completed. Together these studies, which were done in my laboratory at MIT, at CalTech, and at Berkeley, revealed the pathway of action of Ras. Now cancer biologists and drug companies alike are using this knowledge of the Ras pathway both for further studies of how Ras causes cancer in people and for the development of drugs, drugs that can block the various steps in the Ras pathway.

VII. PROGRAMMED CELL DEATH, NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE AND CANCER

The third example I'll offer from worms relates both the cancer and to neurodegenerative diseases, which include AD. This example again is one in which studies of a basic biological phenomenon in the roundworm have had a major impact on our understanding of and approach to human disease. The biology in this case involves a phenomenon called ''programmed cell death.'' For many years, biologists assumed that cells died because they were unhappy, i.e. because somehow they had been injured. However, a variety of studies revealed that many cells die during the normal course of development. For example, as our brains form, as many as 85 percent of the nerve cells made at certain times and certain parts of our brains die. Such death is a natural phenomenon and for this reason is often referred to as ''Programmed Cell Death.''

Given that cell death is a natural aspect of development, some years ago my colleagues and I reasoned that like other aspects of development, PCD should be controlled by genes. We sought such defined a 15-gene genetic pathway that controls programmed cell death In the worm. It now appears that a least some of these gene correspond to human genes that caused disease. For example, we talked earlier about neurodegenerative diseases, such as AD, Huntington's Disease, Lou Gehrlg's Disease and Parkinson's Disease. Many researchers believe that these diseases, which are characterized by the death of nerve cells, are diseases in which the normal process of PCD has gone amok. Specifically, the normal pathway that causes cells to die by PCD during development for some reason may be unleashed in nerve cells that are not meant to die.

How might we stop such deaths? By blocking the killer genes responsible! And what are the killer genes? We have ID'd two such genes in the worm, genes we call CED–3 and CED–4, for ''cell-death abnormal.'' Given these worm genes, others have gone on to find similar genes in humans that also act to cause cell death. These genes have now become major drug targets: many companies in the pharmaceutical industry are attempting to block the action of these killer genes, with the goal of preventing such neurodengenerative diseases.

It turns out the genetic pathway for PCD we have defined is relevant not only to neurodegenerative disease but also to cancer.

Let me explain. What is cancer? In brief, cancer reflects an uncontrolled increase in cell number. How can you get such an increase? One way is to make too many cells. This is precisely what happens when the Ras gene, which we just discussed, is mutated. However, it turns out there is another way to make too many cells. The number of cells in our bodies is really an equilibrium number. Cells are always being added to our bodies, by the process of cell division, but cells are also always being taken away, by the process of programmed cell death. So, we can generate too many cells—as in cancer—not only by too much cell division but also by too little cell loss.

How can we bet too little cell loss? One of the genes we identified as controlling cell death in the worm is not a killer gene but rather a protector gene—it protects cells from dying by PCD. If a gene like this is too active, too many cells would survive, and cancer would result. In fact, there is a human cancer gene that is very similar to this worm protector gene, so similar that the human gene can work in worms to protect against worm cell death and to substitute for the worm gene. Given such protector genes, how might one prevent? Again, this is precisely the approach that is now being taken in the pharmaceutical industry, and there is great nope that by learning to control such protector genes it will be possible to control certain cancers.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

Let me conclude very briefly by summarizing what I've said. First, a gene is a gene is a gene. Genes in humans are fundamentally no different from genes in other organisms and are so similar in many ceases that a human gene can be put into another organism and work just fine. Second, genes are much easier to analyze in experimental organisms than in people. In few years, the Human Genome Project, sponsored by the NIH, will tell us what all of our genes look like. But what do they do? To find out, we must study experimentally tractable organisms. Third, time and time again truly basic studies of genes in experimental organisms have proved directly relevant to human diseases and disease genes, once we knew what those human genes looked like. An investment in such basic studies is an effective investment indeed, as it means that knowledge will proceed at an enormous pace once a human disease gene is identified. Finally, knowledge of what the counterparts of human disease genes do in an experimental organism can be directly used both in the understanding of what that gene does in people and also in the application of that knowledge to the development of a treatment of cure. I thank you for your time.

## EXTENDING CERTAIN PROGRAMS UNDER THE ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this exchange of letters between me and Chairman BLILEY be placed in the RECORD following debate on H.R. 2472.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
*Washington, DC, November 8, 1997.*

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR HENRY: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2472, a bill to extend provisions of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) through September 1, 1998.

