

high standard of living and education, Radnor Township is a community that residents can be proud to call home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Radnor Township during its centennial year as the citizens of Radnor begin an exciting new century.

GENGHIS KHAN FURNITURE

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in 1971, Robert and Anna Kao came to Guam upon Anna's recruitment to work as the Sales Manager for the furniture store at Andersen Air Force Base. Shortly thereafter, the couple opened their own furniture store, Genghis Khan Furniture.

The business grew steadily and over thirty years become the leading provider of fine furniture to the residents and businesses of the island. Based on their success on Guam, Genghis Khan Furniture has been able to branch out. They now have stores in San Diego and San Marcos, California, in addition to a location in mainland China.

Robert and Anna credit their success to their hard work and perseverance. However, they admit that they would not have been able to accomplish this feat without the invaluable support of those close to them. Their children, Michael and Heidi, provided them inspiration and drive to succeed while loyal employees such as their interior design consultant, Sylvia Flores, and their sales manager, Hsui Pi Perez, insured the success of the business that they started.

Despite the rigors and stress involved in running a business, Robert and Anna still managed to become actively involved in community affairs. A member of the masonic fraternity, Robert was also a former president of the Chinese Association of Guam. As a charter member of the Federation of Asian Peoples of Guam, he served as the association's first president. While serving as president of the Confucian Society of Guam in 1997, Robert was instrumental in lobbying the Guam Legislature to designate September 28, Confucius' birthday, as "Teacher's Appreciation Day." In addition, he was also appointed by the Republic of China Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission to serve as the Overseas Chinese Affairs Commissioner on Guam—a position he held for several years. Due to his prominent standing within the community, he was able to coordinate numerous cultural exchanges between Taiwan, China, and Guam.

Anna has also served as a director for several local nonprofit organizations. She currently serves as Vice-President for the Chinese Merchants Association. In addition, she also sits on the Board of Directors for Sanctuary, Incorporated, a local nonprofit organization assisting Guam's youth.

For the past three decades, Genghis Khan Furniture has been at the forefront of providing top quality furniture on Guam. Its founders, Robert and Anna Kao, have been distinguished and productive members of our com-

munity. On behalf of the people of Guam, I offer my congratulations to the Kaos and to the employees of Genghis Khan Furniture on their 30th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE PENN

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, this week, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security bids farewell to George Penn. George, a detailee from the Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General, has served the Subcommittee with distinction as a Professional Staff member since March of last year.

George brought a wealth of new experience to the Subcommittee, having served over 4 years as Senior Attorney for the Office of the General Counsel to the Inspector General. Before then, George served 6 years as a Senior Attorney for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation/Resolution Trust Corporation, 2 years with the Department of the Interior as an attorney, and many years in general private practice.

With George's expertise the Subcommittee was better able to tackle one of the fastest growing crimes in America—identity theft. With the rise of the internet age, our Subcommittee has had to deal with a threat to the integrity of the Social Security number as we have never seen before. Supported by George's skill and leadership, the Subcommittee has held numerous hearings on Social Security number privacy and identity theft. Last year, his efforts culminated in the Ways and Means markup of the "Social Security Number Privacy and Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2000." With George's help, 1, along with a number of my Ways and Means colleagues, have held another hearing and have introduced similar legislation this year. George's commitment to excellence, masterful negotiating skills, and steadfast adherence to our key principles for this legislation, have helped to ensure a fair and comprehensive approach to protecting the privacy of Social Security numbers and preventing identity theft.

In addition, George has worked on a number of hearings and resulting legislation aimed at improving the integrity of Social Security programs. George's vast knowledge of the law, superior analytical skills, and attention to detail have helped focus the Subcommittee's oversight efforts on those Social Security Administration's stewardship efforts most needing improvement.

Agency detailees sometimes find the politically charged atmosphere of Capitol Hill overwhelming. But George jumped right into the fray and proved to have an excellent political mind. In addition, using his train commute to good end, George graciously presented the Subcommittee staff with Godiva chocolates on a regular basis. Needless to say, he will be a hard act to follow in many regards.

Americans owe a debt of gratitude to George Penn. His professionalism, integrity, and commitment to improving government's service to the citizens of this country have

greatly assisted the Subcommittee and the full Committee on Ways and Means. My heartfelt thanks and best wishes to George Penn.

DIRECTING FERC TO ORDER REFUNDS FOR ELECTRICITY OVERCHARGES

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am joined by many of my California colleagues in introducing legislation directing FERC to order refunds to consumers in the Western States of California, Oregon and Washington who have been charged excessive electric energy rates.

This bill is necessary because we were blocked yesterday from offering it as an amendment to H.R. 4, the energy bill.

As our colleagues know, on several occasions, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has found electricity rates charged in the Western States to be "unjust and unreasonable." Under the Federal Power Act, such a finding should result in refunds to consumers but, as of today, not a penny has been paid.

To be sure, there is a difference of view on how much should be refunded. While the State claims \$8.9 billion, even the Administrative Law Judge tasked by FERC several weeks ago to investigate concluded that upwards of a billion dollars was owed.

Now is the time to finally resolve this issue.

The bill my colleagues and I are sponsoring will require FERC to accelerate the process of refunding electricity overcharges.

It is consistent with the Federal Power Act, although many of us would have liked the bill to do more. In particular, if FERC had acted promptly when the first evidence of gouging surfaced, FERC could have ordered refunds for the period May to October 2000, when electricity rates rose dramatically and evidence of overcharges first surfaced. The Federal Power Act and concern about "takings" prevents FERC and us from including that period, although we hope there may be an equitable way to do so.

Many of us also believe that all sellers of electricity engaged in price gouging should be ordered to make refunds. Last week, for example, FERC exerted jurisdiction over municipal power entities, although many legal experts are dubious about the authority to do so. Again, without amending the Federal Power Act, we are unable to include them, though if we could, there would be an ex post facto concern about recouping for a past period.

Lastly, the process FERC announced last week will still not result in refunds for many months. FERC is again engaged in a process of investigate-and-delay. Consumers need relief now.

We strongly believe FERC should act promptly, using one of two methodologies in the bill that are fair and likely to result in a quick determination. In fact, one of the methodologies was advocated by Republicans on the Commerce Committee.

Consumers in California, Washington and Oregon deserve a prompt resolution of this