

in the last 20 years either as an engineer, project manager or supervising chief engineer.

Vern is a product of Los Angeles City Schools in San Pedro: Leland Street Elementary, Dana Junior High and San Pedro High School. Since graduating from UCLA in 1958, Vern has performed professional services for the California Division of Highways as a Highway Engineer, the United States Navy as an Engineering Officer, and, since 1970, the Port of Los Angeles.

Vern has dedicated much of his professional life to the Port of Los Angeles and the San Pedro community. I am proud to join his friends, family and colleagues in extending my sincere admiration and appreciation to Vernon E. Hall.

Congratulations Vern.

H.R. 2840 THE REGULATORY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT OF 1997

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 2840, the Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997. The Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997 provides an important tool to understand the magnitude and impact of Federal regulatory programs on our economy. Recently, the President and Congress devoted a great deal of time and effort in preparing and debating the first balanced budget for the Federal Government in 28 years. This budget determines how much money the American people's Government will collect and where it will spend these funds. The budget for fiscal year 1997 is approximately \$1.6 trillion.

However, the Federal budget fails to take into account the full impact of Federal programs on our economy. The Federal Government also imposes tremendous costs on the private sector, State and local governments and, ultimately, the public through ever-increasing Federal regulations. Some recent estimates place the compliance costs from Federal regulatory programs at over \$680 billion annually and project substantial growth even without new legislation. These costs are often hidden in increased prices for goods and services, loss of international competitiveness in the global economy, lack of investment in private sector job growth, and pressure on the ability of State and local governments to fund essential services, such as crime prevention and education.

The benefits of Federal programs are no doubt substantial. Lack of accountability and regulatory reform, however, has left many Federal programs inefficient or marginally productive. Unlike the private sector, where freedom of contract and free market competition drive price and quality, Federal programs are only accountable through the political process. Moreover, historically, both Congress and the executive branch have driven growth in Federal regulatory programs, creating layer upon layer of bureaucracy at great cost and with diminishing returns for the American people. If Congress and the executive branch do not take concrete steps to reform these programs, the United States will surely decline in the world economy. Consequently, the quality of life for our children will also decline.

The Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997 is an important management tool to evaluate the cumulative impacts of regulatory programs through an accounting of national expenditures and statements of corresponding benefits for each regulatory program. The cumulative impact of regulatory costs must be debated at the same level that taxing and spending are debated; after all, they are all derived from the same two sources—the private sector and the American people. Rule-by-rule evaluations are insufficient to capture cumulative impacts or manage national expenditures. Moreover, a national debate that focuses solely on the \$1.6 trillion Federal budget without accounting for the additional \$680 billion in annual regulatory costs is an incomplete and un-informed debate that leads to poor national policy and mismanagement of resources.

What is needed is an accounting tool that allows the Federal Government to fully understand the cumulative impact of Federal programs. The Regulatory Right-to-Know Act would provide such a tool. The bill requires the President to provide an accounting statement every 2 years respecting the costs of regulation to the private sector and State and local governments, and Federal Government costs by program or program element. The President would also provide quantitative or qualitative statements of corresponding benefits. Such an accounting offers the opportunity for comprehensive analyses of impacts on our economy through an associated report. The bill also provides for input from the public and opportunities to identify areas for regulatory reform.

Citizens for a Sound Economy and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce agree that the American taxpayers and business have the right-to-know the costs and benefits of Federal regulations, and, therefore, have endorsed the Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997. I would like to submit letters of endorsement for the Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997 from Citizens for a Sound Economy and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce into the RECORD.

The legislation changes no regulatory standard or program. It will, however, provide vital information to Congress and the executive branch so they may fulfill their obligation to ensure wise expenditure of limited national economic resources in all regulatory programs.

The letters follow:

NOVEMBER 4, 1997.

Hon. THOMAS J. BLILEY,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, U.S. House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BLILEY: On behalf of Citizens for a Sound Economy (CSE), a 250,000-member consumer advocacy and research organization, I would like to express my strong support for the "Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997." This legislation would help establish a more effective approach toward regulation through increased public accountability and much-needed public dialogue concerning the costs and benefits of regulation. Americans currently face an estimated regulatory burden of \$680 billion annually. Increased accountability and a better understanding of the regulatory process would improve Federal regulations by providing Congress, the administration, and Federal agencies the necessary information to more carefully assess regulations.

