

and other energy companies, who stand to receive a windfall of \$14.5 billion in tax breaks over 10 years. Taxpayers are going to subsidize billions in loan guarantees to these industries, so the energy industry can be free to fail without having to face little financial risk. That is a sweet deal.

With oil selling at \$60 a barrel, this bill provides royalty-free drilling rights to the multinational oil companies to drill on public lands. This is making a sweet deal even sweeter. When the American consumer fills his or her car with gasoline selling over \$2.30 a gallon, they will be secure in knowing that the record profits they are paying for big oil are being subsidized further at the expense of their tax dollars. Taxpayers are being asked to donate more than \$14 billion in tax breaks, most of them to the oil and gas companies, the utilities, the nuclear industry and the coal industry. That is sweet on top of a sweeter deal for Big Oil. The renewable energy and energy efficiency industries are left with little.

The bill preempts the ability of state and local governments to block the siting of Liquefied Natural Gas terminal in densely populated urban areas. It will weaken environmental protections with new loopholes for the oil and gas industry. It will allow the process of hydraulic fracturing, which involves injecting diesel fuel into groundwater supplied and exempt other industry practices from the Clean Water Act, exemptions and the National Environmental Policy Act.

This bill will authorize exploratory efforts to prepare for oil and gas drilling off the Outer Continental Shelf, including areas that are currently closed to drilling. One area that I am pleased to report is that the bill does ban drilling in the Great Lakes.

This exercise is an unfortunate one. It is short on helping the nation's energy needs and long on subsidizing the oil and gas, nuclear, utility, and coal industries. Americans pay more than their fair share to support the record profit margins of the energy industry and now they are being asked to subsidize those record profits even more. This is a bad deal for American consumers. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against the passage of this bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the offshore drilling provisions included in this bill.

I am categorically opposed to this bill because of provisions which would increase pressure for oil drilling in the protected waters off Florida's coast. It would also give billions of dollars in tax breaks and other giveaways to traditional fossil-fuel producers.

Included in this bill is a requirement to conduct an offshore inventory of oil and gas reserves. An expensive and environmentally damaging inventory in the protected waters of the Gulf is likely to increase pressure to lift the drilling moratorium off Florida's coast.

Another provision is a reduction in royalty payments for deep gas wells leased in the

Gulf of Mexico. Any giveaway to the oil companies to reduce their costs will cause an increase in production. This will cause more exploration.

Florida is a beautiful state with miles of coastline. The Sunshine State economy depends heavily on tourism and the environment is the key factor in Florida's attractiveness to tourists. The tourism industry has an economic impact of \$57 billion on Florida's economy. Not inconsequential is the 770 miles of gulf coastline and 5,095 of gulf tidal shoreline, and the hundreds of miles of beaches.

Florida's coastline is a treasure not just for Floridians, but all Americans and the rest of the world. For years Florida's delegation has worked together to protect our coastline and natural resources. Even conducting an inventory of resources in the Gulf of Mexico will begin to destroy the efforts we have made as a state to preserve our sensitive lands. As long as there are rigs in the area, the potential for devastation to Florida's beaches persists. Florida's beaches are not something we can afford to compromise. This decision goes against everything that Floridians have worked for over so many years. Certainly, the people of Florida do not support this ill-advised decision.

The impact of offshore drilling threatens irreversible scarring to the landscape, affecting thousands of species, each critical to the ecosystem. The great weather, pristine beaches, and marine wildlife are the number one draws to our fine state. By moving forward with even a resources inventory, you risk a multi-billion dollar industry for only a few barrels of oil.

JOHN L. PROCOPE AND THE POWER OF THE BLACK PRESS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John L. Procope, who was my friend and an extraordinary African-American businessman, entrepreneur, and role model. His passing earlier this month is a source of great sadness to a community of colleagues and friends who will greatly miss him. I know that Riverside Church, where he is being memorialized this morning, is filled with many tears, but with many more memories.

When the Black newspaper, the Amsterdam News, faced financial troubles and was threatened with closure, John L. Procope stepped forward to ensure that the African-American community in New York continued to have a voice and reliable source of information on the day's news. Knowing the important and significance of the Amsterdam News and other Black newspapers, John ensured that there would continually be a voice for a community that had so long been limited in its advocacy, expression, and information.

For generations, the Black press had been the communication hub of the Black community. It had been the voice for the community to its leaders and to each other. It connected the individuals of the community to one another and told the news and events of the day from their perspectives. The Black press questioned and challenged the system of segregation, highlighted and pointed out the social,

political and economic inequalities of the community, and disputed and countered the official positions on issues of race and class. The Black press has historically been the pipeline of the concerns and issues of the Harlem community and other Black communities throughout the nation. It remains the compelling, focused, and thoughtful voice of the community and its residents, and it works against financial challenges, to maintain that role.

