

around \$100 a ton, nearly doubled, and the production of alcohol for transportation consequently had to be cut by a third. Ethyl alcohol feedstocks have been limited because the yeast that has been used for millennia in fermentation can only convert food crops. But advanced biocatalysts and genetically engineered microbes now make possible the cost-effective conversion of cellulose: grass, trees and biomass waste.

Even at today's fossil fuel prices, it is likely that as ethyl alcohol's cost declines it will come to be used as the emission-reducing oxygenate that is added to gasoline. But the key issue is whether alcohol derived from biomass can become cheap enough to begin to replace gasoline. Over the past 15 years the cost of producing a gallon of alcohol from corn has been cut in half, to about \$1 a gallon. If the new technology were to make it possible for costs to fall another 30 to 40 cents, alcohol would become competitive with gasoline when oil reaches around \$25 a barrel.

Is such a reduction in cost plausible? Consider switch grass, common on the prairie. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates twice as much alcohol could be produced per acre from it than from corn. Since switch grass requires almost no tilling, planting, fertilizing or other use of fuel or chemicals, using it as a feedstock would yield several times more energy than would be consumed during production—far better than with either gasoline or corn-derived alcohol. Switch grass and many biomass crops enrich the soil instead of depleting it. Vastly more of the earth's surface is available to grow such grasses, fast-growing trees and aquatic vegetation than is available for feed grains. For example, thinning forests by removing underbrush and small trees reduces forest fires and preserves wildlife habitat—and some cousin of zymomonas would doubtless love to dine on such scrap brush.

Will oil prices hit \$25 a barrel in a few years, making it possible for even unsubsidized alcohol to replace a large share of gasoline? The Energy Department forecasts a flat market, but the oil bulls have a strong case because of perennial instability in the Mideast and because demand will burgeon as a growing share of the growing population in Asia moves into cities. Fortune magazine noted two years ago that once China's and India's energy consumption per capita reach South Korea's current level, these two countries alone will need almost 120 million barrels of oil a day—nearly double what the world uses today. In spite of oil discoveries elsewhere, it is likely that at least three-fourths of any new demand will be filled from the huge reserves of the Mideast, transferring more than \$1 trillion over the next 15 years to the autocratic (and worse) states of the unstable Persian Gulf alone, in addition to the annual \$90 billion they receive today.

Thus, if genetically engineered microbes and advanced biocatalysts can start a transition from fossil fuels to biofuels, a major Middle East war involving the U.S. would become less likely. We would become freer to support democracies and our friends—Israel, Turkey, Jordan—without weighing whether we might offend an oil state. At the same time, subsistence farmers in Africa and Latin America, paid to grow transportation fuel, would begin to climb out of poverty; Ukraine, rich in fertile land, would become more independent of oil-rich Russia; China would feel less pressure to befriend Iran and to build a big navy to dominate the oil-rich South China Sea.

RURAL PROSPERITY

What's more, new markets for biofuel crops would help rural America to prosper; substantial improvements in air quality

would let EPA Administrator Carol Browner stop worrying about our power lawnmowers and let Detroit produce four-wheel-drive sports vehicles to its heart's content; and the U.S. trade deficit would shrink substantially, reducing Wall Street's propensity to panic whenever the Japanese prime minister gets grumpy about holding U.S. debt.

Who would lose? Chiefly oil-exporting states. But many others would need an attitude check; oil companies, if they resist diversifying; bureaucrats who don't like flexible-fuel vehicles, because they aren't subsidized in their particular fiefdom; environmentalists who don't like them either, because they permit Detroit to build larger cars (the more they burn alcohol, folks, the less you should care); Archer Daniels Midland, which will have to get used to losing its near-monopoly of the ethanol market; and of course Roger Tamraz, because struggles over pipeline routes will become boring.

