

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATION OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago Lithuanian American communities across this nation gathered to reflect and celebrate the 84th year commemorating Lithuanian independence. In Southfield, Michigan, this community gathered on Sunday, February 10, 2002 at the Lithuanian Cultural Center.

On February 16, 1918 the Lithuanian people proclaimed an independent state ruled by the people, free from German military control. For most of the 20th century, however, authoritarian regimes prevented Lithuanian nationalists from enjoying the fruits of liberty and democracy. In 1990, after five decades of oppression under Soviet control and a relentless passion for freedom and democracy, the Lithuanian people once again proclaimed their independence.

The United States relationship with Lithuania is strong and growing stronger. Today Lithuanian and American leaders, governments and people are able to enjoy a great partnership. A significant goal of this partnership is the commitment to the security of the Baltic region and the promotion of democracy and freedom around the world. To achieve this goal the Republic of Lithuania is making great economic, social and political progress in an effort to secure membership to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The role of NATO in preserving peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area is essential for all people; Lithuanians must not be the exception.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Lithuania, those of Lithuanian ancestry around the world and Lithuanian Americans in celebrating the 84th Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I will support this measure.

The bill before us responds to the urgent needs of hundreds of thousands of people who are out of work and whose unemployment benefits have been or soon will be exhausted. It also provides important provisions that can help speed up the recovery from recession and create jobs.

My only regret is that it has taken so long for us to take up this kind of bill. If we had

done so sooner, fewer people would have reached the end of their benefits and the economic recovery might be moving at a faster rate. So, I hope that the fact the bill must go back to the Senate will not lead to further unnecessary delays.

To show why prompt action is essential, I am attaching a story from this morning's Rocky Mountain News. It reports that Colorado's unemployment rate recently surpassed the national rate for the first time in more than a decade.

We also have a high concentration of high-tech employment—and many provisions of this bill are particularly important for high-tech firms, which is another reason I support it.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, Mar. 7, 2002]

JOBLESS PICTURE BLEAK

(By Heather Draper)

Colorado's unemployment rate hit 5.7 percent in January, its highest level since 1993 and surpassing the national jobless rate for the first time in nearly 12 years.

The U.S. employment rate in January was 5.6 percent.

The state's increase from 5.1 percent in December was the second-highest jump in the nation behind New Mexico, which recorded a 0.9-point rise from December, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Wednesday.

Colorado's 3-percentage-point increase from its historic low of 2.7 percent in January 2001 was also the nation's second-largest year-over-year increase, behind Oregon's 3.1-point jump.

"It's definitely of concern," said Patty Silverstein, economist with Development Research Partners. "We haven't seen levels like this since the early 1990s. You can't really sugarcoat this."

The state's 5.7 percent seasonally adjusted jobless rate translated to about 135,000 Coloradans out of work in January.

The city and county of Denver's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate hit a whopping 7.4 percent in January, up from 6.1 percent in December and 3.4 percent in January last year, according to the state Labor Department.

About 69,000 metro Denver residents were unemployed in January, 21,200 of those in Denver County alone.

"The last time Colorado's jobless rate was higher than the national rate was March 1990," said Tom Dunn, chief economist for the state legislative council. "We have a higher concentration of high-tech employment here and a lot of travel-related jobs, so Colorado has been hit harder. And I think, Sept. 11 introduced a whole new wrinkle (in the economy)."

Dunn said the recession hit Colorado later than the rest of the nation, so the state will start to recover later.

Economists were surprised by the size of the state's increase, as most were predicting unemployment of about 5.5 percent in January.

"All bets are off now," Silverstein said. "It's hard to say how much higher we might possibly go. The bottom line is that we aren't out of the woods yet."

The unemployment rate is a lagging economic indicator, but "that is still a huge jump," said Tucker Hart Adams, economist with US Bank

"The recession may be officially over, but I think that's kind of irrelevant," Adams said. "The layoffs continue and housing is getting worse. I just don't see any signs of strength locally."

At least one economist was a bit more bullish on the state's economic outlook. "I think the good news is that the U.S. economy has bottomed out," said Sung Won Sohn, Chief economist at Wells Fargo & Co. "Since Colorado's economy depends so much on the U.S. economy, we have to view the U.S. economic outlook as the light at the end of the tunnel."

