

The Department has taken no action to reappoint site managers at each cleanup site, as required by section 3173 of the bill.

The Department has failed to submit to Congress a report on section 3175, which requires the establishment of a technology deployment program at DOE sites.

To the best of my knowledge, the Department has failed to comply with section 3174 of the law, which requires that the Secretary certify that any new Department paperwork requirements—called orders—are necessary for “the protection of human health and the environment or safety, the fulfillment of legal requirements, or the conduct of critical administrative functions.” This was meant to reduce the absolutely unbelievable amount of paperwork that exists in the DOE system.

The Department has failed to work with State leaders to ensure that the provisions cover sites other than the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in my district, as suggested by section 3172.

And until this past month, the Department had ignored provisions that Congress had included to speed up transfers of funding from one project to another. And although these limited reprogrammings have recently been approved at Hanford and Savannah River, Department budget officials are apparently misinterpreting even these simple procedures.

Mr. Chairman, Congress included these provisions as a subtle reminder to the Department that the time for reform had come. The Department's decision to ignore these provisions demonstrates that they have little interest in taking the steps necessary to assure Congress that the \$6 billion we appropriate for these programs is well spent.

This amendment strengthens the existing provisions by making a number of the changes mandatory, instead of voluntary. It will empower the site manager to take action to enhance environmental restoration at the site. It puts a 2-month limit on the amount of time that DOE headquarters may take to review urgent budget transfer requests. It gives the site manager the responsibility for considering the cost and risk reduction benefits in making decisions in cleanup actions.

Some have argued that this will grant unilateral authority to the site manager. That is simply not true. The Secretary will retain the ultimate decision making authority. And the Secretary is also given the authority to remove a site manager, if he sees fit.

Mr. Chairman, it was my original intention that this amendment should cover all Department of Energy sites. However, we agreed at this point to limit it to the Hanford site, with the expectation that the Department will seek to apply similar provisions across the complex.

This is a simple, but commonsense step towards imposing responsible management on a Department which has clearly demonstrated that it has had problems managing the billions of dollars that we have given them each year. As a result, I would urge my colleagues to support this provision.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HORACE O'BRYANT MIDDLE SCHOOL'S CONCERT CHOIR AND SERENADES

### HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 1997*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Horace O'Bryant Middle School's Concert Choir and Serenaders which was commended as the best overall choir among all middle and high school choirs in the Nation. The group from Horace O'Bryant recently won the top award in the finals at the All American Music Festival in Orlando, FL.

About 60 middle schoolers comprise the choir and about half of them also participate in the Serenaders, a dancing jazz show choir. Much of their repertoire consists of popular melodies from movies and television shows.

I am proud to see that music is still so great a part of our children's lives. The Key West Citizen said it well when it declared that “We can share this triumph with the kids and their teachers because we know that their music lights the way to a harmonious future for all of us.”

Mr. Speaker, I applaud these students of their diligence and commitment to music and for their excellent representation of Florida in this prestigious national competition. Also to be commended are the team's choral director, parents, and school principal, who gave their time and support.

### HONORING RICHARD SILVER'S 55 YEARS OF SERVICE

### HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 1997*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Silver's 55 years of service to our Nation and its veterans.

Mr. Silver is currently the director of the James Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, FL. Since 1979, he has guided what is, in my opinion, one of the best VA medical facilities in the country. The Center serves veterans from around my home State of Florida and provides them with the quality care they deserve. He has used an active teaching role and close professional relationship with the University of South Florida College of Medicine.

Before coming to Tampa, Richard served in the same position at the Brockton and Northampton VA Medical Centers in Massachusetts. He has also served as the assistant hospital director at East Orange, NJ, and was director of personnel service in the Department of Medicine and Surgery at the VA Central Office. In total, he has over 55 years of service to our country.

In addition to devoting his life to the care of our Nation's veterans, Mr. Silver also served in the U.S. Army as a captain while he was assigned to the Combat Engineers in the South Pacific.

Richard has devoted his life to protecting our Nation and those who answered the call in its time of need. He has an exemplary career of service that is worthy of recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Richard Silver and wish him continued success in his work at the Tampa VA.

### TRIBUTE TO GEORGE SCHMIEDEL

### HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 1997*

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor Mr. George Schmiedel for his outstanding service to the citizens of Connecticut. On this Friday, June 27, Mr. Schmiedel will retire after 30 years of service as the registrar of voters for my hometown of Danbury, CT.

Mr. Schmiedel is a lifelong resident of Danbury, CT, and a 1948 graduate of Danbury High School. He is a dedicated member and active participant at St. Peter's Church. In addition to his lengthy and distinguished service to the city of Danbury, Mr. Schmiedel also was employed for 19 years by the John Hancock Insurance Co. He and his wife, Sally, are the proud parents of three children: Mark, Steven, and Brenda, and have five grandchildren.

Mr. Schmiedel has a long history of outstanding commitment to the community of Danbury. His membership and service in the Arthritis Association, the American Cancer Society, the Catholic War Veterans, and the Danbury Democratic Club has made a lasting contribution and has made him an invaluable member of our community.

Mr. Schmiedel's extended service is a testimony to his dedication to the citizens of Connecticut and a reflection of his personal concern for the people of Danbury. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. George Schmiedel for his dedicated service and to congratulate him on his retirement.

### TRIBUTE TO THE FBI AND CIA

### HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 1997*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency for the apprehension of a suspect in the murder of two CIA employees and the wounding of three other individuals near Langley 4 years ago.

According to reports, FBI agents took the confessed killer into custody in a covert operation near the Afghan-Pakistani border with intelligence support from the CIA, ending a 4-year international manhunt. The dawn raid was executed without incident.

This case demonstrates the vital importance of maintaining a strong U.S. intelligence community. It also reminds us of the value of perseverance in the pursuit of justice.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work done by the FBI and the CIA last week. All America thanks them.