

alcoholics and drug addicts are not comparable with elderly persons. Many of these young people hold all night, loud parties, shake down many of the elderly residents for money, sell drugs within the housing facility, and generally disturb the right to the peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other tenants.

This legislation, by no means, circumvents the current housing eviction procedure. It simply mandates that these individuals with patterns of drug and alcohol abuse be evicted after one incident if it is determined by the local PHA that their behavior threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other tenants.

This legislation will help to restore order in housing projects throughout the country. It requires tenants to embrace personal responsibility by mandating tenants to sign a statement which says no person who will be occupying the unit set aside for the elderly will illegally use a controlled substance or abuse alcohol in any way. Additionally, the bill will allow the local PHA to evict those persons who continuously raise havoc within these housing projects.

I want to commend the Senate for its action in passing this important legislation. It will make our public housing facilities safe for our most vulnerable citizens, the elderly.●

HON. BENJAMIN H. LOGAN II

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Benjamin H. Logan II, judge of the 61st District Court of the city of Grand Rapids, MI. In so doing, I join with the members of his community who are honoring Judge Logan on Saturday, February 3, 1996, with the 13th annual Giant Among Giants Award.

This award will be presented to Judge Logan at the 14th annual Giants Banquet and Awards celebration that will be held on the Grand Rapids Community College campus in the Gerald R. Ford Field House. This celebration is sponsored by the college and a consortium of African-American organizations with the purpose of raising the awareness of the Greater Grand Rapids citizenry of the contributions African-American individuals, organizations, and businesses have made to the history, continuous growth, and progress of metropolitan Grand Rapids.

The ceremony honors 14 individuals for their outstanding commitment and contributions to the community. Each of the 12 Giant awards presented at the event is named after local African-American individuals who have given long-term service in their professional areas and dedication to the Grand Rapids community as a whole.

The 13th award is the Giant Among Giants Award. The recipients of this unique award are honored not only for their work in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area, but also for reaching out

to other cities and States in their professional areas. This year, the Giant Among Giants Award will be presented to the Honorable Benjamin H. Logan II.

Ben has been a community-oriented person throughout his life. He has generously contributed both his time and talents to many organizations including the Urban League, Boy Scouts of America, NAACP, Lions Club, YMCA, U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society, and countless others.

In 1988 Judge Logan, in a historic write-in election, became the first African-American judge of the 61st District Court in Grand Rapids. He has been victorious in every subsequent election. He is a member of the Michigan Black Judges Association and national chair of the Judicial Council of the National Bar.

Serving his country, church, and community throughout his life, Benjamin H. Logan II has been an example to others and an embodiment of the values that the Giant Among Giants Award represents. Mr. President I am sure that my colleagues in the Senate join me in extending our congratulations to Judge Logan upon receiving this prestigious award.

GREAT PLAINS SYNFUELS PLANT

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue of extreme importance to my State of North Dakota and to this Nation's energy security.

The issue is one currently before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC], and involves the fate of a unique energy project in North Dakota—the Great Plains Coal Gasification Plant located near Beulah, ND. The gasification plant converts abundant lignite coal into clean-burning synthetic natural gas. It is the only commercial-scale plant of its kind that produces synthetic natural gas from coal in the world.

FERC must decide whether to approve certain negotiated settlement agreements between Dakota Gasification Company [DGC], owner of the synfuels plant, and three interstate pipeline companies which purchase the synthetic natural gas produced by the plant. Additionally, DGC reached an agreement with the Department of Energy [DOE] which is contingent on FERC approval of the agreements between DGC and the pipelines.

Late last month, an administrative law judge at FERC issued a decision which could have the impact of closing the project. The judge invalidated three of the four settlements between DGC and the pipelines. Ironically, the fourth was approved by FERC in January 1995—1 year ago.

Mr. President, I hope the FERC commissioners weigh very carefully the impact this judge's decision will have on the State of North Dakota, the DOE, and our national energy goals. Closing the synfuels plant would not

serve our national energy interests, and would create a serious setback in this country's search for energy independence.