John recognized this important role of the black press as a voice to and of the community. He knew that for the community to flourish the press would have to remain strong. So, when John and his fellow investors saw the Amsterdam News faltering, they came to its rescue and the rescue of the community. John invested in and resurrected the paper. He ensured and maintained its role in Harlem and in Black communities throughout New York City. He continued the paper's important role as advocate, informer, and champion of the Black community.

The newspaper nonetheless was not John's only legacy. He ventured his business and economic skills into other arenas to become a successful entrepreneur and a powerful role model. He showed generations of African-Americans that to be successful, you had to be committed and dedicated, and that being successful did not mean forgetting your roots and your community.

I submit for the RECORD two articles from the July 26, 2005 edition of the *CaribNews* praising John's dedication and commitment to Harlem and the Black community. He will be missed in this community for all that he has done, but he may rest peacefully knowing that he has sowed the seeds for generations of progress.

[From the *CaribNews*; July 26, 2005]

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN PROCOPE

John L. Procope, an entrepreneur and former publisher of The New York Amsterdam News, died on Friday, July 15. He was 82 and lived in Queens. The cause was complications from pneumonia.

Mr. Procope, a graduate of Morgan State University, was a marketing and advertising executive at several companies before he joined a consortium that bought The Amsterdam News in 1971. He was one of six co-owners of the newspaper when he succeeded Clarence B. Jones as publisher in 1974.

Mr. Procope earned his bachelor's degree in business from Morgan State University, attended business school at New York University and began his career in advertising. A native New Yorker, he was a former president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. He was also a president of the Harlem Business Alliance and served as a trustee of Howard University for 15 years.

The Amsterdam News was founded by James Henry Anderson in 1909. W.E.B. Du Bois, Adam Clayton Powell and Malcolm X are among the famous black Americans who have written for the newspaper. Mr. Procope made waves in the Black community when he denounced the looting that took place after the 1977 blackout in New York by publishing a blistering editorial charging an apparent vacuum of leadership in the Black communities. Subsequently, he was appointed chairman of an Emergency Aid Commission which disbursed about \$3 million to grants to businesses hurt by the looting.

Mr. Procope left the newspaper in 1982 to focus on E. G. Bowman, an insurance company that had been founded by his wife, Ernesta G. Procope, that was one of the first major African-American-owned businesses

on Wall Street. The company's client list started with underserved Brooklyn homeowners but grew to include Fortune 500 companies.

Mr. Procope and his wife were a driving force behind the creation of the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements plan in 1968 to help make insurance available to all residents of New York State. He and his wife were also highly visible in political and philanthropic circles.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sisters, Dr. Jean Martin of Bloomfield, Conn. and Jonelle Terrell of Manhattan.

JOHN L. PROCOPE—THE PASSING OF A LEADER IN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING AND THE CONSUMMATE BUSINESS LEADER

When John L. Procope died last week in New York City at the age of 82, he left behind a number of things.

The first is a rich legacy as an entrepreneur who along with his wife made a success of a business in an area where few Blacks had dared to walk as owners: Wall Street, perhaps the world's most famous financial district.

Secondly, he also left behind a history of having stood on the shoulders of many 19th and 20th century Black newspaper publishers whose organs of information articulated the cause of Black people with verve and determination, during some of the most perilous of times, dating back to era of slavery, through reconstruction, the days of Jim Crow and into the civil rights struggle and right up to these days of immense challenges, successes and failures.

People like John Russwurm, who in 1827 was a recent graduate of Bowdoin College, and a young militant minister, the Rev. Samuel Cornish, who created and launched "Freedom's Journal," the first Black newspaper in the United States were the models for later Black publishers. The Freedom's Journal was the expression of a force and energy that paved the way for thousands of other Black newspapers which stood at the forefront of the battle for freedom, decency, human rights, civil liberties and respect for people of color.

The Pittsburgh Courier, the Chicago Defender, the New York Amsterdam News and more recent additions to the list of outstanding voices of Black people, including the CaribNews, have and are making names for themselves with their clarion calls for social and economic justice and racial equality in government, business, the church and other areas of life.

