

generating unit operating. It is better than what has been going on today, with prices up to \$4,000 a megawatt hour. Maybe we will get it down to \$200 or \$300. That is still ten times what the market provided for just 2 years ago.

They will extend it across the entire western United States, which will offer some relief to my part of the country in the Pacific Northwest.

They did admit the price-gouging and market manipulation had gone on and that refunds were due, but they set up some sort of voluntary settlement process to try and extract the billions of dollars back from these Texas-based energy conglomerates.

That is not going to work. They need to use their authority to order the refunds, and they need to set the amount of the refunds.

Then, finally, they said it would only last through a year from next October; that is, two summers for California, two peak seasons, but only one peak season for my part of the country. This will still cost consumers hundreds of millions, ultimately billions of dollars more than they need to pay to have reliable energy in the western U.S. It will still put untold hundreds of millions and billions of dollars into the pockets of market manipulators. It is just that the profits will not be a 1,000 percent increase anymore, it might only be a 200 percent increase or 300 percent increase for those companies based in Texas who have been contributing so generously to the majority party in this administration.

But they had to do something, because they might lose their whole scam, their whole game. The heart of it is deregulation. Deregulation does not work in a monopoly environment. It does not work when there are a few plants and one big set of transmission wires that runs down to smaller wires that run to our house.

How are we going to have competition? Competition could never work, will never work in this industry. It is a vital public necessity. For more than 60 years we regulated in this country because of the collapse the last time we played with deregulation in the United States, back in the 1920s.

It is time to return to regulation. But short of that, it is time for effective cost-based caps on power, something that runs for 2 years and something that orders that rebates be done. We should not accept in this House these half-measures by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in their desperate attempt to save themselves from being embarrassed in having to testify before the United States Senate.

ANGOLA, INDIANA PROVIDES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES TO CITIZENS, AND SUCCESSFUL HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR YEAR EXPERIENCE TO A DIVERSITY OF STUDENTS

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, Angola is a town in my district of 67,000 people in northeast Indiana, and it has become a hot zone for economic development, and will become ever more so in the upcoming years.

Obviously, a hard-working work force is important, but that has been there since the founding. Interstate 80/90, better known as the Indiana Toll Road, and Interstate 69 intersect just north of town, which has been a longtime asset of this area.

Angola, Indiana has further capitalized on its natural resource assets. Lake James and many other lakes in the area have long been a draw for many people who want to live in an environment where they can be surrounded by lakes and various recreation opportunities.

By connecting Pokagan State Park to the newly-built YMCA and to its unique Monument Circle with a bike path, area residents are offered increasing health and recreation alternatives.

What has given Angola a further edge is the educational collaboration of Tri-State University, Angola High School, and now the new Plastics Technology Center. Yesterday I was with Steve Corona of JobWorks, Inc., and Craig Adolph and Harry Adamson of the plastics center to announce a grant of \$514,000.

To some, this may seem like the rich are getting richer. Angola has a lot of advantages. The truth is, Angola is not a wealthy town. It is basically mid-America or maybe even slightly below in income, but they are organized. They have been rising because they have been able to coordinate several things that in fact have become the keys to economic development: the recreation opportunities, the lifestyle opportunities, combined with good transportation, a good work force, and increasingly, a well-trained and educated work force.

One of the things that Angola provides is a continuum of education efforts. Whether the student decides to go into the work force directly after high school, enter a 2-year vocational program or community college program, or whether they are going to attend a 4-year university or just continue life-long learning or specific training that is not degree-driven, it is a real-world option.

To employers, this means that students are being prepared for real-world jobs. Too often, our education is generic. Many job training programs at times seem to be marginally useful. It is easy to criticize our schools when they get things wrong, and we frequently do it from this floor.

At Angola High School, they are getting things right. I visited their effective Safe and Drug-Free Schools program. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, it has been frustrating to see a lot of programs that do not work. This is one that has worked.

They have a great high-tech program which is innovative at the State and national level. They consistently win the State music programs over the last few years. I am proud that it is in my district, but let me give the Members a couple of examples that illustrate why and what I mean by this.

