

TRIBUTE TO 1997 EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the recipients of the 1997 Excellence in Business Awards. Sponsored by a distinguished newspaper in the Central Valley of California, the Fresno Bee, the awards are designed to honor businesses and one individual from the community who have demonstrated high ethical standards, corporate success and growth, employee and customer service, and concern for the environment. The recipients will be honored at a luncheon given in their honor on Thursday, May 8, 1997, in Fresno, CA.

Dozens of nominations were submitted and the following were selected to represent the breadth of businesses throughout the Valley:

INTERNATIONAL AGRI-CENTER (TULARE) AGRICULTURE

Although the center is staffed by just 10 employees, a volunteer staff of more than 600 people make up the strength of this business. Through the assistance of all, the International Agri-Center produces the annual California Farm Equipment Show, the greatest international event of its kind.

FRESNO RESCUE MISSION/CRAYCROFT YOUTH CENTER (FRESNO) CHARITABLE

The only organization of its kind, the Fresno Rescue Mission/Craycroft Youth Center represents the sole Fresno County receiving home for abused and neglected children. Services offered through the center include counseling, education services, and health exams. The most unique feature of the center is that it allows for siblings to remain together at one location, thereby keeping families intact.

BUCKMAN-MITCHELL INSURANCE (VISALIA) FINANCE

Working on its 81st year in business, Buckman-Mitchell Insurance has more than 60 employees and clients throughout the world. The company is known well throughout the Central Valley for its high ethical standards and community involvement. Such an example of the level of dedication that exists within the company is evidenced by the fact that the company donates as much as \$100,000 a year to the Visalia community.

ST. AGNES MEDICAL CENTER (FRESNO) HEALTH CARE

St. Agnes, the fourth largest employer in Fresno County, opened its doors in 1929. Since then, the staff at St. Agnes has made continuous strides in the health care field. Between 1993 and 1996, outpatient volumes at the medical center increased by more than 76,400. The medical center is also helping to find positions outside of the hospital, as they assist in funding a case worker for Fresno Unified School District's teen parenting program, Future Positive.

GRUNDFOS PUMPS CORPORATION (CLOVIS) MANUFACTURING

An example of a home-based operation, Grundfos Pumps, was first established in the cellar of Paul Due Jensen's home in Denmark in 1945. Since then the company has expanded and opened its operation for U.S. manufacturing in Clovis in 1974. The compa-

ny's continuous commitment to excellence and education has continued to grow over the years. Since 1987, Grundfos has been a business partner with Clovis Unified School Districts and continues to place great importance on employee training and training.

FRESNO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (FRESNO) NON-PROFIT

The Chafee Zoological Gardens at Roeding Park was incorporated in 1949. Visited by more than 400,000 people the society grossed more than 1.78 million in 1995 from combined fundraising activities. The Society remains a source of attraction to the Fresno area due to an outstanding membership organization. Growing from 2,500 in 1988 to 6,400 in 1997, the society recently recognized Director David W. Kyle as Outstanding Fund-raising Executive of the Year by the National Society of Fundraising Executives.

BAKER, MANOCK & JENSEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW (FRESNO)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

As one of the oldest and most-established law firms in the Valley, Baker, Manock & Jensen employs 47 lawyers, 10 paralegals, and more than 50 other staff members in support positions. The firm is recognized as a member of commercial law affiliates, an association of A-rated firms throughout the world. In addition to a heavy and extremely active work load, members of the firm devote numerous personal hours to assist with more than 20 nonprofit organizations throughout the community.

LA TAPATIA TORTILLERIA, INC. (FRESNO) RETAIL/WHOLESALE

La Tapatia is a homegrown business built from the ground up. Helen Chavez-Hansen first purchased the business in 1969 for \$1,900. Since then, La Tapatia has grown from 6 employees and one tortilla oven to a staff of over 155. La Tapatia's 40,000-square-foot plant can produce 5,500 dozen tortillas per hour. The intense quality control program of the plant assures that an individual is receiving the best commercial product available.

FORTIER TRANSPORTATION (FRESNO) SMALL BUSINESS

In 1911, Fortier Stage Lines was founded and provided passenger service to its customers. In 1991, the business went back to its original function as a regulated interstate motor freight carrier. Kathy Fortier, the owner of Fortier Transportation, began with one part-time driver in 1992. Today, the business employs office staff, shop personnel, and five company drivers.

