

concerns about some of the provisions in H.R. 6. In particular, there are provisions addressing the 1998–99 Clinton Administration OCS leases that are ambiguous and may result in levies on all oil and natural gas lease holders in the Gulf of Mexico, not just the 1998–99 leaseholders. This and other poorly written provisions in H.R. 6 could have been corrected had the legislation been considered by the Natural Resources Committee or had the majority allowed amendments to be considered on the House floor. Unfortunately, the majority's "Closed-door Congress" chose to break its pledge of an "open Congress" and prevented these opportunities to improve the legislation.

Rollcall #37, "no"—On Consideration of H.R. 6, rollcall #38, "yes"—Motion to Recommit H.R. 6, rollcall #39, "no"—Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, rollcall #40, "no"—Final Passage of H.R. 6.

H.R. 6 represents the first vote for a tax increase in more than 13 years. I have repeatedly pledged to oppose any and all efforts to increase the marginal income tax rates for individuals and businesses—and I stand by my pledge. The majority has claimed that passage of H.R. 6 will roll-back subsidies to the oil and natural gas industry that Congress passed in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. However, a Congressional Research Service report released in December of 2006 concluded that, on balance, the bill imposes "a net tax increase on the industry of nearly \$300 million over 11 years." Further raising taxes on the oil and natural gas industry will do nothing to help lower the price of gasoline at the pump Americans are paying and, ultimately, increases our country's dependence on foreign sources of oil. Madam Speaker, I am truly stricken by the fact that the new majority has chosen to bring a bill to the House floor during its highly touted first "100 Hours" that will benefit and strengthen the hands of the likes of Hugo Chavez. I oppose H.R. 6 because it will result in job losses, increase the price of gasoline at the pump, increase the cost of heating homes, and increase dependence on foreign sources of oil. I support an energy policy that takes steps to truly reduce America's dependence on foreign sources of oil while our Nation continues to invest and improve the development of renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency.

Rollcall #41, "yes"—Adoption of H. Res. 62—Congratulating the Grand Valley State University Lakers"

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act. This bill is designed to make college more affordable and accessible by cutting the interest rate on subsidized student loans for undergraduates in half over the next 5 years—from 6.8 percent today to 3.4 percent by 2011. This proposal is targeted on assisting the low- and middle-income students with the most financial need: those who receive subsidized student loans.

Over the last 5 years, the cost of attending college has skyrocketed, putting college out of reach for more and more students in my district and across the country. Tuition and fees at public universities have increased by 41 percent since 2001. In addition to rising tuition and fees, over the last 5 years interest rates on student loans have jumped by almost 2 percentage points, further increasing the cost of college.

According to the Congressional Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, financial barriers will prevent 4.4 million high school graduates from attending a 4-year public college over the next decade, and prevent another 2 million high school graduates from attending any college at all. Madam Speaker, the United States is the richest country in the world. We should be able to educate our young people to the full extent of their ability. Anything less fails not only our students, but our entire nation.

More than ever, the health of our economy rests on having a highly-skilled and well-educated workforce. College access is the key to our remaining strong in the face of an increasingly competitive global economy. Without changes, by the year 2020, the United States is projected to face a shortage of up to 12 million college-educated workers, directly threatening America's economic strength.

Once fully phased in, this bill would save the typical borrower, with \$13,800 in subsidized federal student loan debt, approximately \$4,400 over the life of their loan. Cutting student loan interest rates is supported by a large majority of Americans, including majorities of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats. Furthermore, the bill is fully paid for—meeting all pay-as-you-go requirements.

Madam Speaker, you don't need to be a genius to recognize the critical importance of this legislation. This one should be a no-brainer. Let's pass H.R. 5.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION "ELIMINATING MODERN DAY SLAVERY"

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, last Thursday, January 11th, along with our civil rights crusader, JOHN LEWIS reintroduced a resolution on the tragedy of modern-day slavery and urging the United States to take immediate steps to end it.

The institution of chattel slavery practiced in the United States for over 200 years was not only a past shame in U.S. history but also world history. Yet, this continues today. Throughout the world, an estimated 27 million people are suffering as slaves including the United States. Each year millions become vulnerable to the resurgence of slavery. People forced to survive with little or no resources fall victim to abuse and exploitation in developing countries whose economies slip further into extreme poverty caused by debt and corruption. Still modern-day slavery is ever more expansive encompassing chattel slavery, human trafficking, indentured or bonded labor, forced labor, forced marriage and the worst forms of child labor.