The principal was quoted in this article, and the article reiterates that the U.S. Department of Education has singled out Angola as the "new American high school," and the principal is one of only two high school principals on the National Commission on the High School Senior Year national study. The Indiana Association of Teacher Educators in 1998 and 1996 picked Angola as Indiana's most outstanding high school.

One of the things they have done for the high school seniors is a workplace participation program. About 40 businesses and industries in Steuben County have developed a 9-week workplace curriculum. The high school's flexible four-block schedule allows students time to travel by bus to their workplaces.

Let me give a couple of examples. One student at Angola, Todd Hack, is further along in his college career than some college freshmen. He will start at Tri-State University with 26 hours of credits earned from advanced placement courses and computer classes he took on campus. The flexible schedule allowed him to move ahead, so he was able to stay in school and, because he was an advanced student, get a college education.

Another student, Greg Knauer, worked 30 hours a week in his senior year at a construction firm earning hours towards his journeyman's license. He hopes to begin an apprenticeship after graduation, another type of career path.

Yet another student, Amy Dennis, was interested in nursing, but did not have a family member to show her the ropes. Her workplace participation took her to Cameron Memorial Community Hospital, where she followed every clinical rotation. She will study nursing at Indiana University-Purdue University in Fort Wayne, or IPFW or the University of St. Francis next fall, and hopes to become an obstetrics nurse.

Yet another student will participate in a Cisco computer program in which two high schools in my district have hooked up, and when finished, he will be certified to build up a network system from ground up. He is planning to attend Cornell or MIT, his early picks, and he is confident his high school record, near perfect SAT scores, will make them take notice.

This is how high school should work, where we have the range of students, a diversity of students: one here, one going into construction, one into nursing at college, one into an advanced placement program, and one to an Ivy League school.

I want to congratulate Angola, and I am proud to represent them.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following articles from the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette and the News-Sun and Evening Star of Auburn and Angola.

The articles referred to are as follows:

IS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR YEAR A WASTE OF TIME?

(By Karen Francisco)

Senior-itis symptoms are at the full-blown stage. Mortar boards and gowns in hand, scores of high school seniors are impatiently marking time, waiting for the chance to slam the door on childhood and rush headlong into life.

But are they ready? Have they spent the past nine months preparing for what lies beyond, or have they been stuck in an antiquated educational system that allots 12 years of schooling for 11 years of knowledge?

The National Commission on the High School Senior Year considered the question. It arrived at the conclusion that "The nation faces a deeply troubling future unless we transform the lost opportunity of the senior year into an integral part of students' preparation for life, citizenship, work and further education."

In his charge to the commission, former U.S. Secretary of Education Robert Riley described the senior year as a "wasteland," a year of "significant drift and disconnection."

The panel's final report will be released June 28, and it will likely create a stir not unlike 1983's landmark "A Nation at Risk" report, according to Dr. Rex Bolinger, principal at Angola High School and one of just two high school principals on the high-powered commission. Look for a sweeping indictment of the structure of U.S. high schools.

INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS

Bolinger points to a number of problems with the typical American high school and its role in the education spectrum. First and foremost might be its inflexibility.

"We've allowed learning to be the variable and time and support the constant," Bolinger said. "The opposite is what is needed."

He cited the example of students following a math curriculum without regard to their own interests and abilities. Students are passed along, and when they begin to struggle, they simply choose not to take any more math classes. Inflexible six- or seven-period schedules discourage students from retaking courses they haven't mastered.

American students don't perform as well as students from other industrialized countries on math and science exams because our high school curricula allow them to opt out of advanced courses like calculus and chemistry long before their counterparts, the principal said.

"The message we've got to get out is that whatever you plan to do after you get out of high school, we've all got to have the same rigorous preparation," Bolinger said.

Another problem with the typical high school is the sorting process, according to the principal. Unwittingly, some teachers and systems sort and label students as college prep, general ed or vocational. The labels stick, and students who might have dis-

covered a passionate interest in art, literature or computers are dismissed as non-college types. Disenfranchised, they lose interest in school and are at risk to drop out.