The \$2 billion Great Plains Gasification Plant was constructed in the early 1980's after DOE guaranteed a \$1.5 billion loan for construction of the plant. The DOE loan was made pursuant to the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974. Great Plains is the only project operating today developed pursuant to the act. Additionally, Great Plains is the only project built as a result of the Government's attempts in the late 1970's and early 1980's to demonstrate our ability to achieve energy independence.

The synfuels plant was only made possible as a result of the issuance by FERC of its opinion 119 which approved the gas purchase agreements between Great Plains and the four pipeline purchasers. As approved by opinion 119, these gas purchase agreements provide for the sale of synthetic natural gas at prices established by a formula set out in the agreements. In issuing the \$1.5 billion loan guarantee, DOE relied on FERC's opinion 119 and the reasonable assumption FERC would stand behind its commitment.

Unfortunately, the original project sponsors abandoned the project after it was completed in 1985 in response to sudden changes in global energy prices. DOE assumed operation of the plant, and eventually secured ownership through foreclosure. In 1988, DOE sold the facility to DGC, a subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative in my State. DOE selected Basin over other bidders because of its commitment to the long-term operation of the project.

When Congress authorized DOE to sell the synfuels plant, Congress indicated to the Department that a commitment to the long-term operation of the plant was an important criteria in evaluating bids for the project. In fact, the conference report accompanying Public Law 100-202 states:

The managers agree that the Department of Energy should place higher priority on the continued long-term operation of the Great Plains Coal Gasification Plant as part of its divestiture activity. Continued long-term operation is needed to avoid disruptions to the local economy, capture the benefits associated with extended Plant operations and collect emission reduction technology data.

That sale also continued the Department's interest in the long-term operation of the plant by including a profit-sharing arrangement between DGC and DOE for the profits from the sale of synthetic natural gas. DGC and DOE reasonably assumed FERC would continue to stand behind opinion 119 when they negotiated the sale of the plant.

Following DGC's acquisition of the project, disputes arose regarding the pricing, output, and transportation provisions of the gas purchase agreements. As a result, DGC and DOE filed suit against the pipelines in 1990. Before the dispute went to trial, DOE,

DGC, and the pipelines reached settlement agreements in 1994 that are expressly subject to FERC approval. Again, it is worth mentioning that FERC has already approved one of the four settlement agreements.

The administrative law judge's decision disapproved the remaining settlements negotiated between DGC and three of the four pipelines, and ruled that the pricing formula in the gas purchase agreements—as approved by opinion 119—should no longer be honored. Additionally, the judge's decision put on hold the agreement reached between DGC and DOE, which is contingent on FERC approval of the agreements between DGC and the pipelines. Finally, the decision retroactively imposed a new pricing scheme and ordered refunds that would total approximately \$280 million.

If unchanged, this decision would close the Great Plains Gasification Plant. Mr. President, I believe that result would not serve our national energy interests.

I urge the FERC commissioners to give this matter their most careful consideration, and give great attention to Congress' public policy objective of continued long-term operation of the synfuels project.●

HONORING WALTER WIELOH AND HIS 40 YEARS OF TEACHING AT WEIRTON MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly devoted teacher, mentor, and friend to the youth in my State of West Virginia, Mr. Walter Wieloh.

It is heartening and inspiring, I believe, to learn about the career of Mr. Wieloh, a man who dedicated 40 years of his life to teaching. He has been a member of the faculty at Madonna Catholic High School in Weirton, WV, since 1955, teaching several generations of families in the area.

In December, he was honored at a special event at the high school, and I wanted to add my public congratulations to Mr. Wieloh. His career of service to students and his commitment to education for four decades can be an example to all of us.

Walter Wieloh started his teaching career when Madonna High School opened in 1955, and he has been both educator and friend to generations of high school students. To students, he has always been a presence of wisdom and of guidance, inside the classroom and out. The current principal of Madonna, Mr. Robert J. Gill, recalls fondly his days as a student, and later as a colleague, of Mr. Wieloh. He recognizes him as a force of inspiration to students and an example of professionalism to fellow teachers.

