

Mr. Rizzuto was born on September 25, 1917 and grew up in Brooklyn and Queens, New York, dreaming of one day playing professional baseball. He was eventually signed by the Yankees in 1937 as a free agent and played his first professional game in 1941.

After serving in the United States Navy during World War II, Mr. Rizzuto resumed playing for the Yankees in 1946, staying there through the end of his career in 1956. During this period, the Scooter played in five All-Star games, won the Hickok Belt in 1950, awarded to the top professional athlete of the year, and helped the Bronx Bombers win seven World Series championships with his clutch hitting abilities. Mr. Rizzuto's uniform number, 10, was retired by the Yankees on August 4, 1985.

In 1956, Mr. Rizzuto was hired as a television sports announcer for the Yankees, a position in which he would serve for the next forty years. He quickly became beloved as a quirky and witty announcer and for his intense affection for the Yankee organization. Mr. Rizzuto's energetic style and use of popular phrases such as "Holy Cow" and "Did you see that?" to describe an exciting play moved him from the category of popular announcer to that of broadcasting legend. He was an institution in the Bronx.

Phil Rizzuto was one of the true legends associated with the Yankees. People came to depend on hearing his voice calling the plays and often a little more. He was part of the rich tapestry of people and players that have come to define this great sports organization.

The New York Yankees have become synonymous with the community where they have played—the Bronx. They are part of the fabric of the community. Phil Rizzuto understood that special relationship. In return, he became an honorary son of the Bronx.

Mr. Rizzuto was truly a one-of-a-kind New Yorker and a Yankee legend. Although the Scooter is gone, he will certainly not be forgotten. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute and bidding farewell to this baseball hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I was on a leave of absence for personal reasons on September 19 and 20. Consequently, I missed several rollcall votes. At this time, I wish to note that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 884, "yea" on rollcall No. 885, and "yea" on rollcall No. 890.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN LEGISLATORS AND OFFICE DEPOT

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the National Foundation for Women Legislators for working to distribute

thousands of backpacks filled with school supplies in every U.S. State and Puerto Rico.

These backpacks have been donated by Office Depot and are being distributed to at-risk and disadvantaged youth. As lawmakers we introduce and pass legislation every year that affects our Nation's youth. We talk about statistics and reading performance and free lunch programs, but we do not talk enough about ensuring that all students have the school supplies they need to perform both inside and out of the classroom.

Office Depot's National Backpack Program, now in its seventh year, is designed to make a difference in communities across the country and put backpacks in the hands of underprivileged and at-risk children so they have the tools they need to start the school year. Beginning in 2001 with 80,000 backpacks donated nationwide, the program has expanded to deliver 100,000 backpacks in 2002 and in 2003 and 2004, the program was increased to 200,000 backpacks containing school supplies. In 2005, the program grew to 300,000 backpacks with school supplies and finally, in 2006, 300,000 backpacks were again donated by Office Depot across North America and in Puerto Rico, totaling more than 1 million backpacks in the hands of children since the inception of the program.

Sadly, there are hundreds of thousands of children who cannot afford the basic supplies they need for school. This backpack initiative not only alleviates some of the financial burden from the many single-family households that are stretching their budget and have enough to worry about paying for food and bills, but it also allows their children to have the pride of being able to start the school year the right way.

I am proud to say that 1,000 backpacks will be delivered to the Bradley Elementary School in my home district. I ask all of my colleagues in this United States Congress to join me in recognizing the National Foundation for Women Legislators and their partnership with Office Depot, whose efforts to empower our children and provide them the tools they need to be successful in school and in life are to be commended.

EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT ADMINISTRATION'S SEPTEMBER 9, 2007 OIL DEAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express deep concern about the administration's involvement in an oil deal announced on September 9, 2007, between the U.S. company Hunt Oil and the Kurdistan Regional Government. This oil deal appears to benefit a large Republican donor and ally of President Bush and Vice President Cheney.

The recent oil deal between the U.S.-based Hunt Oil Company and the Kurdistan Regional Government raises numerous questions. Hunt Oil, a privately held oil company based in Texas, and its founder, Ray Hunt, have close ties to Vice President Cheney and are large donors to President Bush. The deal appears to undercut the goal of oil revenue sharing but is predictably consistent with the administration's attempt to privatize Iraqi oil assets.

