List of Members Supporting H.R. 1318: ABB Inc.; Access Advantage, Inc.; NUKEM Inc.; The AES Corporation; American Councils for Int’l Education; Bechtel Corporation; Chevron Corporation; Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs; Columbia University Caspian Project; Exxpprojects; Exxon Mobi Corporation; Deere & Company; Fluor Corporation; Halliburton Company; International Tax & Accounting Center; Parker Drilling Company; Parsons Corporation (membership currently being processed); Phillips Petroleum Company; Texaco Inc.

[From the Washington Times, July 20, 2001]  

CHENEY AIMS TO DRILL AFAR AND WIDE  

By David R. Sands

Debates over drilling at home have dominated the headlines, but the Bush administration’s energy plan also calls for some aggressive prospecting in overseas markets as well.

Kazakhstan, Russia, India and even Venezuela stand to be big winners under key sections of the energy program, released by a task force headed by Vice President Richard B. Cheney on May 18.

Energy needs would assume a much greater role in considering whether to apply economic or other sanctions against unfriendly governments.

“There’s a lot going on, on the international side in that report, and it’s going to matter a lot to the entire global energy market,” said Robert E. Ebel, director of the energy and national security program at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

“The path the U.S. chooses on production and consumption will have a huge impact on the rest of the world,” Mr. Ebel said.

The Bush plan calls for a major diversification of oil suppliers, away from the longstanding reliance on unstable or unfriendly Middle Eastern producers.

“Concentration of world oil production in any one region of the world is a potential contributor to market instability, benefitting neither oil producers nor consumers,” the report said.

A survey released by the American Petroleum Institute (API) on Wednesday could boost the Bush plan, which faces a tough time in Congress.

The oil industry trade group found that U.S. crude oil imports for the first half of 2001 hit a record average of 68 percent of total demand, or 9.2 million barrels per day. Oil imports in April accounted for 62.8 percent of total demand, “the largest (monthly) share in history,” API said.

Officials in the Central Asian country of Kazakhstan have expressed satisfaction with the Bush administration’s focus on their market. More recent oil field discoveries have attracted intense industry interest.

“The new administration has showed a very complete and mutual understanding of the cooperation we hope to have in the future,” Vladimir Shkolnik, Kazakhstan’s vice minister for energy and natural resources, said in an interview during a Washington trip this spring.

“I get the feeling they understand very well our potential,” Mr. Shkolnik said.

While saying private investors must lead the way, Mr. Ebel notes considerable time to the Kazakh market, urging U.S. government agencies to “deepen their commercial dialogue” with Kazakhstan.

The nation proposed pipeline from Baku, Azerbaijan, through Georgia to the Turkish port of Ceyhan. Enthusiastically backed by the Clinton administration, the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline has been resisted by Moscow, which sees the project as an effort to bypass Russia.

“The big question has always been how to stop this, and the administration has done it,” Mr. Ebel said.

With private companies like (British Petroleum) really pushing the pipeline, it’s hard to see how the Bush administration could do a 180-degree turn from what the Clinton people were recommending,” Mr. Ebel said.

To complete the bypass of both Russia and Iran, the Cheney report’s authors called for the State Department to push for Greece and Turkey to link their gas pipeline systems, allowing even easier access to European markets for Caspian gas.

But Russia is also one of several other international producers that the Cheney task force recommends should be encouraged. Russia has about 5 percent of the world’s proven oil reserves and a third of the world’s natural gas, but needs major Western investment and significant legal and commercial reforms to exploit its potential.

While urging sustained pressure on Middle East suppliers like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to open their markets to foreign investors, the Bush administration blueprint seeks suppliers much farther south.

Despite a series of sharp political and diplomatic exchanges with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, the United States should continue to push to conclude a bilateral investment treaty with Caracas, said the administration proposal, and begin talks with Brazil to boost “energy investment flows” with both of the South American powers.

The report also directs U.S. agencies to help India maximize its domestic oil and gas production. One foreign policy recommendation that has taken some hits is the Bush proposal to include “energy security” as a factor when considering the usefulness of economic sanctions.

The administration was forced to retreat in the first congressional fight over such sanctions, in the face of strong bipartisan support for maintaining current restrictions on trade and investment with Iran and Libya.

