

HONORING STATE AND LOCAL LEGISLATORS WHO HAVE CHAM- PIONED THE EXAMINATION OF REPARATIONS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, as the author of H.R. 40, The Commission to Study Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act, I am proud to acknowledge those state and local legislators who have had the courage and the foresight to champion local legislation in support of reparations and the passage of federal legislation.

Since its introduction in 1989, H.R. 40 has sought to focus national attention on the issue of compensation for slavery and post-slavery discrimination. Through the efforts of grassroots activists, reparations has grown to become a topic of discussion and debate on numerous national television and radio programs, in the halls of Ivy League institutions, in corporate boardrooms and courtrooms, and within increasing numbers of state and local legislative assemblies. Twenty four local municipalities across this country and three states have adopted legislation supporting the concept of reparations and/or the passage of H.R. 40.

On the auspicious occasion of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America's first Gala Reparations Banquet, June 17, 2004, I recognize the work of the many organizations actively engaged in making H.R. 40 a reality, and I hereby pay tribute to the following state and local champions of justice who have introduced reparations-related legislation in their respective jurisdictions:

California Legislature: Mr. Kevin Murray, Florida Legislature, Louisiana House of Representatives: Mr. Raymond Jetson; Mr. Melvin "Kip" Holden; Mr. Joseph Delpit, Maryland (pending): Mr. Nathaniel Exum, New York Legislature (pending): Mr. Roger Green, Texas Legislature (pending), Alameda County, California: Mr. Keith Carson, Berkeley, California: Ms. Maudelle Shirek, Compton, California: Ms. Yvonne Arceneaux, Foster City, California: Ms. Marie Davis, Inglewood California: Mr. Daniel Tabor, Los Angeles, California: Mr. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Mr. Nate Holden, Oakland, California: Mr. Larry Reid, East Palo Alto, California: Mr. Omowale Satterwhite.

San Francisco, California, District of Columbia: Mrs. Wilhelmina Rolark, 1991, Atlanta, Georgia: Mr. Clarence T. Martin, Ms. "Able" Mabel Thomas, Chicago, Illinois: Alderman Dorothy Tillman, 2000, Evanston, Illinois, Baltimore, Maryland: Ms. Bea Gaddy, 2000, Detroit, Michigan, Jackson, Mississippi: Mr. Terry Kennedy, St. Louis, Missouri: Mr. Terry Kennedy, 1999, Camden, New Jersey, Passaic County, New Jersey: Ms. Marilee Jackson, 2002, Paterson, New Jersey: Ms. Georgia Scott, 2001, Newark, New Jersey, Cleveland, Ohio: Ms. Fannie Lewis, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Mr. Michael Nutter, Dallas, Texas: Mr. John Wiley; Mr. Al Lipscomb, Ft. Worth, Texas: Mr. Frank Moss, Burlington, Vermont: Mr. Richard T. Kemp.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BETTY CLIFTON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Betty Clifton of Fowler, Colorado, on being named the 2004 Etu Tau Lady of the Year. The award acknowledges her contributions towards the Fowler community, and to the many other communities that she has been a part of through the years. This award is a well-deserved testament to her tireless efforts.

Betty's ardent devotion to her community was evident at a young age, as she was a member of the Rainbow Girls and served as president of the Methodist Youth Fellowship during her senior year in high school. This commitment continued to follow Betty as an adult as she became involved in other civic organizations. She is a charter member of Fountain Valley #155 of the Order of the Eastern Star Foundation, a member of the Fowler Historical Society, and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She also volunteers with Meals on Wheels, served for five years as president of the United Methodist Women, and served for two years as president of the Fowler Senior Citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the public service of Betty Clifton before this body of Congress, and this nation. Her contributions towards her community are truly remarkable. I sincerely thank Betty for her service.

REMEMBERING ROY L. STEWART

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to a dedicated patriot who passed away this year, Roy L. Stewart.

Roy Stewart proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force for more than 29 years. Most notably, he was a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor. After his military service, he worked for General Dynamics in Fort Worth, Texas and later started his own business, Roy Stewart Heating and Air Conditioning. Roy actively served his community as a Mason. He was a Master Mason of River Oaks Lodge No. 1311, a member of Moslah Shrine, the Scottish Rite and York Rite Bodies, a Past Patron of the Polytechnic Eastern Star, and a dual member of the Castleberry Eastern Star.

