

percent dependent on foreign countries for our main energy needs.

In contrast, during the crippling 1973 oil embargo, the United States was only 36 percent dependent on foreign oil. And to add insult to injury, Iraq has now become the fastest growing oil supplier to the United States.

Another fact that I found troubling is that the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is made up of predominantly foreign oil. For crude oil received up to 1995 for the SPR, only 8 percent came from domestic producers.

I find it ironic that we developed the SPR so as to never again be at the whim of foreign nations in terms of oil supply and yet we fill our reserve with foreign oil.

I would also like to point out that Americans also use a large amount of natural gas for home heating. However, I have heard of no cry from the Clinton-Gore administration to help these Americans.

The demand in price of natural gas is skyrocketing, while natural gas production has been virtually flat over the past few years, primarily because domestic exploration has been hindered by this administration's severe environmental policies.

At last week's hearings, witnesses testified that we do in fact have a type of natural gas reserve, but because of the lengthy permit process and access restrictions enforced by this administration, we are unable to adequately tap these reserves.

Mr. Speaker, our country's demand for both oil and natural gas will increase dramatically over the next 10 to 20 years. It is time for a real energy policy and not a Band-Aid policy.

RECOGNITION OF THE URBAN LEAGUE ON ITS 89TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to give special recognition to a premier social service and civil rights organization that has fought the relentless fight for African Americans in the achievement of social and economic equality.

Historically, this organization has built bridges over the obstructions that impede the social freedom of citizens. Time and time again, this organization has been in the vanguard, providing guidance and instruction to millions.

As a principal shepherd, this organization has been a conduit that has negotiated on behalf of the voiceless and neglected. But most of all, this organization has contributed enormously towards inoculating the disease of institutionalized racism which continues to negatively impact many in America.

The organization of which I speak is the National Urban League as it prepares to celebrate its 89th birthday.

From the moment of its inception in 1911, the National Urban League has

been in the forefront of promoting social change, promoting black conscientiousness and racial pride.

Furthermore, the National Urban League has been contributing to the transformation of American social, cultural, and political life.

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The National Urban League consistently has been on the front line to gauge pressure, temper ills and provide solutions over adverse forces that permeate all sectors in our society.

During the Great Migration, the National Urban League created successful social action programs aimed towards improving employment opportunities for African Americans who migrated northward to escape the endless cycle of poverty that held their lives hostage. The National Urban League successfully helped these citizens by working through local affiliates to help them adjust to urban life. These affiliates taught citizens the basic skills necessary to secure employment. In addition, the National Urban League sponsored community centers, clinics, kindergartens, day care, summer camps, as well as a host of other programs tailored to meet the specific needs of black newcomers. In essence, these social programs provided a comprehensive social support system that enabled African Americans to thrive and compete in mainstream society. Thus, the National Urban League firmly established itself as a lead organization for reform in America.

Under Lester B. Granger's mentorship, the National Urban League reached unprecedented new levels during the Great Depression. By focusing its reform efforts on coercing the Federal Government to develop equitable policies dedicated towards inclusion for blacks, the National Urban League lobbied government to end discrimination and open its doors of opportunity. As a result of direct pressure, President Franklin Roosevelt issued an executive order ending discrimination in defense industries and Federal agencies.

While the face of America was transforming in the turbulent 1960s, the National Urban League stood strong and helped organize extensively to help African Americans take an active role in the political process. Under the direction of Whitney Young, Jr., the National Urban League launched vigorous voter registration drives. Mr. Young's vision of political empowerment for blacks did not end there. To complement efforts to increase blacks' access to the polling booth, the National Urban League sponsored leadership development and voter registration projects. As a result of these and other initiatives, African Americans as a unit began to wield their newly developed, fine-tuned political prowess far more effectively in the political process.

Today, the National Urban League continues to promote social, economic,

and political empowerment. By using tools of advocacy, research, and program service as its main approach, the National Urban League has expanded its programs to help African Americans meet anticipated challenges in the new century.

Under the direction of Hugh Price, the National Urban League has worked to provide information and technical assistance to thousands of small businesses as they compete in the technological and global economy. In addition, the National Urban League is helping to tackle the sprouting problems that seize our Nation's failed schools. Mr. Price is committed to closing the digital divide that has a crippling effect on our Nation's youth.

Furthermore, the National Urban League continues to lead African Americans to new opportunities that will help them attain economic self-sufficiency and is helping to fight racial profiling and police brutality. Through its various programs, the National Urban League is helping to move America into a new era with vigor and vitality.

I could not mention the work of the Urban League without mentioning the tremendous work done by the Chicago Urban League under the leadership of its president and chief executive officer, James Compton, who is noted as one of Chicago's most outstanding leaders. Prior to the advent of Jim Compton, the Chicago League was led by William "Bill" Berry who was voted as one of the most effective leaders of his day. His wit, charm, and personality helped to move many situations.

IN OPPOSITION TO INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to oppose the Interior appropriations bill that is likely to come upon us, at least in the form that we have been hearing about. It is pumping millions of dollars into the appropriations process but guts CARA, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, that three-quarters of this House voted to support. CARA has a trust fund. When we talk about the Medicare and Social Security trust funds being restored, we also have an obligation to put the money into other trust funds before we engage in disbursing it into various appropriations accounts. We have a number of smaller trust funds but they are nonetheless trust funds where we take fees from people and tell them they are going to be used for an intended purpose and then divert it, here in the case of many people who hunt or fish or pay different fees and have had their fund diverted into the general budget.

