mismanagement and inefficiencies at the FAA. These are exemplified by the advanced automation system, which is the core of the air-space modernization effort—a project bungled so badly that it is billions over budget an years behind schedule.

We're clearly not doing our best to ensure that ours is the safest and most efficient system possible. We've reached a point in the development of our aviation system where we can no longer postpone action. It is clear that everyone, the administration, Congress, and the aviation user groups agree on the need for reform at the FAA.

At the appropriations committee, we heard Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena testify that the Clinton administration's proposal for a Government-owned ATC Corporation is the only solution to the problems that exist at the FAA. Yet there is near-universal agreement that the administration's proposal is no solution at all. The General Accounting Of-

fice's analysis of the administration's proposal strongly suggests the proposal has been rigged with financial assumptions to make the concept superficially attractive.

While I recommend the administration for taking a proactive role in FAA reform, the plans has earned almost no support from the industry or from Congress. But there has been one positive outcome to the discussions about privatizing the nation's ATC system. It has helped focus the debate, allowing several common complaints about the FAA to emerge.

My legislation seeks to address those key obstacles which nearly everyone agrees are hampering our efforts to keep pace with technology and the growth of the aviation industry.

For example, the DOT structure hinders the FAA from doing its job in the most effective manner. By reestablishing an independent FAA, we eliminate the many layers of review by Department of Transportation political appointees and their staffs. While no former FAA Administrator supports the ATC Corporation proposal, restoring FAA to independent status is supported by 10 of the 11 living former FAA Administrators.

My bill provides an independent FAA with the personnel and procurement reforms needed to ensure the safety of the users of our increasingly complex and busy aviation system. It establishes two pilot programs; one to exempt the FAA from procurement regulations which hamper its ability to acquire the cutting edge technology it needs, and another to exempt FAA from most civil service rules except those relating to employee benefits.

The bill creates a select panel to review and report to Congress on innovative funding mechanisms, such as loan guarantees and restructured grant programs, to ensure that the money is there for future improvements of the Nation's aviation infrastructure.

My bill will establish a management advisory board made up of high-level industry representatives to advise the Administrator on management, policy, spending, and regulatory matters. And it will mandate that final action must be taken on all FAA rulemakings within 18 months after the date of their initiation.

I'm offering my bill as a starting point for developing consensus towards a meaningful and realistic reform effort. I hope you will join me as I continue to work with the leaders of the aviation community—the airlines, general aviation, FAA employees—to shape these ideas into the kind of package all of us can support.

TAXPAYERS, TIGHTEN YOUR BELT TO PAD INDUSTRY'S PURSE?

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as Congress nears the end of the first 100 days, let us examine some of the choices the new Republican majority has made to find ways to reduce the Federal deficit. In January, the Republican majority passed its balanced budget amendment without explaining to the American citizens which Federal programs will be sacrificed for the sake of deficit control. The Republican's rescissions bill, however, provided a glimpse of the programs on the chopping block, those which provide summer jobs for our youth, those which provide housing for

the elderly and poor, those which provide community service volunteer placements in our inner cities, and those which provide healthy lunches for our schoolchildren. This week, Republicans would widen the gap between the rich and the middle-class by passing a healthy tax break for the wealthiest members of society.

Of course, reducing our \$4 trillion deficit is a responsibility for all Americans. However, if the average American thinks that everyone is equally sharing the burden of balancing the budget, it's time for a wake-up call. While many Americans will have to learn to do more with less and while many worthwhile Federal programs are facing the Republican firing squad, some industries have been granted clemency from deficit reduction efforts. The mining, grazing, timber and agricultural industries, which use Federal mineral resources and operate on public lands, continue to shamelessly receive billions of taxpayer dollars in Federal subsidies each year, and Republicans plan to do nothing to ensure Americans a better return for their resources.

I'd like to submit for the RECORD and urge my colleagues to read a March 27 op ed by Mr. Jim Gogek that highlights some of the circumstances under which public resource industries continue to receive Federal handouts. In his San Diego Union-Tribune editorial, Mr. Gogek describes some of the egregious Federal policies that pad the pockets of natural resource development companies with billions of dollars each year.

Understandably, the taxpayers are outraged by these massive handouts to multimillion dollar industries and are calling for an end to corporate welfare, but most Republicans appear indifferent to their demands. How much longer will the taxpayer have to watch the new majority in Congress cut valuable programs in order to pay for timber sales in our national forests that lose money? How much longer will large mining companies be able to extract gold and silver from our public lands for only \$2.50 an acre? How much more money in subsidized irrigation must we give to huge agribusinesses for surplus crops? How much longer will we allow the annual giveaway of hundreds of millions of dollars to ranchers in the forms of cheap grazing leases and free livestock feed? How much longer must we all tighten our belts so that these industries, many of which are not even controlled by American citizens, may continue to grow rich from our tax dollars?

