

Yet, despite all these signs, the administration and the House and Senate budget negotiators continue to give U.S. energy security the lowest priority. Last week, a witness testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee stated that " * * * our national energy policy seems to be based, largely, on the policy of prayer." While I don't believe that it is true yet, this country certainly seems headed in that direction.

In the 1970's energy crisis became a term every American understood. In the years after the Arab oil embargo this Nation took several steps to increase our energy security. We created and filled a strategic petroleum reserve, we encouraged environmentally benign development of domestic energy resources, we encouraged fuel diversification and greater use of alternative fuels, we encouraged research and development of renewable energy resources, and we encouraged conservation and energy efficiency in all areas.

However, in recent years we seem to have forgotten the lessons we learned from the gas lines and energy shortages of the 1970's. Our current policies discourage development of domestic energy resources. We have placed large tracts of oil and gas bearing lands off-limits to exploration and development. We have to fight vigorously every year to keep renewable energy research budgets from being slashed.

And now we are selling oil from our strategic petroleum reserve just as fast as we can. Clearly, there are those who have forgotten that the SPR is America's first line of defense from those who would hold us hostage through our high level of dependence on imported oil. These oil sales are occurring not because of any energy shortage, but because the administration and the appropriators see an opportunity to use this oil reserve as a cash reserve.

However, when the reserve is used in this manner everyone loses. The American people paid over \$200 billion to build and fill the strategic petroleum reserve. It costs approximately \$35 to buy and store a barrel of oil in the reserve. When oil was sold from the reserve last year to help balance the budget, the Department of Energy received approximately \$18 a barrel. It doesn't take an economics professor to tell you that you can't balance the budget by buying high and selling low.

In addition, when oil is sold from the reserve in a nonemergency situation it gives those who want to intervene in free markets, including our President, the ability to do so. This past April, even though there was no oil shortage, the President announced he would use authority he had to draw down the reserve in order to lower rising gasoline prices. Again, think to the 1970's if you have doubts about whether the Government should intervene in the free marketplace. I fully expect the President to use the authority we are granting him today to intervene in the marketplace again this winter.

Finally, when we sell the strategic petroleum reserve during anything less than an energy emergency the American people aren't just losing money, they are losing something more important: their energy security. At the rate we are selling oil from the reserve, in 2015 when the U.S. depends on foreign suppliers for as much as 68 percent of its daily oil consumption we will have less than 100 million barrels of oil left in the reserve. That scares me and I hope it scares everyone else.

America needs to pay more attention to securing its energy future. And we need to begin by stopping the fire sale being conducted at our Nation energy security reserve. If we don't stop these trends, the term "energy crisis" will again be part of the vocabulary of every American.

SUPPORT H.R. 4264

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4264, a bill which marks an important step forward in our national effort to combat diabetes. The provisions of H.R. 4264 are identical to the provisions of two separate diabetes bills I have cosponsored this session, H.R. 1073 and H.R. 1074. These bills will for the first time provide Medicare reimbursement for outpatient self-management training for individuals with diabetes. They will also for the first time provide Medicare coverage for the blood-testing strips that diabetics use to monitor their blood sugar levels. The Congressional Caucus on Diabetes—of which I am a member, led by Representative ELIZABETH FURSE (D-OR), has worked hard throughout this session to get these bills passed, and I am glad that H.R. 4264 provides us with the vehicle to achieve this goal.

Diabetes is a particular problem for older Americans. Over 16 percent of Americans over the age of 65 have the disease, and over one quarter of the entire Medicare budget is spent caring for diabetic seniors. With coverage of self-management training and blood-testing strips under Medicare, Congress has recognized that efforts to combat diabetes must not focus solely on treatment of serious illness but also on education and self-management which can prevent serious illness. This preventive emphasis is not only cost-effective, but will result in greatly reduced human suffering.

Medical research has shown us that many of the most serious complications stemming from diabetes can be controlled through proper management by those who have the condition. According to Practical Diabetology, 90 percent of diabetes-related blindness is preventable, and 50 percent of diabetes-related amputations and hospitalizations are preventable. With coverage of self-management training and blood-testing strips, many more diabetic seniors will be able to head off these serious, and sometimes life-threatening, complications which can result from unbalanced blood sugar levels.