HONORING DOCTOR PAUL ERRERA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT  

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO  
OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Ms. DELAUNO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many family friends and colleagues who gathered today to pay tribute to Doctor Paul Errera as he celebrates his retirement from service with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Errera began his forty-seven-year career with the VA as a first year resident in psychiatry at the West Haven, Connecticut VA Medical Center. He later went on to serve as the Chief of Psychiatry for fifteen years. In addition to his work in Connecticut, Dr. Errera spent nearly a decade in Washington, D.C. as the national Director of Psychiatry and Psychological Services. In that role, he was charged with the oversight of 172 VA hospitals across the country. In a career that has spanned nearly half a century, Dr. Errera has demonstrated a unique commitment to our nation’s veterans and the quality of care they receive.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Errera has been a visionary leader, stimulating fundamental change in the way mental health care is delivered. He has played an integral role in the development and implementation of innovative, community-based programs to meet the diverse mental health treatment needs of veterans. Dr. Errera’s commitment and diligence has had a dramatic impact on the VA’s treatment of its mentally ill patients—effectively changing the face of their approach and service to many of our nation’s most vulnerable citizens.

Dr. Errera attributes his dedication to the historic role the United States played in twice freeing his homeland of Belgium—believing that the citizens of Belgium owe a great debt to the brave men and women who liberated his country. He has often spoken of our nation’s need to provide the best possible care to our veterans. These are the men and women who fought for the freedoms and values we hold so dear. Dr. Errera, with his unparalleled record of service to the veterans of this country, has set a new standard for us all to strive to achieve.

Dr. Errera, through his infinite good work has made a real difference in the lives of many US veterans and for that we owe him a great debt of gratitude. It is my great honor to rise today to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Dr. Paul Errera for his outstanding service at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and my very best wishes to him and his family for many more years of health and happiness.

ILSA EXTENSION ACT OF 2001  

APRCH OF  
HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN  
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a proud cosponsor of this well crafted legislation, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1954, the Iran Libya Extensions Act of 2001.

When this law was first enacted by the United States Congress in 1996 it imposed a number of economic sanctions against foreign companies that invest in the energy sectors of either Iran or Libya. Given those two nation’s support for country’s regional terrorism, the bill passed overwhelmingly.

Unfortunately, nothing in those nations’ behavior has changed since that bill passed unanimously by a vote of 415–0. Therefore, we must pass this bill to extend the Iran Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) for an additional five years.

As recently as March 13, 2001, President George W. Bush issued a statement declaring that Iran’s government is, “a threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States”—due to—”its support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine the Middle East peace process, and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them.“
And to add to this concern, in early March of this year, the Islamic Republic of Iran reportedly signed a cooperation agreement with Russia that will give access to sophisticated arms technology.

As for Libya, theiran Libya Sanctions Act of 2001 extends sanctions against Libya designed to end only if our President determines that Libya has fulfilled the requirements of all U.N. resolutions relating to the horrific downing of Pan Am 103 in December of 1998.

Given that Libya has not yet accepted responsibility or compensated the families of the victims of Pan Am 103, I think it is only just that ILSA’s sanctions remain against Libya.

Mr. Speaker, for the reasons I have outlined, I believe it is important to continue these restrictions on trade with companies who do business with Iran and Libya.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1954, brought to the floor by my good friend and the Chairman of the House International Relations Committee’s Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, Representative Ben Gilman and the distinguished Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee, Representative Tom Lantos.

RECOGNIZING MR. DIONICIO MORALES OF THE MEXICAN AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most inspiring and influential Latino leaders in the United States. Dionicio Morales is the founder and former President of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF), the largest Latino social-service agency in the United States. Mr. Morales has helped spur the lives of thousands of people, especially Latino youth and the elderly, by providing vital resources such as job training, senior services, naturalization services and child care programs in communities throughout California. The Mexican American Opportunity Foundation has established programs in the San Gabriel Valley, East Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Ana, Oxnard, Salinas, and Bakersfield.

Mr. Morales’ inspiring life is depicted in his autobiography entitled “Dionicio Morales: A Life in Two Cultures.” In the book, Mr. Morales is described as a passionate leader who has led by example and knows first hand the struggles of the poor in detail. For many decades he has tirelessly organized and has fought to protect the rights of these individuals.

In the early 1960s Mr. Morales called the White House to request help in establishing programs to help employ and train Mexican Americans. Interestingly, Mr. Morales obtained a meeting with Vice President Lyndon Johnson, who agreed to help Mr. Morales through the President’s Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity.

