

MANDATES INFORMATION ACT OF
1999

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 350) to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, the Waxman amendment to H.R. 350 would provide equal protection under the law.

If we can protect the private sector, surely we can take the same step to protect the public welfare.

H.R. 350 is dejavu all over again—it is the same tired “Contract with America” attempt to lessen the burden of federal mandates on private business. It would provide a procedural advantage to legislation where costs of more than \$100 million might be imposed by Congress on the private sector. Under this procedure, a point of order could be raised on any bill the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) determines would cost the private sector more than \$100 million a year. The point of order could trigger a 20-minute debate and vote on the cost of the legislation.

Who saves and who pays under this plan?

Protection of public health and safety and the environment would seem the logical answer and, yet, H.R. 350 defies logic. Remember, in this Congress the financial interests of business outweigh protection of the public good.

As an example: what if legislation on environmental compliance for a business cost \$100 million or more? The legislation would be subject to a point of order and debate. But, if it were defeated, the public would suffer, in effect repealing federal environmental protection.

Why would we give this type of advantage to business at the expense of the public? Why would Congress put the interests of business over protection of the public good?

The American Lung Association states, “This legislation will create new procedural hurdles on legislation designed to safeguard public health and the environment.” The Association cites as examples legislation to regulate tobacco or clean air that might be defeated as a result of this procedural protection.

The Waxman amendment would provide equal footing to legislation that might weaken or repeal mandates on the private sector which protect the public's health and safety, or the environment. It would open the debate and require a vote to provide the balance needed to afford protection of the public interest, along with the protection of business interests. The Waxman amendment would require the CBO to identify whether or not a bill contains any such provisions that might threaten existing environmental law and protection of the public. A point of order could be raised, providing an opportunity for debate and a vote where members would be held accountable for their position.

Over the past four years, we have experienced repeated attempts to attach anti-environment “riders” to critical legislation. There

has been a concerted plan by the Majority to weaken or repeal the environmental progress of the past two decades. In most cases, debate has been closed and votes have not resulted on these individual measures which have threatened our forests, drinking water and clean air. The Waxman amendment would provide the same procedural obstacle to anti-environmental legislation as proposed to protect business under H.R. 350. It would give Congress an opportunity to open the debate on issues with health and environmental consequences.

H.R. 350 asks us to think twice about imposing a burden on the private sector and think not once about the consequences for the rest of society.

Think again—support the Waxman amendment—vote “yes” to protect the public health and our environment.

IN HONOR OF LITHUANIA'S
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, as Co-chair of the Baltic Caucus I am particularly honored to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence together with the 746th anniversary of the establishment of the Lithuanian kingdom.

Lithuania is rich in history. This country has continually been occupied by regimes which exploited its natural resources and its people. However, the seed of democracy continued to grow within the Lithuanian people. In 1990, after four decades of suppression, Lithuania finally achieved freedom and re-established the independent Lithuanian state.

This hard-fought victory for independence and democracy stands as a testament to the courage, endurance and strength of the Lithuanian people. I am honored today as we commemorate not only the original declaration of Lithuanian independence, but the ongoing sacrifices which these people endured to secure their freedom. The Lithuanian struggle stands as a symbol of the need to fight repression and unjust domination throughout the world.

I commend the people of Lithuania for their vigilance through the many difficult years. There is much cause to celebrate in Lithuanian communities everywhere. Lithuanian Independence Day in Cleveland will be celebrated with a ceremony and arts programs at our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 81st anniversary of Lithuanian Independence.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE AND
TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT
OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 435, the “Miscellaneous Trade

and Technical Corrections Act of 1999”. This bill is one of the most closely scrutinized pieces of legislation that ever comes to the House floor. Numerous agencies review its provisions to make sure they duty suspensions it contains do not prejudice any domestic producers of a good. This pre-legislative scrutiny is the main reason similar omnibus trade bills pass the Congress and are signed by the President without controversy.

This legislation is intended to reduce consumers' cost of important products. These include cancer-fighting drugs and organic substances that can substitute for other chemicals which are more harmful to the environment. I am the sponsor of several of the duty suspension provisions in this bill, including Resmethrin, used in an environmentally sensitive home and garden pesticide that controls flying and crawling insects. In addition, I sponsored a duty suspension for Diclofop-methyl, a herbicide for wheat and barley. Unlike many other herbicides, Diclofop-methyl does not need to be tilled into the soil, which promotes soil conservation.