Mr. Speaker, I hope consideration and passage of H.R. 4264 indicates a renewed sense of urgency in Congress about combating diabetes. An area to which we must direct this sense of urgency in the coming months is the epidemic of diabetes among native Americans. Whether by granting the Indian Health Service [IHS] third-party reimbursement authority or by preserving IHS diabetes-control efforts as the agency downsizes and restructures, we must elevate our commitment to reducing the tragic incidence of diabetes among our native American population. Mr. Speaker, I urge by colleagues to support H.R. 4264 as the first im-

portant step in a renewed national effort to combat diabetes.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMEN ANDY JACOBS AND JOHN MYERS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the careers of two outstanding Members of Congress who are retiring this year: ANDY JACOBS and JOHN MYERS.

I have known ANDY and JOHN for many years, and have always had the highest regard for them. They are a true credit to this institution. Congress will miss them. The State of Indiana will miss them. And I will miss them.

It has been a great pleasure working with them over the years. They are individuals of remarkable integrity, dedication, and professionalism. They have, of course, had a tremendous impact on our great State and its people, as well as the citizens of this country.

ANDY and JOHN, will also be missed for the personal qualities they brought to their work. In national politics and in Congress we have seen a clear decline in basic civility. There have been far too many personal attacks and shouting matches, too much partisanship, and meanness.

ANDY and JOHN, in contrast, have long been models of civility and decency. They certainly have their views on issues, and have never been afraid to voice them. But they always have respected those with whom they have disagreed, and worked tirelessly to build consensus on some of our most difficult challenges. We can all learn from their example.

Their work has certainly been a mark of distinction. ANDY and JOHN have every right to look back on their service with a full measure of satisfaction. I have enjoyed greatly my association with them. They have been wonderful colleagues, and good friends.

I wish both ANDY and JOHN—and their families—all the best in their retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN LECRON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of a dedicated community leader in our district, Susan LeCron. She is retiring after 20 years of service to the Toledo Botanical Gardens. Under her leadership as executive director, the Toledo Botanical Gardens has truly flourished. Her able hand has guided the gardens from 20 acres and a groundskeeper to a 60-acre nationally designated botanical garden, a staff of more than 30, and a budget which is 20 times greater than at the beginning of her tenure.

Although she is proudest of the gardens' children's programs, Susan's leadership has

brought lustre to the Toledo Botanical Gardens: the creation of a master plan, a successful \$2.2 million capital campaign, the construction of a pond system, shade and perennial gardens, a new maintenance facility, a greenhouse, the addition of 19-resident organizations, and the planting of the grand allee which leads to the doors of the future visitors center. Her dedicated perseverance and commitment to the growth of the Toledo Botanical Gardens has made it a premiere attraction of northwest Ohio.

Susan LeCron is a true community advocate and horticulturist. Her work and her vision are preserving a gift for our future. We thank her, wish her well, and know nature always will shower her legacy with splendor.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMEN ROBERT S. WALKER AND WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my colleagues to pay tribute to two of my very esteemed retiring colleagues from the other side of the Mason-Dixon line, Congressman ROBERT S. WALKER, chairman of the Science Committee, and Congressman WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR., chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee.

The extraordinary years of public service of these two men have strengthened the principles of democracy which governs our Nation. BOB WALKER has acted as our tireless parliamentary floor leader protecting our rights when we were in the minority and has been a leader in developing the U.S. science and technology policy. BILL CLINGER has served the role of the administration watchdog, providing vigilant oversight and preserving the system of checks and balances—so important to our system of Government.

These two distinguished careers have been capped with their chairmanships, in this Congress, of the Science and Government Reform and Oversight Committees. As a member of both of their committees, these two gentlemen from Pennsylvania have had a deep and profound impact during my years here in Congress.

I have always treasured their insightful wisdom, their deliberate guidance, their sage counsel, and their continual courtesies. I wish them much health and happiness in their future as they conclude their congressional careers.

Like BOB WALKER, I have served on the House Science Committee since my first year in office—except BOB began in 1976, 10 years before I did. This year, he became the first Republican chairman in the history of the Science Committee, which is one of the largest in the House. I am honored to serve with BOB as his chair of the Technology Subcommittee.

The Technology Subcommittee has jurisdiction over our Nation's technology and competitiveness policy. BOB has been a strong supporter of enhancing our Nation's ability to compete in the global marketplace and has endorsed efforts to create a better economic climate for the development of new tech-

nologies. BOB's support was crucial in the enactment into law of The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1996, legislation which I authored.

