2016 at page 149 of the official records of the county of San Joaquin.''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

HONORING GUS CASTELLANOS, HOST OF ''THIS WEEK IN GARDEN GROVE''

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gus Castellanos, creator, executive producer, and host of ''This Week in Garden Grove,'' a TV news show that is in my district of Garden Grove, California.

In 1985, Gus began working at Channel 3, a local TV station, when city officials decided to start a local cable show. When no one volunteered for the project, Gus happily stepped up to the task. Learning the ins and outs of running a cable news show, Gus quickly crafted a program that would highlight the achievements of the people and city of Garden Grove. In the 10 years the show has been running, Gus has endeared himself to thousands in our community as nearly half the city tunes in each week to his show.

I want to congratulate everyone involved on the 10th anniversary of ''This Week in Garden Grove.'' But I especially want to thank Gus, who has always been a friend and who has shown that one person can take the initiative to create something that makes an incredibly positive contribution to a community.

HOUSE TO CONSIDER ENERGY BILL

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, here it is, the long-awaited, secretly negotiated energy bill, a bill carefully designed to perpetuate our dependence on foreign oil, brokered by national, international, multinational conglomerates which will be subsidized to the tune of $25 billion by United States taxpayers; the Enron provision to repeal the Public Utility Holding Company Act, guaranteeing a new round of mergers, speculation and rip-offs of electric consumers.

I can see only one benefit in this bill. It is huge, it is heavy, it is made of paper. If we take and send a copy to every American taxpayer and consumer, they can throw it in the wood stove or the fireplace and get a little bit of warmth, but that will be the only benefit they get out of this legislation.

WELCOMING TRADE MINISTERS TO MEETING OF FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS

(Mr. SHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHAW. Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Florida congressional delegation, I welcome trade ministers from 34 democratic countries to Miami, Florida, for the latest ministerial meeting of the Free Trade Area of the Americas currently under way. Scheduled for completion in 2005, the FTAA would represent the largest free trade area in the world, encompassing these 34 nations with a combined population of 800 million people. The FTAA will be a linchpin to economic growth, spurring trade and investment to the benefit of United States businesses, labor and consumers alike.

In addition, I urge the selection of Miami as the permanent home of the FTAA secretariat. The Florida delegation remains committed to ensuring an FTAA secretariat in Miami because of the city's rich cultural and business ties to Latin America. In fact, this House in April of 2000 voted unanimously in support of Miami's designation. With three international airports and three seaports, Miami is truly the gateway to the Americas. In fact, Enterprise Florida has estimated the creation of 90,000 new jobs and an increase of $13.6 billion annually to Florida's gross State product.

Again, I welcome the international community to south Florida, and remain mindful that trade alone is only part of the FTAA equation. The principles underlying a commitment to free trade are the same principles that foster free societies.

International trade is more than just the exchange of goods and services. It is the economic fabric that ties together like-minded Democratic governments and societies.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2754, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 444 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 444

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2754) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. REYNOLDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, House Resolution 444 is a standard rule that provides for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2754, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule also provides that the conference report will be considered as read.

Madam Speaker, the underlying conference report is the result of hard work and compromise by the energy and water appropriations conference committee. The conference report suggests a strong civil works program with the Army Corps of Engineers. By concentrating $4.5 billion on the traditional tasks such as flood control, shoreline protection, and navigation, which yield the most economic benefit for the Nation, the bill ensures the highest possible return on taxpayer investment.

Within the agreement, the Department of Energy is provided with $22 billion. Included in that funding is nearly $350 million for renewable energy programs and $393 million for nuclear energy programs. Specific programs funded within the Department are the nuclear energy research initiative of $11.6 million, $6.5 million for the nuclear hydrogen initiative, and $68 million for the advanced fuel cycle initiative. Adequate and needed funding is provided for science programs within the Department, including high-energy physics, nuclear physics, biological and environmental research, fusion energy research, and advanced scientific computing research.

The nuclear waste program continues to be one of our highest environmental priorities and one that is of particular importance to my region. I am also pleased that the conference report provides a total of $580 million for nuclear waste disposal. Additionally, $7.6 billion is provided for environmental management cleanup activities, continuing the strong commitment to accelerate cleanup schedules at contaminated sites throughout the country.

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This funding is vital in reducing public health and safety risks. The conference report also provides $8.7 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration, which includes the nuclear weapons program, defense nuclear nonproliferation, and Naval reactors.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman HOBSON) and all of the distinguished conferees on both sides of the aisle for their hard work and dedication to our Nation's energy and