

June 30, 2000

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.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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-

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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