

Democrat—one that I haven't yet been able to convert—he was never afraid to break from the ranks to cast his vote as he saw fit. I will always miss his camaraderie, and his love for this cathedral of democracy.

BILL, in the years to come, I hope I will still get to see you on the flights to and from Chicago and I wish you all the best in your retirement.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520,
AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, this week the price of oil rose to more than \$53 a barrel, a record that will translate into higher home heating oil prices this winter and higher gasoline prices at the pump.

Last night, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives responded to this news by passing a tax bill that renews an expiring tax loophole for small businesses to buy huge, gas-guzzling SUVs, like the Hummer.

Our tax code should offer incentives for people to conserve energy. Unfortunately, the SUV tax loophole does just the opposite. The Republican Hummer tax loophole entices Americans to buy the biggest, heaviest, and least fuel efficient vehicles on the market. Under this loophole, a small business that purchases a large SUV, such as a Hummer or Cadillac Escalade, can deduct up to \$25,000 of the vehicle's cost. In contrast, citizens who purchase a fuel efficient hybrid vehicle this year will be entitled to just \$2,000; starting in 2006, the hybrid vehicle tax deduction will shrink even further until it disappears entirely by 2009.

In 2003, nearly 1,000,000 large SUVs were sold in the US, outnumbering the number of hybrid vehicles sold by a ratio of 23 to 1.

The best-selling hybrid vehicle, the Toyota Prius, achieves an estimated 55 miles per gallon. In contrast, the Hummer H2, Ford Excursion, and Land Rover Range Rover all achieve less than 15 miles per gallon.

The Toyota Prius emits 3.5 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually; the annual greenhouse gas emissions for the Hummer H2, Ford Excursion, and Land Rover Range Rover each emit more than 4 times the amount of greenhouse gases than the Prius.

Instead of working towards independence from Middle East oil, the Republicans have voted to extend tax loopholes that will only help make us even more dependent. So far, we have had 1,066 American soldiers die in a misdirected, misguided attempt to stabilize the government holding the world's second largest oil supply. The war in Iraq has made our country more vulnerable to the extremists of the Middle East.

Instead of making our air cleaner and protecting our environment, the Republican Hummer tax loophole is making our air dirtier, making our planet warmer, and contributing to the

pressure to drill for oil in one of the last pristine ecosystems remaining in not only America but on the planet. Large SUVs are extremely polluting, particularly in regards to greenhouse gases. Due in part to the oil wasted by large SUVs, the Administration would like to open the ecologically pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling in order to extract a total of 6 months worth of oil—oil that would be pumped right into the tanks of Hummers and other SUV gas guzzlers.

Instead of working to pay down the nation's debt, the Republican Hummer tax loophole is digging our children's financial hole even deeper. For every 100,000 taxpayers that drive through the Hummer loophole, the Treasury is denied almost \$900 million.

Instead of helping the poor, the tax loophole is once again aiding the wealthy. Because Hummers and other large SUVs use an inordinate amount of fuel, they increase the demand for gasoline, which in turn causes the price of gasoline to rise. The price of gasoline in Massachusetts currently is \$1.93 a gallon. The price of oil is almost \$53 a barrel. These price increases make a disproportionately higher impact on the bank accounts of the nation's poorest households. In addition, because the SUV tax poolhole is designed for type-S corporations, the beneficiaries include lawyers, doctors, and real estate agents.

Clearly, something needs to be done to help wean the United States off of oil and free ourselves from the chains of OPEC. A step in the right direction would be for the United States to promote the use of high fuel economy hybrid vehicles.

This problem could be solved easily if we only had the willpower to do so. By changing one sentence in the tax code, we could preserve the tax deduction to small businesses owners, such as farmers, who were intended to benefit, and eliminate the benefit to those who abuse it. In the current version, some long overdue language was added to distinguish between large SUVs and industrial vehicles. That change somewhat improved the situation, dropping the deductible amount for large SUVs from a ridiculous \$100,000 to a sublime \$25,000; however, the fact that \$25,000 deductions for large SUVs are being extended until 2008 while the already minuscule deductions for hybrid vehicles are disappearing is ludicrous.

By not extending the SUV tax loophole and not eliminating the deductions for hybrid vehicles, we can help to increase our nation's security, protect our environment, reduce the national debt, and ease the financial burdens of the poor. It is time for the majority in the Congress to steer our nation in the right direction by saying no to the special interests who are working to keep this loophole open. The House vote last night to approve the Republican tax bill represents a failure of vision. We can only hope now that the Senate will block this legislation to extend the Republican Hummer loophole from 2006 until 2008.