Born in Waco, Texas, Roy Stewart is survived by his wife, Thelma H. Stewart, daughter, Frances S. Reynolds, and husband, Michael E. Reynolds of my hometown of Rockwall, TX, son, Roy Victor Stewart and wife, Kathleen. He also was the proud grandfather of eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Roy will be long remembered as a steadfast citizen who dedicated his life to serving others, and the community of Fort Worth will miss his friendship. On behalf of his many friends and fans, I want to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to pay our last respects to this honorable man—Roy L. Stewart.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to stop playing politics and pass comprehensive energy legislation this year. Our country needs to reduce its dependence on foreign oil and increase its national energy independence. Increasing our energy independence will stabilize future energy prices, benefit American consumers and businesses, and enhance both our energy security and our national security. For these and other reasons, I supported the energy conference report on the House floor in November 2003.

Unfortunately, one issue has blocked congressional passage of this comprehensive energy legislation over the last few months, and it has become clear to me that removing the provision in question would ensure that the Senate will pass, and the President will sign, this measure.

Title 15, Section 1502, of H.R. 6, which is substantially similar to H.R. 4503, contains a safe-harbor provision protecting producers of methyl tertiary butyl ether [MTBE] and other fuel oxygenates from product liability claims. As well, this provision includes language applying the safe-harbor retroactively, potentially barring several pending suits against some of the worst environmental polluters in our country.

Under this provision, cities and towns would be prevented from bringing against potential offenders "defective product" lawsuits, which some cities have employed to recapture the cost of MTBE clean ups. Approximately 130 lawsuits have been filed by states, cities, water districts, and businesses over MTBE contamination. The trade association for the MTBE industry conservatively estimates that a nationwide cleanup of MTBE will cost between \$500 million and \$1 billion. The U.S. Conference of Mayors, however, maintains that those costs could run higher than \$29 billion. Our states and localities, which are struggling with budget deficits, should not be forced to pay the tab for these clean ups. If our states and localities are forced to pay these costs, the real costs will be borne by taxpayers, who should not be responsible for the actions of a few MTBE producers.

According to Congressional Quarterly, on November 24, 2003, one week after House passage of the energy conference report, President Bush called House Majority Leader TOM DELAY and requested that Mr. DELAY remove the MTBE provision that is holding up Senate passage of the legislation. As Senator PETE DOMENICI, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, noted at that time, "At the end, the President personally tried to get the House to support the MTBE removal. He made the call, at our request, to [Majority Leader] DeLay." Regrettably, Mr. DELAY chose to reject the President's personal request. Senate Republican leaders like Chairman DOMENICI, who has been working to pass this legislation for several years, are two votes shy of passing this measure, and removing the MTBE liability waiver would send to the President's desk the most comprehensive energy legislation in more than a decade.

I appreciate President Bush's desire to sign a comprehensive energy bill into law, and I support his efforts to do so. I hope that Congress will put aside its parochial interests and send the President legislation that he will sign into law. Our national energy situation is not a partisan issue, and I hope that both parties can come together to do the right thing for America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. DANIEL
MCCLURE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Daniel McClure of Bayfield, Colorado, on being awarded the 2004 Lloyd Gaskill Award. The award was named after the legendary football coach at Limon High School, and is annually given to an individual who volunteers to support Colorado high school athletics in other ways than coaching. This is the second year in a row that a resident of Bayfield, Colorado has been a recipient of the award, and is a well-deserved testament to Daniel's work with the youth in his community.

For over twenty years Daniel has selflessly dedicated his efforts to Colorado student athletes, helping them to compete and reach their highest potential. Once a week, Daniel visits both Bayfield and Ignacio High Schools to evaluate and treat student athletes at no cost to the schools or district. In addition to treating the student athletes, Daniel also attends each of the schools home and away games.

