

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, for more than 100 years the Catholic Press Association of the United States has provided news, information, and commentary on an ongoing basis to millions of readers. The CPA's bylaws make clear its commitment to help its members to "serve effectively, through the medium of the printed word, the social, intellectual and spiritual needs of the entire human family, and to spread and support the Kingdom of God." Hundreds of Catholic publications benefit from the CPA, including my local paper, the Catholic Telegraph, which has published since 1831 and is read by 60,000 subscribers throughout the Cincinnati archdiocese.

Today I rise to join the association's celebration of February as Catholic Press Month. I would also note the timeliness of Catholic Press Month and its immediate relevance to some of the important debates taking place in Washington, DC. As CPA President Greg Erlandson noted in his statement, "This year Catholic Press Month comes at a particularly critical moment. Our bishops have made clear their concern with recent government regulations and the threat such regulations pose to religious liberty. It is during challenging times like these that we can best recognize the great blessing that is the Catholic press."

As has been well documented of late, a new mandate advanced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under President Obama's administration would require faith-based employers, individuals, and insurers—including Catholic charities, schools, universities, and hospitals—to provide services they believe are immoral. Those services include sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs and devices, and contraception. The mandate is being implemented as a result of the health care law signed by President Obama in 2010.

In a January 26 letter about this mandate to the Catholic Telegraph, the Archbishop of Cincinnati, the Most Reverend Dennis Schnurr, expressed the frustration of many Ohio Catholics when he declared: "We cannot—we will not—comply with this unjust law. People of faith cannot be made second-class citizens." In a subsequent letter on February 13, after President Obama announced what was called an accommodation, Cardinal Schnurr reiterated the Church's "firm position that the freedom to follow one's conscience and to have access to health care are both fundamental human rights. We will not be forced into a position of choosing between the two."

In imposing this mandate, the federal government has drifted dangerously beyond its constitutional boundaries, encroaching on religious liberty in a manner that affects millions of Americans and harms some of our nation's most vital institutions. The Catholic Press As-

sociation has played a critical role in providing news about this issue to millions of readers throughout our country, in just the most recent demonstration of the service it provides to the Church as well as to our nation, its citizens, and the Constitution upon which our system of government is founded.

As President Erlandson put it, "Only the Catholic press gives Catholic leaders a voice with which to be heard by their people—unmuted, uncensored and independent of the preconceptions and prejudices of too many secular media outlets." I congratulate the Catholic Press Association for the century of contributions it has made and will continue to make through the blessings of liberty in our great country.

PROTECTING INVESTMENT IN OIL SHALE THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, ENERGY, AND RESOURCE SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3408) to set clear rules for the development of United States oil shale resources, to promote shale technology research and development, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this bill.

I do not even know where to start: Keystone XL; Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; Drilling of the coast of California; Throwing money at oil shale, an unproven technology with a horrible track record and no clear path to responsible development that will not create jobs or revenue for the Treasury. All of that is in this bill.

Reauthorization of the Surface Transportation bill should be a noncontroversial exercise that invests in roads, highways, bridges, tunnels, and waterways throughout the country. Bipartisan efforts in the past saw this reauthorization as a key jobs creator and reinvestment tool for America to reinvest in its physical infrastructure and regain its competitive advantage. For the first time since the creation of the Interstate Highway System in 1956, this Transportation bill does not contain a single high priority infrastructure project.

Instead, this bill intends to pay for reauthorization of the transportation bill with some of the most controversial, partisan, and special interest-driven pieces of legislation considered by this Republican-controlled House.

This bill would open the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge to onshore oil extraction. Home to elk, caribou, gray wolves and polar bears, the refuge is one of the most pristine pieces of wilderness anywhere on Earth. It was set aside as a refuge on a bipartisan basis. Now, the majority wants to throw that

away and allow large oil companies to suck massive profits out of our Nation's public resources.

Even with expanded drilling in some of the most sensitive ecosystems in North America, this proposal would only generate less than 2 percent of the revenue needed to support the transportation projects the bill authorizes over the next 5 years.

With the President's wise decision to wait on the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, Republicans are now trying anything they can move it through without review or public support. This bill would shift authority for approval from the State Department to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), even though FERC is not responsible for overseeing or regulating oil pipeline siting or safety.

This bill would not ask FERC to review the pipeline; it would mandate that FERC authorize the construction of Keystone XL. If they refuse to approve it, the project would move ahead, ignoring important environmental protocol.

Despite our Nation's recent investments in clean, homegrown, energy choices for Americans, we are rushing through a pipeline that will import dirty oil from Canada to a port in Texas so it can be exported to other countries. This is not the way to make this sort of decision.

At the beginning of last year, the Republican majority promised an open and transparent Congress that would include single item bills, sufficient time for review, and bills under an open rule. Today, we are on the House floor debating a 200-page section of a 900-page transportation bill.

We were promised a Congress focused on jobs and continued efforts to bolster our Nation's economic recovery. Instead, we have been given a year of political games and a paralyzed legislative branch.

Let's start over and work on a bill that will make our roads safer, modernize our highways and create real, long lasting jobs.

I urge my colleagues to vote NO.

TRIBUTE TO MILTON BERNARD GREENE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a public servant, a civil rights activist and a dear friend. Milton Bernard Greene passed away on February 4, 2012 at the age of 71. His larger than life personality and dedication to his community will be sorely missed.

"Duke," as he was affectionately known, was born in Columbia, South Carolina to William Bennett and Bernice Raiford Greene. He was a graduate of C.A. Johnson High School and Benedict College.

While a student at the historically Black Benedict College, he became part of a core

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.