

these funds in March, before the growers had to be put through the worries they faced this spring.

Where was the Vice President when those growers, my constituents, came to Washington and met with an OMB official and were insulted and belittled as if they were beggars asking for a hand out. Mr. Speaker, I understand the Vice President is well versed on tobacco growing, but I wonder if he understands the workday of a fruit grower?

The fruit growers in my district do not sit on their porches and rock, as they were told in a insulting response by Director Lew's subordinate in April. Fruit growers work from sun up to sundown and spend their lives praying that the weather and insects do not make them bankrupt. I wonder where the Vice President was Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker as I said, I am pleased that those growers in my district who accepted the risk and obeyed the destruction orders they received from the USDA will be finally compensated, I might add one month after the Congress voted to do the same, but I find it very sad that this Administration chooses to release this compensation only after the Vice President finds himself sagging in the polls and needing help in a swing State.

MEDICARE RX 2000 ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4680 and to say that today we have seen a clear example of legislating at its worst.

The Republican leadership of this House has denied the Democrats the opportunity to offer a meaningful prescription drug plan which would guarantee our senior citizens access to this important benefit under Medicare.

The Republican leadership has issued a "gag order" rule, which prevents the Democratic members of this institution from offering a clear alternative to the legislation which they are calling Medicare Prescription Medicine. I say, the bill before us is not that: it is less than that.

Last year, I visited with a number of Senior Citizens centers in the First Congressional District in Illinois. Secretary Donna Shalala was gracious enough to join me in August in a visit to the senior citizens residence at Montgomery Place.

At every opportunity, the seniors in my district asked me—Is Congress going to do something about Medicare, and especially about prescription drugs?

It was abundantly clear from these questions that the senior citizens in Chicago's First District—many of whom are living on income below the poverty line—that this is an issue of critical importance, to be dealt with seriously by this institution. Seriously and deliberately: not through political gamesmanship.

Last year, we were told that the prescription drug issue would have to wait until the Republican-initiated tax cut was resolved. And we

waited. And the senior citizens in our Congressional districts waited.

Last week, when President Clinton proposed an end to the waiting and offered a sound and financially responsible entitlement program to provide senior citizens with the prescription drug benefits that they need and want, the Republican leadership in the House said "No." They said we will consider a minimal proposal that does not even guarantee a prescription drug benefit to Medicare recipients.

Mr. Speaker, I will say again what I said last fall: that the Republican majority must give up this ill-conceived plan and give us the opportunity to consider a real legislative proposal which will give our senior citizens the prescription drug benefits that they need—and want.

MEDICARE RX 2000 ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4680, The Medicare Rx 2000 Act. Today, instead of helping seniors with their prescription drug bills, the Republicans sold seniors a bill of goods. Their bill is a multi-billion dollar giveaway to insurance companies and fails to guarantee that seniors will be able to afford the medicines their doctors tell them they need to take to stay healthy.

For the past year, seniors in my district have been telling me about how much they spend on their monthly prescription bills. I released a study in April 1999 which shows that seniors in my district who have no prescription drug coverage pay twice as much as those who have coverage. Some seniors are faced with the decision of paying for food or paying for medicine. This is an outrage. No senior should be faced with that kind of decision.

On the other hand, the Republican leadership in the House recently became interested in this issue because their pollster told them that they needed to pass a drug plan—any plan—no matter how flawed it is. And they won't let the Democrats offer a substitute plan on the floor because they know it is a good plan and could pass.

We need a Medicare prescription drug benefit that is voluntary, that provides coverage to all seniors who need it, and that secures the financial future of Medicare. I will continue to work for a plan that helps seniors fill their cabinets with life-saving medications, not one that lines the pockets of the drug companies.

JUSTICE FOR SHIRAZ THIRTEEN

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, in Iran today, thirteen Jews are awaiting judgment in a trial that I suspect is no trial at all.

