

comment limited as a result of bureaucrats rushing to make up for their administrative problems and errors; and

9. American families do not have the luxury to read the Federal Register daily.

We are here to represent Americans' interests in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

When it comes to clothes washers, these regulations will impact the vast majority of households in America—over 81 million households. The Administration's own analyses show that millions of consumers will never be able to recoup the higher cost. Low-income households, households with fewer occupants—such as senior citizens living alone—who use washers less frequently, and those households in areas where energy costs are disproportionately harmed.

Purchasing a new washer, air conditioner or heat pump for one's home or apartment is not a trivial matter. Several hundred dollars must be parted with, typically with little if any ability to plan for such a large expenditure. Now the Administration is making such a purchase much more expensive and in the process eliminating consumer choice. Even according to the most favorable determinations, the cost of a new washing machine will increase by at least an extra \$240. In viewing available costs for front-loading machines, that number appears quite low. Several of the front loading machines are actually twice the cost of a standard top-loader and in some instances cost over \$1000. When it comes to new air conditioners and heat pumps, the added initial costs are estimated to be at least \$274 and \$486 respectively. Keep in mind that these products are available now and the people refuse, as a rule, to purchase them.

Apart from the higher cost and reduced freedom of choice, the Administration has not been fair to consumers and taxpayers during the development of the standards. DoE is supposed to disclose potential standards and impact analyses in a public process. Instead it bases its regulatory decisions on proposals submitted by special interest groups meeting in backrooms. Persons and groups who normally would speak to and defend the interests of consumers and taxpayers, and who have in years past been invited to participate, have been excluded.

Under the clothes washer standards, the agreement reached by the special interest groups and submitted to DoE on July 27, 2000 demonstrates that the interests of consumers and taxpayers are not represented. Not only would the proposed standards impose huge additional costs, but also the "joint stakeholders" have proposed and agreed to lobby jointly for massive new tax credits for appliance manufacturers for each energy-efficient appliance that they produce. Up to \$100 per new unit manufactured with a cumulative of up to \$60 million per manufacturer. This new tax shelter for appliance manufacturers means that the U.S. taxpayer carries an even larger share of the federal tax burden in addition to the higher appliance costs.

Congress must assure that consumers are protected against faulty Administration regulations. A public comment period of 120 days more is necessary, given that the public has been largely excluded from the rulemaking

process. This time will allow a thorough review and evaluation to be conducted and a proper determination as to whether consumers interests are being protected.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 585, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF DIANE JOHNSON FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE AND FOR HER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Diane Johnson, who has been a dedicated public servant, working tirelessly to implement housing programs and promote community development across the State of New Jersey.

As the housing director of Mt. Carmel Guild, Newark, Diane Johnson was responsible for publicly funded housing programs for low- and middle-income families, which placed over 150 families in jobs or training programs, enabling many families to purchase their first homes.

Mrs. Johnson has worked for the New Jersey Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) since 1972, during which time she has held a variety of leadership positions, such as director of the Housing Management Division, deputy office manager, and acting office manager.

In 1994, President Clinton appointed Mrs. Johnson as a HUD State Coordinator. Her duties included overseeing a staff of 126 employees, and administering HUD funds and \$300 million of HOPE VI grants. Mrs. Johnson also manages one of our Nation's largest housing and community development portfolios, and she is HUD's representative to New Jersey's congressional delegation, Governor, and State legislature.

Mrs. Johnson is the chairperson of the Federal Executive Board of Northern New Jersey; vice chair of St. James Prep School; vice chair of Newark Federal Kids-Care, Inc.; member of the board of trustees of the United Way of Essex & West Hudson; and member of the board of trustees for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

In recognition of her hard work and dedication at HUD and her community service, Diane Johnson has received many distinguished service award certificates, proclamations, and commendations from the New Jersey congressional delegation and a variety of State agencies, community groups, and professional associations.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Diane Johnson for her hard work at HUD, and for her years of service to the State

of New Jersey, where she has helped build houses, develop and revitalize communities, and change lives for the better.

TRIBUTE TO JAPANESE DIPLOMAT CHIUNE SUGIHARA, HONORED AT LAST IN JAPAN FOR SAVING LIVES OF JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on September 1, 1939—the day the Second World War began with the Nazi invasion of Poland—the government of Japan named Chiune Sugihara its consul in Lithuania. As the war progressed in its destruction and as the Nazi anti-Semites began their systematic extermination of Jews in Nazi-conquered territory, Sugihara was besieged by Jews seeking visas to flee the Nazi Holocaust.

After requesting authorization three times to issue Japanese visas to these victims of Nazi persecution and being rejected twice and ignored once, he disregarded his government's instructions and issued thousands of visas to Polish Jews. Mr. Sugihara signed visas day and night for thirty days. Thanks to these documents, many of the refugees were able to escape to Kobe, Japan, and from there were able to find refuge in other countries.

Not long after issuing these visas in Lithuania, Mr. Sugihara was assigned to serve in Germany. When he returned to Japan at the end of World War II, the Japanese government forced him to resign from the diplomatic service. He was told that this was because of "that incident in Lithuania." Mr. Sugihara died in 1986 at the age of 86 without ever being officially recognized for his outstanding humanitarian service by the government of Japan.

Outside Japan Chiune Sugihara has long been recognized as a hero. The government of Lithuania named a street in his honor. Israel has designated him a "Righteous Gentile." The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum here in Washington has presented a special exhibit paying tribute to his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month—at long last—the government of Japan acknowledged the true heroism of its own citizens. On the 100th anniversary of the birth of Chiune Sugihara and 14 years after his death. In a modest ceremony at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo, Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono apologized to Yukiko Sugihara, the widow of Chiune Sugihara: "Here we praise Chiune Sugihara's courageous and humanitarian act conducted in an extreme situation amid the Nazi persecution of Jews." He apologized to Mrs. Sugihara "for the long neglect" and promised that he would "see that his achievements are known to future generations."

On this occasion, the Foreign Minister unveiled a plaque honoring Mr. Sugihara. The copper plaque was placed on the wall of the Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Record Office in Tokyo, and it reads, in part: "A courageous diplomat of humanity. In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his birth."