

To be sure, this is not unique response to fuel crises. There are situations where existing contracts between shippers and motor carriers contains fuel surcharges. Further, in response to past fuel crises, the Interstate Commerce Commission first mandated them during the 1970s. However, once the filed rate doctrine was abolished, federal authority in this matter lapsed.

The question could be asked, why now mandate a fuel surcharge if some transportation contracts already provide for them. The answer lies in the type of environment in which independent truckers operate. In those instances where they are under lease to a motor carrier to provide the transportation service, there is no guarantee that a surcharge will be passed on to them. The transportation contract is between the motor carrier and the shipper, and the owner-operator has no role in the types of rates charged.

In addition, where the independent trucker has his or her own operating authority and deals directly with shippers, they usually do not have the leverage to obtain a fuel surcharge from them. In effect, the independent trucker, being a small businessman, is put in a position of either having to accept the offered rate or losing the business.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation represents a fair and reasonable approach to addressing this situation. It does not solve the fuel crisis, but it would bring relief to an important sector of the transportation industry.

EQUAL PAY DAY RESOLUTION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significance of May 11th, as Equal Pay Day. Today is the day when women's wages for the period beginning January 1, 1999, will equal the amount earned by a man during calendar year 1999.

Since the passage of landmark legislation like the Equal Pay Act and the Civil Rights Act, women's participation in the labor market has increased dramatically. Unfortunately, their pay has not.

Women continue to earn less than men for comparable work. U.S. Census data from 1998 shows that women earn only 73 cents for every dollar earned by men.

Equal pay is a problem for all working women. For example, the 95 percent of nurses who are women earn \$30 less each week than the 5 percent of nurses who are men.

Unequal pay doesn't just affect women, it affects our entire economy.

I had hoped that I would be able to bring forward the resolution that Representative Morella and I introduced recognizing Equal Pay Day. Unfortunately, the Republican Leadership in the House refuses to acknowledge the significant effects of unequal pay on working women and their families.

This Congress can do more than rest on the laurels of equal pay legislation that passed over 30 years ago. I urge all Members of Con-

gress to commemorate Equal Pay Day. Let women in your district know that you will pursue the passage of equal pay legislation in the 106th Congress.

IN HONOR OF OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Older Americans Month.

For more than 35 years, the President of the United States has designated May as Older Americans Month—the month when we honor our 34 million older Americans whose contributions helped to make the 20th century the American century.

This year's theme—"In the New Century . . . The Future is Aging"—highlights the impact that those extraordinary contributions had on nearly every aspect of society for future generations of Americans. It also gives us a chance to draw attention to aging issues that policy makers will face as the ranks of older Americans swell in the coming decades.

The next century is expected to be a golden age for seniors, with life expectancy increasing and predictions that older people will outnumber children for the first time in history.

The least we can do is assist those who have given all they can and want to continue to live healthy, active lives.

We started on the right path when we repealed the Social Security Earnings Limit. No longer will the tax code penalize those seniors who choose to stay in the workforce during their golden years.

But there is more to do. For one, we can renew the Older Americans Act, which has not been reauthorized since 1995. Since that time, our nation's seniors and the programs established to serve them have faced an uncertain future.

The Older Americans Act has been a special program for over 34 years. Using a small slice of the federal budget, the Act has provided hot meals, legal assistance, employment for seniors, and services for the homebound. Because these programs help our seniors to remain active, healthy, and a part of their communities, we must make the Act's reauthorization a priority.

And there are other challenges to face—ensuring that Social Security will be viable for this generation and others, finding a way to furnish long-term care security, and providing a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

But let's not get lost in the minutiae of policy—May is about honoring our seniors, not advancing an agenda.

So, on Friday, I will travel to Darien, Illinois, in my congressional district to celebrate their Older Americans Day. We will honor those who contribute to our communities as grandparents, parents, workers, volunteers, and role models. We will honor those who are the keepers of our traditions and teachers of our values.