This war is about oil. The Bush administration desires private control of Iraqi oil, but we have no right to force Iraq to give up their oil. We have no right to set preconditions for Iraq which lead Iraq to giving up control of their oil. The constitution of Iraq designates that the oil of Iraq is the property of all Iraqi people.

The Administration has misled Congress and the media into thinking that pending Iraqi oil legislation before Iraq's Parliament was about the fair distribution of oil revenue. But the Hunt Oil deal with Kurdistan exposes the real intent of that legislation, promotion of a privatization scheme.

The Hunt Oil deal with Kurdistan suggests the war has made foreign access to Iraqi oil a reality. Because the connections between Hunt Oil Company and the Bush administration are numerous, I have asked the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to investigate Hunt Oil's ties to the Bush Administration and Halliburton.

The contract between Hunt Oil and Kurdistan would be the first of its kind in the Middle East where oil has been nationalized for decades and foreign oil companies have had no presence. The lack of consensus on how to manage the Iraqi oil resources suggests that the Hunt Oil Company deal could lead to greater instability within Iraq.

I have sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urging an immediate investigation into the implications of the Hunt Oil Company's recent production sharing agreement for petroleum exploration with Kurdistan on U.S. and Iraqi national security.

Congress should put a stop to the outrageous exploitation of a nation already in shambles due to U.S. intervention. I will soon introduce legislation to prevent all U.S. companies from gaining financial interests in Iraq's oil resources. I hope my colleagues will join me to ensure that the people of Iraq are not made to endure greater suffering and injustice that has already occurred because of this illegal and unjust war.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
September 18, 2007.

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY RICE: To assure the national security of the U.S. and Iraq I urge an immediate investigation into Hunt Oil Company's recent production sharing agreement for petroleum exploration with Kurdistan. The Iraq Central Government reportedly considers this agreement illegitimate. As such, a thorough investigation assessing the threat posed by the agreement to U.S. and Iraqi national security interests should be conducted promptly.

The Constitution of Iraq designates that the oil of Iraq is the property of all Iraqi people. Thus, it is unsurprising that the Iraqi Central Government believes that the oil production sharing agreement between Hunt Oil Company and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) is illegal. The agreement is reportedly based on oil law passed by the KRG and is the subject of much legal debate. The lack of consensus on how to manage the Iraqi oil resources suggest that the Hunt Oil Company deal could lead to greater instability within Iraq.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the contract between Hunt Oil and the KRG would be the first of its kind in the Middle East where oil has been nationalized for decades. Foreign oil companies have had no presence in the Middle East for decades. The legality

of this matter is of obvious importance to the people of Iraq who have a constitutional right to the oil resources of Iraq.

Furthermore, close ties between Hunt Oil Company and the Administration's top officials coupled with this precedent setting agreement appears morally debased. The following will assist in clarifying this connection: Ray Hunt, CEO of Hunt Oil Company, was twice appointed to a seat on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB). Mr. Hunt raised campaign funds for President George H.W. and George W. Bush. He also personally donated \$20,000 to the Republican National Committee's Victory Fund for the current President Bush. Ray Hunt gave \$100,000 toward the 2001 Bush inaugural festivities and one of his corporations, Hunt Consolidated, gave another \$250,000 toward the Bush 2005 presidential inaugural gala. In addition, Ray Hunt donated \$35 million toward the Bush library/think tank to secure additional property for the project.

This unmatched deal struck by the Hunt Oil Company coupled with the company's ties to the administration could be viewed as hostile to the interests of Iraq amidst growing knowledge of Iraqi opposition to privatization and sale of Iraq's national oil reserves.

Your investigation should address how the agreement will affect Iraqi public sentiment toward the Iraqi and U.S. governments, insurgent efforts, the stability of Iraq and the stated goals of U.S. policy to bring peace and stability to the region.

I look forward to your timely response and the conclusions of your investigation.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
September 18, 2007.

Chairman HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WAXMAN: I request that the Full Committee begin an investigation into the recently announced oil production sharing agreement between the Hunt Oil Company and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The recently announced agreement raises numerous concerns.

(I) Was the U.S. company Hunt Oil and its CEO, Ray Hunt, in entering into the agreement with the KRG, the beneficiary of a special relationship with the Bush administration? Have reported ties between Ray Hunt and the Bush administration led to special advocacy for Hunt Oil by the administration that resulted in the production sharing agreement with the KRG?

