

empowered to make change. That's what the NPR has done. Its given Government workers the freedom to try something new.

Eliminating bureaucracy through reengineering Government programs reflects just one area for action set out in the NPR report. There are 384 innovative recommendations contained in the report, covering such matters as work force restructuring, agency streamlining, reforming procurement practices, expanding the use of information technology, and improving regulatory systems.

While many of the NPR recommendations were the type that could be acted upon immediately at the agency level, 173 required congressional action to be fully implemented.

During the 103d Congress, 30 bills containing NPR action items were signed into law. Among the most notable are the Government Management Reform Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-356), the Federal Acquisition Improvement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-335), the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act (Public Law 103-226), and the Federal Employee Family Friendly Leave Act (Public Law 103-338).

While it will take several more years to see the NPR agenda fully enacted, the measures I have listed were passed by wide margins and with bipartisan support. This is a clear indication that a government that works better and costs less is something we all seek.

I certainly hope that Republicans will continue to cooperate with this Democratic initiative and work with us to get more NPR legislation passing during the 104th Congress. The American people deserve the continued results it will bring.

The September 1994 report on the NPR's first year included 1,500 customer service standards which constitute a major step toward a results-driven Federal Government. Let me share just a few examples of these standards. The IRS has promised that taxpayers will receive their tax refunds within 40 days if they file a paper return and 21 days if they file electronically. The SBA has promised to complete reviews of loan applications within 3 days, based on a newly developed one page application.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission promised that the public will be able to report on and learn about unsafe products 24 hours a day by calling an 800 number. The Commerce Department has promised to provide the latest information on overseas markets on a compact disc which it will mail within 24 hours of a customer making contract.

Each of these reflects a standard that is clear and measurable. Knowing just what to expect from Government is becoming a new and rewarding experience for many, thanks to the NPR.

During the months ahead, the Government Reform and Oversight Committee will closely examine the changes the NPR has wrought, as well as the new administration proposals that make up the second phase of its reinvention effort.

While much has already been accomplished, there are still Americans who are dissatisfied with how their Government works. They present the challenge to all of us—rank-in-file Federal employees and Members of Congress alike—to improve the responsive-

ness of Government and the quality of service our Government gives.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR  
LAURENCE W. "BILL" LANE, JR.

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 23, 1995*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ambassador Laurence W. "Bill" Lane, Jr., an outstanding citizen of California's 14th Congressional District who has been selected to receive the National Parks and Conservation Association's 1994 William Penn Mott, Jr., Conservationist of the Year Award in honor of his lifelong commitment to parks.

From the moment Ambassador Lane arrived in California in 1928, he has distinguished himself in the fields of conservation, government, and commerce.

While a student at Stanford University, he was a packer and mountain guide in Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks. Over the years, his love of nature led him to chair the California Desert Conservation Area Advisory Committee, serve on the President's National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere, chair the President's National Parks Centennial Commission, and serve as the Secretary of the Interior's representative on the Steering Committee for the 75th anniversary of the National Parks. Most deservedly, he is a recipient of the Secretary of the Interior's Conservation Service Award.

In government, he has served at the international level as U.S. Ambassador to Australia and Nauru, as well as Commissioner General and Chairman of the Foreign Delegation of the International Ocean Exposition in Japan with the rank of Ambassador. I am also very proud of the service he provided closer to home as the first elected mayor and councilman of Portola Valley, where he currently resides.

Ambassador Lane became well known to many people as the publisher of Sunset magazine and chairman of Lane Publishing Co., now merged with Time Warner. He is still a consultant to Time Warner and a member of the board of Time, Inc.

Despite all of his activities, he has still found time to be a devoted husband to his wife, Jean, and a caring father for their three children—Sharon, Bob, and Brenda.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Lane is truly an exceptional individual who has performed outstanding work for our nation and our national parks. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for being awarded the prestigious William Penn Mott, Jr., Conservationist of the Year Award.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 23, 1995*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an arti-

cle in yesterday's Washington Post by John Solomon outlining those who profited from the health care debacle last year. Once again, the Clinton administration has demonstrated that those in their inner circles can benefit while the rest of middle-class America wrestles with the ongoing problems associated with the lack of health care coverage. According to this article, there are some who made as much as \$100,000 in consulting fees. It seems to me that we as a Congress can and will do better—and at no extra cost to the American people.

I hope my colleagues will take the time to read this informative and enlightening article.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 22, 1995]

HEALTH CARE REFORM PLANNERS: INNER  
CIRCLE, TOP FEES

(By John Solomon)

The White House touted the long hours and sacrifices of those who crafted its ill-fated health care plan, but it turns out that the work brought healthy rewards for a small cadre of advisers and contractors.

Some businesses got six-figure contracts. For select advisers, there were consulting fees as high as \$49 an hour, allowing some to be paid up to \$100,000, according to a review of records released this week.

The payments were made in spite of a warning from White House lawyers to use full-time government employees, not consultants.

The Clinton administration has declined to say how much was spent developing its health care plan. But amid the ruins of President Clinton's Health Security Act, records obtained by the Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Act lay bare a multimillion-dollar hired bureaucracy.

The Republican Congress has begun its own review.

The primary beneficiaries were professional consultants, with specialties ranging from projecting long-term health costs to writing legislation.

In all, the White House tapped about 1,000 people for work and advice on the plan. Most of the high-profile experts worked for free.

The few who were paid were members of a White House inner circle, hired as consultants for an extended period to work on Hillary Rodham Clinton's health task force and working groups and beyond, although White House lawyers cautioned against it.

"To avoid ethical difficulties, the members of the cluster groups, and especially the heads of issue working groups, must be full government employees," aide Atul Gawande wrote health adviser Ira Magaziner in a Feb. 2, 1993, memo.

Gawande said the White House counsel's office had advised that payments were "not clearly in violation of any law" but it "would give antagonists leverage for attacking us in the press and possibly in legal channels."

Avis LaVelle, assistant secretary for public affairs at the Department of Health and Human Services, said the consultant payments were necessary to attract top caliber advice without expanding the permanent federal work force.