What would we need to do before the December Kyoto summit? Just announce that, in view of biofuels' advantages, we are going to use government purchases and policies to help give them a stable market until early in the next century while production gears up, somewhat as we did with silicon chips. We might even add that, except for continuing to do basic research and development, we plan to phase out all energy subsidies (including oil's remaining foreign tax credit) toward the end of that period.

Then we could stand back, and let the new bugs and the market do the rest.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF ALLEGAN, MI

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of the first Thanksgiving worship in Christ Community Church of Allegan, MI's new meetinghouse. The Christ Community Church's congregation has traveled a long way to get where they are today. Without a church home in December of 1993, a core group of Christian friends gathered to discuss the planting of a new church in the Allegan area. By December of 1996, this dedicated group grew nearly threefold, and was worshipping in a brand new facility built with their own hands and prayers. In just 3 years, a land contract had been drawn up and paid for in full, and a church home was built that could serve up to 350 worshipers.

This faithful assembly of friends derives its members from over a 25-mile outlying area encompassing much of southwestern Michigan. They are a contemporary group concentrating in non-traditional and culturally relevant Christian fellowship. The congregation focuses its energy and resources on local and international missions and ministry. Also, personal familiarity with the Bible and Christian ideals is promoted and nurtured.

Indeed, his Thanksgiving is a special one for the devoted men and women of Christ Community Church. The community is certainly well ministered to by this congregation. As they look forward to building further services and facilities, Christ Community Church will continue to champion the needs of its members and community. Again, it is an honor for me to recognize Christ

Community Church and their first Thanksgiving celebration.●

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDER OF AHEPA

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this past August, I was privileged to address the Order of AHEPA during the celebration of its 75th anniversary in Atlanta, GA, the city of its founding. AHEPA, American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, the largest Greek-American fraternal organization, has played a pivotal role in bringing Greek-Americans into the mainstream of American life, and promoting the ideals of Hellenic culture. It has also launched significant philanthropic and educational initiatives which have benefited both the Greek-American community and American society at large.

As part of this 75th anniversary commemoration, James Scofield, a past supreme president of AHEPA, prepared for article on the early origins of AHEPA entitled, "Forgotten History: The Klan vs. Americans of Hellenic Heritage in an Era of hate." This piece, written by Mr. Scofield, recently retired after 30 years as a senior executive at the St. Petersburg, FL, Times, has appeared in the AHEPA magazine and many Greek-American publications.

It records the struggle which Greek-Americans encountered in their effort to participate fully in American society. AHEPA's history, as presented by Mr. Scofield, also reminds us of the extraordinary progress which our country has achieved in providing opportunity for people of all races, religions, and backgrounds.

We are most appreciative to Mr. Scofield for his unique contribution and admonition to continue our efforts to ensure justice and respect for all. I ask that his article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

FORGOTTEN HISTORY: THE KLAN VS. AMERICANS OF HELLENIC HERITAGE IN AN ERA OF HATE

(By James S. Scofield)

AHEPA EMERGES 75 YEARS AGO TO WIN BATTLE AGAINST BIGOTRY

It was 1922, Americans of Hellenic heritage were suffering personal and economic intimidation orchestrated by the revived Ku Klux Klan. It was time for them to unify and organize, to protect and defend life and livelihood.

The widespread and often violent discrimination against immigrants from Greece is an almost forgotten page of American history. This is probably because of their subsequent success and the great accomplishments of their descendants. Very few persons today, Hellenic or not, are even vaguely aware of the massive continental strength of the Klan of the 1920s and its intensive persecution of foreign-born Greeks, including those who had chosen to become American citizens.

They do not know how deeply the evil shadows of bigotry, hatred and intolerance cast their malignant darkness over North America. Perhaps it is time to remind them.

The newly-reorganized KKK rampaged against frightened immigrants and helpless minorities throughout the U.S. It dominated politics in states in both the North and South. In Canada, its dangerous wicked ways were transplanted and flourished, especially in the western provinces.

An estimated three million militant hooded Klansmen stalked across our continent, burning crosses and spawning terror.

