

rigors of an untamed wilderness. Later, our inexperienced forefathers fought the superior military and economic might of Great Britain to claim their freedom from oppression. In the nineteenth century, America was literally torn apart by Civil War yet a people was freed from slavery. Pioneers of that day endured tragic hardships in settling the West, yet prevailed and helped this country grow to its present dimensions. In this century, Americans have faced World War I and the devastation of the Great Depression, followed almost immediately after by the exhausting conflicts of the second World War. America's foundation was created and strengthened through overcoming all of these trials.

My vision for America calls for renewal of the ideals and faith in this country that made our forefathers victorious and America great. It was their commitment to these beliefs that gave them the determination to sacrifice and surmount tremendous obstacles. We as Americans must uphold and heritage of freedom. We must reaffirm respect for the dignity of the individual and respect for our laws and those who work to carry them out. We must acknowledge a higher power and adhere to the principles of honesty, hard work, cooperation with others and loyalty to our country.

As President John F. Kennedy declared, "No nation can remain free unless its people cherish their freedoms, understand the responsibilities they entail, and nurture the will to preserve them."

Working side by side with fellow American in Albany, I experienced first hand the vision of mankind which has give us strength and hope and courage in ages past as we have faced adversity and challenges. I felt the spirit of brotherhood of putting aside personal differences and working together for the common good. This is the vision which calls out through the Pledge of Allegiance, for us to be—"... one nation, under God, indivisible." My vision for America is the one bequeathed to each of us, the legacy of our forbearers who sacrificed their lives in every age for all our freedoms. I see an America at peace through the renewed commitment of her people, an America that is still the hope of the world. To this vision I pledge, in the words of the Declaration of Independence, 'my life, my fortune, and my sacred honor.'

THE ENERGY RESOURCE CENTER
OF DOWNEY, CA, LEADING THE
WAY FOR AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT
NATION

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, in this day of growing concern over both the economic and the environmental future of our Nation, I rise to spotlight a "new" building in my district that sets a national standard in energy efficiency, environmental concern, and the use of recycled materials. It is the Southern California Gas Company's Energy Resource Center [ERC] which is located in Downey, CA. Envisioned as a clearinghouse on energy and energy conservation information, the planners of the ERC sought to house this information center in a building that embodied the environmental goals of recycling and energy and resource conservation. They succeeded magnificently.

The ERC opened its doors in April in its "new" recycled building as a one-stop center

where customers can find the most efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally sensitive solutions to all their energy needs. At the ERC, people will be able to get answers to energy questions on such diverse subjects as natural day lighting, gas cooling, and low emissivity windows. The ERC will also house an air quality permitting office of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, that will allow businesses to make energy decisions and understand air quality permitting requirements in one stop. The ERC will provide meeting space for up to 700 people.

Designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] as an "Energy Star Building," the ERC is one of the Nation's best working models of energy efficiency and cutting-edge environmental products—a living example of how to recycle a building and use energy in the most efficient way. When construction began on the 38-year-old building in April of 1994, there were no wrecking balls. Instead, builders reused many of the materials that were already there. They incorporated those materials with many of the most advanced and environmentally sensitive technologies which are available today.

During the construction process, all of the 550 tons of material removed from the building—*asphalt, red clay brick, porcelain plumbing fixtures among others*—were sorted and stockpiled. Materials that could not be used again in the building were taken to recycling centers or were given to other builders. About 60 percent of the materials removed—approximately 350 tons—were recycled one way or another.

Contractors were required to use recycled, toxic-free, and environmentally-sensitive materials. As a result, 80 percent of the materials used in the construction of the ERC came from recycled or reused materials. The ERC building now features many unusual recycled materials such as concrete reinforcement bars made of recycled steel from weapons confiscated by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department; flooring made of wood recovered from a condemned turn-of-the-century building in San Francisco; a wall made from recycled aircraft aluminum; and sections of the movie set used in the recent Warner Bros. film "Disclosure."

In addition to the construction materials, other state-of-the art, environmentally-sensitive methods were used such as soil protection, dust minimization, and adherence to noise control regulations. The preservation of existing land resources was not forgotten—whether they were trees, shrubs, vines, and or top soil. Drought-resistant plants were used for exterior landscaping. There are plans for an underground drip irrigation system to be fed by reclaimed water.