Slavery is rampant in India, Southeast Asia, Africa, and South America, as well as, once again the United States. In Africa, cash crops such as cotton, sugar, and cocoa are produced by child and bonded labor. The Ivory Coast which supplies over half the world's supply of cocoa utilizes child slave labor in at least 90 percent of the cocoa plantations. Slavery still exists in Sudan, remnants from the North and South civil war. In Myanmar, slave labor harvest agricultural products such as sugarcane. In Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia, human trafficking and forced marriage run unimpeded. Moreover, I am repulsed that an estimated 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders and disturbed that annual global profits on trafficked forced labor total \$44.3 billion.

This is an historic year for many of the victims of slavery and their descendants. 2007 marks the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the transport of Africans as slaves into the British American colonies. Our country can no longer allow the practice of slavery to continue further in the 21st century. We must take action to address this issue. The solution is one of political resolve not capability, for we have at our disposal numerous means that will eliminate these human rights violations.

My resolution expresses the sense of the House that the abolition of modern-day slavery should:

Become a high priority in U.S. foreign and domestic policy to eliminate all forms of modern-day slavery by 2017;

Reflect and advance the commitment of U.S. trade, aid, and investment policies for the freedom for all people;

Expand protection and legal options for victims of modern-day slavery;

Form a comprehensive coalition between governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to forge a sustained global action plan to fight modern-day slavery; and

Become a priority at the 2007 Group of 8 (G-8) Summit in Germany.

I welcome my colleagues' support and urge the House Leadership to bring it promptly to the House floor for consideration. This year is the time to mark the end of modern-day slavery for victims worldwide.

A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAUL TSONGAS

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember one of my heroes, Paul Tsongas. Paul Tsongas was a great champion of my hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts and an extraordinary American, whose courage and convictions should inspire us all.

It has been ten years since he lost his battle with cancer and ten years since the American people lost one of their greatest public servants.

Paul was one of my early role models and mentors, and I'm honored to follow in his footsteps as the Congressman for the 5th District of Massachusetts.

Born of Greek immigrants, Paul grew up in our joint hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts.

After graduating from Dartmouth College, he became one of the first to answer President John F. Kennedy's call to public service by joining the newly formed Peace Corps. Paul's experience in the Peace Corps would lead him to great heights as a standard-bearer of the Democratic Party.

After his service in the Peace Corps and as a City Councilor in our hometown of Lowell, Paul was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974. In 1978 he ran and won a seat in the United States Senate where he would serve until 1984 when he retired after being diagnosed with cancer.

Paul loved people and public service. His direct speaking style and heartfelt manner captured the hearts of the nation during his service in the United States Congress and especially during his campaign for President.

As a politician, Paul lived his beliefs. Perhaps Paul's greatest strength was that as a politician he took risks, challenging the tired assumptions about how change should take place.

Paul's vision of what a Democrat can and should be was an inspiration to me and continues to inspire Democrats across the country. Leading by example, Paul expanded the reach of our party and helped shape our promising future.

His leadership forced the debate on dealing with our national debt. At the same time, he reminded us that a Democrat can and should be pro-worker, and pro-family, and also pro-business-pro-employment.

Paul's career as a politician may have been cut short because of his battle with cancer, but his illness never prevented him from fighting for the issues, people, and the city he loved.

In my hometown of Lowell, Paul's fingerprints are all over the remarkable redevelopment and revitalization that has occurred over the past two decades. In the streets of Lowell today, I am constantly reminded of the lessons Paul taught me—that in every community you must preserve that which has meaning and beauty for its users and its visitors.

Paul was a visionary: he envisioned the connection of people to the places where they lived and worked. But more importantly, Paul was a doer: he identified significant community assets and challenged everyone around him to preserve and make visible these deeply felt dreams.

Paul motivated Lowell residents to make these dreams a reality. He didn't stop there. Throughout Massachusetts, he was able to rally similar support. In Concord, the Walden Woods Project preserved the lands and water sanctified by Henry David Thoreau. On Cape Cod, he helped to establish the Cape Cod Commission that is dedicated to protecting critical open space.

As a private citizen, he made significant contributions to education and the environment. Walden Woods, Cape Cod, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Board of Higher Education all benefited from his leadership and ideas.

And he demonstrated compassion and caring to those who sought comfort and advice on how to deal with life-threatening illness.

I could go on and on about Paul Tsongas, and about how he was an extraordinary individual, but I won't.

I'll close with this—When announcing his presidential candidacy, Paul Tsongas said to his supporters, Just as we reach back to our

ancestors for our fundamental values, so we, as guardians of that legacy, must reach ahead to our children and their children. And we do so with a sense of sacredness in that reaching.

