

Sunday, August 10. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all members to join me in wishing this charming community of wonderful people a happy 200th birthday, with many best wishes as it approaches its third century.

SOUTHCOAST RADIO COMES TO WASHINGTON

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to declare how proud I am to have taken part today in a truly unique radio experience. Southeastern New England residents got a step closer to their Nation's Capital today thanks to a very special radio broadcast, live from my Washington office. WSAR-SouthCoast (1480 AM) brought a beehive of politics to the ears of a great many of my constituents back home, and I want to sincerely thank the station for demonstrating their commitment to keeping our community informed about important issues before our national legislature.

Modern technology and a couple of very resourceful radio personalities linked SouthCoast Radio to a long list of special guests. I want to thank Rick Edwards and Richard Trieff for making today an interesting and captivating experience for thousands of SouthCoast residents with their probing interviews of national journalists, Federal lawmakers, and administration officials.

I also want to thank all those who stopped by 512 Cannon this afternoon to share their views and to take callers' questions and comments. Rick and Richard tapped into the insider perspectives of top-notch political journalists like Chris Black of the Boston Globe, Jonathan Salant of the Associated Press, and Ellen Ratner of Talk Radio News Service. The radio team peppered with questions national legislators such as Representative BOB RILEY of Alabama, Senator JACK REED of Rhode Island, Representative JOHN TIERNEY, and Senator JOHN KERRY of Massachusetts, and SouthCoast Representatives BARNEY FRANK and myself.

Rick and Richard got a Clinton administration perspective on local Massachusetts issues by chatting with Maria Echaveste, Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Public Liaison. And the talk radio duo got Fall River Mayor Ed Lambert and National Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids President Bob Novelli to discuss the remarkable efforts of the Greater Fall River Fresh Air Kids. It was certainly a lively day of political discussions for SouthCoast residents.

I commend Rick Edwards and Richard Trieff, and the entire crew at WSAR, for a day well spent on Capitol Hill. I want to thank Rick and Richard for making the trip down to our Nation's Capital, for putting together a first-rate docket of radio personalities, and for making it possible for SouthCoast residents to talk one-on-one with a number of Washington's movers and shakers. Phone lines were kept open throughout the 6-hour show, and a good number of southeastern Massachusetts and eastern Rhode Island listeners got to grill the men and women who write their laws, administer their programs, and produce their news.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation needs more civic journalism. WSAR's program today clearly il-

lustrates how electronic journalism can grant special access to ordinary citizens, and how talk radio can connect people who are hundreds of miles apart. A functioning democracy depends upon the people's ability to express their ideas, questions, and concerns to those who represent them. Thanks to modern technology—and because of the efforts of committed civic journalists like Rick Edwards and Richard Trieff—we can continue to strengthen our democracy while keeping our local community informed.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, H.R. 2160:

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by Messrs. SCHUMER and MILLER.

Mr. Chairman, while I understand and appreciate the proponent's interests in pursuing this amendment, I believe their concerns are misplaced and their proposed remedy misguided. I have worked closely with my friend and colleague from New York, Mr. SCHUMER, on a number of important issues over the years, and I do not question his motives; however, I regret that we are once again at odds over this emotional agricultural matter.

Mr. Chairman, only last year, the Congress enacted major, far-reaching agricultural reform legislation. In that measure, we dramatically changed our Nation's long-standing policies affecting farming and agricultural markets, including sugar production—which, I believe, is the only program crop to lose the Government guarantee of a minimum price. I supported these efforts to reform and modernize the sugar price support program and believe these changes have benefitted all segments of the industry. These reforms represented an important first step.

However, we simply have not allowed enough time to pass to ensure we achieved our goals in revising the sugar program and determine whether these changes were sufficient. I would also remind my colleagues that this House defeated a similar amendment during the farm bill debate.

Mr. Chairman, for this reason alone, I believe it is unfair and unwise to make such a drastic change in the U.S. sugar program as proposed in the amendment at this time.

We will hear today that this is an issue of fairness and the free-market system; consumers will be pitted against farmers, producers against refiners and manufacturers. I believe these arguments are overly simplistic, picking and choosing statistics which best represent the proponents' arguments, and the distinctions they promote do an injustice to the sugar producers of our great Nation, be they farmers of sugarcane, sugarbeet, or corn.