During his tenure on the Science Committee, BOB has been a strong advocate of basic research. Through the years, he has been a consistent and principled advocate for his views on science and technology policy. As the chairman, BOB has focused on returning Federal research and development priorities to basic research.

As a former social studies teacher, BOB has been an avid promoter of math and science education. He has been a consistent and enthusiastic supporter of a manned space program and has led bipartisan whip teams to victory over many funding battles regarding the space station on the House floor.

BOB views space as an economic frontier that must be explored, and believes that the future of space and aeronautical research will rely on partnerships and relationships of the Federal research enterprise with entrepreneurs using risk capital to leverage Government capability. He is the author of a number of initiatives to promote space commercialization.

As chairman, BOB shepherded the Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis Act of 1995, which was part of the Contract With America, and the Hydrogen Future Act through the committee and the full House.

He also took the unprecedented step of securing House passage of all the committee's authorization bills in this Congress, thereby elevating science in the authorization process. Not only has this been unequalled in the committee, but BOB is also one of the few committee chairmen to have that distinction.

Additionally, I was very pleased to work closely with BOB to ensure environmental protection of Antarctica. BOB successfully pushed for House passage of the Antarctic Environmental Protection Act of 1996, which we expect the President to sign shortly.

This bill would provide the necessary legislative authority for the United States to implement the 1991 Environment Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty and preserve that fragile ecosystem for science and research.

In the committee, BOB has held a number of future-oriented hearings to discuss the importance of science and technology to our country.

There is a plaque hanging on the wall in our committee room which reminds us each time we enter that, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18) In his tenure on the committee, BOB has had a vision and he has, indeed, touched and influenced the future.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve with BOB on the Science Committee over the years. Good luck to you, BOB, and to Sue, as you return back to Lancaster.

It has also been an extreme pleasure to work with BILL CLINGER during the last 10 years that we have both served in the Congress, especially in the past 2 years on the Government Reform and Oversight Committee.

As chairman BILL has been an outstanding leader. His commitment to good Government has been unwavering.

While his recent oversight work has received much attention, I want to remind my colleagues of the unglamorous, detail-oriented

oversight work that he has spent the majority of his time pursuing—that is, ensuring that our tax dollars are well spent and our Government is operating as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.

Under his leadership, the Government Reform and Oversight Committee has tackled a wide range of important issues, including Federal employee benefits, Medicare and Medicaid fraud, FDA oversight, the war on drugs, teenage pregnancy prevention, unfunded mandates, the year 2000 computer crisis, and Federal agency oversight.

If it were not for BILL's thorough work, we would have never known the extent of the mistreatment of the White House Travel Office employees or the improper White House requests for over 700 FBI files of former Bush and Reagan employees.

I have enjoyed working with BILL very much, and I especially want to commend him for his fairness. I appreciate his willingness to listen to the sometimes dissenting views of his colleagues.

The Fifth District of Pennsylvania has been extremely well served for the last 18 years, and the Government Reform and Oversight Committee is losing a great leader. I will miss BILL as a leader and a friend, and I wish him, and his wife, Judy, all the best as he leaves Capitol Hill.

NUTRITION EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which provide funds for the Nutrition Education and Training Program [NET].

Enactment of this legislation is necessary to remedy a glitch in the funding of this program resulting from the enactment of the welfare reform bill. Since the 103d Congress, NET has been a mandatory spending program. The Appropriations Committee funded it as such for fiscal year 1997. However, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act modified current law to once again categorize NET as a discretionary spending program. Since mandatory funds cannot be used to fund a discretionary program, NET is currently without a funding source for fiscal year 1997.

This legislation provides a total of \$7.5 million in funding for the Nutrition Education and Training Program, to be derived equally from the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children and the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Act. As my colleagues are probably aware, questions have arisen regarding the operation of the Team Nutrition Program by the Department of Agriculture. In addition, there are carryover funds which can be used for Team Nutrition activities for the upcoming fiscal year. As such, I feel it is more than appropriate to transfer \$3.75 million in funds from the Team Nutrition Program to the Nutrition Education Program.

Mr. Speaker, while the Nutrition Education and Training Program receives a minimal amount of funding, schools throughout the country use these dollars to promote healthy eating habits among our Nation's children.