

Diego in the State of California and the incredible energy crisis that we are going through. Yes, we are still experiencing it. We have not yet solved it. I have heard comments from Members of this body and the other body, comments from the White House, which seem to indicate an unwillingness to take action to work with California through this crisis.

I say to my colleagues in the Senate and I say to the administration, we are all in this together. If California falls, the rest of the Nation cannot be far behind.

We are the largest State in the union. We have experienced rolling blackouts, utilities on the verge of bankruptcy. If my colleagues do not think this has had an impact on our national economy, listen to Alan Greenspan, as he testified to the Senate just last week. He said that California's crisis is not isolated. It is not an aberration, and it is a problem that the whole Nation must address and must address quickly.

We should pay heed to Mr. Greenspan. And I say to the President, I think the President is going in the wrong direction on this issue. A hands-off approach by the Federal Government, as the President has suggested, is not going to solve this problem.

Yes, we are increasing our generating capacity. Yes, we are redoubling and retripling our efforts to conserve, but an important piece of this problem has been the wholesale prices that have been charged to our utilities and our consumers. The obscene wholesale prices that have been charged.

And only the Federal Government, I say to the President, only the Federal Government, through our Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, has the authority to regulate this wholesale price.

For the President to say that California must solve its own problems ignores the fact that the generators and marketers of electricity, a seven-member monopoly, in fact, that is based in States like Texas, have run up huge, huge profits, 800 percent, 900 percent in their latest reports.

While California, and soon other parts of the Nation, will suffer. Sacramento alone, California alone cannot regulate these wholesalers, I say to the President. This is Washington's responsibility, and it is that responsibility that we must take.

I have a bill just introduced today, the California Electrical Consumers Relief Act of 2001, to take that responsibility head on. In a case like San Diego and California, where FERC has already found, through its investigation, our wholesale rates to be unjust and unreasonable, and, therefore, illegal, illegal, I say to the President, in that situation, my bill would establish what is called cost-based rates. That is the costs of generation plus a reasonable profit, for wholesale electricity, not just in California, but throughout the western States.

This is a regional problem. We must tackle it regionally. It sets those prices retroactively back to last June when this crisis started. This is not a cap. This is not an arbitrary figure.

This is a reasonable rate based on a market-based formula which allows the generators to make a profit, but protects the consumers.

Mr. Speaker, FERC knows how to set those rates. They have the rationale. They have the procedure. They should do it, and we should order it.

For those rates, under my legislation, that were charged above the legal cost-based rates that we have in California and San Diego and have been paying since last June, my bill requires the refund of those obscene profits, the difference between what was charged us and the cost-based rates that FERC determines should be refunded, a billion dollars to the consumers of San Diego, Mr. Speaker. \$12 billion to the State of California.

These were ill-gotten gains by a cartel of the large energy generators and marketers, and that money must be returned to the Californians who are suffering. And as we watch the news and as we listen to what is going on, please remember the Governor of California and the California legislature can do a lot about our State's problems, but they cannot order refunds. They cannot set wholesale prices.

We are stuck in California with the economic disaster that that implies, a billion dollars worth of debt in San Diego, \$12 billion sucked out of our State by these power generators. We cannot look to Sacramento to solve that; only we can do it. I ask President Bush to act, and act quickly. The President cannot take a hands-off approach.

WHY DOES THE MEDIA INSIST UPON REPORTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICAN MAJORITY AND GIVING THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION CREDIT?

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, late last year, a constituent asked me "why do newspapers and TV networks insist upon not reporting the accomplishments of the Congressional Republican majority, or if it is reported, the Clinton administration is given the credit?"

I replied, some do accurately report the facts, but the national media, printed and electronic, with rare exceptions, tilts noticeably to the left.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans, if not most Americans, prefer fair, objective reporting. All too often, again, with rare exceptions, double standards are applied to the detriment of conservative Republicans.

An example of this double-standard mentality is the recently-revealed

Jesse Jackson saga. Had a nationally known conservative Republican religionist fathered a child out of wedlock, a universal firestorm would have likely erupted and, in lieu of a three-day story, it would have endured for several weeks with front page dissemination.