In 2002, Mr. Hunt acted as the finance chairman of the Republican National Committee for President Bush. Mr. Hunt led the Republican National Committee's Victory Fund for George W. Bush and personally donated \$20,000 to the committee. Mr. Hunt contributed \$100,000 toward inaugural festivities for President Bush in 2001, while Hunt Consolidated contributed \$250,000 toward the 2005 Bush presidential inaugural gala. Mr. Hunt has also given generously toward construction of the Bush library by securing \$35 million dollars in additional property for the endeavor.

Furthermore, Mr. Hunt has twice been appointed to a seat on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB); most recently in 2006. The PFIAB is said to have access to intelligence information that is not available to a majority of the members of Congress. There are experts who acknowledge that information accessible to Mr. Hunt through the PFIAB is advantageous to the

international energy interest of the Hunt Oil Company.

It is also notable that Vice President Cheney, as the head of Halliburton, invited Mr. Ray Hunt to sit on the Halliburton Board of Directors.

(II) Was Kurdistan pressured into promulgating a new oil law and/or entering into production sharing agreement with Hunt Oil and perhaps other administration connected companies by elements of the U.S. government in Iraq?

It should be of great concern to all those who wish to see Iraq achieve self-sufficiency that the Iraqi Central Government is opposed to the agreement entered into by the Hunt Oil Company and the KRG. Iraq's oil minister, Hussain al-Shahrastani, has said "any oil deal has no standing as far as the government of Iraq is concerned. All these contracts have to be approved by the Federal Authority before they are legal. This (contract) was not presented for approval. It has no standing."

(III) Does the Hunt Oil Company's deal with the KRG foretell of more such agreements in the future? If the KRG does plan to announce more production sharing agreements in the future what would be the consequences for any revenue sharing programs initiated by the Iraqi Central Government?

On numerous occasions President Bush has stated his support for a revenue sharing program in Iraq. On May 31, 2007, at a White House press conference President Bush stated, "We're working very hard, for example, on getting an oil law with an oil revenue-sharing code that will help unite the country." On August 9, 2007, at another White House press briefing, Mr. Bush stated, "People say we need an oil revenue sharing law. I agree with that, that needs to be codified."

While many have pointed out that the oil law that President Bush has supported is primarily a privatization bill, nevertheless is not the announcement between Hunt Oil and the KRG undermining the alleged purpose of the Iraqi oil law? Is this not at odds with President Bush's stated goal of revenue sharing? Supposedly the U.S. is in favor of an Iraqi oil revenue sharing program, but will the Hunt Oil agreement with the KRG contribute to or undermine a revenue sharing program in Iraq?

It is hard to imagine that in Iraq there is any matter more controversial than oil. So long as the U.S. occupies Iraq, it is hard to imagine that there can be anything more damaging to the United States' world reputation than the awarding of oil agreements to Bush administration cronies.

In light of the Full Committee's excellent past work on Halliburton, I strongly recommend that the Full Committee ascertain the relationships between the Hunt Oil Company, the Bush administration and the KRG that resulted in the September 9, 2007 announcement of the oil production sharing agreement.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, September 24, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Con. Res. 193, H. Res. 668, H.R. 1199, and H. Res. 340 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 891 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 193, recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 892 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 668, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957, desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 893 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1199, the Drug Endangered Children Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 894 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 340, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives of the importance of providing a voice for the many victims, and families of victims, involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHAMPTON FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 AND THE TRI-HAMPTON RESCUE SQUAD

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Southampton Fire Company No. 1 and the Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad for their outstanding service and dedication to protecting our community. Everyday, they willingly and selflessly risk their lives to protect our families, friends and neighbors. They set an example with their inspiring courage and devotion and their sacrifice deserves our sincerest thanks and utmost respect.

Madam Speaker, as the son of a former Philadelphia police officer, I know how hard America's first responders work to keep our cities and towns safe. They bravely face considerable danger and peril for the safety of families across our community. As their proud representatives, we ought to be just as committed to providing our first responders with the tools they need to do their jobs. True homeland security means supporting those who keep our families safe.

Madam Speaker, the members of the Southampton Fire Company No. 1 and the Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad serve tirelessly to protect our community and we should do everything possible to give them the support they need to keep us safe.

TRIBUTE TO MARIA LORENSEN, LAURA SMITH, AND BARBARA PICHOT

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Lorenson, Laura Smith, and Barbara Pichot who are being honored by the Girl Scouts Shawnee Division as the 2007 Women of Distinction.