Nearly four decades later, due to that fateful call made by Mr. Morales, the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation now has a budget of over $60 million, making it the largest Latino organization in the United States.

Mr. Morales continues to be actively involved in the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation. He is a trailblazer and a true leader. I am privileged to recognize Mr. Morales’ incredible life and applaud his work.

HONORING FENMORE SETON FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I had the distinct privilege of reading one of the most touching personal memoirs of the events of the invasion of Normandy, the turning point of World War II. A defining moment in our history, it is important to take a moment today to remember the tremendous under-taking of the Allies and the unparalleled courage and bravery of the soldiers who fought, many making the ultimate sacrifice, for world freedom. It is my great pleasure to rise today to honor both the many servicemen who participated in the D-day invasion and my very dear friend, Fenmore Seton, by recounting his remarkable story.

In his memoirs Fen, a First Lieutenant in the Ninth Air Force of the United States Army Corps, captured the spirit and atmosphere of those first few memorable days. Hundreds of officers and soldiers were transported on Liberty Ships, normally equipped for crews of thirty. Under other circumstances such conditions would be considered intolerable, yet as they embarked from their staging area in Wale, there was little or no complaint from these exemplars. Hour after hour the deafening roar of the planes overhead could be heard by the troops aboard the Liberty Ships in the Allies’ Armada which stretched as far as the eye could see. Shortly before they began their mission, each man was given a printed letter of inspiration from the Allied Commander in Chief of “Operation Overlord.” Dwight D. Eisenhower. Climbing down the side of their Liberty Ships, on rope netting into the individual Landing Craft Infantry’s, Fen and thousands of other soldiers began to make their way ashore.

Fen disembarked from an invasion landing craft on Omaha Beach on D-day plus three. Though they were supposed to make their beach landing one day earlier, the Ranger Infantrymen who were fighting for a foothold on the designated beach landing zone, had met intense firepower from the reinforced concrete German Pillboxes which delayed their arrival. Under strict blackout instructions, they moved to their rendezvous point in a completely unfamiliar place in the pitch dark, finding refuge in a nearby shelter only to awaken amid chickens and realization that they had slept in a cattle barn.

This was the first of seven battle campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge, that Fen participated in as a member of the Ninth Air Force. In addition to the six battle stars that decorate his European Theatre ribbon, Fen was honored with the ribbon for Meritorious Service and Belgium’s royal “Fourragere d’Honneur” for his service with the 70th Fighter Wing. However, it is not the honors, commendations, or medals that led Fen to take down his thoughts and memories of his extensive World War II experiences. It was, as he wrote, “because all Officers and Soldiers felt that World War II was a ‘just war’ . . . . that had to be fought in order to defend civilization and to preserve our treasured American way of life.”

As he concluded, Fen wrote: “Younger people particularly have little to no curiosity concerning World War II or the fact that the Normandy Invasion marked the turning point for the defeat of the Nazi Empire. I sadly suspect that most of the younger generation do not even recognize the significance of Pearl Harbor.” It is my sincere hope that the young people of our nation and future generations remember the tremendous efforts that were made to preserve the freedoms we hold so dear. As the daughter of a veteran and a Member of this great body, I feel it is important to paying tribute to the veterans of World War II for their outstanding contributions to our great nation. They changed the course of history and for that we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

Today, I stand to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Fenmore Seton for his outstanding service to our country and for bringing this remarkable story to light. It is veterans, like Fen, whose stories will never allow future generations to forget one of the free world’s greatest victories.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, on July 18, 2001, my vote on final passage of H.R. 2500, the “Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002” was not recorded. I support the bill and intended to vote “yes.”

I support this bill because it is fair and bipartisan, and appropriately funds many important programs and agencies in the government. This bill appropriates $41.5 billion, which is 4 percent more than the current level and 2 percent more than requested by the president. I am pleased that this bill adequately funds many important programs that have not received appropriate funding in the past. Specifically, H.R. 2500 provides $1.01 billion for the Community Oriented Policing Services, a program that I strongly support and that contributes to the safety of our neighborhood streets. It also provides $844 million for international peacekeeping efforts, including $2 million to conduct programs that monitor and combat human trafficking. $440 million is included for conservation programs to clean oceans and waters. Additionally, the bill appropriates $329 million for the Legal Services Corporation which provides legal assistance to lower-income Americans.