Although the thirteen Jews in question are accused of espionage, they have been imprisoned for over a year without being formally charged and have been denied the right to choose legal counsel. They have also been denied access to family members, fellow members of the Jewish community, and human rights workers. It is deplorable to put these thirteen people on trial, possibly with their lives at stake, then shut the courtroom doors to the world. Diplomats, members of the media, human rights activists, and even the accused's fellow Iranian citizens are barred from attending the court proceedings. In short, these thirteen persons are being denied even what limited due process of law is regularly available to the Iranian people.

In March of this year, Secretary of State Albright announced that the U.S. ban on certain Iranian imports would be lifted. This move was designed to encourage ongoing political reform in Iran. However, as Iran works to improve its relations with the international community, I urge my fellow members of Congress to keep a watchful eye on the developments in this case. Judge Sadiq Nourani, better known to his countrymen as "the butcher," will soon decide whether or not these thirteen Jews indeed committed acts of espionage against Iran. I am deeply troubled by the shroud of secrecy under which this trial proceeds, bringing into question the integrity of any guilty verdict. My colleagues in Congress should view Judge Nourani's decision, and any subsequent sentencing, as a strong indication as to the sincerity of Iran's attempts to reform.

Omid Tefillin, a 25 year-old man whose brother has already been condemned, said, "I am innocent, and I believe the court is just. God willing, I will be acquitted." Mr. Speaker, I wish I shared Mr. Tefillin's faith in the Iranian judicial system. Based on the proceedings I have observed thus far, I am doubtful the thirteen Jews can receive a just verdict.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4733) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to take a moment to discuss an amendment that has the potential to address a matter that is of the utmost importance to our nation. First I want to commend the Chairman for his hard and diligent work on this bill.

The cost of gasoline has skyrocketed and America is once again forced to kneel at the feet of OPEC, groveling to oil barons, begging for more oil. It is disgraceful that this administration has let America, the home of the free, become subservient to foreign powers. I cannot stress enough the importance of the

United States becoming an energy self-sufficient nation and the positive effects this would have on our national security and economic prosperity.

As you know, the price of oil in the United States has dramatically increased over the last year. Over the winter we saw the first spike in oil prices, and this administrations' response was simply to beg OPEC to produce more oil, in the hopes that higher supply would cause prices to go down. Yet, prices have skyrocketed in the last few weeks, with some Americans having to pay well over \$2.00 for a gallon of gas. The impact of escalating oil costs affects prices for essential utility and municipal services, the distribution of vital supplies and other goods and services, and could threaten many American jobs. Clearly, our current economic prosperity is put at risk as a result of the dramatic increase in oil prices. It is time to take action before we are completely at the mercy of this oil cartel.

Beyond any short term fixes we may soon address in the Congress, we must adopt a long-term energy policy that will emphasize the U.S. position of being energy self-sufficient in the 21st century. With the vast amount of untapped resources in this country and technological advances which have made it easier, cheaper, and safer to develop and discover new domestic sources of energy, the goal of becoming energy self-sufficient can be a reality.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 4035, the National Resource Governance Act, which I am now offering as an amendment to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act. This amendment calls on Congress to officially commit to the concept that the United States can be energy self-sufficient by the end of the decade.

This commitment would take the form of a bipartisan blue ribbon commission to investigate all possible methods to make the country energy self-sufficient. How can we become self-sufficient? We can start by utilizing the oil reserves that already exist in our great land. We should also explore and encourage alternative resource production such as solar, wind, hydrogen, natural gas, gas hydrates, or other resources, as well as better fuel efficiency for our nation's transportation infrastructure.

At the dawn of the 21st Century, the resources and ingenuity to make America self-sufficient for its fuel needs exist. We need to focus our attention on this very important issue, because the ramifications of becoming more dependent on these foreign powers threatens not only our economy, but our very existence as a world power. How many more times must we be put through an energy crisis and the outrageous costs associated with it before we commit ourselves to energy self-sufficiency? It's time to get the power back.