Job losses were greatest in Colorado's trade sector, with 16,000 fewer jobs in January 2002 than December 2001. Government jobs were down 12,200, and service industry jobs were down 11,400, the labor department said. The only sector to see an overall gain in January was the finance, insurance and real estate sector, which was up 1,100 jobs.

Pueblo had one of the state's highest unemployment rates in January at 8.2 percent, up from 6.5 percent in December 2001 and 4.7 percent in January 2001. Colorado Springs hit 6.8 percent unemployment in January, up from 5.6 percent in December and 3.2 percent a year ago.

The Boulder-Longmont area registered 5.7 percent unemployment in January, up from 4.7 percent in December and more than double its 2.4 percent rate a year ago.

RECOGNIZING JESSICA STAHL

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Jessica Stahl, my constituent from Rockville Centre who has been chosen as a top student finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search (STS), a nationwide competition honoring young people for outstanding work in science and research. Jessica's 10th place prize was the largest awarded to a Long Island finalist this year. She will receive a \$20,000 scholarship prize for finishing in the top ten.

Jessica is a seventeen-year-old senior at South Side High School. Jessica's project was a research project on dance therapy titled "Development of a Movement Analysis Instrument and its Application to Test the Effect of Different Music Styles on Freedom of Body Movement." Jessica wanted to determine if one style of music could produce more expressive and freer movement than others. She developed an original method for quantifying body movements, something no previous researcher had achieved, then found one musical piece that was available in classical, rock, jazz, dance, and reggae styles—Beethoven's 5th Symphony. Jessica believed that the answer could have applications in dance/movement therapy for emotional as well as physical problems. Her results pointed towards reggae as the most liberating.

The awards, presented by Intel Corporation, honor young people for being the nation's

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

brightest high school seniors. Intel Corporation gave out scholarships totaling \$530,000 at an awards ceremony this week which was precluded by a public exhibition of all 40 of the students involved in the competition. The Intel STS is America's oldest and most prestigious science competition and is also considered as the "Junior Nobel Prize."

Jessica's ideas and creativity point to a bright future. It is reassuring to see such potential in our young people. I applaud Jessica for her hard work and ingenuity. Long Island, particularly Nassau County, is proud to commend such a talented young individual.

TRIBUTE TO ROSE M. AGUILAR

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman who has dedicated so many years to serving her city and her community, Rose Aguilar. Her remarkable achievements have brought so many families and communities together in an effort to educate and promote political action and community service. As members and friends of the Wayne County Chapter of the Hispanic Democrats gathered together on Saturday, March 2, 2002 to honor Rose, a longtime friend and advocate of the civic affairs and community service, they honored her with a celebration of activism, laughter, and memories.

A leader and an activist all her life, Rose Aguilar was the first Hispanic female to be hired at an all-male YMCA, as Director of Programs and Community Service. As an employment specialist in the Wayne County office on Aging and as a community development specialist for the Wayne County Community Development Block Grants Division, her efforts for Wayne County have been relentless. Working as a victim advocate for the Wayne County Prosecutor's office until 1994, she was instrumental in assisting Hispanic domestic violence and homicide victims. Returning to full time employment through her involvement with migrant children, her work with the Committee of Concerned Spanish Speaking Americans led her to serve not only in local parent groups but at the state level as well. Her leadership continues today, as she is Vice-Chair of the Hispanic Democrats of Wayne County, the only all Hispanic Democrats group, and continues to remain active in several other political and civic organizations.

Demonstrating outstanding dedication and commitment throughout the years, Rose Aguilar has truly led her community in a new direction, creating and developing programs that have advanced Detroit's political and community outreach services. She was Vice Chairwoman and former Board Trustee of the New Detroit Self Determination Committee, Vice Chairwoman of the Public Safety and Justice Committee, Executive Board member of Police Community Relations at Precinct 4, Assistant Director of LA SED, and Commissioner of the City of Detroit Senior Citizens Committee, to name a few. Additionally, Rose's outstanding efforts have not gone unrecognized, as she has been honored with prestigious awards like the 1978 Governor's Award as Outstanding Latina in Community

Services, the Outstanding Public Relations Award for 1979 and 1985 from the Mexican Patriotic Committee, the Women's Equality Award in 1986 from the City of Detroit's Human Rights Department, and the Cesar Chavez Award in 2001 from the State of Michigan Latino Democrats. Rose Aguilar's crusade to raise the standards of activism and community outreach programs is one that will be remembered by citizens of this community for years to come.

