

that his departure has left, that his candle will continue to glow through the minds and the hearts of the John Stewart family and the Lawrence North High School community.

#### TRADITIONAL COUNTRY FOR SIX DECADES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a small radio station with a big voice which has been broadcasting for six decades in Missouri. In Warrenton, Missouri, a small but growing community, Bill and Merle Zimmerman first established KWRE-AM-73, a radio station to serve the residents of east central Missouri 50 years ago. Playing tunes by Marty Robbins, Dottie West, and Jim Reeves, KWRE Radio officially hit the air waves in 1949 and has remained true to its motto of playing traditional country music ever since.

I would like to take these few minutes, Mr. Speaker, to honor those at this humble radio station who have reached out to people in Warren County, as well as Lincoln, Montgomery, Gasconade and Franklin Counties, deep in the heartland of Missouri's Ninth Congressional District.

Now, despite the demands of running a modern station, those at KWRE have maintained traditional homegrown values as their core operating method. As such, they have proven over the last 50 years that America still wants to hear wholesome traditional values and classic country songs.

In 1962, this hometown tradition was carried on by Vern and Lillian Kasper. The Kaspers bought KWRE Radio and were able to modernize the broadcast facilities, increase the community services offered by the station, and air award-winning editorials and other public service programs.

Those responsible for maintaining KWRE's traditional country image are people like Phil Summers, who brings a vast array of characters and endless trivia tidbits to the station's morning show each weekday. His award-winning show ranks as one of the best entertainment and local news shows in east central Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to highlight the quality of KWRE's morning programming. And currently, I and other locally-elected officials are regular guests on Mike Thomas' weekday "Livewire" program. "Livewire" is actually just that, a live wire. It covers a range of topics, from local school issues to international relations and everything in between. Every other week I am honored to be a guest on the "Livewire" show and help inform the listeners in east central Missouri about legislative action taking place here in our Nation's Capitol and how it affects folks at home.

Overall, there are several programs on KWRE that focus primarily on news

and information. The station broadcasts at least 15 daily news broadcasts to all six counties in east central Missouri.

In addition to providing top-notch newscasts, KWRE is also known for its broadcast of agricultural information. And having grown up on a family farm in Missouri, I know firsthand how important it is to have up-to-date market information and how useful it can be for local farmers and those involved in agribusiness. KWRE does this as well as any and better than most.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, KWRE also acts as the public service medium to inform its listeners about upcoming nonprofit events listed on its free bulletin board. KWRE-73 Sports is the hometown sports voice for area schools, broadcasting approximately 60 high school football and basketball games each school year. The station broadcasts a live weekly sports show, "Instant Replay," aimed at keeping the fan and sportsman in-the-know.

In summary, KWRE accommodates all ages of east central Missouri's residents whether it is the annual Senior Citizens Fair and Exposition or the annual Children's Christmas Party giving away thousands of dollars in toys to area children. The canned goods given for admission are distributed to local charities in time for Christmas delivery.

In conclusion, I want to express my admiration for those who have helped to maintain the hometown tradition since 1949. I wish KWRE in Warrenton, Missouri, all the best in their 50th anniversary celebration and hope they can continue to provide such wholesome, hometown coverage for east central Missouri for decades to come.

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#### SUPPORT AMERICAN FARMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, as we proceed with our work on Budget 2000, I want to take this occasion to pose the following question: Are we doing everything we need to do to support our American farmers? That is a question we all need to seriously think about.

In 1998, the agriculture sector of the economy suffered through one of the worst years in American history. Drought and other weather conditions, coupled with extremely low prices, significantly affected many producers in my home State, Texas. Farm and ranch production values declined more than \$2.4 billion from 1997 in Texas. The resulting loss in agribusiness income is an \$8 billion blow to the State's overall economy, mostly to the small rural communities like I represent in the 15th Congressional District.

Nationally, from 1996 to 1997, net farm income dropped 6.8 percent from \$53.4 billion to \$49.8 billion. Economists

forecast a 15.7 percent drop from \$197 billion to only \$42 billion in 1998. To say the least, these declines are dramatic.

While weather conditions will hopefully improve, the current price situation for crops and livestock remains bleak. Virtually every commodity has continuing low prices, with little prospect for improvement.

When the Congress passed the 1996 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act, certain other issues were to be addressed. Those included: Passage of fast track negotiating authority, relief of government regulatory burdens, and the repeal of capital gains taxes and death taxes. In the 3 years since the passage of the FAIR Act, those promises have not been kept. I mention all of this because I feel it is important to constantly be mindful of how vital agriculture is to our country. When disasters occur, yes, action is taken to respond to them, but what we saw last year was too little, too late. That is not a philosophy to which I subscribe.

Mr. Speaker, much more needs to be done for America's farmers, and the time to do it is now, as we are now working on the budget. Let us help provide a safe and secure future for our farmers. Agriculture is a vital part of our economic fiber in our country, and the men and women who comprise America's farming community are important to our Nation's character. It is our responsibility to make sure that they survive and that they have an opportunity to prosper. Let us provide an environment in which they can.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close my remarks by tossing out two thoughts for consideration. They evidence why we absolutely need to do the right thing. In the next 30 years, the world's population will increase by 2.5 billion and the demand for food will double. Who is going to feed them? Everybody eats.

#### PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS PORTEND GREAT COST TO ANGELENOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I wear on my lapel just above the pin signifying that this is the 106th Congress a pair of black horn-rimmed glasses representing the memory of the late great Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater. Goldwater brought a simple, plain-spoken candor to public life, and, Mr. Speaker, I think it was typified by his straightforward declaration that as an American, people should have the right to join a union but they should likewise have the right not to join a union if they so desire. And mindful of some perilous trends in public policy, I rise on this occasion this afternoon.