CSE will work to ensure that regulatory process became law. The Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997 is an important step toward a more reasonable regulatory process.

By providing the public and the government more consistent information about the costs and benefits of regulations, the Regulatory Right-to-Know Act will allow regulatory agencies to make more informed decisions while avoiding excessive or unnecessary burdens on consumers.

Sincerely,

MATT KIBBE,
Vice President
for Public Policy.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
November 3, 1997.

HON. TOM BLILEY,
Chairman, House Committee on Commerce, U.S.
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce supports your proposed legislation to make permanent the regulatory accounting statement of the cumulative costs and benefits of federal regulatory programs.

A proliferation of federal regulations has occurred in recent years. Estimates now place the total cost of federal regulations on American taxpayers and the regulated community in excess of \$700 billion annually. These costs are particularly onerous for small businesses that simply do not have the resources to comply with the increasing number of demands imposed upon them. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, the proportionate cost of regulatory compliance for small business is almost three times that for large companies.

American taxpayers and businesses deserve to know the total costs and benefits of federal regulations. Adoption of your legislation would inject greater accountability into the regulatory process and facilitate better evaluation of regulatory programs. It would also help in allocating limited resources where the needs are the greatest. Requiring an annual regulatory accounting statement has strong bipartisan congressional support. It is time that it was made permanent.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce—the world's largest business federation with an underlying membership of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, section and region—applauds your efforts and urges expeditious adoption of this common sense, good government proposal.

Sincerely,

R. Bruce Josten.

POLITICAL FREEDOM IN CHINA ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2358, the Political Freedom in China Act of 1997. This legislation puts the U.S. Congress firmly on record as supporting the spread of democracy throughout the world.

This bill contains language authored by Representative LINDA SMITH which expresses the sense of Congress that the Chinese Government should be condemned for its practice of executing prisoners and selling their organs for transplants. As a cosponsor of Representative SMITH's House Concurrent Resolution 180, I am glad this language was included in this bill. Any Chinese official directly involved in these executions and operations should be barred from entering the United States. The

language also urges American law enforcement officials to prosecute those who are illegally marketing and selling these organs in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, as a physician I am outraged that people have reportedly paid as much as \$30,000 for the kidneys of executed prisoners at People's Liberation Army medical facilities. Chinese prisoners are being killed for profit and this outrage must stop.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MT. ZION
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Hammond, IN, as it prepares to celebrate its 78th anniversary on Sunday, November 16, 1997. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend Rev. Doctor A.R. Burns and the members of 78th Anniversary Committee, Yvonne Alexander, Shirley Sheppard, Ruby Peppers, Paul Lewis, Leo Harwell, and Jennifer Collins, for the hard work they have put forth in organizing this special event. The anniversary festivities will begin with a church service at 4 p.m., and will feature an exciting program of guest speakers.

A church of very modest beginnings, Mt. Zion was founded in 1919 by a group of Christian believers who desired to establish Hammond's first African-American Baptist Church. The African-American population in Hammond was small at that time, however, and the few people who began the church had meager resources. Therefore, a small, rented storefront building became the first home of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church. The parishioners worshiped at this humble location for several months under the leadership of Reverend Phelps of Gary, IN.

As its parishioners experienced financial difficulties brought about by a lack of job opportunity in Hammond, Mt. Zion struggled to support a minister and find an adequate place of worship. As a result, the church was moved to several locations and was led by a variety of pastors. However, in spite of the trials they faced, the small group of parishioners continued to grow and prosper. Within a year of its founding, Mt. Zion had already established a senior choir and became officially organized by Reverend Jackson of Indianapolis, IN. In 1921, Rev. William Davis, of Morgan Park, IL, became pastor of Mt. Zion, and he brought with him a vision of a larger, revitalized parish. Although Reverend Davis passed away in October of 1945, he donated the first \$25 toward a \$4,000 building fund, and, thus, laid the groundwork for the young minister, Rev. A.R. Burns, to fulfill his dream.

Reverend Burns, who began his pastorship at Mt. Zion in December of 1945, led the parish in purchasing lots for a new church at 1027 Kenwood Street. In 1949, the parish moved from the basement structure they had been occupying for several years to the new Mt. Zion church, which then became known as "The Friendly Place of Worship." In addition to fulfilling Reverend Davis' dream, Reverend

Burns followed his own dream of establishing a quality housing facility for the elderly. This dream became a reality in 1983, as a beautiful \$6 million, seven-story, 128-unit building was completed at 940 Kenwood Street. The first tenants moved into the Mt. Zion Pleasant View Plaza in June 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church parishioners as they prepare to celebrate the 78th anniversary of their parish. The many obstacles the Mt. Zion congregation has overcome to successfully guide and serve others in its community is truly inspirational.

