

To the benefit of Northwest Indiana, Mamon Powers, Sr. came to the city of Gary after serving with the military. He went to work in the steel mill, but quickly learned that he would not be successful because racial barriers prohibited many African-Americans from joining the union. However, Mamon's love for the community and his determination to succeed led him to work for Means Developers. With the addition of Mamon's knowledge of construction and his desire to make the city of Gary a better place, Means Construction developed one of the city's finest neighborhoods, Means Manor.

Mamon Powers, Sr. began his own construction company in the early 1950's and eventually became one of the first African-American members of a union in the city of Gary. Over the years, he developed his business into the most successful African-American construction company in the state, and one of the 100 largest in the country. Powers and Sons Construction Company was also recognized nationally by the Small Business Administration in 1997 for its minority business development initiatives. He was responsible for the construction of hundreds of private homes in Northwest Indiana, as well as the construction of many commercial buildings. His professional career made an impact on the community that cannot be measured simply by the number of buildings he created. His love for his work was revealed in his creations, and it inspired the citizens of Gary to take pride in their community.

While Mamon was dedicated to his work, his love for his family and his community remained his top priority. He was committed to his late wife, Leolean, and their six children, Mamon, Jr., Mark, Demetrius, Claude, Florita, and Marquita. He served on the Methodist Hospital Board of Directors and as a member of the Lake County Community Development Committee. In 1989, he was inducted into the Steel City Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions to Northwest Indiana. Earlier this year, the Frontiers Service Club nominated Mamon for the prestigious Gary Drum Major Award for extraordinary set-vice in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in offering our condolences to the family of Mr. Mamon Powers, Sr. Mamon was a true inspiration to everyone who knew him, and his work in Northwest Indiana will survive as a tribute to his memory. He impacted the lives of many in our community, our state, and our country, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to represent Mamon Powers, Sr. in Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF HOMESTAKE
MINE CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2001

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill very important to the world of science, our nation, and my state of South Dakota.

Thirty years ago, the Homestake Mine was host to pioneering research about neutrinos;

particles with virtually no weight and possessing no electrical charge that are everywhere around us. Scientists believe these mysterious particles hold secrets that can provide us with important insights into the fundamental nature of the universe.

This legislation, which I will introduce today, envisions an underground neutrino telescope that extends pioneering research begun three decades ago.

While the potential scientific benefits of studying neutrinos is clear, this agreement is also vital to the economies of South Dakota, the Black Hills and the city of Lead. If Homestake were to close, its absence would have a tremendous economic and cultural impact on our state. The Mine has been an integral part of the Hills culture since it opened over 125 years ago. The miners and their families have contributed so much to the area.

However, with the cost of mining gold increasing, Homestake has decided to terminate its operations in Lead. The introduction of a national physics laboratory is a fitting substitute. The lab will employ a number of the current Homestake employees to maintain the integrity of the mine and to make improvements to the structure for the siting of the lab there. Additionally, the lab will employ many scientists and support staff bringing new diversity to the South Dakota economy.

The legislation I will introduce today is a companion bill to S. 1389, introduced by Senator TOM DASCHLE and is the result of months of negotiations between the Homestake Gold Mine, the State of South Dakota, the South Dakota congressional delegation and others. Recently, those negotiations were concluded, and late last week this bill was completed.

The purpose of the bill is to set the terms of land conveyance from Homestake to the State of South Dakota for the establishment of a National Underground Science Laboratory. The Homestake Mining Company would turn over portions of their property, including a nearly 8,000 foot mine shaft and equipment that together likely will be worth hundreds of millions of dollars saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in construction and developmental expenses.

In addition to the land conveyance, the bill also addresses current and future environmental remediation and reclamation concerns. The bill accomplishes this through three main mechanisms. First, it requires an independent evaluation of current and future environmental risks on the site. This evaluation would be conducted under the auspices of the Environmental Protection Agency and would be subject to public review and comment. Second, it establishes an environmental trust fund. Contributions to this trust fund would be calculated as a part of the cost of constructing and operating the lab and the experiments that would take place there. Third, it requires insurance coverage by the State of South Dakota, which would be the managing entity, and any group conducting experiments in the mine. These provisions will provide the needed protection of the environment and the taxpayers that I believe is necessary for this agreement.

This legislation is one piece of the puzzle that will make this lab a reality. I look forward to working with the House leadership, the Committees of jurisdiction, my colleagues in

the House and Senate and the Administration to see this bill enacted into law.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND CIVIL
LIBERTIES ISSUES

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am growing increasingly concerned about a series of recent actions taken by the Bush Administration which raise important constitutional and civil liberties issues. Many of these concerns are set forth in the attached letter I forwarded yesterday to Chairman Sensenbrenner requesting that the Judiciary Committee hold hearings on these matters, as well as an excellent editorial written today by William Safire of the New York Times.

I am also attaching a copy of a letter I wrote last January detailing my opposition to the nomination of John Ashcroft as Attorney General. The Attorney General's recent actions threatening our civil liberties only reinforces the concerns mentioned in this letter. I also question the timing and need for the Attorney General's recent actions undermining Oregon's assisted suicide law and California's medical marijuana laws. Both of these actions raise very serious federalism issues (since they seek to overturn state enacted referendum) and separation of powers issues (since the authorities were each the subject of failed legislation in recent congresses).

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, Jan. 31, 2001.

DEAR DEMOCRATIC SENATOR: I am writing to inform you that as the Ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee and the Senior Member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am unalterably opposed to John Ashcroft's nomination to be Attorney General of the United States.

I have reached this decision with much regret and great consternation. In my 36 years in Congress, I have never before publicly opposed a nominee for Attorney General. However, in the present case, my reservations about Senator Ashcroft's ability and inclination to support and uphold the law in such critical areas as civil rights, reproductive choice, and gun safety are so grave, and his pattern of misleading and disingenuous responses at his confirmation hearing so serious, that I believe it is in the national interest that his nomination be withdrawn, or be rejected by the Senate. I am also concerned that Senator Ashcroft's personal lack of responsiveness to me foreshadows a pattern of conscious avoidance or, at best, benign neglect, of me and my Democratic colleagues in the House.

I have several specific concerns in the area of civil rights. First, I am troubled by the fact that notwithstanding Senator Ashcroft's general statements about support for civil rights enforcement, he declined to state specific agreement with the Department's positions in a host of civil rights cases, including its support of the University of Michigan's affirmative action program, a position that was recently ratified by a federal court. Also, with regard to equal rights in the area of education, I am dismayed that Senator Ashcroft has taken public positions