HALL OF FAME AWARD CLAUDE LAVALL III

As President of Lavall-Separator Corp., Claude Lavall III's high standards and work ethic have become the hallmarks of his business. Lavall has been actively involved in the expansion of his business, recently growing into Mexico. As a businessman in the international marketplace, Lavall Corp. believes that sales and service personnel are responsible for advancing the standards that have made this business so successful. From the business to the education and community sector, Claude Lavall III is currently in partnership with Erickson School, a companywide effort.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the 1997 Excellence in Business Awards highlights the top representatives in numerous fields throughout the Valley. I commend these businesses for their successes, as well as the men and women who own them, for they believe—and

have proven—that hard work is the foundation for individual and community-oriented successes. I ask my colleagues to join me today to salute all of the recipients of this award. They embody the highest ethical standards and concern both for themselves and their community.

WIC SAVES MONEY

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, the Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children is one of the most cost-effective investments we make. It is exactly what is needed from to serve human needs and to be fiscally responsible.

WIC prevents problems from occurring in the future. We now know that early childhood cognitive development is crucial for that child's long-term growth and ability to learn.

Every dollar spent on WIC saves \$3 in health care costs. Further, WIC is not a feeding program, it is a health program. It ensures that pregnant mothers will receive some attention to their health.

The reduction in WIC in this supplemental appropriation means that, for the first time, we will be dropping participants from the rolls rather than adding them. We must care about kids not only from conception to birth but as they grow and develop as well. Adequate funding of WIC is an excellent way to start.

OPPOSITION TO CHANGES IN FEDERAL PROCUREMENT POLICY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and to the readers of the RECORD a letter that was sent to me by one of my constituents, Bob Affel. Bob is the president of Sun Electric Co. in Knoxville, TN.

As many of you may know, President Clinton recently created a huge controversy when he announced that his administration would be changing the Federal procurement policy. The proposed changes could be used to unfairly discriminate against businesses that operate without a union. In addition, the changes could cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

Bob is uniquely aware, from a businessman's perspective, of exactly how the current regulations work. Since he has read through and tried to comply with these illogical bureaucratic requirements, his letter gives an excellent discussion of the issues surrounding President Clinton's latest proposal.

In addition to Bob's comments, I would personally add that I have seen estimates that the proposed policy would end up raising the cost of Federal Government construction spending by \$4.8 billion annually or reduce the amount of construction by 30 percent. With our Nation more than \$5.5 trillion in debt, we should not be encouraging this sort of wasteful spending.

I request that a copy of the attached letter be placed in the RECORD at this point. I hope that my colleagues will join me and Bob Affel in opposing President Clinton's unfair proposal.

SUN ELECTRIC CO.,
Knoxville, TN, April 21, 1997.
Representative JOHN DUNCAN,
Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DUNCAN: We oppose the President's project labor agreement executive order. Listed below are some of our reasons.

HOW PUBLIC PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS HURT OPEN SHOP CONTRACTORS

Public project labor agreements exclude open shop contractors from the competition for public work. Labor unions often note that open shop contractors can also sign and work under such agreements but in doing so, the unions conveniently disregard the way the agreements actually work.

The problem is rarely the wage rates or fringe benefits that the agreements mandate. The Davis-Bacon Act or one of its many counterparts already require open shop and all other contractors to pay prevailing wages and benefits to those working on most public projects. The problem is that the agreements permit open shop firms to use few if any of their current employees. The also require open shop firms to organize their work around the rigid lines that define each union's jurisdiction. Public project labor agreements can require open shop firms to use three or more employees to perform a task that a one multicraft worker would otherwise perform. Open shop contractors can work under public project labor agreements but not without greatly increasing their cost of performing the work.

Thus, it is true but irrelevant that open shop firms are free to work under such agreements. What matters is that the agreements require open shop contractors to fundamentally change the way they do business that such firms cannot effectively compete.

HOW PUBLIC PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS HURT UNION CONTRACTORS

As a threshold matter, a public project labor agreement may well increase even a union contractor's cost of constructing a public facility. Such contractors may find that they have to employ the members of new and different unions. Many such contractors have agreement with only two or three unions, while public project labor agreements can involve as many as seventeen.

More importantly, public project labor agreements disrupt local bargaining for area-wide agreements. They may require wage rates or fringe benefits that exceed the prevailing ones. They often establish new work rules or reinstate old work rules or set other costly or otherwise damaging precedents. Because they typically prohibit lockouts, such agreements may also encourage unions to strike other projects in the area. They certainly undermine the direct face-to-face negotiations that lie at the heart of collective bargaining, as both unions and contractors turn to owners for the concessions that they cannot get from each other.

In sum, public project labor agreements substitute government bureaucrats for the industry's own negotiators. Whatever their intentions, such bureaucrats lack the experience to advance the construction industry's interests. They are schooled in neither construction nor labor-management relations.