That Procope was able to lead the Amsterdam News with distinction in the 1970s and early 1980s before he left to devote his full energies to the family business is a measure of the man who like Russwurm traced the roots of his family tree to the Caribbean. His steady hand as the publisher of the Amsterdam News, one of the country's most important Black newspapers, contributed to its viability and while he may not have always pleased all sections of the Black community he certainly made his mark as a voice of reason and frankness, two highly cherished commodities which are often missing in our everyday lives.

As a co-owner and the publisher of the paper, Procope established a powerful presence and became a major asset as an advocate for Blacks. He routinely assumed that role with both dignity and clarity, never shrinking from the task at hand, even if it meant stating a fact of life that some Blacks found unpleasant to mention.

This sophisticated, business-like an elegant 20th century man recognized that the power of Black business, whether in newspaper publishing, insurance or in other ven-

tures could be magnified through firm but behind the scenes action or public steps grounded in principle but devoid of fear.

In his later years, after leaving the Amsterdam News in 1982, a decade after he had joined with a group of Blacks who acquired the paper, Procope, joined E. Bowman, an insurance company founded by his wife, Ernesta G. Procope. He served as Chairman of the Board of the company, which served not only poor Black homeowners of Brooklyn but Fortune 500 companies whose shares were traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

Both Mr. Procope and his wife were noted for their business acumen and their philanthropic impulses.

His passing due to complication from pneumonia leaves the City, the business community and the Caribbean much poorer.

His wife, two sisters, Dr. Jean Martin of Connecticut and Junelle Terrell of Manhattan and other relatives survive him.

HONORING SPECIALIST ERNEST W. DALLAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Specialist Ernest W. Dallas, Jr. of Denton, Texas. Specialist Dallas was killed in action on July 24, 2005, in Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. According to initial reports, Specialist Dallas died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle.

Specialist Dallas was assigned to K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colorado.

Specialist Dallas' family resides in Denton, Texas. I would like to extend my most heartfelt sympathy and condolences to his family and friends who have suffered this loss.

CAREFUL AND DELIBERATE ACTION BEST ON EMINENT DOMAIN REFORMS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, many of us have serious concerns about the recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Kelo v. New London and the potential effects on private property owners from local governments' exercise of the power of eminent domain.

Because of those concerns, I joined in voting for H. Res. 340, expressing disapproval of that decision, which was passed by the House last month.

However, as I said then, although I agreed with the resolution's statement that Congress could seek to "address through legislation any abuses of eminent domain by State and local government," I think we should be reluctant to take actions to curb what some—perhaps even a temporary majority—in Congress might consider improper actions by a State or local government.

The States, through their legislatures or in some cases by direct popular vote, can put

limits on the use of eminent domain by their agencies or local governments. I think this would be the best way to address potential abuses, and I think we in Congress should consider taking action to impose our ideas of proper limits only as a last resort.

So, I am glad to note that in Colorado discussion is already underway regarding possible changes to our laws that would modify the scope of eminent domain authority available to local governments.

A good example of that discussion is a recent editorial in Grand Junction's Daily Sentinel, which notes with approval a proposal for an amendment to the Colorado constitution but points out that its proponents should be cautious in their approach.

I think the editorial's points are well taken. I attach its full text and commend it to the attention of all our colleagues.

[From Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel, July 21, 2005]

VOTERS COULD CHECK EMINENT-DOMAIN ABUSE

State Rep. Al White, R-Winter Park, is joining a host of state government officials around the country who want tougher state rules on government's use of eminent domain to condemn private property.

Efforts are being pushed in at least 25 states in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling last month that said the city of New London, Conn., could condemn homes in an older middle-class neighborhood and turn them over to private developers for razing to build condos, a hotel, athletic clubs and other amenities.

Millions of Americans were understandably angered by the ruling. It opens the possibility that any home or small business can be condemned if some developer can demonstrate that his plans can produce more revenue for local government.

White says he intends to push a measure in the Legislature for a state constitutional amendment that would prohibit local government from taking land for private gain. If it doesn't pass the Legislature, he said he will mount a petition drive to get it on the 2006 ballot.

White's concerns for the rights of private property owners are well taken. But White should be cautious about overreaching. There are some cases where it may be legitimate for government to condemn private property and allow another private entity to benefit from it.

Even before this June's ruling, the Supreme Court had long held that governments can use eminent domain to condemn private property and turn it over to other private developers in order to eliminate blight.

Although "blight" may sometimes be poorly defined, eliminating health and safety issues associated with severely run-down or neglected properties meets a legitimate public need.

White's proposal or any other aimed at reducing the potential for eminent-domain abuse in Colorado must recognize that public need and provide clearly worded conditions under which it could be allowed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CORPORAL GEORGE ALLEN ALFORD, JR.

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Corporal