Mr. Chairman, I do not deny that there are some very real differences between the pro-

ponents and opponents on the issue before us, and I doubt any amount of debate is likely to change the position of the amendment's authors. However, I have learned over my years in Congress, and as a New York City councilman, that no issue is one-sided, nor is there often only one all-inclusive right answer to a problem. Reasonable people can, and often do, disagree.

I believe the issue before us here today falls into that category. We differ on what the impacts of a particular program may or may not be, and how best to address these issues. But, I do not believe either side has a claim to the so-called high ground.

And, with all due respect to the amendment's proponents, I do not take a back seat to their concern for the American consumer. I represent a congressional district, a part of New York City, where the 1990 median family income was only around \$30,000 a year. In the areas of Queens and the Bronx which I have the pleasure to represent, the cost of living is a very real issue with everyday impacts on the hard-working families of the 9th Congressional District of New York.

The proponents argue that their's is the only way to protect the consumer, to potentially lower the cost of sugar and products containing agricultural sweeteners by a few cents or, more likely, fractions of a cent. This is all well and good, if they can ensure the savings they propose will indeed be passed along to the American consumer. A prospect which they can not guarantee.

But, cost aside, the proponents can also not be sure their amendment, if approved, would not seriously disrupt the supply and availability of sugar throughout our country.

Mr. Chairman, my constituents do not benefit if they have the potential of saving a penny or two on a product but can no longer obtain that commodity or the product is no longer available in a sufficient and steady supply to meet their needs.

I have often commented in meetings I have had over the years that I am unaware of any farms in my urban district, except for one lone victory garden started during World War II. But, I am sure of one thing, and that is that each and every one of my constituents eats and needs a secure, steady supply of produce and food products at a reasonable price. As such, I will continue to support those programs which I believe ensure just that, and oppose those measures which I believe will not.

I will note here, also, that New York State does play a role in domestic sugar production, with numerous farms that grow corn which is utilized in sweetener production.

Mr. Chairman, my strong, historic support of agriculture programs, including sugar, and the associated refining and processing infrastructure, is based upon this—perhaps simplistic—premise: That the United States must continue to ensure all its people are provided the best, most secure, and stable source of food products possible. And, I believe this goal is best accomplished by reducing our dependence on foreign sources of agriculture products through the encouragement and promotion of a strong domestic agriculture system, and challenging unfair, anti-competitive foreign sources of food.

While we are usually on the same side of most food related issues, from time to time, I part paths with this Nation's food processors. As is the case here, I side with the producers

and not the refiners and processors. I do not fault them for their support of this amendment and the desired changes they seek in the sugar program, and I know we will work together on future issues of mutual concern.

I believe the virtual elimination of this program as now proposed would place the U.S. sugar industry as a whole, and the American consumer in particular, at the mercy of the inconsistent and heavily subsidized world sugar market.

Unlike my colleagues who support the amendment, I simply do not believe the American consumer is likely to realize a significant, if any, benefit should the amendment prevail. But, I am concerned that the domestic producers of sugar could suffer from reduced prices and would be made particularly vulnerable to foreign sources of sugar.

While refiners may pass along their savings, I seriously doubt many processors are likely to reciprocate. While the cumulative amounts being bandied about today are significant, and represent real money regardless of one's social standing, the bottom-line is that we are talking about pennies or fractions of pennies on a commodity basis.

Quite frankly, I do not even know how one would calculate the savings that say a manufacturer should pass along for their finished product that now may cost them a fraction of a cent less to produce. Are we likely to see cans of soda from a machine selling for 59 cents instead of 60 cents?

At this point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to some very basic statistics which I believe make clear the short-sightedness of the amendment.

The current sugar program operates at no cost to the Federal Government, and a special marketing tax on sugar farmers is earmarked for deficit reduction;

U.S. consumers pay an average of 25–28 cents less for sugar than do shoppers in other developed countries;

From 1990 to 1995, the retail price of sugar actually decreased approximately 7 percent;

U.S. retail sugar prices are approximately 32 percent below the average of other developed countries and the third lowest in the developed world;

New York consumers pay 5 percent less for sugar than the average consumer worldwide;

Close to a billion dollars are generated each year by the U.S. sugar industry in the State of New York alone; and, finally,

More than 5,690 jobs in New York State rely on the sugar industry.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and cast a vote in favor of a strong, fair and balanced domestic sugar program and product to the American farmer.