Mr. President, Walter Wieloh should be an inspiration to us as well. In his 40 years of educating the youth of Weirton, WV, he represents many hard-working teachers across the country

who have helped improve the lives and future of the students in their classrooms every year. Encouraging young people to learn, excel, and make the transition to adulthood is a challenge that every high school teacher faces, and Walter Wieloh has been a leader for Weirton Madonna High School. On behalf of every West Virginian, I commend Walter Wieloh. He definitely brings pride to his profession, and our State.●

IN SUPPORT OF CONCILIO CUBANO AND INDEPENDENT CUBAN JOURNALISTS

● Mr. MACK. Mr. President, late last year, a broad spectrum of Cuban opposition groups came together in an effort to form Concilio Cubano. Concilio Cubano, or Cuban Council, is a group that seeks to unite an unprecedented number of human rights, professional, political, and other organizations behind a common platform that includes amnesty for political prisoners, free and multiparty elections, and human rights.

The Castro regime's response has been sickeningly familiar. Members of Concilio Cubano have been subjected to lengthy interrogations, violent harassment, and a disinformation campaign.

The Miami Herald in a recent editorial likened Concilio Cubano to Charter 77, the Czech group that bravely opposed the Czech Communist dictatorship. Referring to former dissident, now President, Vaclav Havel, one of the leaders of the group told the Herald, "We have more Havels than they had."

Concilio Cubano plans to meet in late February. In Cuba, that's no simple matter. In the weeks leading up to this meeting, supporters of freedom, democracy, and human rights in Cuba must watch closely and speak out against any continued attempts to intimidate these democratic activists.

Also recently, the Cuban regime has stepped up persecution of journalists affiliated with independent news organizations. The campaign of harassment has included detentions and interrogations.

To my knowledge, the Clinton administration has been silent on the recent harassment of Concilio Cubano's members and independent journalists. The U.S. press has been fairly silent as well. I urge the administration to denounce these violations of the right of free expression and free association and strongly align itself with the supporters of democracy and freedom in Cuba. And I call upon the American press to report on the persecution of their fellow journalists and on Cuba's newest, broadest coalition of democratic activists.

Cuba's people have been subjected to virtually every form of subjugation. Their mildest form of opposition is met with repression. The United States and the American people are their closest friends. I call upon my colleagues in

the Congress, and my fellow citizens to support the Cuban peoples efforts to exercise their inherent rights of free speech and association. The Cuban people have been resisting the Castro dictatorship for over 30 years. For as long as it takes, we must stand alongside them and let them know we support their struggle.●

TRIBUTE TO CYPRESS GARDENS DIAMOND JUBILEE DAY

● Mr. GRAHAM. As we arrived at the Capitol today, we noticed the remaining ice and snow from the blizzard earlier this month.

My thoughts traveled to sunny Florida, America's top tourist destination. Our State is blessed with clean waters, exquisite beaches, subtropical climate, and some of the most beautiful freshwater lakes in the world.

Mr. President, some six decades ago, a visionary named Dick Pope, Sr. looked out upon the blessed beauty of central Florida and created what became Cypress Gardens.

This world renowned attraction, Cypress Gardens, celebrates its diamond jubilee on February 1, 1996. The millions who have visited Cypress Gardens or seen its glory on film join in a national salute to this 60-year milestone.

In the six decades since the founding of Cypress Gardens, the attractions industry in Florida has flourished. Through decades of growth and change, Cypress Gardens retains a special place in Florida's tourism legacy.

These gardens reflect the natural wonderment of Florida, the ingenuity of Dick Pope and the never-ending appeal of quality family entertainment.●

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, as a member of the National Advisory Board of a special outreach program called Christmas in April, I am extremely proud to speak to you today about a tremendously generous group of people who deliver Christmas spirit to low-income families during the spring.

With the support of honorary chairs, NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, his wife Chan, along with Arizona first lady Ann Symington, Christmas in April, the Nation's largest volunteer home rehabilitation initiative, kicks off its 1996 campaign by rebuilding the homes of two families in Phoenix's Hermosa neighborhood during Super Bowl weekend.

The focus of this charity is rebuilding and repairing the homes of low-income, elderly, and disabled Americans to help provide warmth, safety, and independence to families in need.

Many needy homeowners will receive this assistance in April 1996, when an army of about 140,000 caring volunteers will arrive on the doorsteps of about 4,200 homeowners in 430 cities and towns across the country.

Thanks to the hard work of these volunteers, Christmas in April has expanded to 160 local affiliates in 44