Finally, we must face the reality that energy is wasted. Eliminating this waste will not be easy, but a small sacrifice now will avoid the necessity of even greater sacrifices later. Fellow citizens, by turning your lights out at night, buying energy-efficient appliances and taking public transportation, you can reduce our collective energy need drastically. Every time you turn off a light you will be brightening the light of America's future.

I have confidence in American solutions to America's energy problems. Ingenuity, self-sacrifice and faith in science and the future will deliver us into an era in which we will no longer have to worry about our energy needs.

ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRUCCI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a crucial issue to this country, an issue that many Members have taken to the floor to highlight, an issue that is incredibly important to not only my district but to the entire Nation. That issue is energy.

America in the year 2001 faces the most serious energy shortage since the 1970s, and the effects are being felt in the homes of all Americans. For years, the White House ignored this crucial matter and did not act. Now, with new leadership, we have a new beginning. We have started a much needed dialogue on a viable new energy policy.

My district, the First Congressional District of New York, is at the east end of Long Island. As we are isolated from many large power sources, I am here to stress the importance of improving the distribution of power. Distribution constraints are resulting in high prices for consumers. Energy is the entity that knows no boundaries and we should work to get power across the Nation safely, efficiently and productively.

My State, New York, has worked successfully with the State of Connecticut in developing environmentally safe delivery alternatives such as a power cable beneath the Long Island Sound. It is with this spirit of collaboration that we can work as a region to remedy this growing problem. In order to move ahead with a feasible energy policy, we must continue to highlight and support the use of renewable energy sources. Such sources as wind, solar and hydroelectric power are crucial to producing clean and environmentally sound energy.

I applaud President Bush and his energy task force for recognizing the need for renewable and alternative sources of energy. The Energy Policy Development Group has suggested tax incentives for electricity generated by renewable energy sources, which is a step in the right direction. We must support these technologies and the research that makes these discoveries possible. As we continue to expend our precious oil, coal and gas reserves, we must be proactive in finding ways to make renewable energy technology affordable, effective and abundant.

While renewable energy is crucial to the future, we must work in the present to find a cleaner and more environmentally friendly way to use conventional fuels. We need to update our decades-old power plants so we can continue to produce affordable energy while protecting the environment for future generations. We must also continue to invest in clean coal technology, allowing us to burn coal cleaner and more efficiently.

Nowhere is the crunch of the energy crisis felt more than at the pump. In some areas of my district, people are paying over $2 a gallon for gasoline. Hardworking, middle-class American families need relief from high gas prices. By reducing our country's reliance on oil for power needs, we can hopefully see some relief from skyrocketing gas prices.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to come to the table and work together in a bipartisan manner to curb this looming energy crisis.

HONORING DR. MARTIN OF GREAT BLACKS IN WAX MUSEUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Elmer Martin, cofounder and president of the Great Blacks in Wax Museum located in my district of Baltimore.

Dr. Martin can very well be described as an educator and historian. In fact, he was well-educated, earning a Bachelor's Degree in sociology from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri in 1968, a Master's Degree from Atlanta University in 1971, and a doctorate in social welfare from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1975. Dr. Martin was a professor at Morgan State University and also an author of several books dealing with the African American community.

The adjectives that I believe most aptly describe Dr. Martin's spirit are ''visionary'' and ''dreamer.'' Dr. Martin had a vision of how to breathe life into African American history. He envisioned a museum that would tell the story of a people stripped of their culture, language, families and religion and brought to a foreign land to survive as slaves; the story of a people that, despite this injustice and years of continued racial strife, has still triumphed. Dr. Martin's dream was to instill pride in African Americans while at the same time educating this Nation about our history and culture.

His dream became reality in early 1980 when he bought a store front with $30,000 he had saved to purchase a home and opened the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, the first wax museum dedicated to African American history. He initially commissioned four wax figures—Frederick Douglass, Mary McLeod Bethune, Harriet Tubman, and Nat Turner—which were hauled to schools, churches and malls for history lessons. The figures were popular at the museum and the museum was on its way.

What better way to memorialize the story of African Americans than through life size wax figures and scenes of historic events. From slave ships to enslavement, through reconstruction and Jim Crow, before and after segregation and throughout the present civil rights era, every period of African American history is presented. The museum honors African Americans that played key roles during each of these periods, slaves, abolitionists, educators, religious leaders, politicians, civil rights activists and inventors.

Not only did he found a museum, but Dr. Martin's mission included youth advocacy, classroom and cultural awareness programs. Further, employment and job training programs are sponsored to encourage at-risk youth to develop their entrepreneurial skills. Community service is also a focus, providing citizens the opportunity to improve their neighborhoods while taking part in cultural activities.

Today, the museum is a 10,000 square foot facility located in a community rich with its own African American history and attracts about 275,000 visitors annually. It is a tribute not only to African Americans but now to its founder, Dr. Martin. Sadly, last week Dr. Martin passed. However, his dream still lives on.

Every person that visits the Great Blacks in Wax Museum will get an education not only in African American history but the history of this Nation, for our history is this Nation's history. Every person that visits the museum will feel the aura that exudes from the realistic figures of those persons that made significant contributions to the African American community and this Nation. And every person that visits the museum will leave with an understanding of how a race of people turned strife and struggle into victory. Yes, Dr. Martin's dream of educating us about African Americans will live on.

In paying tribute to this great dreamer and visionary and his family, I encourage all Members of this body to visit the Great Blacks in Wax Museum and personally experience Dr. Martin's dream. Finally, I say thank you to a great dreamer. And, as he stated, ''Thank you to that higher power that grants all dreamers the courage to dream.''

STANDARD TRADE NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY, LABOR AND ENVIRONMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) is recognized for 5 minutes.