ANGOLA IS MODEL

Bolinger's own school could be a model for how high school should work. It has been singled out by the U.S. Department of Education as a "New American High School," and by the Indiana Association of Teacher Educators in 1996 and '98 as Indiana's "Most Outstanding Successful High School."

The school's evolution began about six years ago, when Bolinger and some business and education leaders began talking about how to prepare students for jobs in the community. The result was the Workplace Participation Program. About 40 businesses and industries in Steuben County have developed a nine-week workplace curriculum. The high school's flexible four-block schedule allows students time to travel by bus to the work-places.

"The curriculum is simple to prepare," Bolinger said. "We tell them, 'Write down what you do and teach them.'"

And the students are learning.

Joe Dolack is a senior who transferred to Angola from Illinois his sophomore year. He repeated a math class to catch up on academics, and then began participating in the workplace program at General Products Corp., an automotive components supplier. His grade-point average has risen three points on a 12-point scale and he plans to attend community college in Coldwater, Mich., before transferring to a four-year school. A career in manufacturing management is his goal.

Senator Amy Dennis was interested in nursing, but didn't have a family member to show her the ropes. Her workplace participation took her to Cameron Memorial Community Hospital, where she followed every clinical rotation. She will study nursing at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne or the University of St. Francis next fall, and hopes to become an obstetrics nurse.

It was a job in the building trades that enticed Greg Knauer. He has worked 30 hours a week during his senior year at Ingledue Construction, earning hours toward his journeyman's license. He hopes to begin an apprenticeship in construction after graduation.

Angola senior Todd Hack is further along in his college career than some college freshman. He'll start at Tri-State University this fall with 26 hours of credit earned from Advanced Placement courses and computer classes he took on campus. The flexible schedule at Angola allowed him to move ahead, Hack said, while still finishing high school requirements and participating in three sports.

Amy Enneking, also a senior, is convinced she wants to teach after spending her workplace participation hours in a first-grade classroom at Hendry Park Elementary School. She will study elementary education at Butler University this fall.

Chris DeLucenay is still a junior, but his career goals are clear.

"I knew I wanted an aggressive schedule," he said. "I'm interested in computers and engineering, so I've taken calculus at Tri-State and two Advanced Placement courses."

He will participate next year in the Cisco computer program and, when finished, will be certified to build a network system from the ground up. Cornell and MIT are his early college picks, and he's confident his high school record (and near-perfect SAT scores) will make them take notice.

A TEAM EFFORT

Craig Adolph, an Angola education consultant who has been involved in the school

program since its inception, said the most remarkable thing about recent Angola graduates is their focus. All seem to have a clear idea of what they want to do and how to do it.

For the community's part, Adolph said, the job is to keep people in touch with learning so they never are reluctant to return to college or a job-training program.

Dr. Tom Enneking, vice president for academic affairs at Tri-State, said the key was to develop a seamless delivery system for education. His school had previously offered an early admissions program, but the partnership with Angola High School allowed it to build on the Advanced Placement courses, easily bridging the high school to college gap that some students fail to cross.

THE JOB AHEAD

Bolinger said the transformation of American high schools was one step in a bigger task—building an infrastructure that supports lifelong learning, instead of one that starts and stops in uneven intervals between preschool and adulthood.

The first step—creating high schools that work—won't come easily, Bolinger said, but he's hopeful the national commission's recommendations will spur progress. A report that challenges the fundamental structure of American education is a sharp departure from the current testing and standards hysteria, but the principal said he is hopeful for its prospects because of bipartisan support and the interest of Rod Paige, who was a member of the commission until he replaced Riley as secretary of education.

Bolinger said some parents have accused his school—with its emphasis on career training and college courses—of pushing students out the door. The opposite is true, he said. Rather than constraining students to a rigid, cookie-cutter model, a high school schedule should promote independence and self-exploration. The old model served us well for many years, the principal said, but a new American high school is what's needed for a new century.