I urge the House to accept my amendment and give our nation an energy policy that will ensure our future.

HONORING DR. JEAN CLAUDE COMPAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to honor Dr. Jean Claude Compas a radiant example of what a premiere physician in this country should hope to be.

Dr. Compas was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. After completing his primary education, he traveled to France to attend the University of Lille, where he received his medical degree. After earning his degree, he migrated to the United States to set up his own practice in Brooklyn.

He is the founder of one of the largest Haitian owned and operated medical clinics in Brooklyn. In addition to his successful medical practice, Dr. Compas has dedicated his life to advancing social justice. He has led several marches protesting blatant discrimination and prejudice against Haitians in the United States, including the plight of Haitian refugees. Through his research and publications with the Center for Disease Control in Washington, DC, he helped reverse the unjustified wholesale labeling of Haitians as a high-risk group for AIDS by the CDC and the FDA. He also was a major activist on the Abner Louima case, organizing a legion of protests against police brutality.

Jean Claude Compas serves on several boards of nonprofit organizations, including the New York Aids Foundation, the Haitian Coalition on AIDS, and the Haitian American Alliance of New York. He was also a past-vice president of Haitian Medical Association abroad.

Dr. Compas is a prime example of what every citizen should aspire to be. He has made a difference in many lives in Brooklyn. He remains a dedicated advocate for the Caribbean community. Dr. Compas' contributions to his community never stop, and hopefully he will continue good deeds to make Brooklyn a better community. Dr. Compas ultimately believes that "it's better to give than receive" and he demonstrated it through his many contributions. Please join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Dr. Jean Claude Compas.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4516) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4516, the FY2001 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, which would slash funding to the Government Printing Of-

ice's Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). Rather, I support the bipartisan manager's amendment that restores funding to this important public resource.

The goal of the FDLP is to assure current and permanent public access to information published by the federal government of the United States. The FDLP, under the auspices of the Government Printing Office (GPO), provides public documents free of charge to approximately 1,350 libraries in the United States and its territories. Depository libraries receive all government publications of public interest and/or educational value, with the exception of classified materials.

The FY2001 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act would cut the FDLP's budget by 61 percent, from \$29.9 million in FY2000 to \$11.6 million in FY2001. By contrast, the Senate's version of this bill would actually increase the library program's budget by 4 percent.

The manager's amendment, sponsored by Representatives TAYLOR and PASTOR, would restore \$95.8 million to this spending bill, including \$14.1 million to the FDLP. This amendment would bring the total FDLP appropriation to \$25.7 million, or \$4.2 million less than the FY2000 appropriation. While this funding cut is still unacceptable, the manager's amendment would, at the very least, allow the FDLP to continue operating into 2001.

Mr. Chairman, the University of Kansas Government Documents and Map Library is the only regional depository library in the entire state of Kansas. Though other depository libraries exist in my home state, they receive only a small percentage of the documents that the Government Documents and Map Library receives annually. At a regional depository library like the one at KU, individuals can read a wide range of government documents dating from 1789, such as the first Census report for the United States, which the government completed in 1790.

Though the government documents are made available to the public at no cost, there is a cost to the libraries that maintain them. As a regional depository library, KU is required by federal law to maintain the information in perpetuity. The cost of storing a total collection of more than 2 million government documents can run into the tens of thousands of dollars annually, not counting salaries for a staff to catalog and maintain the information. Without federal funding, the Government Documents and Map Library would be forced to close its doors and end its years of service to the Kansas public.

Mr. Chairman, though anyone can access documents supplied under the auspices of the FDLP, the people who rely upon this information the most are small-business owners. Small business men and women in Johnson County and other areas in Kansas' Third District frequently utilize the Federal Register, which lists proposed regulations and information on upcoming government contracts. Small businesses have a right to access the Federal Register and other federal documents, and the federal government has the responsibility to make sure that America's small business people have access to them.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the vitally important manager's amendment, which will