I applaud Rose Aguilar for her leadership and commitment, and thank her for dedicating her life to serving her city and her community. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting her for her exemplary years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN ENERGY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the RECORD an editorial published in the "Boulder Daily Camera" on March 6. The editorial comes at a critical time, as the Senate is even now debating an energy bill that could lead us in the right—or wrong—direction. The piece ends by calling on the Senate to recognize conservation and alternative energy as not just personal virtues, but as "important components of a national energy policy." I couldn't agree more.

DEMAND LESS DEMAND

In recent months, some have complained that the United States needs an over-arching, under-girding energy policy. They are, in fact, right.

President Bush has proposed an energy policy that emphasizes increased production of oil, gas and electricity and places relatively little emphasis on conservation and alternative energy. The Bush plan, whose fundamental components were approved by the House of Representatives last year, includes a provision allowing for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, one of the last true wilderness areas.

The energy bill passed by the House was predicated on the assumption that we are in an energy crisis and that the best way to confront this crisis is to increase energy production as rapidly as possible. That's the stated justification for drilling in ANWR, and that's the clear rationale for handing \$34 billion in subsidies to oil, gas and nuclear industries.

Curiously, the Bush-backed energy bill does not appreciably boost efficiency standards for the nation's automobiles. The House killed an amendment that would have sharply raised the fuel-efficiency standards for the nation's sport-utility vehicles and light trucks—to an average of 27.5 miles per gallon, the standard that cars now meet. Such an increase would obviate the demand for ANWR oil.

The House rejected the higher fuel standards because a study concluded that the imposition of fuel-efficiency standards coincided with a higher highway fatality rate. A National Academy of Sciences study last year opined that tough fuel-economy standards imposed three decades ago might have caused an additional 100 deaths or so annually. The Academy's report also argued that the safety concerns could be satisfactorily addressed. That didn't faze the House, which

capitulated to the auto industry and labor unions.

This week, a competing energy bill is being discussed in the Senate. The 500-page Senate bill, sponsored by Sens. Tom Daschle and Jeff Bingaman, is markedly different from the Bush plan. The Daschle bill would increase fuel-economy standards to 35 mpg by 2013.

It would provide incentives for citizens to buy hybrid gas-electric cars such as the Honda Insight. It would require that electric companies produce 10 percent of their electricity from renewable resources such as wind by 2020.

Critically, the Daschle-Bingaman bill would not open ANWR to drilling.

The Daschle-Bingaman bill represents a less-lopsided approach to the nation's energy picture. It would focus both on increased production of traditional sources of energy and on conservation and alternative energy. This plan has drawn fire from both ends of the spectrum.

Greenpeace dubbed the Daschle plan "Bush lite." Sen. Frank Murkowski, the Alaska Republican, suggested that the Daschle plan would make the nation less secure. "The House has done its job (in passing the Bush bill). The job of the Senate remains in front of us. But I think most members would agree, our energy policy is a critical first step in this challenge. And it is a challenge. It is a challenge when we fight for freedom, when we seize the day for democracy."

But while framing the energy debate as a fight for democracy, Murkowski argued that Americans should not be called upon to sacrifice. "We turn to energy as we look at the standard of living that Americans enjoy. If it is an SUV, it is an SUV because Americans prefer that as opposed to being dictated by government as to what type of an automobile they have to drive."

The United States uses one-quarter of the world's energy. Here in the world's largest energy sink, conservation and alternative energy are not just personal virtues. They are important components of a national energy policy. In a clear and convincing voice, the Senate should say so.

CONGRATULATING THE GIRL SCOUTS FROM NASSAU COUNTY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, this week my Girl Scouts from Nassau County came to Washington for their Anniversary Gala and visited me at my office. For nearly a century, Girl Scouts of the USA has served as an inspirational and positive movement in America's history. With more than 50 million alumnae in the U.S. today, including myself, the Girl Scouts have made a lasting mark on sports, science, politics, public service and many other fields too numerous to list.

Today, March 12, 2002, is the 90th anniversary of the first Girl Scout assembly in Savannah Georgia. Juliette Gordon Low brought together 18 local girls with a determined goal to bring girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the outdoors. Much like today, girls in 1912 hiked, played basketball, went on camping trips, learned how to tell time by the stars and studied first aid. With nearly four million members today, Girl Scouts of the USA is committed to helping