

and values. Their 70th Anniversary is a landmark achievement for this family-owned and operated establishment that has become an integral part of life in West Hempstead.

A celebration of the anniversary is planned for Friday, October 27, 2000. The Riesterer family will display a giant seven-foot, seven-tier picturesque Birthday cake commemorating each decade with a tier full of pictures of the Riesterer's legacy.

I would especially like to recognize Karl Riesterer, Sr., the father of the family, who has recently been installed to the position of President of the Bakers Association of America. Comprised of over three thousand members, the Bakers Association of America is the largest baking organization in the country. I salute Karl's dedication that has allowed him to reach the top of his profession.

The Riesterer family is a pillar of the Long Island small business community and the community as a whole. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Riesterer's Bake Shoppe & Cafe on their 70th Anniversary.

#### RECOGNIZING CHESTER BROWN ON THE OPENING OF THE WEST WARD CULTURAL CENTER

##### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2000*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chester Brown for the realization of his dream with the opening of the new location for the West Ward Cultural Center, Inc. in Newark, New Jersey. This Sunday, October 29, 2000, will mark the relocation of a community organization that was the realization of a great dream by a truly remarkable man. The West Ward Cultural Center has served the community for over 20 years, providing food, clothing and social services to everyone from babies to senior citizens.

Mr. Chester Brown, the founder and president of West Ward Cultural Center, was educated at Marywood College in Pennsylvania. A community leader and advocate for positive change, Mr. Brown has worked diligently over the past 20 years helping to make a difference in the lives of others. West War Cultural Center's new home stands as a tribute to his dedicated efforts.

Chester Brown is also a devoted family man. His wife, Mrs. Loucinda Brown, and their talented daughters, Christina and Crystal, share his community spirit. As such, Christina and Crystal inspired the concept for the "Children of Vision," whose aim is to encourage young people to aspire to academic excellence. Christina and Crystal are student instructors in Journalism, Computer Science and Cultural Arts at West War Cultural Center and participate as mentors for the young.

Chester Brown is the son of the late Mr. Willie Brown and his wife, Mrs. Mable Brown. Blessed with a unique family of 16 sons and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Brown successfully raised their family by working as a team. They also took pleasure in helping others, which earned them the respect and admiration of many. It also set a precedent for their children, especially Chester, to follow. Mr. and Mrs. Brown would be proud of the admirable accomplishments of their son, Chester. Mr.

Speaker, Mr. Chester Brown is more than worthy of receiving this honor and our praises, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in recognizing this truly remarkable man.

#### OUR NATIONAL ENERGY SUPPLY— RUNNING ON EMPTY

##### HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2000*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, our Federal Government's approach to energy reminds me of the teenager that has a number of intense priorities—none of which involve filling the family car up with gas. As recent sharp increases in prices for gasoline, heating oil, natural gas, and electricity, and regional fuel shortages indicate, the United States is running on empty and no one wants to pull over and fill up the tank. In fact, running out of gas appears to be an affirmative policy of the regulatory and land-use agencies of this administration.

During the past decade, the Federal Government has actively discouraged exploration, production, transportation and use of conventional energy sources. The sudden increase in energy costs and reliability problems are symptomatic of a fundamentally flawed federal energy policy with serious adverse economic consequences that are only beginning to bubble to the surface. Although the Congress protected the public from their ill-conceived Clinton/Gore Btu-tax early in their administration, Clinton and Gore appear to have achieved their anti-people goals through restrictions on energy production and use through the back door. By using the regulatory powers of the Federal agencies, the Clinton/Gore administration has increased the price of energy to all Americans. How quickly some have forgotten the lessons of the recent past such as the Arab Oil Embargo of the 1970's.

My district in Michigan has many small and large businesses that support the automobile-manufacturing sector. I am very aware of how energy costs affect not just the economy, but the very prosperity so many working Americans have been enjoying.

Our prosperity, and particularly the driving force of our prosperity, the manufacturing sector, which generated almost 30 percent of growth of the gross domestic product and was pivotal in creating 22 million new jobs in the 1990's, is still dependent on adequate and reliable energy supplies at internationally competitive prices. And the current situation is not good. The loss of 133,000 net manufacturing jobs in a broad range of industries in August, and another 66,000 lost jobs in September, is primarily due to higher energy costs. Because firms cannot raise prices in this competitive environment, they must respond to higher energy costs by reducing costs elsewhere. Despite the high value that is placed on American workers, sometimes they become the victims of bad federal energy policy.

To maintain affordable energy supplies, all sources of energy need to be on the table. Unfortunately, the Clinton/Gore administration has been encouraging only the politically correct arrows in our energy supply quiver: conservation, non-hydro renewables and, as "transition" fuel, natural gas. This is an detri-

mental and dangerous energy strategy. Instead, in addition to continuing efforts to encourage energy efficient choices and develop alternative energy sources, increasing the supply of all conventional energy sources remains critical for sustained economic growth.

Currently, the most glaring policy disconnect is between the projections of natural gas demand over the next decade compared with supply realities. Some of the most promising energy efficiency technologies—combined cycle gas turbines and this generation of fuel cells—require natural gas. Several organizations, including the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA) and the National Petroleum Council, predict there will be approximately a 30 percent increase in the use of natural gas over the next 10 to 15 years. Yet U.S. natural gas production has remained stagnant for the past 6 years. Canada already has increased its exports to the U.S. by more than 130 percent over the past 10 years, but still the supply falls short of what experts predict we'll need. Where will the rest come from?

More importantly half of American households depend on natural gas for heating. The American Gas Association estimates that their bills this winter will increase at least 40 percent over last year, and that is if we have an average winter. In addition, our economic prosperity itself is also in jeopardy. The tens of millions of working Americans who depend on natural gas for space heating, process energy, and product feedstocks, are finding the spot prices for natural gas increasing 2 to 3 times over what it was in January of this year. For many energy intensive businesses, such as those that support America's automobile manufacturing sector, this is a very serious matter. And this pain, this crisis, is largely the result of the Clinton/Gore policies of the past eight years. The Clinton/Gore administration has systematically denied access to natural gas resources and discouraged adding natural gas infrastructure to bring natural gas to market.

The irony is that everyone knows where there is plenty of natural gas, but federal policies do not allow it to be developed. The Outer Continental Shelf and the multiple-use public lands on the Eastern Slope of the Rocky Mountains contain trillions of cubic feet of natural gas reserves that cannot be produced due to moratoria or numerous Clinton/Gore policies and regulatory actions that impede or prevent their development and production.

And natural gas is just one energy source that suffers from federal policies. Coal and oil resources are similarly being locked up by federal land use restrictions on multiple-use lands. Only one new base-load coal plant and two expansion units have been built since the late 1980's, and none since 1996. No new major oil refinery has been built in 25 years.

We haven't started construction on a nuclear plant in a decade, and no major hydroelectric dam has been built in memory. Moreover, federal policies have actively discouraged continued operation of even existing energy facilities. For example, the relicensing schedule for hydroelectric dams is an inexcusable eight years.

It seems that, for the current administration, atrophy and diminishment are the only energy policies they'll consider, as indicated by their support of the flawed Kyoto Protocol, which would use international pressure to coerce