

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