QUALITY AND FREEDOM

To the great extent that they limit the competition for public work, or otherwise in-

crease the cost of improving our schools, hospitals, bridges and other public infrastructures, public project labor agreements threaten everyone's quality of life. They also threaten individual rights and freedoms. They typically include "union security" clauses that effectively mandate union membership denying construction workers the right to decide whether to join or otherwise support a labor union.

A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

Inevitably, public project labor agreements increase the cost of all construction, including the private work the manufacturers and other industries. The President's plan raises ominous questions about the government's role anywhere in the private sector. Having set the precedent, will the government presume to negotiate collective bargaining agreements for the aerospace and automobile industries? At what point will the federal government dictate the terms of a collective bargaining agreement between Intel and its employees?

CONCLUSION

While some federal agencies have long used project labor agreements, the proposed executive order takes the threat of such agreements to new and extremely troubling heights. For the reasons already noted, this executive order would have a negative impact on the entire construction industry, including the substantial segment that continues to work with and under collective bargaining agreements.

Sincerely,

BOB AFFEL,
President, Sun Electric Company.

"IF NOT NOW . . ."—MARY FISHER'S POWERFUL CALL TO ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the honor of meeting personally with Mary Fisher, founder of the Family Aids Network, and of hearing her address a congressional briefing on the AIDS Drug Assistance Program [ADAP]. Her speech, "If Not Now . . ." is one of the most powerful and compelling statements I have heard on the need for a strong national commitment to assist persons with HIV and AIDS. Due to remarkable progress in the development of AIDS drug therapies, we now have combination drugs that can dramatically lower virus levels, that appear to be transforming AIDS from a fatal illness to a manageable chronic condition, and that may actually eliminate the virus entirely or almost entirely from the body.

But, Mary asks, do we have the national will to make these drugs available to all who need them? That is the question posed by the availability of these new therapies.

I am entering Mary's speech in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because I believe it should be required reading for every Member of Congress—and every American.

"If Not Now . . ."

(By Mary Fisher)

Thank you very much, Bill. I appreciate your kind words.

In order to be very brief today, I intend also to be very direct. I do not mean to be

brusque, but I do want to be blunt. The good news is that I won't elongate your program with a massive keynote address. The bad news is that I have no time for good jokes.

Let me begin with a happy idea. We should be ashamed of ourselves. Like evangelists caught in cheap motels with bad magazines, we are where we ought not to be: Nearly two decades into an epidemic that has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans, we have gathered to discuss how many more should die. I regret that we have come to this point and, as an American, I am ashamed of it. And I want you to be ashamed of it too. We should never have gotten ourselves to the place we find ourselves. And we should get out of this as soon as possible.

Pharmaceuticals represented here this noon have, by virtue of hard work and well-principled research, produced drugs that may prolong my life and the lives of others with AIDS. They should take great pride in what they have achieved. I am in their debt.

Members of Congress and their staff here this noon have, through consensus-building and budget-brawling, protected funds needed for AIDS research, AIDS-caregiving, and AIDS-intervention. I am also in your debt.

And colleagues from the AIDS community are here who've fought this epidemic with unimagined creativity and unheralded courage, not out of a desire for national recognition but out of a commitment to keep alive those who are dying. I take enormous pride in being one of you, and in the moral legacy written by pilgrims on the road to AIDS and those who have cared for them.

In this afternoon's program, expert colleagues are going to explain hard facts, large figures and complicated realities. I am here not to give their speeches, but simply to set a context. And the context I want to set is, in a word, shame.

For twenty years, this nation has treated persons with AIDS as uniquely responsible for their own condition. Despite what we know about smoking and cancer, we have not done to smokers what we have done to persons with AIDS; despite what we know about diet, we have not done to heart-attack sufferers what we have done to persons with AIDS; despite what we know about bucking horses and skydiving, we have not done to Christopher Reeves what we have done to persons with AIDS. Senators debating HIV-infected immigrants have used, as their point of useful reference, "infested fruits"—a double entendre' on both "infection" and the word "Fruit."

And because we have labored against such stigma and discrimination, such ignorance and evil, we have not reached common agreement on the most basic of all understandings: That Americans with AIDS do not deserve their disease but do deserve our assistance.

Failure to achieve consensus across moral and political lines on that fundamental reality has done more to contribute to the destruction of the AIDS community than the virus itself. So deep has the stigma been, so controversial the epidemic, that more than a hundred thousand Americans had died of the disease before an American president dared say the word "AIDS" in public. Tens of thousands of obituaries have lied about the cause of death, out of families' fear of shame. And those of us who are left are often mute. How do I explain to my sons Max and Zachary their father's death and my disease, on the one hand, and the nation's response on the other, with anything less than shame?

Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said that the South African Truth Commission was created to "release our shame, to move us from anger to healing, from futility to hope." It is Tutu's sense of shame—an active shame, a useful shame; shame that says "for