

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HART) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 7, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, I hereby resign from the House Committee on Science to accept one of the three vacant seats on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. My service on the Science Committee has been worthwhile and rewarding, but as you know, members cannot serve on four committees, so I must step down to change my committee assignment. My highest local legislative priority is to help expand the Katy Freeway in west Houston, and I need to serve on the Transportation Committee to expedite the expansion of this vital freeway.

Thank you for supporting my request to change committees, but above all, thank you for your principled conservative leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

JOHN CULBERSON,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 1345

PRESIDENT BUSH AND INCREDIBLE
WHITE HOUSE FORM LETTER
COMPUTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HART). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a remarkable automated and superbly efficient computer system in the Capital of this Nation. Madam Speaker, this computer network is extraordinary. It tracks and it responds to the correspondence of more than 500 people. I would note that it is so powerful it is able to keep track of not only the incoming mail from these people on a wide variety of issues but it is also able to respond to each and every one of the people and each and every one of the letters with an identical form letter, which, if you will note, is changed only with regard to the subject matter.

I am not describing a top-secret computer lab at CIA, nor am I describing NASA's computer network at Cape Canaveral. No, Madam Speaker, this computer is located at 1600 Pennsylvania

Avenue. This afternoon I rise to discuss this computer and the remarkable White House form letter that it generates.

I share with my colleagues the opportunity to have interacted with this amazing machine on more than a dozen occasions. Each time I have written to President Bush, I have received an identical response. Whether the topic is the energy crisis or election reform, I get the same letter back. More than a dozen letters to date, each faithfully signed by the President's aide, Nicholas Calio, unless Mr. Calio has used an autopen.

I wrote the President about HMO reform, I received the following: "Thank you for your recent letter regarding a bipartisan Patient Protection Act. I have shared your letter with the President's advisers and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention. Thanks again, Nicholas Calio."

I wrote the President on education, veterans, environment, trade and foreign affairs. I again received the same letter. I say to President Bush, "Thank you." And to you, Nicholas Calio, "Thank you. Your computer serves you well. It has moved the science of computers forward to newer and higher levels."

I would note that with such close attention to detail, it is hard to fathom how the United States ever lost our seat on the United Nations Human Rights Commission. How on earth could our allies be unsatisfied with diplomatic dispatches such as, "I have shared your letter with the President's advisers. Your comments are receiving close and careful attention."

Indeed, the existence of such a superior computer system response makes the departure of Senator JEFFORDS from the Republican Party all the more puzzling. How is it possible that that distinguished Senator from Vermont could become so disenchanted with the White House when it uses such an advanced computer system to communicate with Members of the House and the Senate? How could Mr. JEFFORDS or any other Member of the Congress become disenchanted with such careful and precise personal attention from President Bush? Were the words, "Your comments are receiving the close and careful attention of the appropriate agencies" simply not enough?

I would like to point out one of the examples of this splendid computer's responses to Members of Congress. I would note, however, that my policy since I was elected to the Congress a number of years ago has been to personally respond to each letter I receive from over half a million citizens of the 16th District of Michigan and to give as substantive a response as is possible to

do. Clearly, that idea is out of date at the Bush White House.

Well, thank you, President Bush. You have shown us a new way. Thank you for changing the tone in office and your tone in Washington. Thank you for identical form letters from your amazing computer. At least when I write the White House I know I will get a response. It may be unresponsive, but I will get it nonetheless.

Seventy days ago, on March 28, I wrote Administrator Whitman of the Environmental Protection Agency seeking information about her decision to weaken the new protective standard for arsenic in drinking water. This is a health issue affecting millions of Americans. I would note I received no answer. A month ago I sent a similar letter seeking additional information from Ms. Whitman about her arsenic decision. Again, no answer. No information, no acknowledgment has been received.

Now, it would appear that the White House could inform Administrator Whitman that stonewalling Congress is bad policy and that she should be responding if only with a form letter. In any event, it appears the Bush administration has this wonderful policy which needs to be chronicled here. It is either a form letter or no response at all.

Madam Speaker, I will place in the RECORD these wonderful examples of computer science in the hope that my colleagues will be able to share perhaps their thoughts on similar events.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, March 14, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Thank you for your letter regarding the Montgomery GI Bill program.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thank you for your interest in writing.

Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, May 29, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Thank you for your letter regarding funding in the FY 2002 budget for the pediatric graduate medical education (GME) program.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, April 26, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Thank you for your recent letter regarding medical privacy regulation.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again.
Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, April 12, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: thank you for your recent letter regarding a bipartisan Patient Protection Act.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again.
Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, March 8, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: although this is in response to your January letter, I just wanted you to know that the President sincerely appreciated receiving your comments regarding funding for USAID programs in Lebanon.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thank you for your interest in writing.
Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, March 9, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: thank you for your recent letter regarding funding for the Elementary School Counseling Demonstration Act.

I have shared your letter with the President's budget advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thank you for your interest in writing.
Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, April 4, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Thank you for your recent letter regarding funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again.
Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, April 9, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Thank you for your recent letter regarding funding for the USDA's Wetlands Reserve Program.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again.
Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, April 11, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Thank you for your recent letter, along with 206 of your colleagues, regarding election reform principles.

I was happy to share your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. I have asked that you receive a more detailed response in the near future.

