

next year of the "Generic Total Contact Seat," with components engineered and manufactured in Russia.

Needle-free injections are performed for mass inoculations and immunizations, but they also pose the risk of spreading disease. With decades of experience in needle-less technology, scientists at the medical research group of the Voronezh missile plant in Russia developed a disposable cap with an impermeable membrane. Their paper about this development caught the attention of Felton International, an animal injection company in Lenexa, Kansas, which is now in partnership with CADB MedEquipment to manufacture the "Pulse 2000" injector for animal use and human clinical trials in the U.S.

Just as the expanding U.S.-Russian partnership is replacing military-industrial confrontation with peaceful product development, there is reason for optimism that Russo-American collaboration can also prevail over the threat of nuclear conflagration in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 677, for personal reasons, due to my illness, I was unable to be in the Chamber when the time elapsed on the vote.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "no" on the motion that House Resolution 474 be laid on the table.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOE SKEEN

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to former Congressman Skeen of New Mexico, who passed away this week after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Joe was a good friend and a dedicated public servant, and we will miss him terribly.

Joe Skeen was a gentleman in the finest sense of the word. He treated everyone with respect and offered his friendship to all. The entire Congress would agree that Joe's character was of the highest quality. He had a wonderful sense of humor.

Joe was a man of his district. Born and raised in New Mexico, he understood and worked for rural America. A sheep and cattle rancher, he understood the needs of his district—including schools, utilities, health care, and the many other particular requirements of a rural area—and he always fought to meet those needs. His attention to his district is just part of why his constituents made him the longest-serving Member of the House of Representatives from New Mexico.

It was my good fortune to serve with Joe on the Appropriations Committee, where he served as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior. It was on the Appropriations Committee that I learned how special he was.

Throughout the often difficult process of writing and passing Appropriations bills, Joe was always known for his fairness and civility. He listened to his colleagues and tried to respond to their needs.

Since his retirement last year, we have missed Joe in the Congress. He always put his country ahead of party and desired accomplishments for the American people most of all. He cared about the House of Representatives as an institution and about bipartisanship as a noble part of our work here. He elevated the character of the House of Representatives, and we are so grateful for his service here.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Mary, and their two children, Elisa and Mikell. I hope it is a comfort to them that so many people share their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

RECOGNIZING THE POTLATCH CORPORATION

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition to the Potlatch Corporation. The Potlatch Corporation, one of the nation's oldest forest products companies, is currently celebrating its centennial year.

Founded in 1903 as Potlatch Lumber Co., the company built its first sawmill in 1906 at a location in North Idaho where Native American celebrations of gift giving and goodwill known as "potlatches" had been held. Today, the Potlatch Corporation is an integrated forest products company with 1.5 million acres of timberland in Idaho, Minnesota and Arkansas, and a hybrid poplar plantation in Oregon. The company's 14 manufacturing operations in Idaho, Minnesota, Arkansas, and Nevada produce lumber, plywood, oriented strand board, particleboard, bleached pulp, paperboard and private label consumer tissue products.

The Potlatch Corporation has earned a national reputation for progressive land management practices and innovative products that efficiently utilize wood resources. Potlatch continues its strong tradition of efficient wood fiber utilization, while supplying customers around the world with quality products and service.

Although recent years have brought many challenges to the domestic wood and paper industry, Potlatch remains competitive in the global market. From its roots in North Idaho, Potlatch has blossomed into an industry leader, and it continues to be a strong contributor to the economy of North Idaho. I wish to congratulate the Potlatch Corporation on a hundred years of success, and I look forward to its continued growth and vitality.

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION COSTS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of a letter we sent to National Security Advisor

Condoleezza Rice on October 29, 2003, regarding these issues. I am also inserting recent data from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on November 17, 2003, providing a breakdown of Halliburton's charge of \$2.64 per gallon. This data shows that Halliburton is charging the U.S. taxpayer \$1.17 per gallon for fuel and \$1.21 per gallon for transport, as well as \$0.02 per gallon for "other" charges, and \$0.24 per gallon in "markups" that go directly to Halliburton.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, October 29, 2003.

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,

Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. RICE: We have learned that the U.S. government is paying enormous sums for gasoline imported into Iraq from Kuwait. We are writing to learn why this is happening and what can be done to stop this waste of taxpayer dollars.

Here are the facts:

1. As of October 19, 2003, Halliburton has imported 61,304,091 gallons of gasoline from Kuwait into Iraq. Halliburton has been paid \$162,503,305 for this gasoline, for an average price of \$2.65 per gallon.