The Southern California Gas Company's Energy Resource Center in Downey, CA, is leading the way for sound environmental construction that is economics-friendly. Mr. Speaker, the Energy Resource Center will enable those who use it to have a much better energy-efficiency future and that is good news for our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL SCOTT E.
MILLS

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Scott E. Mills, U.S. Air Force, on the occasion of his retirement from the military.

Scott Mills has served as Chief of the U.S. Air Force Academy Activities Group since June, 1993. During the last 2 years, he has worked closely with many of our offices in coordinating Congressional nominations and inquiries for the Academy.

Born in Berkeley, California, Scott Mills received a Bachelor of Science degree as a member of the U.S. Air Force Academy Class of 1973. He received a Master of Science in Logistics from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1984. His professional military education includes Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and the Air War College.

Scott Mills' Air Force career is one marked diverse accomplishments. He is a Master Navigator with over 3,000 flying hours, serving as both C-141 navigator and C-141 navigator instructor. He has served with 4th Military Airlift Squadron, 323d Flying Training Wing, Headquarters Air Training Command, the Joint Cruise Missiles Project, and the 323d Support Group.

Scott Mills has received numerous awards including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

Mr. Speaker, Scott Mills' service to his country has touched the lives of countless young men and women either serving in the U.S. Air Force or attending the United States Air Force Academy. His integrity and his commitment to excellence are the trademarks of his career.

I ask my colleagues to joint me in thinking him for his distinguished and selfless service to our nation. As he returns to civilian life, may he and his family enjoy the full blessings of the freedom he has so ably defended during this career as a officer in the U.S. Air Force.

CAREERS BILL INTRODUCTION

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Training Subcommittee Chairman BUCK MCKEON, his Vice Chairman FRANK RIGGS, YOUTH SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DUKE CUNNINGHAM, Congressman STEVE GUNDERSON, Majority Whip TOM DELAY, Conference Chairman JOHN BOEHNER, and Budget Committee Chairman JOHN KASICH, to introduce the CAREERS (the Consolidated and Reformed Education, Employment, and Rehabilitation Act) Act to reform the Federal job training system.

This bill is the result of a number of Subcommittee hearings, and is the first complete product of the Opportunities Committee's

Agenda 104 process in which we examined the various programs within our Committee's jurisdiction to determine their effectiveness. Our Committee will be working to mark up this bill throughout the month of May, and will hopefully send a bill to the floor for consideration early this summer.

We drafted this bill starting from the position that the current Federal Work Force Preparation System is fundamentally flawed and in need of reform. There are simply too many programs, too much bureaucracy, too much duplication, and too much waste of taxpayer money.

The CAREERS bill is drafted based on two overarching principles: quality and local control. For many years, I have been talking to anyone who would listen about the need to institute quality into the Federal training system. Briefly, CAREERS focuses on providing quality training services by:

Simplifying the entire system from more than 100 programs into just four that we believe should be the focus of Federal involvement in job training: adult employment and training; adult education; vocational rehabilitation; and, career education and training for youths;

Giving States and communities the maximum amount of responsibility to run their own programs;

Because we believe that education and literacy hold the key to maintaining the long-term economic competitive position of the United States, we require that these issues are a key focus of the Federal work force preparation system; and

Demanding results in the form of high standards for improvement of local training and education systems.

With regard to local control: let me be clear, we are giving States and localities more power to run Federal job training programs than they have ever had in recent history. Governors will have unprecedented power to coordinate all Work Force preparation State level activities. As a State's highest ranking elected official, a Governor is the key to the job training system in every State.

It is at the local level, however, where the most dramatic change takes place. Work force development boards led by businesses will coordinate the entire system in communities around the Nation. They will create one-stop sites to ensure coordinated access to all local work force preparation programs. They will operate programs for adult training and severely disabled adults, as well as work with schools, libraries, literacy providers, and others to ensure the entire training system works together within the community.

As you can see, this is a tremendous undertaking and truly a dramatic reform in the way the Federal Government does business in job training. The CAREERS bill also undertakes enormous reforms in the higher education arena as well by eliminating SPREs (State Postsecondary Review Entities) and privatizing the SALLIE MAE and CONNIE LEE corporations.

Our final note. We have looked carefully at other approaches that would completely turn this program over to States in a modified version of "revenue sharing." As I have said many times, I do not support revenue sharing because we have no revenue to share. What I support is outlined in this bill: four consolidated programs, additional flexibility for States

and communities, but we must continue the Federal role in demanding results in the form of broad standards and goals to ensure accountability for this important investment of taxpayer dollars.