California is the next-door neighbor of Arizona, and the Los Angeles Unified

School District is contemplating a move that portends great cost to the citizens of Los Angeles and portends a trend that should be fought by all means at the Federal level. I speak of project labor agreements. This is what is being proposed in Los Angeles. This comes to school construction. "The contractor recognizes the council and its affiliated unions as the exclusive bargaining representatives for the employees engaged in project work covered by this agreement."

Mr. Speaker, in the LA Daily News on the editorial page, it is noted that "even a school board member who often sides with the teachers union can't turn a blind eye to this outrage." What is outrageous? Well, quite simply this fact, Mr. Speaker: The estimates are that this plan could increase construction costs by 10 to 15 percent in the district.

Now, lest you think this is only something that Los Angelenos should be concerned about, Mr. Speaker, I would commend to your attention something this House once saw in April of 1998, the Vice President of the United States, he who last week claimed that he was the father of the Internet, he who infamously claimed 2 years ago that there was no controlling legal authority given the outrage of alleged campaign donations to the Clinton-Gore team from foreign governments including the People's Republic of China, well, this selfsame Vice President announced that the Clinton-Gore team would aggressively pursue linking Federal projects to union construction firms.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I believe that everyone should have the right to apply to do work and if a union shop is the bidder that is accepted based on its quality of work, that is well and good. But here is the problem with union-only agreements as the Vice President promised to Boss Sweeney and others: Not only is the blatant payoff, Mr. Speaker, but in fact it will end up costing the American taxpayer across the width and breadth of our annual budget an additional \$5 billion a year.

Now, mindful of the florid rhetoric and the feel-good attitude that the President brings when he steps to this podium annually to offer his State of the Union message and mindful that sadly his rhetoric does not always square to reality, I would invite the President and the Vice President and others who claim that project work, or union-only agreements, would somehow be beneficial to step up and defend spending an additional \$5 billion of taxpayers money. Because, you see, Mr. Speaker, there is a better way, indeed to use the President's term, there is a third way, but that would involve truth and merit rewards.

And again I say, lest there are those who misunderstand, if it is a union shop that steps forward with the best ability to do the work, well, then God bless them and they should be awarded a contract on their merits. But to re-

strict or to claim that this government or indeed any other governmental entity will deal only with union shops is to circumvent freedom of choice, freedom of association and fiscal responsibility. For to paraphrase Goldwater and perhaps change his phraseology, I believe that union firms have a right to bid on a contract but I also believe that open shop firms should have that same right. And if an open shop can do the work better, then they should be selected.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WISE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STENHOLM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### FOREIGN OIL REVERSAL ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, it was a year ago today that I rose on this House floor to raise a concern with my colleagues with what is happening in the oil patch in our country. We are in the process of losing our domestic oil industry, which I believe is to our great detriment down the road and in fact today. The domestic oil industry, those small producers, those wells that are producing 2.2 barrels per day on the average, are currently being shut down and closed in. Since 1997, a little more than a year ago, we have lost over 41,000 jobs in the United States with more than 136,000 oil wells shut down. In my State of Kansas alone, the job loss is someplace between 5 and 8,000, with a loss of revenue this year of \$955 million.

If the problem we face with our economy is not great enough, it is perhaps superseded by the problems we will face strategically in the future. The U.S. dependence on foreign oil continues to rise. We had problems, those of us who are old enough to remember the early 1970s, with long lines at the gas station and the oil embargo. At that time our foreign oil imports were

only 36 percent of our U.S. consumption, while today 57 percent of the oil consumed in the United States is derived outside the United States. That estimate is expected to rise to 70 percent in about 10 years. We have set the stage for significant and serious problems in defending our country and in our strategic reserves.

Mr. Speaker, this issue needs the attention of the administration, of the Department of Energy and of the President of the United States. It also could use the attention of Members of Congress. Yesterday, I introduced legislation along with several other Members of Congress, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATKINS), and this legislation mirrors legislation introduced last week by the distinguished Mr. DOMENICI.

This bill attacks the issue of foreign dependence upon energy, and by suggesting that when 60 percent of our consumption is derived from foreign sources that the administration, the President of the United States, must begin a process to determine the extent of the problems created by our foreign dependency on oil, must report to Congress those difficulties, his assessment, and must make recommendations to Congress to what we can do to minimize our dependence on foreign oil, issues such as tax reduction, regulatory relief and conservation measures. We have also included in this bill many proposals to react to the days in which the oil and gas industry was considered highly profitable and Congress and the administration then decided to, in a sense, gouge that industry, to take away its profits. And today when western Kansas crude is priced at \$8 or \$9 a barrel and the costs of breaking even for that production is \$16, it is time to reduce, eliminate the tax policy in this country that discourages marginal well production and discourages this industry from remaining alive and solvent.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that over the course of the next few days and over the course of the next few weeks, Congress will begin to focus on the fact that we are losing an important industry in our country but perhaps more importantly focus on the fact that we are selling short our future, our children's future, our grandchildren's future by our reliance upon oil from other countries. It is clear that we spend billions of dollars protecting our foreign supplies but next to nothing in protecting domestic production.

Perhaps as troublesome to me as anything is the idea that the so-called surplus that results in this price of oil is derived from the fact that we are importing oil from Iraq. So on one hand we are trying to contain Saddam Hussein's activities and on the other hand we are providing the financial resources for him to pursue those activities, and at the same time we are hurting our own men and women employed