

HONORING DR. GILBERT R.
MASON, ACTIVIST AND PHYSICIAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy of an African-American unsung hero, Dr. Gilbert R. Mason, a civil rights activist and family physician, who made waves on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to eliminate racial discrimination in the state.

Dr. Mason was born in Jackson, MS, on October 7, 1928. He earned his B.S. degree from Tennessee State University in 1949 and his M.D. from Howard University Medical School in 1954. In 1955, Dr. Mason moved to Biloxi, MS, where he started his family practice and shortly thereafter began to challenge racial boundaries. He contested and protested the "whites only" section of Federally funded Gulf Coast beaches by leading a nonviolent "wade in".

Jim Crow laws and intimidation tactics hindered and denied blacks the right to beaches, hotels, schools, restaurants, and jobs that whites enjoyed. Dr. Mason confronted racial injustices, and his commitment to civil rights spearheaded a movement in one of the first areas of the Magnolia State to see organized direct action. On April 17, 1960, Dr. Mason took a solitary swim at the "whites only" beach and was arrested. Hearing of his arrest, the following Sunday, student volunteers were outraged and joined in the "wade in". Dr. Mason and others were met by Klansmen and angry mobs that attacked them with chains, iron pipes and whatever else they could grab while burning wooden crosses. The "wade-ins" eventually led to one of the bloodiest riots in Mississippi's history.

Dr. Mason successfully filed the first anti-discrimination lawsuit against the State of Mississippi and school desegregation lawsuit in the history of Biloxi.

Dr. Gilbert R. Mason collaborated with the Mississippi NAACP to create a stance for civil rights partnering with CORE, SNCC, and SCLC. Dr. Mason worked closely with Medgar Evers, NAACP field secretary until he was gunned down in front of his home in 1963, fighting racial discrimination and championing equality for all mankind.

In 1970, he became the first African American to be admitted to the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians. In 1992, he helped Harrison County elect its first African American and female supervisor. In 1998, he published a book detailing the struggle in, "Beaches, Blood and Ballots: A Black Doctor's Civil Rights Struggles".

The wave Dr. Gilbert Mason began on the coast of Mississippi will never be forgotten. Please join me today in honoring a true civil rights pioneer, Dr. Gilbert R. Mason.

DEEP OCEAN ENERGY RESOURCES
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4761) to provide for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources on the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act (H.R. 4761). The "DOER" Act is yet another lost opportunity to develop real solutions to our energy challenges and a reckless raid on the Federal Treasury that even the Bush Administration opposes.

The DOER Act will repeal a 25-year, bipartisan moratorium on oil and gas drilling off most of the U.S. coastline. In place of the moratorium, a weak system of protections will be established that allows individual states to sanction drilling within 100 miles of their shores. To entice states to permit drilling, the bill increases states' share of drilling royalties from the current ceiling of 27 percent to 64 percent.

Bush administration officials released a statement today strongly opposing the revenue-sharing provisions of the bill, which are expected to add several hundred billion dollars to the federal deficit over the next 60 years. The diversion of more drilling royalties to states is a transparent, irresponsible ploy that will cost the government billions. But Republican leaders are so unconcerned about runaway federal deficits they decided to waive the rules of the Congressional Budget Act that are supposed to protect taxpayers from deficit spending.

While the bill's proponents argue this revenue-sharing arrangement is a matter of states' rights, the language of H.R. 4761 actually gives the administration enormous new powers over states. The bill limits states' ability to block pipeline construction and to review oil drilling activities once drilling is allowed. H.R. 4761 also allows the Secretary of the Interior to threaten states with a loss of funding if Congress passes legislation restricting oil drilling in any way. And, by rolling back environmental reviews and mitigation responsibilities for oil companies, the bill imposes hidden costs on states and their tourism industries, which will be left with the tab for drilling-related mishaps.

The Republicans declared this week "Energy Week" in the House and then moved one bill, H.R. 4761 to the floor. This legislation, apparently the Republicans' solution to America's complex energy challenges, includes no new incentives for energy conservation, no increases in fuel efficiency, no new support for mass transit and no boost for home-grown renewable energy technologies such as biofuels or wind energy. This bill falls far short of the bold, comprehensive energy policy America so urgently needs. Only House Republican leaders could call a bill that balloons the federal deficit, undermines states' rights, rolls back environmental protections and fails to reduce demand for fossil fuels a "commonsense com-

promise." It's time to hold a funeral for common sense.

WORLD PEACE THROUGH WORLD
LAW

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable man, Mr. Louis B. Sohn passionate supporter of the United Nations, Mr. Sohn has made a significant mark on both our country and the world. On June 7 at his home in Falls Church, Virginia, we lost Mr. Sohn to complications of a stroke. He was 92 years old.

