

Clair A. Hill & Associates. He specialized in water resources, surveying, mapping, and structural engineering, before entering military service in 1941, during World War II. He served 5 years in the Aleutian islands. After the war, in 1946, he reorganized his firm, which grew steadily in responsibility and reputation in the post-war boom.

Working from offices in California and Alaska, Mr. Hill's firm served clients such as the U.S. Air Force, the Sacramento Utility District, and Pacific Gas & Electric Company. Clair Hill had an independent spirit, and his reputation was embodied in his motto, you will never succeed if you don't try.

This dedication and independence spurred Mr. Hill to obtain a pilot's license and purchase his own airplane, which he used to service projects throughout California and the Pacific Northwest. Frequently called "California's Mr. Water," Clair Hill was well known as a major contributor to California's water supply planning and management, having served for 32 years in the California Water Commission, 18 of those as chairman.

While on the commission, he signed California's original State water plan, which outlined projects that today store water in the State's northern section for use by communities and industries throughout the State of California.

In 1988 I was proud to assist in renaming Whiskeytown Dam, near Redding, as the Clair A. Hill Whiskeytown Dam. Mr. Hill's assistance and advocacy led to the development of the dam and reservoir to benefit the Redding area as part of the government's Central Valley water project. Although Clair Hill retired as CH2M Hill's California regional manager in 1974, he remained active as a consultant and adviser to the firm's water resources practice until just recently.

Mr. Hill was the only honorary life member of the California Water Commission. Last year he was one of eight civil engineers nationwide to receive an honorary lifetime membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers. Clair Hill was also the first recipient of the Association of California Water Agency's Lifetime Achievement Award, and the National Academy of Engineering elected him to membership in 1992.

As I mentioned before, it was truly a privilege to count Clair Hill among my good friends. He will be missed by many, and he will never be forgotten. Clair Hill, our Nation thanks you.

#### "SHORTAGE" OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKERS

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I have risen before to talk about the H-1B program, and I think it is time to do it again, because so many of our colleagues have not looked at this program.

A lot of people say, "H-1B, it sounds like a new Air Force plane." What in fact it is is a program which allows foreign workers to come here temporarily for a 6-year period and take jobs that otherwise would have gone to American citizens. We permit that when the companies have a hard time finding people with specific skills.

In particular, the H-1B program was started back in 1990 to alleviate what was then seen as an anticipated shortage of scientists and engineers, particularly at a Ph.D. Level. I do not think that ever particularly was proven to have come about, because in the interim the Berlin Wall fell, and the demand by our defense industry was a lot less than we thought it should be.

The problem with this program is that there is now no universally accepted definition of who these high-tech workers need to be, particularly as it goes to the information technology area. The reason I stress the information technology area is because under the current program, we allow 65,000 temporary workers to come in a year.

The Information Technology Association of America is now coming to Congress and saying, 65,000 temporary workers is not enough. The fact of the matter is that we never came close to hitting 65,000 until last year. All of a sudden a lot of companies out there, particularly in the temporary training and temporary employee business, have discovered this as a way of making a lot of money.

They have discovered a method whereby they can find workers who come from various countries, from Pakistan, from India, from Russia, and they can bring those workers in here, and they are really little more, Mr. Speaker, than indentured servants. While they have H-1B status, the visa is for an occupation, not for a certain person. That person can be underpaid, they can be forced to work 7 days a week until they get their green card, until they are forced to go back home again. How many of them are going to complain? In the meantime, these high-tech jobs are not going to our kids who are graduating from colleges and universities with degrees, and could easily be trained to go into these fields.

In particular, in information technology, that industry has defined their technology so broadly as to try to overdemonstrate the need for IT workers. Yet, they define very narrowly what the skills are that are needed to fill these jobs.

The Information Technology Association of America and the Commerce Department of the United States government defined the pool of qualified IT workers as those who have obtained a bachelor's degree in computer or information science. They did not consider degrees or certifications in computer or information science other than a B.A. degree in those areas. They did not stop and think that somebody who has a degree in business or social

science or math or engineering or psychology or economics or education could be trained to do this technical work.

As I have railed against this, some of these companies that are out there hiring these foreign citizens to take these jobs that I think American citizens could be trained to take, now all of a sudden they have begun to strike back. One of them wrote to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette this weekend. I was kind of amused by this. She owns a company, and this lady's name is Christine Posti. She owns a company called Posti & Associates.

She says that I ask why our companies cannot do the right thing and train American workers. That is the question I do ask. Ms. Posti says that I am under the mistaken impression that business exists to educate our citizens, when really, it is up to the government to educate workers.

I am amazed. It is now up to the Federal Government, that big Federal Government, that is supposed to go out and do all the job training for all the companies in America. They bear no responsibility. We are going to let big government take care of that. Who pays for that? The fact of the matter is that the taxpayers at every level, local property taxpayers, State taxpayers, Federal taxpayers, are being asked by people like Ms. Posti to go out and subsidize their companies. We are supposed to train people.

If they cannot find people in the education system that are already trained to do it, they will go get foreign workers, bring them here, and have them take the jobs. What are our children supposed to do? What are our displaced workers supposed to be retrained to do? What kind of a society will we have in this country?

If Members remember NAFTA, when we voted on NAFTA back in the 103rd Congress we were told, we are going to lose the manufacturing jobs. As we go from a manufacturing society into an information technology society, the new information technology jobs will go to our people. Now here we are, only 4 years later, and we are being told that our students and our workers are too dumb. We have to bring people in from other countries to do it.

I would ask my friends and colleagues to take a look at the H-1B program. Do not be fooled. Keep Americans in the American jobs.

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

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. EDWARDS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)