2. The \$2.65 per gallon price is grossly excessive. Experts we consulted stated that the total price for buying and transporting gasoline into Iraq should be less than \$1.00 per gallon. They estimated the price to buy gasoline in the region at 71 cents per gallon, and they estimated transportation costs at less than 25 cents per gallon, for a total per-gallon price of about 96 cents.

3. The Iraqi oil company, SOMO, is currently paying 97 cents per gallon to import gasoline from Kuwait to Iraq. Even Halliburton has charged only \$1.22 per gallon to import gasoline from Turkey into Iraq.

4. The gasoline imported from Kuwait is sold inside Iraq for just 4 to 15 cents per gallon. Although Iraq has the second richest oil reserves in the world, the U.S. government is subsidizing over 95% of the cost of gasoline consumed by Iraqis.

We have heard different possible explanation for the exorbitant cost of the gasoline. One is that Halliburton is paying inflated prices in order to receive favorable consideration for other projects. Another is that the Bush Administration is responsible and, in effect, is using Halliburton as a vehicle for moving funds.

We do not know if either of these explanation is accurate. But we do know that U.S. taxpayers are not getting their money's worth. The U.S. government is paying nearly three times more for gasoline from Kuwait than it should, and then it is reselling this gasoline at a huge loss inside Iraq. Whether this is due to incompetence, malfeasance, or some other reason, the waste of taxpayer dollars must be stopped.

We cannot understand the refusal by the Administration to respond to our previous requests for information. We have written the White House twice to express our concerns about how taxpayer dollars are being spent in Iraq. But the White House has refused to address the matter. The signal that this sends is that the Administration either has no explanation or does not care about squandering taxpayer dollars.

Three weeks ago, you were given responsibilities for coordinating Iraqi reconstruction efforts. We are therefore writing to you to seek answers to the following basic questions:

What is the justification for paying \$2.65 per gallon to import gasoline from Kuwait into Iraq?

What is the jurisdiction for selling this gasoline for only 4 to 15 cents per gallon inside Iraq?

Halliburton issued a subcontract to import gasoline from Kuwait into Iraq that was awarded without any competition. Who received the subcontract and why was the subcontract awarded without competition?

Who within the U.S. government and the Coalition Provisional Authority reviewed and approved the subcontract to purchase and transport the gasoline from Kuwait into Iraq?

Did any official within the U.S. government or the Coalition Provisional Authority direct Halliburton to use a specific subcontractor to purchase and transport gasoline from Kuwait into Iraq?

As you know, the Administration has requested \$900 million for fuel imports in the latest emergency supplemental request. In light of this pending request, we ask that you respond to these questions immediately.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,
*Ranking Minority Member,
Committee on Government
Reform.*

JOHN D. DINGELL,
*Ranking Minority Member,
Committee on Energy and
Commerce.*

THE COST OF GASOLINE

	<i>Price per gal.</i>
From Turkey:	
Fuel	\$.89
Transport22
Other02
Markups11
	1.24
From Kuwait:	
Fuel	\$ 1.17
Transport	1.21
Other02
Markups24
	2.64

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (November 17, 2003).

H.R. 3490—GPO “BUY OUT” BILL

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the House's attention H.R. 3490, a bill introduced by the distinguished chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing and the House Administration Committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), and me to repeal a requirement that the Government Printing Office make certain payments to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund in connection with voluntary separation incentive programs, or “buy-outs.”

In a buy-out, an agency seeking to trim its workforce offers employees cash incentives to leave the rolls voluntarily, saving the agency and the taxpayers money. In 1998, Congress authorized buy-outs at GPO for 3 years, later extended through fiscal 2004. The new Public Printer, Bruce James, has used this authority for the first time this year. To defray the GPO program's cost, Congress provided \$10 million in the fiscal 2004 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act.

Similar to buy-out provisions applicable throughout the executive branch at the time, the GPO-specific buy-out legislation requires the agency to pay 15 percent of the value of the salaries of those participating in the buy-

out to the Office of Personnel Management, to be credited to the civil-service retirement fund. The 15 percent requirement necessarily raised the cost of buy-outs to agencies and discouraged their use. Last year, in the act establishing the Department of Homeland Security, Congress repealed the 15 percent requirement for the entire executive branch, leaving the Government Printing Office unaffected. A similar requirement on the General Accounting Office will expire next month.

