

alcoholics and drug addicts are not comparable with elderly persons. Many of these young people hold all night, loud parties, shake down many of the elderly residents for money, sell drugs within the housing facility, and generally disturb the right to the peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other tenants.

This legislation, by no means, circumvents the current housing eviction procedure. It simply mandates that these individuals with patterns of drug and alcohol abuse be evicted after one incident if it is determined by the local PHA that their behavior threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other tenants.

This legislation will help to restore order in housing projects throughout the country. It requires tenants to embrace personal responsibility by mandating tenants to sign a statement which says no person who will be occupying the unit set aside for the elderly will illegally use a controlled substance or abuse alcohol in any way. Additionally, the bill will allow the local PHA to evict those persons who continuously raise havoc within these housing projects.

I want to commend the Senate for its action in passing this important legislation. It will make our public housing facilities safe for our most vulnerable citizens, the elderly.●

HON. BENJAMIN H. LOGAN II

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Benjamin H. Logan II, judge of the 61st District Court of the city of Grand Rapids, MI. In so doing, I join with the members of his community who are honoring Judge Logan on Saturday, February 3, 1996, with the 13th annual Giant Among Giants Award.

This award will be presented to Judge Logan at the 14th annual Giants Banquet and Awards celebration that will be held on the Grand Rapids Community College campus in the Gerald R. Ford Field House. This celebration is sponsored by the college and a consortium of African-American organizations with the purpose of raising the awareness of the Greater Grand Rapids citizenry of the contributions African-American individuals, organizations, and businesses have made to the history, continuous growth, and progress of metropolitan Grand Rapids.

The ceremony honors 14 individuals for their outstanding commitment and contributions to the community. Each of the 12 Giant awards presented at the event is named after local African-American individuals who have given long-term service in their professional areas and dedication to the Grand Rapids community as a whole.

The 13th award is the Giant Among Giants Award. The recipients of this unique award are honored not only for their work in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area, but also for reaching out

to other cities and States in their professional areas. This year, the Giant Among Giants Award will be presented to the Honorable Benjamin H. Logan II.

Ben has been a community-oriented person throughout his life. He has generously contributed both his time and talents to many organizations including the Urban League, Boy Scouts of America, NAACP, Lions Club, YMCA, U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society, and countless others.

In 1988 Judge Logan, in a historic write-in election, became the first African-American judge of the 61st District Court in Grand Rapids. He has been victorious in every subsequent election. He is a member of the Michigan Black Judges Association and national chair of the Judicial Council of the National Bar.

Serving his country, church, and community throughout his life, Benjamin H. Logan II has been an example to others and an embodiment of the values that the Giant Among Giants Award represents. Mr. President I am sure that my colleagues in the Senate join me in extending our congratulations to Judge Logan upon receiving this prestigious award.

GREAT PLAINS SYNFUELS PLANT

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue of extreme importance to my State of North Dakota and to this Nation's energy security.

The issue is one currently before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC], and involves the fate of a unique energy project in North Dakota—the Great Plains Coal Gasification Plant located near Beulah, ND. The gasification plant converts abundant lignite coal into clean-burning synthetic natural gas. It is the only commercial-scale plant of its kind that produces synthetic natural gas from coal in the world.

FERC must decide whether to approve certain negotiated settlement agreements between Dakota Gasification Company [DGC], owner of the synfuels plant, and three interstate pipeline companies which purchase the synthetic natural gas produced by the plant. Additionally, DGC reached an agreement with the Department of Energy [DOE] which is contingent on FERC approval of the agreements between DGC and the pipelines.

Late last month, an administrative law judge at FERC issued a decision which could have the impact of closing the project. The judge invalidated three of the four settlements between DGC and the pipelines. Ironically, the fourth was approved by FERC in January 1995—1 year ago.

Mr. President, I hope the FERC commissioners weigh very carefully the impact this judge's decision will have on the State of North Dakota, the DOE, and our national energy goals. Closing the synfuels plant would not

serve our national energy interests, and would create a serious setback in this country's search for energy independence.

The \$2 billion Great Plains Gasification Plant was constructed in the early 1980's after DOE guaranteed a \$1.5 billion loan for construction of the plant. The DOE loan was made pursuant to the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974. Great Plains is the only project operating today developed pursuant to the act. Additionally, Great Plains is the only project built as a result of the Government's attempts in the late 1970's and early 1980's to demonstrate our ability to achieve energy independence.

The synfuels plant was only made possible as a result of the issuance by FERC of its opinion 119 which approved the gas purchase agreements between Great Plains and the four pipeline purchasers. As approved by opinion 119, these gas purchase agreements provide for the sale of synthetic natural gas at prices established by a formula set out in the agreements. In issuing the \$1.5 billion loan guarantee, DOE relied on FERC's opinion 119 and the reasonable assumption FERC would stand behind its commitment.

Unfortunately, the original project sponsors abandoned the project after it was completed in 1985 in response to sudden changes in global energy prices. DOE assumed operation of the plant, and eventually secured ownership through foreclosure. In 1988, DOE sold the facility to DGC, a subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative in my State. DOE selected Basin over other bidders because of its commitment to the long-term operation of the project.

When Congress authorized DOE to sell the synfuels plant, Congress indicated to the Department that a commitment to the long-term operation of the plant was an important criteria in evaluating bids for the project. In fact, the conference report accompanying Public Law 100-202 states:

The managers agree that the Department of Energy should place higher priority on the continued long-term operation of the Great Plains Coal Gasification Plant as part of its divestiture activity. Continued long-term operation is needed to avoid disruptions to the local economy, capture the benefits associated with extended Plant operations and collect emission reduction technology data.

That sale also continued the Department's interest in the long-term operation of the plant by including a profit-sharing arrangement between DGC and DOE for the profits from the sale of synthetic natural gas. DGC and DOE reasonably assumed FERC would continue to stand behind opinion 119 when they negotiated the sale of the plant.

Following DGC's acquisition of the project, disputes arose regarding the pricing, output, and transportation provisions of the gas purchase agreements. As a result, DGC and DOE filed suit against the pipelines in 1990. Before the dispute went to trial, DOE,