EPCA is one of the legislative cornerstones of our national energy security policy. Among other things, it authorizes the operation and maintenance of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and provides limited immunity to American oil companies to participate in activities pursuant to the International Energy Agreement. In light of current actions in the Middle East and the important activities authorized by this Act, prompt passage of this EPCA extension is necessary.

I appreciate your interest in H.R. 2472 and I acknowledge that I will bring it to the House Floor in the form of a simple extension through September 1, 1998 without any substantive change to the antitrust provisions. I also acknowledge that your action in allowing this legislation to go forward does not affect any future rights of the Committee on the Judiciary. Consistent with the Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction over antitrust issues under Rule X and with the Commerce Committee's jurisdiction over energy issues under Rule X, I would be pleased to work with you to develop legislation which ensures an effective national energy security policy.

In keeping with your request, I will place your letter and this response in the record of the debate on H.R. 2472.

Sincerely,

TOM BLILEY,
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
*Washington, DC, November 8, 1997.*

Hon. TOM BLILEY,
*Chairman, Committee on Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR TOM: I understand that today or tomorrow you intend to move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2472 with an amendment.

The version of H.R. 2472 you plan to bring up would extend through September 1, 1998 certain provisions of the Energy Policy and conservation Act, 42 U.S.C. §6201 *et seq.* Under Rule X, the Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction over provisions of the Act: the antitrust defense provided in Section 252, 42 U.S.C. §6272, the participation of the antitrust enforcement agencies in activities under that section, and any amendment, extension, or expansion of these provisions or any other antitrust immunity provided in the Act.

Because of the urgency of passing this important national security legislation, I am willing to waive this Committee's right to a sequential referral of H.R. 2472. I will allow this legislation to go forward so long as it remains a simple extension through September 1, 1998 without any substantive change to the existing antitrust defense or the participation of the antitrust agencies. However, my doing so does not constitute any waiver of the Committee's jurisdiction over these provisions and does not prejudice its rights in any future legislation relating to these provisions or any other antitrust immunity provided in the Act. I will, of course, insist that Members of this Committee be named as conferees on these provisions or any other antitrust immunity provided in the Act should the bill go to conference.

If the foregoing meets with your understanding of the matter, I would appreciate your placing this letter and your response in the record during the debate on H.R. 2472. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
*Chairman.*

## INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 1997*

Mr. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the marvelous work of the Institute for Community Living, on the occasion

of its 11th anniversary. For over a decade, the Institute for Community Living has helped people with mental and developmental disabilities to function successfully in different living, learning, working, and social environments. Through its operation of housing, rehabilitation and support services, it has helped improve the quality of life for countless mentally and developmentally disabled adults at various stages of the rehabilitation process.

ICL is a participating agency of the United Way of Greater New York and a member agency of the Association for Community Living and the Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health providers. ICL has also been recognized nationally for its success—its recent accolades include the Hospital and Community Psychiatry Significant Achievement Award and the National Center for Disability Services Exemplary Program Award.

The Institute for Community Living has succeeded in providing an array of secure, community-based residential programs in which mentally disabled people can pursue their own rehabilitation plan. By making it possible for these individuals to live a life of independence and dignity, ICL serves as a shining example of service to the mentally and developmentally disabled community. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the Institute for Community Living and in extending our best wishes for its continued success.

## ON THE RETIREMENT OF FLOYD FLAKE

### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 1997*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bid farewell to a very distinguished Member of my State's delegation. FLOYD FLAKE has served in the House with honor, with sincerity, and with unwaivering commitment. He can serve as a model to all of us in this body: for over a decade, he has fulfilled a calling to public service, fighting the fights he believes in, representing his constituents with passion and nobility.

In leaving this body, FLOYD FLAKE is leaving this Nation richer for his service. The moral guidance he has given us and the example he has set for us will echo through this Chamber in the coming years, resonating with its obligation to the people of this country after he has gone.

Now, our colleague is about to respond to another calling. With the chance to devote his full energies to the needs of his congregation, he will continue his lifelong commitment to service and justice. And though he will be in a new setting, he will continue to be an inspiration for us all. I can only say that it has been an honor serving with him, and I wish him all the best.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 1997*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, as a result of being detained while in the service of my constituents in my district, I may have been unable to cast votes today on measures before the House of Representatives. I would like to take this opportunity to explain my support for three key areas of public policy, which were likely voted on in my absence.