Dr. McClure has also contributed his time and skill beyond the high school level. He has had the opportunity to work with athletes at the United States Training Center, and at Olympic trial events, the Outdoor National Championships, the World Diving Championships and the FINA Cup International. He has also served as the sports chiropractor for the United States Olympic diving team in Barcelona, Spain in 1992, and again in Atlanta, Georgia in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of Dr. Daniel McClure before this body of Congress and this nation. His dedication to high school student athletes in his community and athletes representing our great country at the highest level is truly commendable. I sincerely thank Daniel for his service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDGAR JOHN
NIEMANN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart after learning that a great citizen and a dear friend of mine, Edger John Niemann, passed away at the age of eighty-three. He was a resident of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, and as his community and family mourn his passing, I believe it appropriate to recognize the life of Edger John Niemann before this body of Congress and this nation.

Edger was born on May 28, 1920 in Cook, Nebraska to Louis and Ella Niemann. He graduated from Cook High School and then went off to earn a Bachelors of Science degree in mathematics from Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. He joined the Navy in 1943 and earned his wings in Florida. At the conclusion of the war, Edger decided to pursue his passion and become a florist. Shortly after, he married Naomi Fenske in 1947, and they moved to Glenwood Springs in 1952.

Once there he and his wife purchased a floral business, eventually naming it Niemann's Gardens. Together they ran their business for forty years developing a love for flowers, but more importantly a love for their community. For fifty-two years, Edger served on numerous boards and committees striving to make his community a better place. Edger served his local school district and was a member of the Re-1 school board for fourteen years. He also served his local church, the Glenwood Church of Christ, as an elder. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club, the West Glenwood Sewer Board, and the Oasis Creek Water Board. On a personal note, Edger was a good friend of mine and he was one of the most caring, loving and hard-working people I have ever known.

Mr. Speaker, Edger Niemann will be sorely missed, and although we grieve over the loss of this incredible individual, we take comfort in the lives he has touched and the legacy he leaves behind. My thoughts go out to his wife Naomi, son Scott, daughter Holly and the rest of his family during this difficult time of bereavement. I am honored to pay tribute to his life and memory today.

THE GASOLINE PRICE REDUCTION
ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4545, the so-called "Gasoline Price Reduction Act of 2004."

My opposition is based both on grounds of the bill's content and the process by which it has been considered. I don't believe this bill is good policy, nor do I think it should have been brought up in a way that severely limited debate and completely eliminated the opportunity for the House to even consider any amendments.

The bill's title—gasoline price reduction—is more of a slogan than an accurate description of the measure. And like any good advertising slogan, it has a certain appeal. But it is not an example of truth in advertising.

I do believe that the bill's authors had the right goals in mind when drafting this bill. But reducing the "proliferation" of boutique fuels won't affect today's high gas prices. According to EPA, clean air protections add, at most, a nickel to the price of a gallon of gasoline. There are many other factors that can affect supply and price, such as merger activity, refinery shutdowns, and pipeline capacity. Besides, gas prices have risen across the nation, not just in states with cleaner fuel requirements.

The bill we are considering today would amend the Clean Air Act by allowing the EPA and the Department of Energy to grant waivers to states, if there is a fuel shortage, to use fuel or fuel additives, which might contribute to air pollution. The bill would give the EPA Administrator authority to waive cleaner-burning gasoline or diesel requirements indefinitely if there is a "significant fuel supply disruption," a term that the bill does not define.

I am concerned that this bill would give EPA limitless authority to streamline current regulations. In addition, since the bill calls for the EPA Administrator merely to deem a waiver "necessary," I am concerned that EPA's decision might not be subject to judicial review, or that any review would be very limited.

Finally, this bill appears to put considerations of price before those of health. It contains no obligation to mitigate or make up for the excess air pollution that may occur over the waiver period.

I understand that the more than 100 different fuel blends across the country have periodically resulted in regional price spikes, which is something we should try to address. A leading voice on energy in the other body has pressed for action from the Administration using legal authorities that the President already has. He has called first for an in-depth study to analyze the impact that federal, state, and local boutique fuels programs have on our nation's gasoline marketplace and to come up with specific recommendations for action.

I think the House should be considering mandating such a study—not passing legislation that won't address gas prices and that gives EPA unlimited authority that could be used to weaken important clean air protections. But because no amendments are permitted, that proposal cannot even be considered in connection with this bill. So, I cannot support it.