

years in the face of a hostile and persistent Communist threat to our freedom was due in significant part to dedicated service by Naval Academy graduates. Unfortunately, the world is still a dangerous place and our country will continue to call upon the armed services to preserve our freedom. The men and women in the service uniform of their choice will continue to answer the call and will add new chapters to the proud history of the Naval Academy developed over the past 150 years.

SEPA

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to a provision that may be included in the House version of the budget reconciliation package. Specifically, I strongly oppose the auction to the highest bidder of the Southeastern Power Administration [SEPA] and the consideration of the auction of any of the other Power Marketing Administrations [PMA's].

The House Resources Committee, by a 1 vote margin, approved language that would require the Corps of Engineers to auction to the highest bidder contracts to all SEPA generated power plus all land and facilities related to the generation of electricity. This includes generators, dams, locks, reservoirs, and the land surrounding the reservoirs. It is important to note that other than the generated power, those assets are under the jurisdiction of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, not the Resources Committee.

In response, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, of which I am a member, passed language that prohibits the sale of the Corps of Engineer's assets as they relate to SEPA. If the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee language stands, which it should, all that is left of the Resources Committee language is the sale of the generated power. However, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the sale of the power generation alone does not score as a budget savings. If there are no budget savings the argument favoring such a sale, simply does not make sense.

We must defeat all proposals, now and in the future, to auction to the highest bidder any of the PMA's. This proposed auction would assuredly result in higher electric rates for rural and small town consumers.

ANNUAL FUND DINNER FOR THE
INDIANA BRANCH OF THE NAACP

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Hammond, IN branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [NAACP]. On Thursday, October 19, 1995, they will hold the Annual Freedom Fund Dinner.

The Hammond NAACP, which has chosen the theme of "Building Family Values," was organized in 1934 by a group of residents that

felt there was a need for an organization that would monitor and defend the rights of African-Americans in Northwest Indiana. The national organization, of which the Hammond branch is a member, focuses on providing better and more positive ways of addressing the important issues facing minorities in social and job-related settings.

The Annual Fund Dinner is a major fund raiser for the Hammond branch of the NAACP. In addition, the dinner serves to update and keep the community aware of the accomplishments of the local and national chapters on an annual basis.

Moreover, awards are presented at the dinner to members who have given of themselves above and beyond the planned agenda or the President's request. Those special individuals who will receive awards are the following: Rocharda Moore Morris, President's Award; The Reverend Albert Johnson, Jule Alexander Award; Officer Pete Torres, Community Service Award; and Anthony Higgs, Program Support Award. Pearline Jenkins Scholarship Awards, whose joint contributors are the Hammond NAACP and the Northern Indiana Public Service Co., will be presented to Peter Adams, of Hammond High School, and Marquist L. Spencer, of Morton Senior High School. The Master of Ceremonies is Bernard Carter, Lake County Prosecutor, and the Keynote Speaker is Norman Van Lier, former star of the Chicago Bulls. In addition, Norman will receive a special recognition award.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Hammond Branch of the NAACP for commending these outstanding men and women, who have taken the extra step to improve the quality of life for the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

PET TECHNOLOGY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, last month I was invited to the University of Tennessee Hospital where I was given a tour and briefing concerning a new medical technology, Positron Emission Tomography, or PET for short. I should say that this is the latest advance in medical technology for humans and does not apply to pet animals.

PET technology is the latest advance in diagnosing diseases such as breast cancer, colon cancer, lung cancer, brain cancer, heart disease, and epilepsy.

I have introduced H.R. 2194, the Medicare PET Coverage Act of 1995, because it is time that the average American has access to both this technology and the benefits from cost savings that PET scans provide. My bill would expand PET from research into widespread clinical use by permitting Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for PET scan procedures.

Despite the fact that CHAMPUS and private insurers like Blue Cross/Blue Shield already reimburse for this safe, cost effective procedure, Medicare and Medicaid do not.

PET scan technology is a diagnostic procedure that doctors can use without surgery to determine the rate of growth of a tumor and tell if it is malignant or benign. This knowledge saves patients from unnecessary surgery and even eliminates the need for many biopsies.

Over its 20-year history and some 1 million PET scans, the technique has demonstrated the ability to reduce the number, cost, physical pain, and mortality of expensive surgical procedures.

This results not only in improved care, but also reduced health care delivery costs.

For example, in the case of breast cancer, most patients undergo an expensive and painful surgery to evaluate the tumors. This procedure often requires hospitalization and anesthesia and can lead to complications. PET scans allow doctors to screen out the 75 percent of patients who can be treated by partial mastectomy and thereby avoid surgery. Almost 74,000 women per year would be spared the risk and the cost associated with this surgery.

Similarly, lung cancer patients would avoid 10,000 surgeries and 17,000 biopsies each year with the use of PET scans.

With today's rising health care costs, we need to push those technologies which provide cost savings into the mainstream of medical practice.

Data collected from peer review studies shows that PET technology offers the potential to reduce national health care costs by a net of \$5 billion a year. Approximately \$1 billion of these savings would be in Medicare alone.

I would like to commend my colleague, Mr. THOMAS of California, for his efforts to include PET scans in the Medicare Preservation Act we will vote on tomorrow. His language clarifies the scope of coverage and amount of payment under the Medicare program. This would ensure that cutting-edge and cost-saving technologies like PET are reimbursable.

This language is an important step in enabling Americans who rely on Medicare to benefit from innovative new technologies while at the same time generating considerable savings to the Federal Government.

As important for me as the cost savings is the fact that the largest manufacturer of PET scan equipment in the world, CTI, is located in my district in east Tennessee. The technology and personnel that founded the company came from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory just outside of Knoxville, TN.

The savings from PET technology could start today. One million PET scan studies have been performed with no known negative reactions. Patients have avoided unnecessary surgery because of PET. Again, I say we are not talking about animal pets, but a medical breakthrough called Positron Emission Tomography.

The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has not made a decision on reimbursement while the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] drags its feet in making a decision on whether and how to regulate PET—something that States have already been doing.

For over 7 years, the developers of PET scans have complied with HCFA and FDA procedures and requests only to have the rules changed and inquiries about progress met with minimal response.

While there has been some recent movement on the part of the FDA, the fact remains that we have no consistent regulatory plan that applies industry-wide to all uses of PET.

Mr. THOMAS' language will help move PET, and other technologies like it, out of this needless bureaucratic standstill.

Under this language, HCFA can no longer prevent Americans who rely on Medicare from