

Reality dictates that additional funding for oil and natural gas research and development is unlikely. However, the IOGCC supports a drastic shift in how available tax dollars are spent. In the early years of the DOE, large and expensive demonstration projects dominated R&D spending. "That early emphasis on demonstration projects, reflecting the turmoil of the late 1970s, was, in retrospect, misplaced."

Despite billions of dollars spent on renewable energy R&D during the period of 1990–1999, there has been little impact by renewables on the nation's total energy consumption pattern (Figure 6). In fact, in 1999, renewables supplied a nearly identical percentage of the nation's total energy consumption as in 1990.

According to Hodel and Deitz, "however important alternative sources eventually may be, our best estimate is that we will continue to meet our energy needs with oil and gas for at least the remainder of this and the next generation of Americans, and very possibly several succeeding ones as well. Without some kind of energy breakthrough or aggressive government mandates, oil and gas appear certain to be our predominant fuels for the next 40 to 100 years."

A broad range of parties assembled by the National Petroleum Council to assess the future of the oil and gas industry expressed "... surprisingly broad agreement ..." on the outlook for the next 25 years, including, "The United States and the world will still be using large amounts of oil and gas in 2020, not significantly different from the more than 60 percent share of world energy consumption these fuels represent today."

The case for redirecting R&D dollars to where they would prove more effective is especially important as government considers budget freezes and cutbacks. Past successes, including three-dimensional seismic, polycrystalline diamond drill bits and horizontal drilling, which have helped lower costs and improve recovery, should be built upon.

To ensure that these limited resources are spent wisely, the IOGCC recommends the budgets for energy research and development be considered by the same congressional subcommittees. Current congressional structure requires fossil fuel and renewables research budgets to be evaluated in separate budget bills handled by separate subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. As a result, side-by-side comparisons of expenditures and impacts are difficult, and there is a lack of flexibility in allocating finite resources.

The NPC notes "in the past three decades, the petroleum business has transformed itself into a high-technology industry ... Looking forward, the domestic oil and gas industry will be challenged to continue extending the frontiers of technology. Ongoing advances in E&P productivity are essential if producers are to keep pace with steadily growing demand for oil and gas, both in the United States and world wide. Continuing innovation will also be needed to sustain the industry's leadership in the intensely competitive international arena, and to retain high-paying oil and gas industry jobs at home."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2217) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes;

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 2217, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, contained language under the National Park Service/Land Acquisition and State Assistance section regarding federal grants to the State of Florida for acquisition of lands or waters within the Everglades watershed, including the areas known as the Frog Pond, the Rocky Glades and the Eight and One-Half Square Mile Area. This language begins on page 29, line 15 of the House engrossed bill and continues until page 30, line 11.

This language does not constitute any new authority to acquire land or to obligate funds beyond existing law under Public Law 101–229, the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989. The Committee on Resources has primary jurisdiction over this statute. The authority of the federal government to acquire land, directly or indirectly by eminent domain, must be specific. If I felt that this language in the Interior appropriations bill authorized new acquisition authority, I would have exercised my prerogative under the rules of the House of Representatives to have the language struck on a point of order.

Similarly, nothing in this language from the Interior appropriations bill provides any new project authorization beyond that contained in the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act. Again, I would have raised a point of order against the text if I believed that it constituted new or amended project authority.

I hope this clarifies any questions or concerns that my colleagues or the public might have regarding these provisions.

HONORING REVEREND JOHN L. FREESMANN'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Reverend John L. Freeseemann of the Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church in San Jose, California, on the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination. On the 27th day of June, 1976, Reverend John L. Freeseemann was ordained in the Lutheran Church. For 25 years he has served both his parish community and the people of Santa Clara County faithfully and devotedly.

Reverend John Freeseemann has been a tireless advocate of ecumenism in San Jose

and the surrounding communities; he has provided a decade of responsible leadership as a board member and past president of the California Council of Churches, and is a founding member and the current president of California Church Impact. Reverend Freeseemann has also served for eight terms as president of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches. Reverend John Freeseemann gives tirelessly of his time and talents to support children and families as a founding member, two-term vice president, and current president of Resources for Families and Communities in Santa Clara County.