TRIBUTE TO J.M. "SAGE" REAGOR
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Ohio. J.M. "Sage" Reagor will retire on November 12, 1997.

I have known Sage Reagor for longer than either one of us wants to admit. He is a man of integrity and or honor. His quick wit and eternal optimism are his hallmarks.

Sage Reagor served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1942-43 and again from 1950-52. He graduated summa cum laude from Texas Christian University in 1955 with a bachelor of arts degree. He received a masters in Business Administration from Georgia State University in 1968.

He began his professional career with the Humble Oil and Refining Co. as a draftsman in 1948. From 1953 to 1969, Sage Reagor held various positions with the Sinclair Pipeline Co., Sinclair Oil & Gas, the Sinclair Refining Co. and Sinclair Oil Corp.

After a 2-year stint with B.P. Inc., Sage Reagor moved to Standard Oil of Ohio. While at Standard Oil, Sage established and managed the company's first State government affairs department. For the next 14 years, his department grew from a one-man operation to over 30 professionals in four departments.

Sage Reagor tried retirement once before. In 1985 he retired from Standard Oil, only to return to the work force when he affiliated with Governmental Policy Group, Inc. of Columbus, Ohio. Given Sage's track record, I am confident that in his second go at retirement, he will be as active as ever.

Mr. Speaker, J.M. "Sage" Reagor is a gentleman who embodies all that corporate America can and should be. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he enters his second retirement. Maybe he will finally get it right this time.

CLARIFYING U.S. POLICY
TOWARDS JERUSALEM, H.R. 2832

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Speaker GINGRICH, I introduced legislation

clarifying United States policy with respect to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. H.R. 2832 is a compendium of four important provisions that flow from Public Law 104-45, the Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Act. That legislation became law 2 years ago this week. Many of us attended the Rotunda ceremony that celebrated the passage of that landmark legislation, and which, regrettably, was the last time most of us saw Israeli Prime Minister Yitzbak Rabin before he was gunned down by an assassin. The law makes a statement of policy that "Jerusalem should remain an undivided city . . . recognized as the capital of . . . Israel; and the U.S. Embassy . . . should be established in Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999."

In furtherance of those requirements, this bill has four basic provisions: first, it would authorize \$25 million in fiscal year 1998 and \$75 million in fiscal year 1999 for the construction of an embassy in Jerusalem. For those who may be unaware, in January 1989, the United States signed a 99-year lease with the Government of Israel at \$1 per year for a 14 acre site in southwest Jerusalem. With the negotiations actively discussing going to final status talks, parallel activity needs to keep pace with these developments to ensure that a U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem is not going to be an afterthought.

Second, no funds appropriated by the act may be expended for the operation of the Consulate General or other diplomatic facilities in Jerusalem unless it comes under the supervision of the United States Ambassador to Israel. This provision is a follow-on measure to previous congressional achievements that list the United States consulate in Jerusalem under the "Israel" heading in the United States Government booklet listing embassies, consulates, and their personnel.

Third, that no funds appropriated by the act may be used for the publication of official Government documents that list countries and their capital cities unless the publication identifies Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This provision is necessary to for the implementation of Public Law 104-45, and to ensure consistency of U.S. policies.

Fourth, this bill requires that for those born in Jerusalem seeking a United States passport or other official document listing their birth, the place of birth shall be listed, upon request, as Jerusalem, Israel. Today, on passports of citizens born in the United States, the city of one's birth is listed. For those citizens who are naturalized the country of birth is listed. If you are an Israeli, born in Tel Aviv, your passport says Israel. But if you are an Israeli born in Jerusalem your United States passport says Jerusalem, not Israel. The option for individuals born in Jerusalem to have the place of birth in their passports listed as Jerusalem, Israel should be made available. It is a simple case of fairness, and of righting a wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend your ongoing leadership on this most important of issues. The congressional certification of Jerusalem as Israel's capital must continue to be one of our highest priorities. According, I urge our colleagues to co-sponsor this measure at their earliest possible opportunity.

H.R. 2832

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,