Last year when we tried to get rid of this loophole during the energy conference, I resorted to bad poetry as a way of prying my colleagues free of this obscene subsidy. It didn't work. But I am told by people in the business of psychological operations that you can sometimes free a hostage by playing the

same thing over and over again until the hostage-taker comes screaming out of the house saying "Stop It! I Can't Take It Anymore!" So, for the sake of good policy, I am resorting once again to the same bad poetry.

"A TAXPAYER'S LAMENT," OR "WHY AM I
PAYING FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S HUMVEES?"

I don't mind paying taxes, for energy and such

As long as I don't have to pay very much,
And as long as I don't end up subsidizing trucks

Called "Humvee Ones" and "Humvee 2s" for 25,000 bucks!

They don't fit in a parking space; they guzzle gas like a hog,

And they leave our children gasping for air turned in to smog.

I'm not for banning Humvees—some people think they're cool.

But subsidizing this luxury treats taxpayers like a fool.

With our soldiers now in Baghdad fighting for the oil

Wasting gasoline this way just makes my blood boil.

Voting for this subsidy is impossible to defend.

All we want to know out here is when will this end?

HONORING GENE HOOPER'S 50
YEARS IN BANKING

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Gene Hooper's service to the banking community of Middle Tennessee. Gene and his wife, Vera, are residents of Cookeville, Tennessee.

Fresh out of high school, Gene began working at Third National Bank in 1954. There, he formed a partnership with Homer Tidwell, and the two young men teamed up to win the American Institute of Banking's National Debate Contest.

Gene continued working for Third National Bank for more than 20 years. In 1976, he joined the Bank of Putnam County. At the time, the bank was preparing to open its second office in Cookeville. Under Gene's leadership, the Bank of Putnam County has grown into a two-bank holding company with 12 offices in four counties.

Gene has been a leader in banking, as well as a leader in the community. He has served as an officer in the American Institute of Banking, and he has served on the government relations committees for both the Tennessee Bankers Association and the American Bankers Association. He also is an active member of the Cookeville Chamber of Commerce and Cookeville Noon Rotary.

Gene has accomplished much in his 50 years of service. I thank him for his good advice over the years, and I congratulate him on his long and distinguished career.

TRIBUTE TO MADGE J.
OVERHOUSE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Madge Jennings Overhouse to recognize her lifelong achievements and indisputable legacy of selfless volunteerism and dedication to public service. Madge Jennings Overhouse was born on July 29, 1924 in The Dalles, Oregon, and soon moved to San Jose. She attended San Jose State University, graduating cum laude in history, where she met her husband, a member of both the football and track teams. Madge married Howard Overhouse in 1949, and they had one son, Richard, and three lovely grandchildren, Ashley Ann, Katie and Will Overhouse.

Madge was a descendant of several generations of San Jose natives who served their city and passed that community service ethic on to her. The city's first and third fire chiefs, George and Richard Brown, were ancestors, and her father, Ralph James, was a San Jose fire captain. Her late husband, Howard Overhouse, also was a city firefighter. Madge herself worked for thirty years as a librarian at San Jose State University and San Jose City College.

Her career as a librarian spanned almost 40 years and two institutions, beginning at San Jose State, then moved to San Jose Community College. Typical of Madge, she assumed a leadership role in her profession, serving on the Santa Clara County Library Commission from 1976 to 1982, as well as serving on the California Library Agency for Systems and Services from 1979 to 1984, representing Santa Clara County as an alternate for Supervisor Rod Diridon. Madge also served on the Steering Committee for the Master Plan of California Libraries.

Madge's multitude of contributions to the community throughout her lifetime is legend, and the list of civic organizations that Madge has helped is extensive. We would like to take a moment to reflect on a few pivotal moments here.

Madge was one of the first women to serve on the Executive Board of the Santa Clara County chapter of the Boy Scouts of America. The Santa Clara County Fair Association benefited from Madge's input as a Board member from 1987 to 1995. Madge also served on the boards of the Iota Delta Chapter of the Chi Omega sorority and the Campbell Historical Preservation Board. Madge was a long-time member of the San Jose Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Madge lent her talents to the Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force, which led to the completion of Highway 85, which is now a major transportation artery in the Bay Area. She was honored in 1994 as a County Woman of Achievement for her volunteerism. At the time, she was the political director for the county Democratic Information Center, which she co-founded in 1969. In 1986, she was named County Democrat of the Year. She was a Democratic nominee for the 22nd Assembly District in 1974, served as chairwoman of the Northern California women's division of the Democratic Party and was selected to vote as an elector in the 1992 Electoral College. Over the years, she has

been honored by local police, firefighters and the AFL-CIO Labor Council. This past January 2003, she was presented the California Democratic Party's lifetime achievement award.