As the pastor of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church for 11 years, Reverend Freeseemann has established his San Jose parish as a place of safety, of compassion and of hope. Under his loving guidance, Holy Redeemer has expanded its ministries to the community at large.

I wish to congratulate Reverend John L. Freeseemann on this, the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination, and to thank him for his many years of service to the people of San Jose. Our community is the richer for his faithful service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIO- TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD ACT OF 2001

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to establish a grant program under the Secretary of Agriculture to support research and development programs in agricultural biotechnology to address the food and economic needs of the developing world.

My bill recognizes the great potential of agricultural biotechnology to combat hunger, malnutrition, and sickness in the developing world and provides the mechanism to encourage the pursuit of this exciting technology.

Portions of the developing world are facing a pandemic of malnutrition and disease; 200 million people on the African continent alone are chronically malnourished. Traditional farming practices cannot meet the growing needs of the developing world. Africa's crop production is the lowest in the world and even with about two-thirds of its labor force engaged in agriculture, Africa currently imports more than 25 percent of its grain for food and feed.

Biotechnology offers great promise for agriculture and nutrition in the developing world. Vitamin-enhanced foods, foods higher in protein, and fruits and vegetables with longer shelf-lives have been developed using biotechnology. Biotechnology can promote sustainable agriculture, leading to food and economic security in developing nations. Biotechnology can help developing countries produce higher crop yields while using fewer pesticides and herbicides. My bill does not encourage the development of pesticide-resistant crops.

An added benefit of increased yields through biotechnology is that increased productivity on existing crop land reduces the amount of land that needs to be farmed as

well as the need for new crop acreage, which can greatly slow the rate of habitat destruction. Since most food production and farming in the developing world is done by women, such an increase in productivity also enables women to spend their time on other productive activities and better care for their families.

Biotechnology can also improve the health of citizens of developing countries by combating illness. Substantial progress has been made in the developed world on vaccines against life-threatening illnesses, but, unfortunately, infrastructure limitations often hinder the effectiveness of traditional vaccination methods in some parts of the developing world. For example, many vaccines must be kept refrigerated until they are injected. Even if a health clinic has electricity and is able to deliver effective vaccines, the cost of multiple needles can hinder vaccination efforts. Additionally, the improper use of hypodermic needles can spread HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Biotechnology offers the prospect of orally delivering vaccines to immunize against life-threatening illnesses through agricultural products in a safe and effective manner.

My bill establishes a grant program under the Foreign Agricultural Service in the Department of Agriculture to encourage research in agricultural biotechnology. Eligible grant recipients include historically black colleges and universities, land-grant colleges, Hispanic serving institutions, and tribal colleges or universities. Non-profit organizations and consortia of for-profit and in-country agricultural research centers are also eligible.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the International African Arts Festival which annually contributes to the Brooklyn community through weekend long cultural events.

For the past thirty years, the International African Arts Festival has brought together those who wish to enjoy the music, dance, art, craft, flavors, colors, laughter, and love of the African Diasporan family as well as visitors from across the globe. Born on a stage, the festival grew into a block party. However, soon thereafter the location changed once again to the Boys and Girls High field.

In an effort to give back to the community, the International African Arts Festival holds an annual talent search, in which cash prizes and performance contracts are awarded to young people. The talent search has helped to launch the careers of several young stars. In addition, the Festival has awarded over \$23,000 in annual scholarships to graduating high school seniors over the past eleven years. The International African Arts Festival is also responsible for the success of the Living Legends Award as well as the Ankh Award, both bestowed upon leaders and inspirational figures in the community.

The International African Arts Festival is committed to maintaining a connection with Af-

rican tradition itself. A traditional African libation ceremony officially opens the Festival each year in salute to the spirit of the African ancestors. Over the course of its thirty years, the International African Arts Festival has brought a wealth of world-class entertainment to Brooklyn stages. The Festival maintains a deep connection with the residents of Brooklyn, employing over 300 people every year.