STUDY'S FINDINGS

Selected findings from the National Commission on the High School Senior Year:

A high school diploma is no longer a guarantee of success in either postsecondary education or the world of work.

The goal of the American high school needs to be reoriented from preparing some students for college and others for work.

The conditions of modern life require that all students graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in both postsecondary education and careers.

"The tyranny of low expectations" hinders many minority students and many poor students from all ethnic backgrounds.

Ideally, beginning in the middle school years, every student would have a "learning plan," a formal but flexible outline of what the student hopes to accomplish in young adulthood and which education, work and service experiences can best help him or her to attain those goals.

The kindergarten-12 system is poorly aligned and has not established reliable lines of communication with postsecondary education and the world of work. The National Commission on the High School Senior Year (www.commissiononthesenioryear.org)

GRANT TO PAY FOR TRAINING PLASTICS WORKERS

(By Yvonne Paske)

Angola—That attractive structure next to the Breeden YMCA and Learning Center on Angola's northeast side isn't just for show.

The Plastics Technology Center will continue on its course to train a work force on

state-of-the-art plastics technology for jobs in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Illinois, thanks to a \$514,550 U.S. Department of Labor grant.

Collaborators on the grant, U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., Steve Corona of JobWorks Inc., Harry Adamson, Plastics Technology Center director, and Craig Adolph of the Cole Foundation, made the announcement at the Plastics Technology Center Monday.

The grant was requested in January and awarded Friday, Adolph said. A curriculum and courses may be in place as soon as this summer or fall to train workers on specific machinery allowing some to step into jobs earning them \$40,000 a year, he said.

The training is available to workers in the Indiana counties of Noble and DeKalb, as well as Steuben, Souder said. It also is open to Williams County, Ohio, and Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph counties of Michigan.

The training will be free, as the grant will pick up the cost, Adamson said. To date, he has hired no project manager, although the coordinating process with other workplaces has begun.

In opening comments, Souder characterized Steuben County as a spot on the cusp of becoming an industrial magnet due to job training, exceptional schools, natural beauty, recreational options and advantageous transportation routes.

"This is clearly a hot zone for Indiana," he said. "The rolling hills, the interstate structure, the lakes. . . That's why we work to get money for the airport expansion, a bypass around Angola, the bike path. . . It all makes a positive ambiance for industrial recruitment, and in the middle of it you have a technology center."

He praised Angola High School's advanced use of technology, its partnership with Tri-State University and its school-to-workplace program and emphasized those assets work together to train and keep a available work force in Steuben County.

"The Plastics Technology Center can help Angola High School reach out," he said. "The companies ultimately with this grant can help meet the increasing demands for mid-tech workers and keep them here. This is for people in high school who recognize everyone will not go to college. We're retraining the work force. This will help northeast Indiana further along the path for an enhanced quality of life."

Corona credited the interaction between Adolph and Adamson, the facility itself, the coordination with work force systems in the tri-state area and the training curriculum for the nod on the grant.

"We expect to serve 1,000 people over the next 24 month period. . . Research shows around 100 plastics plants in Michigan and Indiana (alone)," he said.

"That's what higher education in the U.S. and Indiana is about," Adolph said. "We're going to keep our students here. We are out in front, and with these people's help, we're going to stay there."

Adamson said the center will help Steuben County compete in a global environment. Training for students, incumbent and dislocated workers will mean higher productivity, said the 30-year veteran of the plastics industry.

Adamson led those assembled on a tour of the center, including a visit to the computer lab, where students learn industrial software packages in the center's Cisco Academy. "Here students are trained on the simulation models, individually, at their own speed," he said.

He also showed off the actual plastics machinery upon which students will train, calling it "the latest, the highest" in technology. The machinery and lab were donated by companies on six-month leases, and com-

puters procured through a \$50,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant written by Adolph.

"We're looking at concrete, bottom-line dollars here," Adamson said. "These people will be trained—you don't need to call a more skilled person."

