

However, this bill is not crafted simply to set new limitations on Government regulations. Indeed, this bill fundamentally redefines the "takings" question, giving it a meaning so broad that it has in effect been rendered meaningless.

Under the provisions of this bill, any property owner who can demonstrate a loss of value to their property of 10 percent or more will be entitled to Federal compensation. Unfortunately, this threshold is absurdly low. Landowners will be tempted under the terms of this provision to subdivide their property to meet the threshold, thereby resulting in a plethora of cases brought against Federal regulatory agencies. The bill makes no provision to prevent this from happening. The bill also fails to make any provisions to prevent speculation. If an individual buys land with the full knowledge of pending regulations that will impact upon the value of their property, they are nonetheless able to seek compensation under the terms of this bill should those regulations go into effect. Although I am certain that this is not an intended result of the bill, it is important to note that efforts to remedy this oversight failed in committee.

Aside from the technical problems of the bill, we must also face the fact that the language of this legislation threatens to vastly increase the size of the Federal Government. In establishing procedural channels for direct negotiations between Federal agencies while simultaneously promising to compensate all property owners who lose even 10 percent of their property value through regulations, we will open up a floodgate of litigations aimed at our various regulatory agencies. This bill will certainly increase the size of these Federal agencies. The agencies will be forced to hire a huge legal staff to help them determine the validity of claims brought against them. In effect, this bill ensures an increased bloating of our Federal bureaucracy. It seems strange to me the very people who are attacking big Government are actively engaged in the process of creating one.

The takings problem is large enough that it deserved a substantial portion of our time and effort toward the creation of an effective solution. Instead, the Republicans in this body acted hastily to present us with a bill that is clumsy and will doubtlessly prove ineffective. Surely there were better ways to address the problem. Instead, we have just established a brand new entitlement program, with uncertain costs and a vast scope. Just as Republicans are attacking Democrats for failing to endorse the balanced budget, they establish a program that may render such a balance impossible. Without calculating the costs of this bill, they have proposed a new program that will certainly cost the American taxpayer billions of dollars. Of course, many of those dollars will go not to small property owners. Under the terms of this bill, we will be taking money out of necessary programs, and using it to line the pockets of many wealthy landowners and industrialists, a new breed of speculators, lawyers for the Government, lawyers for those who file claims, and the Federal bureaucrats who will be central to sorting out this new law long after we are gone. Language to prevent this outcome was presented in the Porter, Farr, Ehlers, and Bryant amendment. Unfortunately, this effort failed.

While I would like to see the role of the Federal Government limited in relation to the rights of the owners of private property, I do not feel that H.R. 925 achieves that goal.

TRIBUTE TO ELINORE MANDELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Ms. Elinore Mandell, a native of Brooklyn. Ms. Mandell was born, reared and educated in Brooklyn. Her children are products of the public school system. And her grandchildren currently attend public school. Elinore Mandell has always been concerned about the quality of life for children. Her concern and devotion was quite evident during her children's formative years when she participated in various community activities. She served as an assistant leader for both the Brownies and Girl Scouts, and as a den mother for the Cub Scouts. And she also held a number of positions in the parents association.

In 1980 Elinore moved to East New York/Starrett City and ran successfully for membership on the district 19 school board, where she served for 10 years. She retired from the school board in 1993. Elinore is employed by Assemblyman Anthony Genovesi as his administrative assistant, and has ably served him for the past 20 years.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP DAY, MARCH 7, 1995

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of March 7, 1995 being recognized as National Sportsmanship Day. Since its inception in 1991, over 7,000 schools nationwide have taken part in celebrating the essential life lessons that are developed through participation in sports. The participants, who range from elementary students right up through the university level will spend the day in constructive competition.

For the past 5 years, the Institute for International Sport, located at the University of Rhode Island, has worked hard to help establish greater awareness in the area of physical fitness. In addition to National Sportsmanship Day, the institute works all year to promote initiatives like the Student-Athlete Outreach Program, where student-athletes from high schools and colleges travel to local elementary and middle schools to serve as positive role models and promote good sportsmanship.

I fully support these initiatives and would like to acknowledge all the individuals who have devoted their time and efforts to broaden participation in the arena of friendly competition and sportsmanship.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JUDITH M. ASHMANN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ANTHONY C. BEILENSEN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we are honored to pay tribute to Judge Judith M. Ashmann, supervising judge of Los Angeles Superior Court's North Valley district, who has been named Judge of the Year by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. Judge Ashmann, a friend for many years, has a distinguished legal career, including her tenure on the superior court bench, nearly 6 years spent as a municipal court judge in Van Nuys and a decade working in the city, State and Federal attorney offices.

Last year, in the aftermath of the devastating Northridge Earthquake, Judge Ashmann had her finest hour. The San Fernando courthouse suffered severe damage, rendering it uninhabitable. Without quick action by Judge Ashmann, the result could have been chaos.

But she kept her cool under fire, supervising the orderly transfer of judicial duties to other locations, including trailers outside the Van Nuys courthouse. At the same time, Judge Ashmann embarked on an ambitious, time-consuming but absolutely essential project to eliminate the backlog of civil cases created by the earthquake, the most expensive natural disaster in American history.

During a 2-week period, teams of volunteer attorneys and judges assembled by Judge Ashmann disposed of more than 1,000 cases in San Fernando Valley courts. Along with community leaders, Judge Ashmann has been responsible for restoring a sense of normalcy to the earthquake zone.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us today in saluting Judge Judith Ashmann, who combines a sound legal mind with exceptional qualities of leadership. She is an inspiration to all of us.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN PINTO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the contributions of Susan Pinto who was born and raised in Brooklyn. Susan is that rare person who travels to the beat of a different drummer. She attended parochial elementary and secondary schools, and graduated from Brooklyn College. After completing college, she began performing drug-free treatment work. Susan helped design and open treatment and prevention programs in East New York, Brownsville, Bed-Stuy, Sheepshead Bay, and Canarsie. She is a certified substance abuse counselor [CSAC].

Susan is a woman of commitment to everything she is involved in, particularly her immediate, extended family, and circle of friends. Her other endeavors include work in real estate sales and management, construction, and