In February 1995, I introduced the Public Resources Deficit Reduction Act, legislation which will recover more than \$3 billion a year lost through these unreasonable Federal subsidies. I am pleased that 44 other Members, from both sides of the aisle, have joined me as co-sponsors of this legislation which will end this corporate welfare. As Congress continues to work toward increasing fiscal accountability and boosting returns to the Treasury, I urge my colleagues to consider joining us in our efforts to achieve fair-market value for the use of the public's resources.

[From the San Diego Union-Tribune, Mar. 27, 1995]

BIG AGRICULTURE ALSO DRAINS THE FEDERAL TILL

(By Jim Gogek)

My Republican colleagues promise that House GOP members will soon begin taking

on federal subsidies to business—dubbed “corporate welfare”—now that they have cut funding for such social programs as job training, drug courts, vocational education, summer jobs for kids, housing for the poor and elderly and food subsidies for low-income women, infants and children.

San Diego's freshman Republican, Rep. Brian Bilbray, was here recently and made the same promise: Subsidies are next on the block. However, he admitted that it might be a tough battle cutting some agriculture-related items, such as the \$500 million ethanol subsidy that goes mostly to one company in Illinois.

Big Ag greases the skids in Washington as well as anybody. The constituency favoring corporate subsidies has a lot more money for greasing than does the poor people's constituency. So don't hold your breath.

Here in California, federal subsidies are themselves a cash crop. Central Valley agriculture floats on the federal dole. Timber, mining and ranching operations also belly up to the trough. These are the same folks, by the way, who vehemently oppose any government regulation on their land. But they have no problem accepting a government handout.

Let's take a look at some of California's natural resource subsidies, starting with agriculture:

The Central Valley Project, a huge federal project that provides water to farmers in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys, has cost taxpayers between \$34 billion and \$70 billion since passage of the Reclamation Act of 1902, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Of the nearly \$1 billion spent just to construct its irrigation facilities, only about \$50 million has been paid back by users.

Central Valley Project water districts pay a fraction of the full cost of water. According to a 1991 federal study, Westlands Water District paid \$8 per acre-foot of water whose full cost was actually about \$46 per acre-foot.

Some federally subsidized water goes to irrigate surplus crops, which receive an agriculture subsidy. A federal study in 1986 found that California crops receiving subsidized water were also getting nearly \$500 million in crop subsidies.

One of the nation's largest corporate farms, J.G. Boswell Co., tills about 192,000 acres in the Central Valley that are irrigated with federally subsidized water.

Farmers receiving federally subsidized water are negotiating contracts to sell that water to cities like San Diego—at market prices.

Besides water and crop subsidies, most Central Valley farms benefit from subsidized power from government-built hydroelectric dams to pump subsidized water to their fields. Some farms also receive millions to help market products overseas.

Over the last decade, \$1.3 billion in agriculture subsidy checks were mailed, not to rural areas but to major cities and their suburbs, where corporate farms and absentee farmers have their offices. San Diego received \$11.8 million, Los Angeles \$10.8 million and San Francisco \$13.9 million. Sacramento received \$102 million. A corporation based in Rancho Bernardo got almost \$1 million for a farm in Montana.

Those are only some of the agricultural subsidies in California alone. Imagine the cumulative sum we pay for the whole nation.

Then there are subsidies for grazing, mining and timber. Here's a few goodies:

The National Forest Service alone incurred \$557 million in net losses in 1993 in timber sales, grazing leases and mining subsidies.

A 120-year-old mining law doesn't require royalties based on the value of metal ores taken from federal land. The only payment for ownership of a claim is a fee of between

\$2.50 to \$5 an acre. A mining company holds a claim to a huge platinum strike in national forests in Montana estimated to be worth \$32 billion. The federal government will receive at most about \$10,000 for patenting the claims and acreage fees.

Ranchers pay \$1.86 a month per animal unit, which equals one cow and calf or four sheep, to graze on public land. The fee on private property is \$10 a month. Federal grazing leaseholders are allowed to sublease their land—at a substantial profit. Many leaseholders are huge corporate ranchers. One rancher in California leases 5 million subsidized acres in California, Nevada and Wyoming.

In California alone, the private use of publicly owned timber, grazing and mineral resources on national forest property resulted in a \$34 million net loss for taxpayers in 1993.