Again, I salute the hard work of Committee members to come up with this bill, and I look forward to working with the Administration and Committee Democrats to develop a bill that truly reforms our Nation's job training system.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "CONSOLIDATED AND REFORMED EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND REHABILITATION SYSTEMS ACT" THE "CAREERS ACT"

HON. STEVE GUNDERSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the skills levels of the American workforce are more important than ever before to U.S. competitiveness, this country's programs designed to prepare its workers are seriously fragmented and duplicative. Because education and training programs have been developed independently over many years, there is no national strategy for a coherent workforce preparation and development system.

As we all know by now, the U.S. GAO has identified 163 different Federal programs, totaling \$20 billion, which offer some form of job training and/or employment assistance to youth and adults in the United States—yet over the past several years we have continued to add to this number. A major focus of any reform effort must be to eliminate unnecessary duplication and fragmentation in these systems, and at the same time, provide States and localities with the flexibility needed to build on successful existing programs and initiate change where appropriate.

Today we are introducing the Careers Act—a multi-tiered job training reform effort that: Streamlines workforce preparation programs at the Federal level through consolidation of similar programs; and provides flexibility needed by States and local areas to further reform State and local systems—building on existing successful programs, encouraging change where such change is needed, and involving the private sector at all levels in development of the system.

This proposal builds very closely on two bills that Committee Republicans introduced last Congress—H.R. 2943, the National Workforce Preparation and Development Act; and H.R. 4407, the original Careers Act. It also follows through on legislation we introduced earlier this year, H.R. 511, which pledged significant reform in this area. With the Careers Act, we are going much further with reform than anyone dreamed was possible during last Congress.

Specifically, the Careers Act consolidates well over 100 Federal education and training programs (as listed by the GAO) into 4 consolidation grants to States and local communities. The four consolidation grants include: A Youth Workforce Preparation Consolidation Grant—consolidating Vocational Education; School-to-Work; and JTPA's Summer Youth Employment, Year-Round, and Youth Fair

Chance Programs with programs would be built on a model integrating academic, vocational, and workbased learning, and enhancing State and local employer input in the design/development/delivery of programs; a Vocational Rehabilitation Consolidation Grant; an Adult Training Consolidation Grant (including programs for Disadvantaged Adults and for Dislocated Workers); and an Adult Education and Literacy Consolidation Grant (including all Adult Education and Literacy programs). The legislation will provide maximum authority to States and localities in the design and operation of their workforce preparation system; drive money to States—and down to local communities to the actual points of service delivery; require the involvement of local employers in the design and implementation of local systems—through employer-led local Workforce Development Boards; require that service delivery be provided through a one-stop delivery structure; and we even allow the Secretary of Labor and States to use a portion of their funding to establish employer loan accounts for the training of incumbent workers.

Further, the legislation privatizes 2 existing government sponsored enterprises, Sallie Mae and Connie Lee—in the spirit of reduced Federal control for programs that no longer need Government support.

There is no doubt that future U.S. competitiveness is dependent on the skill levels of our workers. In addition to global competition, technological advances and corporate realignments highlight the need to focus on worker preparation. The future of U.S. competitiveness really rests on what I describe as a "3-legged stool." We have already accomplished the construction of the 1st leg—tearing down barriers to trade through the enactment of NAFTA and GATT. We are currently working on the 2d leg—providing tax and other incentives for modernization of the workplace. Finally, the 3d leg, and probably the most difficult to strengthen and uphold, but one that is imperative to succeed, is that of investing in and strengthening the education and training of our citizenry.

I think that the Careers Act accomplishes the building and strengthening of this "3d leg". It focuses on the workforce preparation and literacy needs of youth, adults, and individuals with disabilities. I hope that we will succeed in seeing its enactment this year.

FRANKING REDUCTION ACT OF 1995

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Franking Reduction Act of 1995, legislation that is necessary if we are to truly reform this House. The bloated franking budget has become nothing more than a blatantly abused political advertising slush fund, and it has got to stop. My bill, which has received bipartisan support, would slash the \$31 million franking budget in half.

The past 100 days have seen the passage of several substantial in-House reforms, proving to the American people our commitment to real change. The American people are getting the message that real change is finally happening here in Washington, which is precisely