

been established by the parliaments of England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the European Commission. Clearly, OTA has a national and international reputation for excellence.

Coming from a State where agriculture is of pre-eminent importance, I am struck by the number of important analyses OTA has provided in the agriculture area, a policy area where one might not normally think of complex or highly technical issues. For nearly 20 years, OTA has provided exceptional support on agriculture technology and policy to Congress. As we begin the Farm Bill debate this year, we are already armed with a major, new assessment from the agency—"Agriculture, Trade and the Environment"—which presents several ways to achieve trade growth and environmental quality in complementary fashion.

OTA is completing another study using the best scientific expertise available in the country to identify agriculture's environmental priorities for better targeting of the Conservation Reserve Program and others under continuing budget stress. In a second study, OTA is assessing ways that agricultural research can generate new technologies at a faster pace, so as to ensure continued growth in trade while still meeting environmental, food safety, and public health goals. Another assessment now underway examines the roles biologically based pest controlled technologies can play in reducing the risk and use of pesticides while maintaining competitiveness. This subject affects several farm bill titles, including research, technology transfer, and land management.

In closing, I'll emphasize several points. First, it is imperative that Congress retain an independent analytical function. We don't want to rely on executive branch agencies.

Second, OTA's work cannot be picked up adequately by GAO or CRS, which focus on entirely different types of studies. The idea that OTA's work somehow could be contracted out is also unworkable. We would either beholden to organizations supplying studies slanted to their own interests, or if we were willing to pay top dollar for the type of long-range studies OTA now undertakes, we would lose the important capacity inherent in an established professional staff to give testimony or to assist with legislative proposals sometimes years after the studies have been completed.

Third, policy questions are increasingly complex and technical. Environmental risk assessment and telecommunications are just two examples of complicated policy issues that confront Congress this year. Our colleagues have pointed out many others in the areas of national security, health, agriculture, and the environment. We make important policy choices every day, and we need OTA to help us sort out fact from fiction.

I ask my colleagues to support the Fazio and the Houghton amendments to restore OTA and to hold on to the important mission of this agency in support of our congressional decision-making.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW G. CANGEMI

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it is no coincidence that Andrew G. Cangemi is the 1995 recipient of the Mental Health Association's Community Service Award at an event honoring Clinton Court. Mr. Cangemi exemplifies how one individual, like one new living option for people with a history of mental illness, can make all the difference in the world.

On a daily basis, Andy Cangemi touches many lives. Andy serves as an associate vice president of the Nassau County Council, Boy Scouts of America, and is a member of its board of directors. In 1994 he received the distinguished Citizen Award from the Scouts. He has received citations from the county of Nassau, towns of Huntington, Hempsted, and Islip for his work in the community. He particularly enjoys his volunteer work with the Northport Youth Soccer League.

As president of the Advancement for Commerce and Industry, a business organization of several hundred members, he has worked tirelessly to promote a working partnership between government and business to revitalize economic, environmental, and social conditions on Long Island.

As a partner in Sigel, Fenchel & Peddy, P.C. he is a member of both the Nassau and Suffolk Bar Associations. He is active in the Nassau County Judicial Advisory Council, the Columbian Lawyers Society, and the Sons of Italy. He has served as chairman of the Nassau County Bar Association's Condemnation and Tax Certiorari Committee, and as a lecturer for the Nassau Academy of Law.

Andy Cangemi's inspiration and vitality flows out of his background. As a neighborhood boy from Brooklyn, he considers himself fortunate to work his way up and have had the opportunity to become a practicing attorney. His interests in community services is an expression of the great responsibility he feels to give back. The energy he devotes represents a coming together of the personal and the professional man.

I've had the privilege of being a part of many important initiatives on Long Island, and I am proud to help MHA build Clinton Court. This project will be a model for affordable housing that will enable people with psychiatric disabilities to become productive, independent members of our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to know Andy Cangemi and I am proud today to be able to commemorate his many accomplishments. He is an example of the best of Long Island and of this Nation, a hard-working man who gives his time tirelessly to those less fortunate than himself. He demonstrates that in today's busy world compassion is still possible and relevant.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1854) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO. Mr. Chairman, the rule for this bill is frequently controversial because the provisions of the legislative appropriations bill affect our personal offices, our committees, and the offices and people supporting this institution. We all have personal knowledge of much of the subject matter, but there are many different perspectives about the standards we should be setting for ourselves and the way we should be administering the House. Those perspectives ensure controversy, and as the floor manager of the legislative appropriations bill for the last 13 years, I've managed my share of them. That honor now falls to my good friend, RON PACKARD, as the new chairman of the Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee.

This year 33 amendments were offered to the Rules Committee—however, only 11 were accepted.

The structure of this rule stands in stark contrast to the open rule adopted for consideration of the military construction appropriations bill, which was considered immediately prior to this one.

Although some good questions will be debated today, I am troubled by the important subjects that will be skipped.

Thoughtful amendments were submitted on a number of issues affecting the way we conduct business here. Amendments were submitted including:

First, ensuring the frequent flier miles earned by Government travel will only be applied to Government travel,

Second, eliminating funding for the Joint Economic Committee, and

Third, eliminating the discrepancy between congressional retirement benefits and other congressional employees.

I'm particularly concerned that the Republican majority on the Rules Committee voted down three amendments to the rule offered by their Democratic counterparts:

First, the Brewster/Harman lockbox amendment—this is a good concept that has been endorsed overwhelmingly by the House in the past. It's too bad we won't have a chance to consider it again when it comes to cuts in our won backyard.

Second, an amendment offered by Mrs. SCHROEDER to abolish the Joint Tax Committee. Mrs. SCHROEDER made a good argument at the Rules Committee comparing the Republican attitude toward the Select Committees of Hunger, Narcotics, Aging, and Children, Youth and Families—which were eliminated at the beginning of this Congress—and whether we should be considering joint tax in this same vein. Unfortunately, the House won't have a chance to make the comparison.

Third, last but hardly least, a gift ban proposed by our freshman colleague, JOHN