Mr. Chairman, the Public Printer asked the Committee on House Administration for the provision that became H.R. 3490, and I believe the House should enact it. I know of no reason that, having repealed the 15 percent requirement for the executive branch, Congress should not repeal it for GPO as well. The Public Printer expects to save \$21 million annually from buying-out 312 employees under the law as it now stands, a sizeable sum. By relieving GPO of the 15 percent requirement, the Public Printer could offer approximately 100 additional buy-outs, saving up to \$7 million more, for a total of \$28 million a year.

I want to thank the Public Printer, Bruce James, for bringing this matter to the committee's attention so promptly and thereby providing us the opportunity to realize these additional savings. It has been a pleasure to work with him and especially with his Director of Congressional Relations, Andy Sherman, to bring this proposal forward before the end of this session of the 108th Congress. While I am disappointed that we were unable to enact this bill before adjourning, I am hopeful we can do so shortly after the second session of the 108th Congress convenes.

THANKING NURSE MARGARET
MARY MCHUGH O'NEILL

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as this session of Congress draws to a close, the entire congressional family in the House of Representatives must confront the impending retirement of one of our most beloved members, Nurse Margaret Mary McHugh O'Neill. While we are happy for Margaret as she draws to a close her career in Federal service, those of us who bid her farewell are doubtless more than a little worried about how we will make do without her.

Irish by heritage, a New Englander by birth, and a saint by temperament, Margaret has surely touched the lives of countless men and women all over the world as she has worked in her chosen profession, nursing. As the proud wife of an Army officer, Margaret accompanied her husband Michael, and later their beautiful daughter Kathleen, around the world, setting a shining example of the best that the nursing profession has to offer. During her peripatetic career, Margaret has left her mark on the Army, the Red Cross, and elsewhere. Most recently, for the last dozen years Margaret has looked after the health and welfare of Members and staff of the House as an Occupational Health Nurse, posted in the Attending Physician's Health Unit in the Longworth Building.

Upon my arrival in the House in 1999, I had no idea how fortunate I was to draw a room assignment in the Longworth Building. But I quickly realized how lucky I was, and remain to this day. Shortly after being sworn in, my Administrative Assistant took my wife Leslie and my sick daughter Laura down to Nurse O'Neill so that Laura could be treated. Later that first year, he also took me down to visit the nurse. I have to say that my wife and I, as well as our children, were charmed by Margaret's wit and soothing disposition. My family, the staff in both my personal and House Administration Committee offices, and I have sought Margaret's wise counsel, in far more than just medical matters, more than she can ever know, and I am sure we are not alone in this respect. Always there to minister to the physically sick and injured, as well as to salve an occasional bruised ego, or even merely to offer a cheery moment's respite from the many pressures of Capitol Hill, the effects to Margaret's toils on behalf of the rest of us over the years have been nothing less than miraculous. If you don't believe me, ask anybody who has ever visited her office. On most days, her office has more closely resembled a delicatessen, as the door opened and closed dozens of times an hour as her many patients sought her help and advice.

I dare say sometime ago Margaret really should have installed one of those “take-a-number” dispensers so her patients could know how far down the queue they were. Of course, I use the word “patients” in the technical sense; the more correct term would be “admirers,” “confidants,” or perhaps most simply, “friends.” I am certain that in a long career of public service, Margaret has not grown rich in the material sense. But in the practical and spiritual sense, I am confident that Margaret is among the richest women on earth, blessed by the admiration, friendship, good wishes and prayers of the thousands of lucky persons whose good fortune it has been to have known and worked in her midst through the years.

While Margaret's congressional career may be drawing to a close much to our dismay, in truth, Margaret is merely expanding her horizons in search of others to serve professionally and spiritually. Margaret intends to continue her good works into her next career ministering to the needs of parishioners of St. Peter's on Capitol Hill, and studying theology. My staff and I find it comforting to know that Margaret will be nearby, where we can continue to seek her advice and counsel. Of course, being nearby, we hope and pray that she will visit us often, so we can continue and strengthen our friendship in the months and years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, all of us in the House family are privileged to know Nurse Margaret O'Neill. It has been a joy to work with Margaret, and all of us here in the House have been truly fortunate to benefit from her countless good works over these years. Please join me in thanking our dear friend Margaret for her tireless efforts in our behalf, and in wishing her, Michael and Kathleen the best as Margaret changes careers and duty stations yet again. May Margaret always look back fondly upon her days with the House, as we surely will.