I'll simply say that I'm humbled and honored beyond words to follow in Paul Tsongas, footsteps. He truly devoted himself to making a difference not just for our generation, but for our children and future generations.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Paul's daughters, Ashley, Katina, and Molly; his sisters, Thaleia and Vicki, and especially to his wife, Niki, who continues to champion the issues that Paul spent his life fighting for.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY OF
WILFRED GEORGE GOODEN

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Wilfred George Gooden, a great citizen and patriot, a philanthropist and Good Samaritan. Wilfred Gooden shuffled off the mortal coil and slipped the surly bonds of earth on Saturday, January 6, 2007. He was one month shy of his 75th birthday. More importantly, he was a son, a brother, an uncle, a friend, a neighbor, a servant of God, and a loving husband to his darling Sybil for 57 years.

Madam Speaker, I do not think any of the many people who knew and loved Wilfred Gooden thought that when he returned to his native land of Jamaica in December 2006, that it would have been his last trip from his adopted home in the United States of America? I do not think any of them dreamed that those last fleeting words on the phone or in person would have been their last contact with him before he took his last breath on the Sabbath, January 6, 2007 at the Andrews Memorial Hospital, Kingston, Jamaica, with his faithful wife, Sybil, of 57 years, at his bedside.

Who would have known that the Lord was going to take Wilfred Gooden's hands off the plough and say: "Your work is done, my faithful servant—it's now someone else's turn."

Wilfred Gooden was the last of three sons born to Mr. and Mrs. Gooden in Westmoreland, Jamaica. His parents and brother, Sam predeceased him. Vibert his eldest brother, lives in Atlanta, Georgia. His mother Ethel and stepfather Edburn took care of the family after the death of Wilfred's father. A very close-knit family, Wilfred and his brother telephoned each other and had long chats each day. Even in his last days on earth, Wilfred and his brother Vibert were on the phone.

Brought up in a Christian home, Wilfred was baptized at the Rollington Town Seventh-Day Adventist church, and never forgot his first love—Jesus. His rich baritone voice could be heard in praises as he called his family and all who entered his home to worship morning and evening—wherever he was.

His Christ-like character was seen in his deeds, the way he treated everyone with whom he came in contact—it did not matter their race, ethnicity, gender, religion, political persuasion, title or status; everyone was treated with respect, courtesy and kindness.

In his youth it was not unusual for Wilfred to bring home, unannounced, three or four friends for the weekend who would be warmly received by a generous but sometimes frustrated mother.

In 1944, Wilfred traveled to the United States where he settled in New York City. For many years, he pursued and enjoyed a successful career in mechanical dentistry. Former clients still praise the quality and craftsmanship of his work.

Always on the lookout for new adventures and challenges, Wilfred invested in a brownstone on West 142nd Street, which it needed some repairs. With much enthusiasm, he immediately utilized his knowledge of plumbing as a result of his liberal arts training which required him to learn a trade as a part of degree program and performed the work himself, and in the process launched a new career for himself in housing rehabilitation.

To gain more knowledge about his business, Wilfred attended City College and earned a Certificate in Building Engineering. In 1961, he organized a general contracting company with the basic purpose of renovating existing properties. As owner and builder of multiple dwellings, Wilfred renovated a group of old tenements into two and three bedroom modern, class A apartments. In many areas of New York City, Wilfred has revitalized entire neighborhoods, creating homes that gave and still give each dweller a sense of renewed hope and dignity. As general contractor for Maurel Realty Corporation, he renovated a one hundred apartment complex and for Almeric Realty Corporation, he renovated a fifty apartment complex. Serving in dual capacity as Project Manager and Field Superintendent, he directed every aspect of these massive projects.

Wilfred was appointed by Mayor David Dinkins of the City of New York to work with Roger Starr, Administrator of Housing as consultant to the City's Housing program in urban areas. He reviewed the proposed projects with a vision of minimizing costs and suggested rehabilitation of buildings in the city's most needed areas.

Wilfred George Gooden walked with kings, but never lost the common touch. His walls both in Jamaica and New York are filled with photographs and citations from both the American and Jamaican governments including former President Bill Clinton, former Jamaican Prime Ministers Norman Manley, Michael Manley, Alexander Bustamante, Edward Seaga and P.J. Patterson, as well as government officials in New York and Jamaica, church leaders, industry leaders and the leaders of educational institutions.

Wilfred Gooden was, above all, a community servant. He sat on the Board of Directors of: Housing Board in New York; FISH Clinics in Jamaica; The American Friends of Jamaica; Concerned Committee for Christian Education; and NAJASO.

Wilfred Gooden was honored as a philanthropist by Message Magazine in 1996 for his community service and humanitarianism and awarded honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Faith and Grant College in Huntsville, Alabama.

Wilfred Gooden wanted others to succeed and helped countless Jamaicans relocating to New York to get jobs—many in his own construction company. When housing was needed, when food was required, when winter