I urge all my colleagues to follow Darien's led and to use the month of May to celebrate

the great gifts older Americans bring to our lives. And let's help our older friends, parents and grandparents make their lives and our lives more rich and rewarding for many years to come.

IT'S ONLY FAIR

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, a day that symbolizes the financial struggles that women must endure because of the ever-present wage gap.

In the workforce, women are at a clear disadvantage. They are paid less than their male counterparts for doing the same job. Women are paid on average 74 cents for every dollar men received of \$148 less each week. Women of color are faced with an even worse prospect. African American women earn 64 cents for every dollar men earn or \$210 less each week. Hispanic women fare the worst. They earn only 54 cents for every dollar men earn.

This pay inequity is hurting families in every part of our country. A working woman's family loses on average \$4,000 each year due to this inequity. And in Illinois, the numbers are even worse. Women in my home state lose on average \$4,913 a year.

The inequity compounds over the years. A 25-year-old working woman will lose \$523,000 during her lifetime as a result of this wage gap. And when she retires, she'll collect a smaller pension and less Social Security.

There is no denying that a pay gap exists today. When comparing the wages of women and men who have the same job, qualifications, education and background, men win.

As we begin the 21st Century, we must eliminate inequities in the workplace. We must do this for the sake of our next generation of women leaders. When my granddaughters Isabel and Eve are ready to enter the workforce, I want to make sure that they earn the same as their male counterparts. It is only fair.

IN HONOR OF THE WOMEN'S DIVISION 2000 SPRING LUNCHEON JOURNAL OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL FEDERATION OF BERGEN COUNTY AND NORTH HUDSON

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the honorees of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson.

Today, the UJA Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson holds its Women's Division 2000 Spring Luncheon Journal, an event that proudly celebrates the heritage and solidarity of the Jewish community, while honoring the women who have tirelessly worked to preserve Jewish identity.

This year's honorees are Dr. Adrienne Greenblatt, Lilo Ollendorf, and Susan Shaw. These three exceptional women represent the life-blood of community service—their contributions to the Jewish community will long endure.

The UJA Federation serves more than 70,000 Jewish people living in 65 Bergen County and North Hudson communities. The 2000 Spring Luncheon will raise money to help the elderly, people with developmental disabilities, and families in crisis. Funds will also be used to help integrate Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union into American society.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Adrienne Greenblatt, Lilo Ollendorf, and Susan Shaw for their extraordinary contributions to the Jewish community.

TRIBUTE TO JIM NICHOLSON

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, each year the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans honors outstanding citizens who, overcoming humble or adverse circumstances, become leaders who dedicate themselves to others and serve as role models for youth.

I am proud to report that Jim Nicholson has been chosen as a 2000 Horatio Alger Award recipient.

He was a child raised in bitter poverty, who won an appointment to West Point, led troops in Vietnam, practiced law, built a successful homebuilding and land development company, and served as a volunteer leader to help numerous community and charitable organizations. His faith, family, and commitment to education have been the foundation for his success.

Jim Nicholson now serves as chairman of the Republican National Committee, a post he has held since 1997. His tireless efforts, his optimism, his courage, and his integrity have contributed markedly to restoring public confidence in the ethics of American political leadership.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES THE PLAINSBORO VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Plainsboro Volunteer Fire Company's 40th anniversary.

Over the last forty years, the members of this organization have made a tremendous contribution to their community by protecting their residents and assisting other local departments.

In the days when there were more cows than people in the Township of Plainsboro, a

handful of farm workers and American Cyanamid employees decided to erect a fire station. In the first full year of operation, the Plainsboro Volunteer Fire Company responded to 30 calls for service.

In the early days of the fire company, the alarm was sounded by the stationary fireman on duty at a local farm who would blow the farm's steam whistle when a fire was reported. Firefighters living in the village section of the township could hear the alarm easily. Their family members then relayed the alarm by telephone to members living in outlying areas of the community.