H.R. 867, the Adoption Promotion Act.—I support this measure, as I believe it emphasizes the need for foster children to be adopted by a permanent family. Also, the Adoption Promotion Act requires States to expedite the process that governs the adoption of a foster child. The bill provides for increased stability for foster children and encourages a strong, healthy family structure. All foster children deserve the opportunity to be adopted to secure a sound future.

H.R. 2709, the Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act.—Credible reports have drawn attention to the fact that Iran is pursuing plutonium separation and gas centrifuge enrichment in its nuclear program. Iran has also taken aggressive steps toward purchasing nuclear weapons-related material. Potentially, this development poses an enormous threat to our Middle East allies and other peaceful countries around the world. Therefore, we must take the appropriate steps to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear missile capability. H.R. 2709, the Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act, goes a long way toward accomplishing this objective. The legislation requires the President to submit a report to Congress, within 30 days of enactment, identifying nations or entities about whom there is credible information that they transferred missile goods or technology to Iran. Sanctions against entities involved in the attempt or transfer of missile technology to Iran include denying arms exports licenses and eliminating all United States assistance for 2 years. The bill also expresses a sense of Congress that the President should exercise existing authorities and available funds to prevent the transfer of weapons-related material and delivery systems to Iran. I believe the actions taken in this bill will check Iranian arms proliferation and enthusiastically support its passage.

S. 1519, Extending the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act.—S. 1519, Extending the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act [ISTEA], is an important piece of legislation. The measure provides $9.7 billion in new transportation money to States, thus continuing transportation funding to the States until Congress passes a regular, 6-year ISTEA bill next year. Extending ISTEA for this temporary duration is important to ensure that California, as well as the other the States, continues to provide for the transportation needs of its residents during this time.

## SUNSHINE IN THE COURTS

### HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 1997*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker. In April of this year, I along with my distinguished colleague from Ohio, Congressman CHABOT, introduced H.R. 1280, the Sunshine in the Courtroom Act. H.R. 1280 allows photographing, electronic recording, broadcasting, and televising to the public of Federal court proceedings at the discretion of the presiding judge. This legislation is key to opening our Federal courts to cameras in order to educate the public and increase understanding of our Federal judicial system.

Allowing sunshine into our Federal courtrooms is one of the best ways to expand public knowledge on how our Federal court system operates. In recent years, there has been an increasing concern regarding our courts. Changes of judicial activism are eroding confidence in the legitimacy and fairness of Federal court proceedings. If the public continues to be kept in the dark about what occurs behind the doors of Federal courtrooms, these concerns and criticisms will surely mount. The availability of televised courtroom proceedings will increase public confidence in our Federal system, as demonstrated already within State courts around the Nation. Decisions made in Federal courts have the capability to affect every citizens life. The public should have the opportunity to see and understand how these cases unfold.

In 1997, the House of Representatives passed a House resolution to televise House floor proceedings and committee hearings to the public to create a greater degree of accountability of Members of Congress to their constituents and to enable the public to obtain a greater appreciation for the work that occurs on Capital Hill. C–SPAN coverage of the House allows citizens to watch and learn about the legislative branch for themselves, instead of relying solely on the media to interpret for them what is happening in Washington, DC.

I was elected to the House of Representatives for my ninth term last election by the citizens of my district in New York, and I continue to be accountable to every one of my constituents. Through C–SPAN coverage, they can see for themselves the issues I fight for and against on their behalf. It is time to take this idea of cameras for accountability and expand it into the judicial branch of the Federal Government.

I would also like to emphasize to everyone that H.R. 1280 does not in any way encroach on the powers of even one Federal judge. Quite the contrary, it is a pure grant of discretion, empowering the Federal judge to open or close proceedings that today are closed regardless of the judges desire and willingness to open the proceeds to public view. The Sunshine in Courtroom Act allows cameras in Federal courts only upon the approval of the presiding judge in each specific case. There are certain cases that are too sensitive to allow full media coverage of its judicial proceedings, such as trials involving minors, or cases in which a witness or members of a jury need to be kept confidential in order to protect them from harm. I do not want there to be any confusion on the fact that H.R. 1280 leaves judges total power to deny or limit television coverage of these types of cases.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow Members of Congress, the Sunshine in the Courtroom Act is legislation that is long overdue. Opening up our Federal courts will allow the public to see how our justice system really works and to gain a greater appreciation and trust in our Federal courts. In the second session of Congress we need to make H.R. 1280 a priority by holding hearings on this issue and then, passing this legislation into law. We, as Members of Congress, need to assert our dedication to keeping the Federal Government open