Madge Overhouse, known for years as the godmother of the Democratic Party in Santa Clara County, hobnobbed with top local, state and national Democrats for more than 30 years. She was a Democratic National Committee member and attended all but one of the party's conventions, since Jimmy Carter's presidency.

Madge began volunteering for political causes when politics was uncharted territory for women. As a result, she helped future generations of women see more possibilities available to them in politics. Also known as an Oracle of the Democratic Party, Madge lent her expertise to the careers of many public officials both male and female. Speaking from personal experience, Madge's gentleness in behavior, in advice and admonition will be my compass.

It was on Wednesday, September 29, 2004 that Madge Overhouse died of apparent heart failure after battling breast cancer for two years. She was 80. The original diagnosis of cancer was she had a month to live.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a friend, a role model and a constant inspiration. Madge Overhouse's heroic service to our community and guidance to individuals inspired many to go beyond their expectations and, as a result, contribute to the betterment of our beautiful and diverse community in Santa Clara County. Madge was a true hero, in every word and action.

HONORING YULIYA KOSTROMITINA

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Yuliya Kostromitina, a student from McKay High School in Salem, Oregon. Yuliya, the daughter of immigrants from Russia, was selected as a delegate to the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships 2004 Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. As a result of the leadership demonstrated by Ms. Kostromitina, she was chosen as one of just four students nationwide, and one of forty internationally, to attend the 7th International Partnership Network Conference in London, England.

Yuliya's achievement is proof that the GEAR UP program, or Gaining Early Awareness and Preparedness for Undergraduate Programs, in which she participates at McKay High, can help build great students. GEAR UP provides five-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP programs serve an entire group of students beginning in middle school and continuing through high school. Within each school GEAR UP funds are used to provide meaningful academic enrichment activities that result in systemic school improvement and increased student achievement that will prepare students to go to college. GEAR UP funds are also used to provide college scholarships to low-income students. With its emphasis on school improvement,

GEAR UP dovetails well with the high standards set by No Child Left Behind and gives schools the resources needed to meet NCLB standards. This outstanding program helps at-risk students succeed in school and prepares them to attend college, an option many of them had previously considered out of reach. GEAR UP helps students from low-income backgrounds realize that they too can succeed in college and shows them the path to a better future.

As Congress considers reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, I hope my colleagues will recognize the value of the GEAR UP program and continue to provide resources that will help students like Yuliya reach their potential.

HONORING MIM KELBER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mim Kelber, one of the bright, shining lights of the women's movement. Mim passed away this summer, leaving a legacy of extraordinary activism and passion for social justice. Best known as Bella Abzug's best friend, soul mate and speechwriter, Mim was also a much-admired activist and leader in her own right.

I had the privilege of speaking at her memorial service on August 17, 2004 where I said, "This weekend the world lost one of the great feminists—Mim Kelber."

A labor journalist, freelance writer and activist, Mim devoted her life to improving the world she lived in. Together with her great friend, Bella Abzug, Mim encouraged women to use their political power to ensure their rights.

There is not an American woman alive today who does not have more rights, command more respect or enjoy more opportunity as a result of their work together. Mim and Bella broke through barriers, shattered glass ceilings and woke people up.

Mim was a consummate organizer, a terrific writer and a true idealist. As co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, the Women USA Fund, the Women's Foreign Policy Council and WEDO, Mim worked to bring other women together to work to achieve common goals.

As an author, Mim helped draft a roadmap for women to follow in fighting for our rights. She wrote part of Bella's unyielding call to arms, including the Contract with the Women of the USA. Mim used her pen to help people change the way they looked at the world and how they lived their lives.

Whenever I wanted to organize women to pass the ERA, to fund UNFPA or to bring women together for any cause, I would call Mim. She was a source of inspiration for me. A veteran of many of the old battles, she always had good advice about how to fight new struggles.

It is incumbent upon all women to keep her spirit alive and to further the irresistible momentum that Mim helped foster. May we long remember her contributions.

To honor her memory, I want to insert into the RECORD some of the other loving tributes