Born March 1, 1914, right at the start of World War I, in Lwow, Poland, Louis showed tremendous passion right from the beginning. He earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from John Casimir University. A mere two weeks before the invasion of Poland during World War II, a Harvard law professor who had been impressed by Mr. Sohn's treatises, invited him to be a research fellow at Harvard School of Law. Soon after his arrival, he met Betty Mayo, who became his wife and is now his only survivor.

Serving as an assistant to Manley O. Hudson, a Harvard Law professor and a judge on the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague, Mr. Sohn traveled to San Francisco for the United Nations charter conference. With his help, the International Court of Justice was established. Then when Mr. Hudson retired as the Bemis Professor of International Law at Harvard, Louis Sohn was awarded the honor.

Professor Sohn was well known for his book "World Peace Through World Law," which he co-authored with Grenville Clark, a prominent Wall Street attorney. Their book delved into various proposals to transform the U.N. into a world government.

Throughout his 50 year career in the field of law, which culminated at the University of Georgia School of Law, Professor Sohn was a champion for disarmament and the creation of a permanent U.N. peace force. He hoped that through such a peace force, the U.N. could use their military budget alternatively to relieve poverty. Mr. Sohn commendably spent his life working hard for a more powerful United Nations.

I enter into the RECORD an article published in the New York Times on June 23, 2006 titled "Louis B. Sohn, Passionate Supporter of the U.N., Dies at 92." The article provides a more in depth commentary of Professor Sohn's esteemed accomplishments. He is a truly remarkable man who has left an everlasting imprint on society. We must keep his legacy alive and continue to fight for disarmament and human rights.

[From the New York Times, June 23, 2006]

LOUIS B. SOHN, PASSIONATE SUPPORTER OF
THE U.N., DIES AT 92

(By Dennis Hevesi)

Louis B. Sohn, a professor of international law who helped draft parts of the United Nations Charter in 1945 and was a leader in subsequent efforts to turn the United Nations into a true world government, died on June 7 at his home in Falls Church, Va. He was 92.

The cause was complications of a stroke, said Paige Otwell, a friend.

For nearly 50 years, while at the Harvard School of Law and then the University of Georgia School of Law, Professor Sohn served on commissions and organized conferences around the world, championing disarmament, human rights and increased powers for the United Nations.

He called for the creation of a permanent United Nations peace force. He wanted nations with nuclear arsenals to hand them over to the United Nations and use their military budgets for relieving poverty. He campaigned to have the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights accepted as a legally binding document, rather than a statement of principles. In 1968, the General Assembly adopted that premise.

Those proposals and others were seized upon by American isolationists to attack the United Nations. Professor Sohn called them "the minimum requirements for peace, not a utopian scheme for a perfect world community."

Louis Bruno Sohn was born on March 1, 1914, in what was then Lwow, now Lviv, then part of Poland but now in Ukraine. He graduated from John Casimir University there and then earned a law degree in 1939.

Professor Sohn's parents, Isaak and Fredericka Sohn, were doctors. His father, taken to an internment camp after the invasion of Poland, barely survived World War II. His mother died of pneumonia that first winter.

Two weeks before the invasion, at the invitation of a Harvard law professor who read one of his legal treatises, Professor Sohn had boarded a ship to the United States to become a research fellow. In 1941, he married Betty Mayo, a Radcliffe student; she is his only survivor.

At Harvard, he became an assistant to Manley O. Hudson, a judge on the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague, which was established by the League of Nations but suspended during the war. Judge Hudson was the Bemis Professor of International Law at Harvard. Professor Sohn succeeded to the Bemis chair in 1961 and held it until 1981.

In the summer of 1945, Judge Hudson and his assistant traveled to San Francisco for the United Nations charter conference. There, they helped draft the statute establishing the International Court of Justice, or World Court, as the successor to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

In an interview in 1977, Professor Sohn recalled how Harvard had asked him to teach a course on the United Nations after his return from the charter conference, "because nobody else would teach anything so crazy."

In 1958, Professor Sohn was a co-author, with Grenville Clark, of "World Peace Through World Law" (Harvard University Press), which examined proposals to transform the United Nations into a world government. The book envisioned a time when the United Nations budget, then \$55 million, would surpass \$35 billion, with \$25 billion set aside to mitigate "the worst economic disparities between nations."

The authors also called for the elimination of all armaments in 12 years and envisioned that the United Nations would then have a monopoly on military force and would maintain a peace force of 400,000 soldiers.

In 1967, Professor Sohn wrote a report for a committee of international law experts, urging the United Nations to study the threat to individual freedom posed by computers, eavesdropping devices and genetic engineering. The report, submitted to the United Nations as part of the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, said the concept of national data banks "raises

the specter of a government which knows all."