Mr. Speaker, for the past thirty years the International African Arts Festival has been an integral part of the community. As such, the Festival is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable event.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE LINKS ACROSS AMERICA

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Postal Service links together cities and towns, large and small, across America through delivery of the mail. Since our nation's founding, mail delivery has been especially important to rural America, places that were at first a long walk away, then a long horse ride, and even for years a long automobile ride from the nearest downtown of a major city. The Internet today has helped reduce the distance between cities, and even countries, but mail delivery continues to be an important function for all Americans.

Most Americans, probably, are unaware that for decades rural letter carriers have used their own transportation to deliver the mail. This includes rural letter carriers who today drive their own vehicles in good weather and bad, in all seasons, in locations that can range from a canyon bottom to mountain top, ocean view to bayou. Rural letter carriers drive over 3 million miles daily and serve 24 million American families on over 66,000 rural and suburban routes. The mission of rural letter carriers has changed little over the years, but the type of mail they deliver has changed substantially—increasing to over 200 billion pieces a year. And although everyone seems to be communicating by email these days, the Postal Service is delivering more letters than at any time in our nation's history. During the next decade, however, we know that will change.

Electronic communication is expected to accelerate even faster than it has in the last five years. Some of what Americans send by mail today will be sent online. According to the General Accounting Office (GAO), that will include many bills and payments. In its study, U.S. Postal Service: Challenges to Sustaining Performance Improvements Remain Formidable on the Brink of the 21st Century, dated October 21, 1999, the GAO reports that the Postal Service's core business—letter mail—will decline substantially. As a result, the revenue the Postal Service collects from delivering First-Class letters also will decline.

While the Internet will eventually reduce the amount of letter mail rural letter carriers deliver, the Internet will present some new opportunities for delivering parcels. Rural letter carriers have for decades delivered the pack-

ages we order from catalogs, and now they deliver dozens of parcels every week that were ordered online. For some rural and suburban Americans the Postal Service still remains the only delivery service of choice. Today, the Postal Service has about 33 percent of the parcel business. However, if the Postal Service is as successful as it hopes in attracting more parcels, that could create a problem for rural carriers. Most items ordered by mail are shipped in boxes that, once filled with packing materials, can be bulky—so bulky, in fact, that many rural letter carriers already see the need for larger delivery vehicles.

In exchange for using their own vehicles, rural letter carriers are reimbursed for their vehicle expense by the Postal Service through the Equipment Maintenance Allowance (EMA). Congress recognized this unique situation in tax legislation as far back as 1988. That year Congress intended to exempt EMA from taxation through a specific provision for rural letter carriers in the Technical and Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1988 (TAMRA). This provision allowed rural mail carriers to compute their vehicle expense deduction based on 150 percent of the standard mileage rate for their business mileage use. Congress passed this law because using a personal vehicle to deliver the U.S. Mail is not typical vehicle use. Also, these vehicles have little resale value because of their high mileage and most are outfitted for right-handed driving.

As an alternative, rural letter carrier taxpayers could elect to use the actual expense method (business portion of actual operation and maintenance of the vehicle, plus depreciation). If the EMA exceeded the actual vehicle expense deductions, the excess was subject to tax. If EMA fell short of the actual vehicle expenses, a deduction was allowed only to the extent that the sum of the shortfall and all other miscellaneous itemized deductions exceeded two percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income.

The Taxpayers Relief Act (TRA) of 1997 further simplified the taxation of rural letter carriers. TRA provides that the EMA reimbursement is not reported as taxable income. That simplified taxes for approximately 120,000 taxpayers, but the provision eliminated the option of filing the actual expense method for employee business vehicle expenses. The lack of this option, combined with the effect the Internet will have on mail delivery, specifically on rural letter carriers and their vehicles, is a problem we must address.

Expecting its carriers to deliver more packages because of the Internet, the Postal Service already is encouraging rural letter carriers to purchase larger right-hand drive vehicles, such as sports utility vehicles (SUV). Large SUVs can carry more parcels, but also are much more expensive to operate than traditional vehicles—especially with today's higher gasoline prices. So without the ability to use the actual expense method and depreciation, rural carriers must use their pay to cover vehicle expenses. Additionally, the Postal Service has placed 11,000 postal vehicles on rural routes, which means those carriers receive no EMA.

All these changes combined have created a situation contrary to the historical Congressional intent of using reimbursement to fund the government service of delivering mail, and