Not all public subsidies to business are bad. Some, such as certain research subsidies for medicine and science, return much greater social benefits than the original cash outlay could buy.

But providing millions of dollars to wealthy corporate farms? Giving away billions in valuable minerals and timber on public land? And perhaps worst of all, subsidizing the destruction of our forests, wilderness, grasslands and fisheries?

What do you call a public policy that does all that while at the same time slashes funds for summer jobs for kids? I can think of several words, but this is a family newspaper.

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTHWEST INDIANA HISPANIC COORDINATING COUNCIL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Coordinating Council for their numerous contributions to northwest Indiana.

Founded on November 15, 1988, the Hispanic coordinating council is composed of leaders from over 40 different Hispanic organizations. These people have committed themselves to improving the quality of life for the Hispanic residents of northwest Indiana. Council president and cofounder Benjamin T. Luna has been instrumental in providing the Hispanic community with motivation and opportunities for excellence.

On April 8, 1995, the coordinating council will present honors to 42 top scholars and athletes throughout northwest Indiana. The council will also present their annual recognition awards to deserving individuals. The council will honor these distinguished people at a banquet which will be held at the American Legion Post 369 in East Chicago, IN.

The students who will receive awards for outstanding academic achievement include: Patricia Alvarado, River Forest High School; Albert Davila, Merrillville High School; Alyssa Diaz, Highland High School; Guadalupe Gonzalez, East Chicago Central High School; Jessica Herrera, Martin Luther King Academy; Tania Higareda, Clark High School; Maria Lule, Bishop Noll High School; Karla Madrigal, Hammond Morton High School; Xochilt Medina, Hammond Gavit High School; Becky Ramirez, Crown Point High School; Edwin Ramirez, Horace Mann High School; Robert Ramirez, Calumet High School; Jennifer Ramos,

Munster High School; Albert Rodriguez, Lew Wallace High School; Melissa Rodriguez, Hammond High School; Joshua Rodriguez, Griffith High School; Elvin Roman, Horace Mann High School; Aaron Vela, Lake Central High School; Cara Velez, Portage High School; and Brett Sweet, Lowell High School.

The students who will receive awards for outstanding athletic achievement include: Aeris Arrequin, Highland High School; Robert Avila, Andrean High School; Phil Benavides, Lowell High School; Juan Carlos Buezo, Lew Wallace High School; David Brugos, Clark High School; Arturo Corral III, Wirt High School; Jessica Figureroa, Merrillville High School; Victor Garcia, Griffith High School; Eusebio Gonzalez, Gavit High School; Jerome Hicks, East Chicago Central High School; Daniel Mayorga, Hammond High School; Jason Mendoza, Munster High School; Richard Mendoza, Hammond Morton High School; David Ortiz, Portage High School; Matt Rodriguez, Calumet High School; Vincent Rosado, River Forest High School; George Torres, Bishop Noll High School; James Torres, Lake Central High School; Erin Valdivia, Hobart High School; and Tom Zelaya, Crown Point High School.

Aisha Ceballos of Gary Emerson High School will be awarded both an academic and athletic award by the coordinating council at their annual banquet.

The council will also present the outstanding family award to Rafael and Doritila Fletes of East Chicago. This distinguished couple was carefully selected from many qualified families on the basis of their unity and dedication to one another's successes. Ms. Eliza Vela will receive the community service award. The labor award will be given to Mr. Robert Flores. Mr. Francisco Loza, president of the River Forest and Lake Station School Corporation Dual District Bilingual and Migrant Education Program, will be awarded the president's award. Finally, Ms. Maria DeLaLuz Murillo Tellez will be honored with the distinguished Caesar Chavez Award, in honor of the late charismatic president and founder of the United Farmworkers.

Media recognition awards will go to Mr. Michael Puente and Mr. Michael Gonzalez, of the Post-Tribune; Mr. Mark Arrendondo and Mr. Jose Alvarez, of the East Chicago News; Mr. Christian B. Candelaria, of the Herald News Group; Mr. Tom Gutierrez, Jr., of WJOB radio; Ms. Terry Serna, of La Voz Newspaper; Mr. Joe Arrendondo, of channel 56/WYIN; Ms. Sylvia Lopez, of WGN; and Mr. Carmello Melendez.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other colleagues to join me in applauding all of the award recipients chosen by the Hispanic coordinating council. I feel that all of the participants are most deserving of the honors that will be bestowed upon them. It is my privilege to commend them on their achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote Nos. 280 and 281 on H.R. 716 and