The first truck used was a 1940 American LaFrance with a 640 gallon per minute pump—which stands in contrast to the current 1750 gallon per minute pump that the department uses today. The department has continued to update its fleet of vehicles, purchasing the newest and most efficient fire-fighting equipment.

Over the years, the Plainsboro Fire Company has drawn financial and moral support from Princeton University, one Fire District, and many appreciative citizens. These groups have aided the Plainsboro Fire Company by raising the funds to keep the department running smoothly.

What has not changed about the Plainsboro Fire Company is its dedication and commitment to serving the needs of its community. The 40th anniversary of the department is being celebrated tomorrow at an Anniversary Dinner. The dedication and hard work that is continually demonstrated by the members of the Company is to be admired. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the Plainsboro Volunteer Fire Company.

KID DAY AMERICA/ INTERNATIONAL

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday May 20, 2000, the Wilbert Family Chiropractic office will be the official Chiropractic office representing the 6th annual "Kids Day America/International" event in Austell, Georgia. This event will focus on health, safety and environmental issues which affect children, their families and the communities in which they live. This will be done with the help and support of the Austell Police Department, whose D.A.R.E. program will directly benefit from the event. The Austell Police Department will be on hand to fingerprint ID children, and the Wilbert Family Chiropractic will donate photos of the children. This information will be used to produce ID cards for the children. "McGruff" the Crime Dog will make an appearance and be joined by Leo the Lion of the D.A.R.E. program. The Austell Fire Department will be participating also, with their Fire Safety House, which helps teach children and their parents about fire safety.

I want to congratulate and commend Dr. Marci Wilbert and the Wilbert Family Chiropractic for sponsoring "Kids Day America/

International." This program is a positive, grass-roots, community based effort which will help to strengthen our community, and have a positive impact on children and their families.

RESOLVING THE CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following editorial from the Boston Globe on April 29, 2000, for the RECORD. The editorial was brought to my attention by Mr. Shri Srithillampalam, president of the Eelom Tamil Association of America and an activist in the Boston area that continues to call for observance of human rights in Sri Lanka and a peaceful settlement to the 17-year ethnic conflict. We must encourage the parties involved to stop the terror and negotiate a peaceful and immediate end to this war.

[From the Boston Globe, April 29, 2000]

PUSHING PEACE IN SRI LANKA

The long, lethal civil war in Sri Lanka receives little attention here, but for sheer senseless blood-letting it is comparable to the Balkan conflicts. The need for a cease-fire and mediated peace talks became more evident than ever this week when the separatist Tamil Tigers chased 17,000 Sri Lankan army troops from their key strategic position in Elephant Pass, straddling the narrow isthmus that links the south of the country of Jaffna, capital of the Tamil area in the north.

Both sides in this merciless war have committed atrocities, both have suffered terrible losses, and both have sought revenge for past outrages. When government forces recovered bodies of soldiers killed in the fall of Elephant Pass this week, they discovered to their horror that many of the corpses had been mutilated.

The Tamil fighters were taking vengeance for the desecration of their cemeteries four years ago and for acts of ethnic cleansing visited upon the civilian population of their northern province.

The Tigers have often sent terrorist packing suicide bombs into crowds of civilians. This past December they wounded Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga in one eye and killed 25 people in such an attack. To overcome the army's base in Elephant Pass this week they blew up wells, cutting off the troops' water supply in a dry climate where the heat surpassed 100 degrees. Senior officers dying of dehydration were airlifted out of their trap.

For their part, government forces have been denounced by Doctors Without Borders and the Red Cross for denying medicines to everyone in the north, civilians and fighters alike.

The United States has had little to do with this war except to sell some weapons to the government and provide some military training. Many of the weapons have fallen into the hands of the Tigers, and the training has done little good. To save the lives that are being squandered on both sides, Washington should now counsel Kumaratunga and her government to accept a cease-fire supervised by international monitors and to pursue to peace talks that Norway has offered to mediate.