A BILL TO AMEND THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, today, as the sole representative of the 3.8 million disenfranchised U.S. citizens living in Puerto Rico, I am introducing a bill to amend section 301(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act that would allow the Puerto Rico

Aqueduct and Sewer Authority [PRASA] to apply for a waiver from certain wastewater treatment requirements affecting its Mayaguez facility.

Under existing law the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] is not allowed to accept new applications for waivers from secondary treatment requirements. The proposal does not alter the rigorous criteria for issuing a waiver nor does it override the judgment of EPA. Our proposal reflects the goal of both Congress and the administration to find innovative, alternative and less-costly ways to apply existing statutes without compromising the environmental objectives underlying existing law.

Many scientists and experts agree that plans to construct deep ocean outfalls at locations can provide the best environmental and economic alternative for wastewater treatment. The plans would not only preserve but would even improve the coastal environments where these discharges occur.

PRASA proposes the construction of a deep ocean outfall that would release primary treated wastewater miles from shore at a depth and location that will have no adverse impact on human and marine life.

This alternative would improve the coral environment where the current outfall discharges and would also save the Government of Puerto Rico about \$65 million over 20 years that can be spent to address other water supply and infrastructure problems affecting the island.

EPA and the Department of Justice have agreed to enter into a consent order with PRASA that provides for deep water ocean outfall alternative to a secondary treatment plant. However, this alternative cannot even be considered without this legislation; and under the terms of the consent order, this alternative can only be considered if this legislation is enacted by August 1, 1998.

PRASA is currently conducting an Environmental Impact Statement review to assess relative benefits of the two treatment alternatives. This EIS will be completed before August 1, 1998 and will help EPA determine which alternative is preferable. If this legislation is enacted, EPA will have this choice; if it is not enacted, there will be no choice, regardless of the environmental or economic consequences. This is what this proposal will accomplish. It is a sound approach to environmental regulations.

It is imperative to stress the fact that this is only a limited and technical amendment that allows PRASA to refile under section 301(h). PRASA would be required by EPA to meet the same stringent legal and scientific tests, conduct the same environmental studies and implement the same monitoring program applicable to existing recipients of section 301(h) waivers. This amendment would not assure that a waiver would be granted; that decision would remain entirely within EPA's discretion.

EPA will be the ultimate decisionmaker, and will determine if PRASA's proposed alternative is feasible and environmentally beneficial. If after the review, that alternative is acceptable, then PRASA will immediately begin construction on the facility, with discharge location approved by the EPA. If EPA finds the alternative unacceptable, then PRASA will proceed with construction of the secondary treatment plant.

Puerto Rico is not asking for preferential treatment. Rather, we are only requesting that

EPA balance the cost of constructing a secondary treatment facility against the environmental, economic, and social benefits of constructing an outfall at a deep water location.

There are precedents for such limited amendment to section 301(h), recently for San Diego during the 105th Congress. In the instance of San Diego, legislation was enacted to permit EPA to consider a section 301(h) waiver application proposing a similar alternative to secondary treatment. I believe we deserve the same opportunity to implement alternatives and seek a section 301(h) waiver.

My environmental record speaks for itself. I would not support any measure that I believe compromises our resources or the environment of the island. I urge my colleagues to consider this proposal and its commonsense approach. The proposal is limited and targeted, provides for an efficient process, does not modify existing standards and would be implemented by EPA only if environmental and economic objectives are accomplished. I am hopeful that it will receive favorable congressional action at an early date.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, last week I missed a series of postponed votes because my pager did not function. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Rollcall No. 270, "no" on Rollcall No. 271, "no" on Rollcall No. 272, and "no" on Rollcall No. 273.

A TRIBUTE TO LEWIS H. VAN DUSEN, JR.

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to tell you that Lewis Harlow Van Dusen, Jr., of Pennsylvania is this year's winner of the American Bar Association's Michael Franck Professional Responsibility Award. This important award is given annually by the American Bar Association to a lawyer for outstanding contribution to the field of professional responsibility. The award is to be formally presented to Mr. Van Dusen by N. Lee Cooper, the president of the ABA, on Friday, August 1 in San Francisco, CA, in connection with the American Bar Association's annual meeting.

Mr. Van Dusen received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and his bachelor of civil law from Oxford University in England. He served with distinction on the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility longer than any lawyer in the history of the ABA except his own partner, Henry S. Drinker—from 1953 to 1956 and then again from 1962 to 1974, chairing the committee for the last 3 years. During his tenure the ABA adopted the model code of professional responsibility which is still the current ethics code in a dozen jurisdictions. The committee, under Van