Thanks again.
Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, April 12, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Thank you for your recent letter regarding a petition to the International Trade Commission on behalf of the domestic steel industry, under Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974, to seek temporary relief from injurious imports.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again.
Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, April 12, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Thank you for your recent letter regarding coastal erosion.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again.
Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, April 18, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Thank you for your recent letter regarding funding for a new sewer overflow grant program which was authorized in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2001. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again.
Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, June 5, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Thank you for your recent letter regarding funding for the ongoing litigation against tobacco industry.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again.
Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, June 5, 2001.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Thank you for your recent letter regarding the recently implemented medical privacy standards mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and issued by the Department of Health and Human Services in 2000.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again.
Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE FENNELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, in sports today, words like courage and character, leadership and perseverance are used so frequently they have become almost cliché. Sometimes, though, a story emerges that rekindles our faith in the indomitable will of the human spirit, which proves a sports figure can embody all those traits and more, and which inspires not only a team but an entire community. Such is the case in a story of Mike Fennell, coach of the McQuaid Jesuit High School baseball team in Rochester, New York.

One week ago, Mike coached the Knights to their first section v baseball championship in 20 years. It was the 250th victory of his coaching career, the team's fourth championship game in 5 years, and Coach Fennell's first sectional title. Indeed, these accomplishments are worthy of note, but they are even more remarkable considering just days before the championship game in Rochester's Frontier Field, Mike Fennell was in a hospital bed recovering from yet another surgery in his valiant crusade against non-smoker's lung cancer.

Since his diagnosis in November, Mike has faced this disease bravely, stubbornly, and even with a good dose of humor. His struggle has been so valiant and inspiring that following Mike's hair loss, resulting from ongoing chemotherapy, the McQuaid Knights wanted to do something special to show their support, love, and respect for their ailing coach, and that is when the team, led by pitcher Mike Lewis and catcher Paul Knittle, decided to shave their own heads.

A baseball standout at Fairport High School and Le Moyne College, Mike spent several years in the New York Yankee farm clubs, but the leadership and inspiration Mike has shown these past few months transcend any sport or championship. During the trophy presentation, still weak from his chemo treatments, Mike shunned his walker that his wife, Erin, and nurse, Patty Messina, wanted him to use to make the trek from the dugout to home plate. He would make that walk the same way he has faced his disease, through faith, determination, and sheer will.

Mike Fennell has shown each of us how to face adversity, both bravely and proudly. He has shown us the strength to endure, even when doctors and his

own body want him to stop. Most importantly, he has shown us there is nothing quite so tenacious and unbreakable as a human spirit.

Madam Speaker, I ask this Congress to join me in saluting a hero and a champion, Coach Mike Fennell.

NO INVESTIGATION NECESSARY?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, to depart a little bit from my energy outrage day to day, where yesterday I revealed that Duke Power had charged \$3,800 a megawatt hour last winter in California, 100 times the price of 2 years ago, to point to a little growing problem of dissension on the majority side of the aisle.

Republican conference chairman, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), has called on the Committee on Energy and Commerce to schedule hearings on the volatile prices facing energy consumers. I quote:

We need to get answers from energy companies, executives, including producers, suppliers, refiners, transporters, distributors, retailers, with the goals of finding solutions to these price fluctuations and bringing price stability to the public.

Unfortunately, he is being overruled. The majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), says he is opposed to committee hearings to look at allegations of price gouging, that is a quote, by the energy industry. He says it is cheap political demagoguery. That is another quote.

Well, let us look a little bit at the record. Of course the majority leader does represent Texas, and ExxonMobil did see their profits up 102 percent last year. Americans certainly see it at the gas pump every single day where they are being price-gouged. They had \$15.9 billion, "B," billion dollars of profit, up 102 percent in one year. But, no, there is nothing to investigate. There is no market manipulation going on here. An increase of profits of 102 percent a year? Why, that is normal.

Okay, maybe it is. Let us go and look at the natural gas market. El Paso Energy, also based in Texas, where the majority leader hales from, they had profits of \$1.2 billion last year. A relatively small company; only \$1.2 billion in profits. Of course, their profits were up 381 percent in 1 year. An awful lot of Americans saw that in their natural gas bills this winter when they were trying to heat their homes and a lot of them were freezing because they could not afford the bills. Nothing to investigate there. There is no market manipulation. It is normal for natural gas prices to go up by that much and for profits for this company to go up by 381 percent a year, except for recent revelations that have shown that El

Paso Natural Gas bought pipeline capacity and then refused to use it and refused to let any other gas company use it so they could artificially restrict supply and drive the price up. But there is nothing to investigate there.

All right, let us turn then to electricity. Duke Power. I spoke earlier about their charging as much as \$3,800 a megawatt hour, 100 times the price of 2 years ago. Just multiply your home electric bill by 100. That is what Duke was charging folks in California this winter. But they only earned \$1.8 billion of profits and their profits are only up 109 percent in 1 year. Nothing to investigate there. No. Price of \$3,800 a megawatt hour, only up 100 times what it was just 2 years ago, why that is just natural. It is those Californians. They deserve this. Nothing to investigate there.

We need a comprehensive investigation. The Bush administration's own Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has found these prices unjust and unreasonable. The staff, unfortunately the chairman is appointed by the President, Mr. Hebert of Louisiana, and the chairman says, like our majority leader from Texas, there is nothing to investigate here. This is just the market at work, and consumers should just lump it.

Well, the Republicans are going to lump it at the ballot box unless they follow the advice of their conference chairman and start doing an investigation of what is going on. And if they do not do it here in the House, I predict it will happen in the Senate. And they might just have a little bit of egg on their face here when more and more of this evidence of price gouging and market manipulation comes out. Because the American people know what is happening to them. They know it every day when they pull up to the gas pump and they know it when they are opening their electric bill and when they get their natural gas bill, and they are not going to take it for much longer any more.

CONGRESS MUST HOLD FORECASTERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR PROJECTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, we must hold forecasters accountable for the accuracy of their projections. As we are asking for straight A performance out of our public schools, we must also ask that out of our budget forecasters. We want better and more efficient use of energy resources.

As Secretary Rumsfeld is completing a comprehensive overall of our defense network, how can we expect anything less than continuous improvement