Souder spoke to the environmental issues and impact attendant upon courting industry and plastics plants while touting the area's unspoiled natural beauty.

"First off, why are companies moving toward plastics?" he queried. "Because they want cleaner air, and people want higher gas mileage, which lighter, plastic parts (can give). As we move toward more biodegradable plastics, the manufacturing impact is less, as opposed to steel mills. Plastics also have some of the cleaner software jobs because we'll have applied sciences. . . I know this is a sensitive issue in a lakes area. Plastics isn't the cleanest (industry), but it's among them," he said. He pointed to University of Notre Dame research developing reduced air pollution techniques in relation to plastics manufacturing.

Adolph indicated plastics may be the tip of the iceberg in recruiting business to the area.

"With training and with Tri-State as a partner, we . . . should be able to attract other technology-based industries as well," he said. "This building can be enhanced, so plastics is just the first large manufacturer."

WE CANNOT HAVE A FREE SOCIETY WITHOUT PRIVATE PROPERTY

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, John A. Rapanos owned a 175-acre tract of land a few miles west of Bay City, Michigan. He cut some timber, removed the stumps, and brought in a considerable quantity of sand as fill.

Now, this was on his own private property. However, the Michigan State government ruled that 29 acres contained wetlands, and a federal permit should have been obtained first. Mr. Rapanos was indicted, convicted, and the judge reluctantly imposed a \$185,000 fine, put him on probation for 3 years, and required 200 hours of community service.

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Then a few months ago, the 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals reversed the judge, because incredibly they said he had given Mr. Rapanos too lenient a sentence.

Mr. Speaker, when something like this can take place, I wonder if we really live in a free country any more. The judge whom the 6th Circuit unbelievably found to be too lenient said at one point, "I don't know if it's just a coincidence that I just sentenced Mr. Gonzales, a person selling dope on the streets of the United States. He is an illegal person here. He's not an American citizen. He has a prior criminal record. So here we have a person who comes to the United States and commits crimes of selling dope, and the government asks me to put him in prison for 10 months. And then we have an

American citizen who buys land, pays for it with his own money, and he moves some sand from one end to the other and the government wants me to give him 63 months in prison."

And the judge said, "Now, if that isn't our system gone crazy, I don't know what is. And I am not going to do it."

Of course, he was reversed. This story was told in a recent column by nationally syndicated columnist James J. Kilpatrick entitled, "Wetlands Case Shows Government Run Amok."

Mr. Speaker, we can never satisfy government's appetite for money or land. If we gave every Department or agency up here twice what they are getting, they might be happy for a short time; but they would very soon be back to us crying about a shortfall of funds.

Now, the Federal Government owns slightly over 30 percent of the land in this country and State and local governments and quasigovernmental entities own another 20 percent, half the land in some type of public ownership; but they always want more.

And the two most disturbing things are, one, the rapid rate at which government has increased its taking in the last 30 years or 40 years; and, two, the growing number of restrictions, rules, regulations, and red tape the government is applying to the land that is left in private hands.

And some very left-wing environmental extremists are even promoting something called the Wildlands Project with the goal of taking half the land that is left in private hands and making it public. No one seems to get concerned until it is their land that is being taken or their home.

Talk about urban sprawl, if you feel overcrowded now, wait until the government takes half the private land that is left.

Already, there is so little private land that is still developable in many areas that builders are forced to build houses on postage-stamp size lots.

Fairfax County, Virginia, recently had a man placed in jail for about 3 months because he had the audacity to put a golf driving range on his own land in competition with a county government driving range.

He even spent huge money, I believe it was over \$100,000, placing trees and complying with all sorts of ridiculous requirements; but when they told him he was going to have to spend many more thousands more to move trees they had ordered him to put in in the first place and basically undo what they ordered him to do, he fought back.

I ask again, Mr. Speaker, is this still a free country?

The Nobel Prize winning economist Milton Friedman said, "You cannot have a free society without private property."

Linda Bowles, a national syndicated columnist, a few days ago in a column entitled, "Endangered Species versus Farmers," wrote this, "In his 1992 best