Ironically, Mr. Speaker, African American reporters have been more critical of Mr. Jackson than have many nonblack reporters.

This is an appropriate time, as we begin a new year, it seems to me, for the media to scrap the double standard it has nurtured for so long and embrace a single standard of reporting. If conservative Republicans are taken to the woodshed by the media, then so should liberal Democrats.

The Jesse Jackson case involves not insignificant amounts of money changing hands to the benefit of the mother of Reverend Jackson's child. If the father of this child, in my opinion, were a conservative Republican, media sleuths likely would be developing a money trail to determine the source of these funds. Is such a trail being pursued in the Jackson case? Unlikely.

When this story broke, I heard it said time and again that this story will be summarily dismissed, because Jesse Jackson is too powerful, and no one wants to annoy Reverend Jackson.

While I am attempting to annoy no one, Mr. Speaker, I, however, am employing the national media to submit to a New Year's resolution that, henceforth, conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats be objectively fed from the same journalistic spoon and the Jesse Jackson case is one of several that can serve as a springboard for this purpose.

My criticism of double standard reporting, Mr. Speaker, is directed to the mainstream media, or what is commonly known as the big markets. I am the beneficiary of fair and objective reporting by the media in my congressional district. But fairness and objective political reporting need to be practiced more fully at the national level. If my activities can be reported fairly and objectively within the boundaries of my congressional district, why can it not be done nationally?

I hope this will be forthcoming. Should I hold my breath? I fear that would be ill-advised. Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, I will patiently wait and hope.

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

□ 1230

POULTRY FARMERS' EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the

House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. SHOWS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, the unusually cold winter and the dramatic increase in heating costs are hurting everybody in my State of Mississippi and this country. Clearly we need to encourage more domestic production of oil and gas. But in Mississippi, we need immediate action; we need help today, especially for our region's poultry industry.

Some poultry farmers have seen their gas bills double and triple over last year. This is through no fault of their own since we lost so much to NAFTA, which is a major employer in many of our communities. The poultry industry relies on plentiful and affordable gas heat in the cold winter months.

These days the industry has been devastated by the dramatic rise in the cost of gas. This may not be a natural disaster like a tornado or flood, but this is a disaster just the same. It is an economic disaster that threatens the very existence of farmers throughout our regions.

Yesterday, I introduced a bill that would provide both immediate and long-term emergency assistance to our poultry farmers. My bill, the Poultry Farmers' Emergency Energy Assistance Act, would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants that would not have to be repaid to help local producers deal immediately with financial pressures caused by this crisis.

This bill would also make low-interest loans available to poultry farmers to help deal with the energy crisis for the months ahead.

In addition, at my insistence, loan-making officials at the USDA's Farm Service Agency have clarified their regulations so that contract poultry farmers will be eligible for FSA emergency loans.

This important legislation needs to be enacted quickly. Our farmers need help, and they need it now. I am calling upon our leaders in Congress to move this energy assistance bill quickly to passage. I will not rest until the Poultry Farmers' Emergency Energy Assistance Act becomes law.

TRIBUTE TO WILL DWYER

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this is kind of a sad occasion for me. Today I rise to pay tribute to Will Dwyer, who was my former communications director of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. He passed away earlier this month after a long battle with cancer.

He began his media career as a broadcast documentary producer in the 1950s, and then he moved to Washington to start a career in public service. He was a native of Rochester, New

York; and he began his congressional career in the 88th Congress by working for Frank Horton of New York. He served as his administrative assistant for some time.

Then after his stint in public service, he left Washington for the private sector. He returned to Rochester where he held the post of Republican county chairman. During that time, he also founded a telecommunications privacy service.

Will knew that life was too valuable to let a day go by without enjoying everything that it had to offer. He was a man with an incredible thirst for new and different experiences, and he returned to school in mid-life and received his law degree while he was in his mid-40s.

Earlier this decade, Will was called back into public service by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH). It was on his reputation on Radanovich's staff that we hired him to be our communications director with the Committee on Government Reform.

Although I knew Will for only a short period of time, he was a very, very fine man, a man of impeccable integrity, really cared about this country, a very patriotic fellow. He lived his life knowing that every day was something to savor. It was his attitude that brings me to the floor today to pay tribute to this man whom we are all going to miss a great deal, my friend, Will Dwyer.