"Arrangements have to be devised," it said, "to control the precious few who run the machines, and on whose wisdom and impartiality the fate of mankind may depend."

In 1977, Professor Sohn was a delegate to a United Nations-sponsored conference that drafted the Convention on the Law of the Sea, which the General Assembly adopted in 1982.

In 1981, after 35 years at Harvard, Professor Sohn accepted an invitation from Dean Rusk, who had been secretary of state under President John F. Kennedy, to join him in teaching international law at the University of Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO THOSE KILLED BY BOMB ATTACKS ON INDIAN COMMUTER TRAINS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the families of those who were killed in today's terrible bomb attacks on several Indian commuter trains. Reports indicate that these deadly attacks have claimed the lives of at least 135 people and injured more than 250 Indian citizens. My thoughts and prayers and those of many Americans are with the families of those affected. These attacks were perpetrated for an unknown reason but, of course, there can be no good reason or justification. I hope that United States officials will assist the Indian Government in tracking down those who are responsible.

It was just over a year ago that a deadly terrorist bombing shut down London's transportation system. In March of 2004, similar bombing attacks ripped apart the morning commute in Madrid, killing 192 innocent civilians. We have been fortunate in the United States not to experience similar terrorist attacks on our railways. We must not be lulled, however. It is long past time to take the steps necessary to keep the traveling public as safe as possible.

In this moment of grief, we must stand with our longtime friend and support her and all the Indian people.

WAR RESISTER NORMA BECKER FOUGHT FOR PEACE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding woman, Ms. Norma Becker. A teacher, civil rights activist, and promoter of peace, Norma touched the lives of everyone who came in contact with her. On June 17, 2006, at the age of 76, we lost Ms. Becker to lung cancer.

Norma Becker started out her tremendous career as a schoolteacher in New York City. However, she soon moved to the South to teach, after hearing about Birmingham, AL, Sheriff "Bull" Connor's use of dogs against civil rights protesters. During that time, Norma could not help but feel the growing anti-Viet-

nam war sentiment that surrounded her. But instead of idly watching others, Ms. Becker took some of the biggest steps a single person could. She helped to start the Peace Parade Committee, a peace protesting movement in New York City.

Norma's efforts did not die with the Vietnam war, but rather her energy and intensity rose. In 1977, she helped create the Mobilization for Survival, which helped to bridge the broad antiwar movement with the intensifying anti-nuclear power sentiment.

However, Norma's favorite endeavor was the War Resisters League, of which she served as chairwoman from 1977 to 1983. Staff members of the league have praised Ms. Becker for her outstanding leadership. Others commended her always present energy. She had an innate ability to work well with everyone.

Peace activists across the country are devastated by this loss. But Norma's spirit remains with us and encourages us to continue the fight for peace. I enter into the RECORD with pleasure a piece by the War Resisters League as a reminder of the tremendous impact Norma Becker has had on our country. It is critical that we keep her memory alive so that many generations to come will know who Ms. Becker was as well as all the great things she accomplished. She set an example that we should all be proud to mimic.

ANTIWAR LEADER NORMA BECKER DIES

Norma Becker, teacher, civil rights activist, and towering figure of the peace movement during the Vietnam War, died of lung cancer in her New York City home June 17. She was 76.

A founder of the Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee, which drew tens of thousands to protest the Vietnam War, and a founder of the Mobilization for Survival coalition, she was crucial to the antiwar movement. She served as chair of the pacifist War Resisters League from 1977 to 1983.

"One of the truly great has passed," said longtime War Resisters League staffer David McReynolds on hearing of her death. "As much as any, and more than most, she provided leadership in hard times and for the long and horrific years of [the Vietnam] conflict."

Becker was a New York City schoolteacher in 1963, when, as she said later, she was "recruited into the civil rights movement by Sheriff 'Bull' Connor of Birmingham [AL]." Appalled by media accounts of Connor's use of dogs to subdue civil rights demonstrators, Becker went South to teach in the summer Freedom Schools.

Over the next couple of years, Becker—and the burgeoning movement against the war in Vietnam—found that she was as gifted an organizer as she was a teacher. In 1965, she helped to start the Peace Parade Committee, which organized massive antiwar protests in New York City. Wendy Schwartz, a younger WRL activist who came to the antiwar movement during those years, adds, "It was Norma's energy, intelligence, and charm that helped make those demonstrations so large and so peaceful. She worked as well with the disparate peace movement factions as she did with the police."

In 1977, after the Vietnam War had ended, Becker helped create the Mobilization for Survival, which linked the emerging movement against nuclear power to opponents of nuclear weapons and the wider antiwar movement.

But whatever other organizations she worked with, Becker also remained involved with the War Resisters League. Only a week