Thidiazuron is another useful chemical included in this legislation. It is a defoliant that causes green bolls to drop to the ground enabling cotton pickers to harvest clean white cotton with a green stain that reduces the value of the crop. It also shed immature bolls which are often the host sites for boll weevil infestation, a major threat to cotton production. Again, it is environmentally superior to other cotton defoliants because it requires less active ingredient than other chemicals to provide the same result. AgrEvo, the Delaware company that manufactures the defoliant, packages it in a water soluble bag in order to reduce exposure of the chemical to the skin of farmers and farm workers who apply it.

Also included in a duty suspension for Deltamethrin, an environmentally safer pesticide used to kill fire ants, fleas, roaches, and ticks. Without these duty suspensions, not only would products cost more, but foreign producers of the product who do not have to pay tariffs on their ingredients would have an advantage over American producers. That means hundreds of fewer jobs for Delawareans and thousands of other U.S. citizens.

In order to make cancer-fighting drugs more affordable, promote a cleaner environment, and protect American jobs, I encourage every Member to support this bill and move it quickly to the Oval office for President Clinton's signature.

RECOGNIZING DALY JOSEPH
“CAT” DOUCET

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Sheriff Daly Joseph Doucet, affectionately known to those in Louisiana as the “Cat,” who was recently inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame.

First elected Sheriff of St. Landry Parish in 1936, Cat Doucet quickly earned admiration and respect as the top law enforcement officer in the area. He would go on to serve 20 years in this office—the longest in the rich history of this parish. On January 30, 1999, he was recognized for this service with his induction into

the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame. A letter from the selection committee would go on to explain this high honor to Mr. Doucet's family in the following manner: "The statewide selection committee bases its selection on the impact that an individual has had on the politics of Louisiana; a distinction for which your Father certainly qualifies for."

Mr. Speaker, in a state where colorful and savvy politicians are probably the highest density per square mile than any where in the land, Cat Doucet will indeed be remembered as a legend. He will long be remembered for his gifted political skills and remarkable zest for campaigning. One story that I would like to briefly share with you I believe illustrates this legendary talent.

Upon one of his re-election bids, Sheriff Doucet came up with the clever idea to place a P.A. speaker on a crop duster and paid a pilot to fly the crop duster around the various farms of St. Landry Parish the weekend before the election. The pilot, yelling "Vote for Cat Doucet for Sheriff," hit almost every farmer that clear day. The following weekend a massive turnout was reported for the election and a young reporter was anxious to know why so many citizens turned out to support the legendary Sheriff. The reporter quickly grabbed a farmer exiting the voting booth and asked him point blank, "Sir, could you explain what appears to be a massive turn out for Sheriff Doucet?" The farmer replied to the reporter: "Well sir, all I can tell you is this. I was working in the sugar cane fields last weekend and all of a sudden I saw the clouds open up and voice from the sky say 'vote for Cat Doucet for Sheriff' and I said to myself, anybody that can get God to come down and campaign for you, has got to be good!" While Cat went on to win this race, he would sometimes lose others. However, his gracious demeanor did not leave him even on these rare occasions. Upon losing one of these elections in 1940, Cat was quoted in the newspapers as stating: "Before the election I was a friend of the newly elected sheriff and I am sure he knows that I'll always be his friend. I hold no malice towards anyone." I share these stories with my colleagues today as they help to describe this extraordinary figure who meant so much to so many in our state.

Most important, Mr. Speaker, his love for public service so often manifested itself through his common acts of human kindness. Whether it was buying needed medicines for the impoverished, chauffeuring the critically ill to charity hospitals, or paying the funeral expenses for the poor, he stood ready to help his fellow man in times of crisis. His recent induction into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame along with four other deserving public servants: Former Lt. Gov. James Fitzmorris, the late Commissioner of Elections Douglas Fowler Sr., the political pollster Ed Renwick, and Iris Kelso, veteran reporter for the Times-Picayune, stands as a true testament to his dedicated career he loved so dearly. It is a fitting tribute that his inscription eternally reads "for outstanding accomplishments and service to the citizens of the state of Louisiana."

Mr. Speaker, with his death in 1975, Cat Doucet's storied past lives on far beyond the famous bayous of our state. His acts of goodness and great sacrifices have inspired many in St. Landry Parish to serve in the public body. His legacy will now forever survive in their hearts and in the hearts of those who knew him best.