So God in heaven, I hope you are blessing Will because he was a man who should be blessed a great deal.

Mr. Speaker, I insert into the RECORD an article that appeared in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle about the life of my good friend, Will Dwyer, as follows:

[From the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Jan. 18, 2001]

WILLIAM F. DWYER II DIES OF CANCER AT 65

William F. Dwyer II is described as a dynamo, a restless man, an irrepressible force.

He worked in politics from Monroe County to Washington, D.C., and was a Rochester broadcaster. He got his law degree in his late 40s, spoke on behalf of the tobacco industry, even ran a modular home business in California.

But there was one constant theme in Mr. Dwyer's life—his limitless interest in people. "He was such an egalitarian," said Mr. Dwyer's wife, Constance Drath. "He talked to the grocery clerk, the mailman, the elected officials. He loved learning about everyone."

Mr. Dwyer died of cancer last week in Washington. He was 65.

Mr. Dwyer was born in Rochester on March 30, 1935, and grew up in the city. He graduated from a military academy in New Jersey as the class valedictorian, Drath said.

He returned to Rochester in the mid-1950s and began a career in broadcasting at WHAM-AM (1180). Family and friends say that Mr. Dwyer—a tall man with a curly head of brown hair—had a deep, resonant voice that was perfect for the airwaves.

In 1962, Mr. Dwyer moved to the political arena, going to work for Frank Horton, a Penfield Republican just elected to Congress. He became Horton's administrative assist-

ant, basically his right-hand man, and instituted weekly radio feeds that would be picked up by Rochester radio stations.

Mr. Dwyer also used a radio communications system that kept the Horton campaign in touch with him. "This wasn't done back then," said Horton, who called Mr. Dwyer not just a valued employee but a good friend.

"I could tell him anything," Horton said. "You can't say that about everybody."

He left Horton's office in the late 1960s and started a public relations firm that often worked with political campaigns. He worked closely with the Republican Party and in 1970 was named Monroe County chairman of the party.

Richard Rosenbaum, himself a former county GOP chairman, said that Mr. Dwyer's style was "benevolent aggressiveness."

"He was a great PR man, who could make lemonade out of the most awful lemons," he said.

Mr. Dwyer left Rochester for Washington in 1972 and worked in the Nixon and Ford administrations, mainly as a Labor Department spokesman for new workplace safety and health standards.

In 1975, he became a spokesman for the now-defunct Tobacco Institute, which spoke on behalf of cigarette manufacturers.

In 1980, Mr. Dwyer moved to California with Drath. In two years, he obtained his law degree from Southwestern University of Law in Los Angeles. He and Drath opened a law firm in Beverly Hills, specializing in wrongful employment termination cases and immigration issues.

During the 1980s, he dabbled in other ventures, including a modular home company.

In 1994, politics came calling again, and Mr. Dwyer served as a press secretary for Rep. George Radanovich, R-Calif., then as communications director for the House Government Reform Committee.

Through all the changes in his life, Mr. Dwyer remained upbeat and eager for new challenges, Drath said.

"This was a man who knew the art of living in the moment," she said. "He never looked back, never had any regrets."

Along with his wife of Washington, Mr. Dwyer is survived by their two children Scott Dwyer and William Dwyer III of Washington; Elizabeth Sellers of Paris and Geoffrey Dwyer of Brockport, his children from his previous marriage to Eleanor Clarke, now Eleanor Lawton of Brighton; and two sisters, Carol Stearns of Washington, Conn., and Anne Colgan of East Rochester.

A memorial service will be held at Georgetown Presbyterian Church in Washington at noon Wednesday.

Memorial contributions can be made to the National Colorectal Cancer Research Institute at Entertainment Industry Foundation, 11132 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, CA 91604.

TAX DEDUCTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will help restore tax fairness to millions of people in my State of Washington and throughout the country. Joining me in this effort today is the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT), my good friend and colleague, who has been instrumental in helping draft this legislation.

The problem we are referring today to, Mr. Speaker, is a basic unfairness in