During its reign of power, the Klan elected sixteen U.S. Senators, eleven Governors and an undetermined large number of Congressmen, both Republican and Democrat. It reportedly exerted considerable influence in the White House.

Klan organizations ruled local politics in the major cities of Dallas, Denver, Indianapolis and Portland, Oregon, as well as in such smaller communities as Anaheim, California; El Paso, Texas; Youngstown, Ohio and Portland, Maine.

In 1992, California and Oregon voters elected Klan-endorsed gubernatorial candidates. Then in 1924, a Klan candidate won the governorship in Kansas. The same year, the Klan endorsed U.S. Senate winners in Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Oklahoma and Texas. It also won the gubernatorial contests in five of these six states, barely losing in Texas.

At U.S. election polls, Klansmen passed out cards which crudely and defiantly declared:

When cotton grows on the fig tree
And alfalfa hangs on the rose
When the aliens run the United States
And the Jews grow a straight nose
When the Pope is praised by every one
In the land of Uncle Sam
And a Greek is elected President
THEN—the Ku Klux won't be worth a damn.

Meantime, embattled but visionary Greek immigrant leaders met on July 26, 1922, in Atlanta to form the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, now better known as the Order of Ahepa. Not by coincidence, Atlanta was the home of the national Imperial Headquarters of the Klan.

The most important goal of the Ahepa founders was to quickly and solidly establish better relations with non-Greeks. They agreed to do this by taking the positive high road of reason emphasizing assimilation, cooperation, persuasion and unlike their marked foes, non-violence.

Their main discussion was how to best contain the wave of hostility which had almost drowned them. The ominous specters of twisted Americanism and KKK aggression spurred them to create a patriotic fraternal order espousing undivided loyalty to the United States. American citizenship, proficiency in English, active participation in the civic mainstream, economic stability, social unity and the pursuit of education. The latter was considered vital for its obvious gifts of knowledge and as the essential key to upward mobility.

The Ahepa founders were profoundly disturbed and alarmed by their bitter experiences with Klan prejudice and by reports of worse bigotry elsewhere. Even before the Klan reappeared, there had been senseless attacks on foreign-born Greeks, some fatal. However, the new Klan expertly and abrasively honed intolerance with brutal efficiency to silence and subdue all of its alleged inferiors.

Many Greek-owned confectioneries and restaurants failed financially or were sold at sacrificial prices to non-Greeks because of boycotts instigated by the Klan. Greek establishments doing as much as \$500 to \$1,000 a day business, especially in the South and Midwest, dropped to as little as \$25 a day. The only recourse was to sell or close. The

Klan often bolstered its boycotts by openly threatening or attacking customers entering and leaving.

A Klan Imperial Lecturer told Klansmen in Spokane that Mexicans and Greeks should be sent back to where they came from so that white supremacy and the purity of Americans be preserved. Meanwhile, in Palatka, Florida, a Greek immigrant was flogged for dating a "white" woman.

The Royal Riders of the Red Robe was a Klan affiliate assembled "as a real patriotic organization" for approved naturalized citizens unluckily born outside the United States. However, in the ultimate snub of exclusion, immigrants from Greece, Italy and the Balkans were not eligible to join.

In Indiana, the state most politically controlled by the 1920s Klan, burning crosses were ignited in the yards of outspoken Hellenes. Unprovoked beatings of Greeks were not reported to police lest another beating soon follow. Others were warned of dire consequences if they spoke Greek in public, even in their own business establishments.

Hoosier Democrat and Republican leaders actively discouraged naturalized Hellenes from filing for public office, forcing them to run as Socialist Party candidates. Fearful Greek Orthodox Christians indefinitely postponed impending plans to organize parishes. To avoid constant confrontation, long and difficult to pronounce first and last names of Greek origin were shortened or changed to more acceptable Americanized versions. False rumors spread by the Klan about supposed unsolved murders of Greeks in other states produced the desired dread.

