

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

development. Susan Pinto is a member of the Rosetta Gaston Democratic Club, and the interfaith auxiliary. I am proud to commend her to my House colleagues.

OCEAN RADIOACTIVE DUMPING BAN ACT OF 1995

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, currently the ocean dumping of radioactive waste is regulated under the Ocean Dumping Act [ODA] allows dumping of radioactive waste only after Congress has passed a joint resolution authorizing the dumping. Although this provision has been in force since 1985, Congress has yet to authorize any radioactive dumping.

For decades, U.S. law on ocean pollution has been more stringent than international law. At the time of enactment, the radioactive dumping provisions in the ODA were among the most restrictive in the world, going well beyond international treaty obligations. That is no longer the case.

The Ocean Radioactive Dumping Ban Act corrects this, eliminating ODA's current arduous permitting process and replacing it with a simple ban. It ensures that the United States retains its leadership position in protecting the world's marine environment.

The relevance of the United States banning radioactive dumping is far-reaching. Historically, the United States has set international policy on ocean dumping of radioactive waste. Until last year, the United States had resisted an international ban. Through U.S. influence, the issue was left unresolved.

That all changed last November when the Clinton administration, following heavy lobbying from the Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment [GLOBE] and other organizations, reversed U.S. policy and announced its support for a ban.

Prompted largely by the new U.S. position, in November 1993, the parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Waste and Other Matter of 1972, known as the London Convention, amended annexes I and II to ban the deliberate ocean dumping of low-level radioactive waste. The Convention has always banned the dumping of high-level radioactive waste.

During the 103d Congress, as the ranking Republican on the oceanography, Gulf of Mexico, and Outer Continental Shelf Subcommittee, and the newly appointed chairman of the GLOBE Ocean Protection Working Group, I have spent the last year working to eliminate the threat of radioactive contamination of the sea.

On September 30, 1993, at my request, the Oceanography Subcommittee held a hearing on the threat of contamination from the Russian dumping of nuclear waste. For four decades the former Soviet Union, and now the Russian Federation has been dumping nuclear waste from nuclear submarines and weapons plants into the world's oceans. The information gathered by the subcommittee was sobering.

The West's first concrete evidence on the dumping came last summer following the release of the Yablokov report which was commissioned by President Boris Yeltsin to detail the extent of Soviet nuclear disposal at sea. According to the report, the Soviet Union has dumped over 2.5 million curies of radioactive waste into the Arctic Ocean and other marine environments. By comparison, the accident at Three Mile Island in my home State of Pennsylvania released 15 curies of radiation.

During the hearing, the subcommittee discovered that since 1959, the former Soviet Union dumped into the ocean 18 nuclear reactors and a reactor screen, 11,000 to 17,000 canisters of nuclear waste, and hundreds of thousands of gallons of liquid radioactive waste. It also learned that nuclear waste totaling 10 million curies is currently stored aboard vessels in Murmansk harbor.

Although water quality monitoring in the Arctic suggests that large-scale contamination of the ocean has yet to occur, our knowledge about the possibility of future leakage and transportation is very limited. Significant environmental contamination is a real possibility in the future.

Even after the fall of communism, Moscow has continued to dispose of radioactive waste at sea. In October 1993, Russia dumped 900 tons of low-level radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan in violation of a previously agreed upon international moratorium. According to Japanese press accounts, high ranking Russian officials have admitted that ocean dumping is likely to persist.

The Russian Federation's actions followed the October 1993 dumping have only reinforced these fears. Russia was one of only five nations to abstain from voting to approve the London Convention radioactive dumping ban in November 1993. Then, in February 1994, it became the only nation to declare its intention not to comply with the new international ban on dumping.

Only through strong Western pressure will this change. But before we can pressure Russia, we have to act. That is why I reintroduced the Ocean Radioactive Dumping Ban Act. This act will make U.S. law consistent with the London Convention by amending the ODA to ban the dumping of radioactive waste.

As with the amendments to the Convention's annexes I and II, which contain provisions exempting de minimis radioactive waste from the ban, the Ocean Radioactive Dumping Ban Act exempts de minimis waste from the ban. Since all matter is radioactive to some degree, a de minimis, or negligible, exemption is necessary to ensure that critical commercial activities such as dredging can continue.

Although no uniform definition for de minimis waste currently exists, the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] has produced significant guidance on the issue and is working on an internationally recognized standard. Once an international standard is devised, I expect the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] will promulgate regulations on this issue based on the IAEA's efforts.

Hopefully, with pressure from the United States, the Russian Federation can be convinced to change its policy. With 10 million curies of radiation stored aboard ships in Murmansk Harbor and awaiting disposal, the risk

to the marine environment is significant if we fail. The Ocean Radioactive Dumping Ban Act will significantly strengthen our position and will set an example as we further discuss such dumping with the Russian Federation.

Clearly the world's oceans should not be used as nuclear disposal sites. I ask my colleagues to join me in sending a strong message to the rest of the world, and support the Ocean Radioactive Dumping Ban Act of 1995.

PROMOTING THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN AFRICA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Subcommittee on Africa under the able chairmanship of our colleague ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, on their upcoming hearing on promoting the private sector in Africa. As ranking member of that subcommittee over 8 years, I felt very strongly that only through the proper and vigorous encouragement of the private sector will Africa be able to develop and prosper.

In this context, I want to highlight the activities and efforts of the Corporate Council on Africa, which is doing yeoman's work in advancing these goals.

I also want to salute two members of the council. M&W Pump has done fantastic work in Nigeria and elsewhere, through its water pump business which has benefited so many people. Finally, Coca-Cola one of the largest and oldest companies in Africa, has been a very positive force in Africa. Its social responsibility program in South Africa is exemplary, and it has indeed been a positive force on the continent.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA STOVALL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, there is a very special woman in Brooklyn named Sylvia Stovall, who is a district administrator in district 13. Sylvia is also a consistent advocate on behalf of children. Her concern for the emotional and academic welfare of students is reflected in the mentoring she has done with young men and women, many of whom have graduated from college and experienced successful careers.

Sylvia attended North Carolina Central University, and graduated respectively from Brooklyn and Bank Street College. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree.

Ms. Stovall is a member of the board of directors of the Cypress Hills Local Development Corp. located in Brooklyn, and she was recently honored as one of the unsung heroes and heroines of our community by the Harriet Tubman club at the First A.M.E. Zion Church in Brooklyn. It is my pleasure to highlight her contributions to Brooklyn.