Secondly, by gutting CARA, this will hurt our efforts to increase oil drilling

and compensate for that oil drilling through additional environmental resources in the States where the drilling is done. This was a delicately crafted compromise. Alaska, California, and Louisiana are States that are going to be most directly affected by the oil drilling. I may not represent one of those States, but I represent a State right now where we desperately need more oil and gas so we can keep our energy prices down for home heating oil in the winter and for also the fact that in our district we make pickups, we make RVs, we make boats, we make lots of things that we sell to the rest of America that use gas. It is only fair if we drill for additional gas in these States and work out an agreement that funds for other environmentally-sensitive projects in those States are spent in those States.

Thirdly, CARA is one of the only ways that States like Indiana can get any Federal funds for wildlife and conservation efforts. We do not have national parks like in the West. In my district, Pokagon and Chain O'Lakes State Parks have received funds from this reservoir that in the past previously had been funded by this Congress but as of late has received minimal funding, Dallas Lake County Park in LaGrange County, and city parks in Decatur and Columbia City. CARA is one of the only ways that funds get equitably distributed around the country rather than just go to the appropriators' favorite projects or people where they already have big national parks.

The proposed Interior bill has many important projects in it, but it has the purpose and the practical impact of gutting CARA, a bill that three-quarters of us supported. So those who favor CARA, which is most of this body, would be wise to vote against this bill for environmental reasons; but as I pointed out last Thursday on this floor, those who have moral concerns should also vote against this bill.

First off, while they have not directly funded these programs, NEA in the last few years, National Endowment for the Arts, has funded in-your-face theater programs like, for example, the Woolly Mammoth Theatre. The Woolly Mammoth Theatre in its description of its purposes says it produces plays that are questioning of mainstream American values, such as "My Queer Body," where a man describes what it is like on stage to have sex with another man, then climbs naked into the lap of a spectator and attempts to arouse himself sexually in full view of the audience. They received a grant this year, by the way, Woolly Mammoth, yet another grant.

Or how about blaspheming Jesus Christ? We did not fund "Corpus Christi," but we fund the Manhattan Theatre prior to this being done. We funded it with two grants this year, where Jesus Christ is portrayed as having a homosexual relationship with the apostle Peter and all the apostles. We complain about Hollywood, then what are we doing funding these theaters?

Thirdly, there is "The Pope and the Witch," written by an Italian Communist against the Catholic Church there where the Pope, and it is performed by the Theatre for the New City which once again received a grant this year in spite of doing this offensive play where the Pope goes to the Vatican Square, there are 100,000 children, he decides it is a plot by the condo manufacturers to embarrass the Catholic Church. Fortunately, a little nun, or actually not a nun, it is a witch disguised as a nun, comes up and injects heroin into the Pope's veins. The Pope then gets addicted to drugs, to heroin. Then he sees the enlightenment, to enlighten the world by going around preaching free condom distribution, free heroin needles for drug addicts and free legalization of drugs throughout the world.

Is this what we want to do with taxpayer dollars, to fund theaters that perform this? By the way, there is another interesting little play in this book called "The First Miracle of the Boy Jesus," a mockery of Christ from the very beginning.

I think it is time that this Congress stop pointing the finger everywhere else, and instead we have to clean up the funding that we are doing here. We asked for a simple compromise with the Senate and with the President that says no obscenity or blasphemy will be funded; that there will be a small reduction in the direct NEA funding and we would put the additional funds, up to \$9 million, \$7 million and if we take \$2 million additional out of NEA, \$9 million into a special fund for rural areas where we have not had this.

I understand they can get around that, but it is like a Good Housekeeping seal. If the National Endowment for the Arts says a theater that does "The Pope and the Witch" is deserving of government funding, it is a Good Housekeeping seal from the Federal Government. It is time we stop that, stop criticizing Hollywood and clean up our own house first.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow in the House Committee on International Relations a very important debate will take place. The members of that committee will determine if this House of Representatives is able to vote on a resolution that would finally pay tribute to the victims of one of history's worst crimes against humanity, the Armenian Genocide of 1915 through 1923.

The Armenian Genocide was the systematic extermination of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children during the final years of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. This was the first genocide of the 20th century, but sadly not the last.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, I regret to say that the United States still does not officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. Bowing to strong pressure from Turkey, the U.S. State Department has for more than 15 years shied away from referring to the tragic events of 1915 to 1923 by using the word "genocide." President Clinton and his recent predecessors have annually issued proclamations on the anniversary of the Genocide, expressing sorrow for the massacres and solidarity with the victims and survivors, but always stopping short of using the word "genocide," thus minimizing and not accurately conveying what really happened beginning 83 years ago.

In an effort to address this shameful lapse in our own Nation's record as a champion of human rights, a bipartisan coalition of Members of Congress has been working to enact legislation affirming the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide. I want to applaud the work of the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), our Democratic whip, for their strong leadership in creating this legislation.

Many countries, as well as States and provinces and local governments, have adopted resolutions or taken other steps to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. From Europe to Australia, to many States in the United States, elected governments are going on record on the side of the truth. Regrettably, the Republic of Turkey and their various agents of influence in this country and in other countries have fought tooth and nail to block these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is nothing short of a crime against memory and human decency that the Republic of Turkey denies that the genocide ever took place and has even mounted an aggressive effort to try and present an alternative and false version of history, using its extensive financial and lobbying resources in this country.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of sympathy and moral support for Armenia in the Congress, in this administration, among State legislators around the country, and among the American people in general. But we should not kid ourselves. We are up against very strong forces, in the State Department and the Pentagon, those who believe we must continue to appease Turkey, and among U.S. and international business interests whose concerns with exploiting the oil resources off Azerbaijan in the Caspian Sea far outweigh their concerns for the people of Armenia.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Committee on International Relations tomorrow will quickly approve this resolution and finally bring it to the floor in this House in the coming weeks so that we can finally recognize this horrible crime.