The Klan Grand Dragon of Oregon said in a spirited speech in Atlanta: "The Klan in the western states has a great mission to perform. The rapid growth of the Japanese population and the great influx of foreign laborers, mostly Greeks, is threatening our American institutions; and, Klans in Washington, Oregon and Idaho are actively at work to combat these foreign and un-American influences."

Probably the most blatant hard-line bullying, almost humorous, occurred in Pensacola, Florida. A Klansman handed a note to a Greek restaurateur which read: "You are an undesirable citizen. You violate the Federal Prohibition Laws and laws of decency and are a running sore on society. Several trains are leaving Pensacola daily. Take your choice but do not take too much time. Sincerely in earnest, KKK."

Today, according to sociologist Charles C. Moskos, Jr., of Northwestern University, American Hellenes proudly rank first among all ethnic groups in individual educational attainment and second in individual wealth. They have succeeded in every facet of American life. The Order of Ahepa has played the prime historic role in this ascent.

True to its original mission, Ahepa financially supports scholarships, educational chairs, housing for the elderly, medical research, community programs, charitable projects and other worthy endeavors through contributions of more than two million dollars a year from its chapter, district and national levels.

Ahepa validated its patriotic roots during World War II by selling over five hundred million dollars of U.S. War Bonds, more than any organization in America. Meanwhile, Ahepa officials first visited the White House to meet with President Calvin Coolidge in 1924 and have conferred with all twelve Presidents since Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman and Gerald Ford became Ahepa members.

More recently, Ahepa raised \$400,000 for the restoration of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty and \$775,000 for a sculpture com-

memorating the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. Ahepa has received congressional and presidential recognition for promoting friendship and goodwill among the people of the United States, Canada, Greece and Cyprus. President George Bush hailed Ahepa as one of "the thousand points of light."

Ahepa moved its headquarters to Washington DC in 1924 and later expanded its scope by adding three auxiliaries to complete the Ahepa Family: the Daughters of Penelope for women, the Sons of Pericles for young men and the Maids of Athena for young women. Its combined eight hundred chapters, consisting of about 35,000 members, cover the United States and Canada and have planted successful units in Australia and Greece. It held its 75th annual convention in Atlanta in August.

In 1990, Ahepa filed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief in the Georgia Supreme Court. It backed the legal position of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith in support of a state law banning masks in public which was challenged by the KKK. The court ruled 6 to 1 to uphold the constitutionality of the anti-mask statute.

The significance of the favorable decision to a jubilant Ahepa was that it came in the city of its founding and helped seal the doom of another failed Klan revival. Moreover, it enabled Hellenes to join in victorious celebration with fellow black and Jewish Americans whose forbearers also were sadistically harmed physically, mentally and economically by the KKK of yesteryear.

Along with Roman Catholics, Asians and other immigrants considered unacceptable by the Klan, they were targeted separately and together then because they did not fit the rigidly narrow KKK concept of what constitutes a good and loyal American.

For Hellenes, it is supremely ironic that the six organizers of the original Klan in 1865 created the words Ku Klux from kuklos, a variation of the Greek kyklos meaning cycle or circle, and applied it to their own little circle.

Today the 1920s version of the KKK is long gone—and its flickering reincarnations are virtual nonentities. The Klan deserved to die—and died.

The Order of Ahepa thrives three quarters of a century after its historic birth amid the fiery heat of hate—generated by the toxic Klan cauldron of insane fanaticism. Ahepa deserves to live—and lives.●

NORTHWEST UTILITIES' SUPPORT FOR WIND ENERGY

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as a supporter of the development of renewable energy in this country, and in the Northwest in particular, I am pleased to see our region taking a leadership role in developing renewable energy resources.

Several years ago, two forward thinking utilities in the Northwest, along with the Bonneville Power Association, initiated an effort to site and permit a new wind project in Carbon County, WY. The focus of the project was to test a new generation of technology in Northwest climates, and develop capability and experience with a resource which the region has in abundance. Despite considerable changes in the electricity market, and challenges presented by the project, these three utilities persevered and made this