REV. FRANKLIN A. DORMAN'S
"TWENTY FAMILIES OF COLOR",
PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF
AFRICAN-AMERICANS WHO
FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special appreciation to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the civil rights movement. Through the recent publication of his book entitled, "Twenty Families of Color", Rev. Franklin A. Dorman continues to ensure that the legacy of all of those African-Americans who generously gave of their time, energy and spirit by serving in the Civil War is acknowledged and preserved in perpetuity.

During his 22-year ministry with the United Church of Christ, the Rev. Franklin A. Dorman, now retired, was greatly concerned with the struggle for civil rights. He participated in hundreds of marches, vigils and non-violent demonstrations, some of which led to his imprisonment. Dorman has had a longtime interest in history and genealogy. In 1994, after retiring, he published a two-volume book about his family's history. Among other things, he discovered that 36 members of his family fought in the Civil War.

After seeing the movie, "Glory", starring Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman, about a regiment of black soldiers who also fought in the Civil War, "Something clicked in me," Dorman recalled. "I said, 'Who are these guys?' They didn't just come from nowhere—they had parents and grandparents, wives, children and grandchildren."

That interest, according to the September 1998 issue of "United Church News", led Dorman to write *Twenty Families of Color* in Massachusetts, published in 1998 by the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Cambridge, MA. Dorman hopes the book will help establish for the record the important roles African-Americans have played in American society during the last 250 years.

Twenty Families of Color traces the ancestors and more than 1,000 descendants of a group of African-American Civil War soldiers and sailors who fought in the Massachusetts 54th and 55th Colored Infantry, the 5th Cavalry, and the Union Navy. The descendants live throughout the United States. Several live in the Oakland, CA area and will attend an event in Oakland on Saturday, February 13, 1999 during which Dorman will speak about his work and his experiences.

The engagement, "Finding Your Roots: African American Family History Research", will take place from 3-5 p.m., at the Interfaith Center of the Oakland Mormon Temple on Temple Hill in Oakland. Dorman will explain how he did the research for his book and how others can research and write their own family histories.

Temple Hill houses a Family History Center, which provides access to the largest genealogical records library in the world. During the program, C. Malcolm Warner, president of the Oakland Mormon Mission, will invite residents of the Oakland area, including African-American residents, to become acquainted with the Center in order to research their family histories. Warner traced his own roots back to Canada, where during the 18th Century, his family provided a stop on the "Underground

Railroad" for African Americans who escaped from slavery and made their way to safety across the international border.

"Rarely do compiled genealogies make interesting reading," wrote Henry B. Hoff in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. *Twenty Families of Color*, however, "is an exception. . . . Many descendants [of the black Civil War soldiers and sailors] have taken an active role in bettering their communities."

As we enter the 21st Century, African-Americans are still struggling to gain equal opportunity in American life. Yet the individuals portrayed in his book "are not movie stars, presidents or generals. They are the kind of people who made history in a most concrete sense—they built this country, farmed it, gave [it] birth. I call them "real people."

I am proud that many of the subjects of this history live in and around the City of Oakland and the 9th Congressional District of California. On behalf of the citizens of Oakland and my district, I welcome Reverend Dorman to the district and commend him for the significant work he has done.

MANDATES INFORMATION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill H.R. 350) to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes:

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to voice my support for the Mandates Information Act. We are a government by, for and of the people. This legislation simply informs the America people of the costs of their government.

There are many ways the federal government spends the hard-earned money of American families. The most notorious of course is direct taxation. But just as burdensome are unfunded mandates pushed on businesses and state and local governments—and right now there is no consistent accounting for how much these cost.

Unlike most bills that create and then hide expenses, this one simply satisfies the right to know what the government is forcing others to spend. This bill exposes all the hidden taxes of government. It is purely informational. There is no language in the bill that affects environmental laws, or health and safety standards. In short, it says to each and every Member of Congress: think before you spend.

It has become somewhat unfashionable for congressmen to be spend-crazy. But rather than changing their ways, many simply vote to dump the cost on others. This bill makes congressmen think twice about voting for hidden government costs because it will chronicle those costs.

Everyone likes to say that less control should be wielded by Washington and more work should be done on the private and local level. Even Bill Clinton claimed the era of big government is over. Now we need to do something about it. We need to get the federal government off the backs of businesses and state and local governments. I urge my colleagues to pass the Mandates Information Act without amendment.