

New York. The town of Charlton is certainly no different.

The traits which make me most fond of such communities is the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors. Looking out for one another and the needs of the community make such places great places to live and raise a family. This concept of community service is exemplified by the devoted service of the Charlton Volunteer Fire Department 1. For 75 years now, this organization has provided critical services for the citizens on a volunteer basis. As a former volunteer fireman myself, I understand and appreciate, the commitment required to perform such vital public duties.

It has become all too seldom that you see fellow citizens put themselves in harms way for the sake of another. While almost all things have changed over the years, thankfully, for the residents of Charlton, the members of their volunteer fire department continue to selflessly perform their duty without remiss. I can't say enough about the countless lives and millions of dollars in property they have saved by doing so over the course of their 75-year history.

That's why I am so glad to have this opportunity to pay tribute to them today. And for that matter, the residents of their community will have the opportunity to show their appreciation at their Founder's Day Parade marking this momentous occasion on Sunday, June 1, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by how much they give back to their community. On that scale, the members of this fire company, both past and present, are truly great Americans. I am proud of this organization because it typifies the spirit of voluntarism which has been such a central part of American life. We would all do well to emulate the service of the men and women who comprise Fire Department No. 1 in Charlton. To that end, it is with a sense of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all Members to join me in paying tribute to them on the occasion of their 75th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO THE ELDRIDGE
SALMON

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on November 29, 1996, Texas lost a distinguished businessman and philanthropist, C. Eldridge Salmon, at the age of 73. He was born in the community of Salmon on September 26, 1923, to G.C. and Arbell Garrison Salmon, and though he moved to Houston as a child, he maintained an abiding commitment to the east Texas community throughout his lifetime.

A University of Houston graduate, Mr. Salmon was employed for more than 20 years as an auditor with Texaco Oil Co., during which time he earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his expertise, hard work, and dedication.

This esteemed gentleman amassed an extensive collection of artwork during his lifetime, and he generously donated many of his holdings to institutions in east Texas to enable others to enjoy fine art. He gave 176 pieces to

the library at Palestine High School, and his altruism further benefited Sam Houston State University, Grapeland High School, and public libraries in a number of communities in the area as well.

Eldridge Salmon left an indelible mark on the east Texas community during his lifetime, and though he is gone from us now, his memory will long endure in the many contributions he has left behind.

On behalf of all Texans, I pay tribute to the life of C. Eldridge Salmon and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family, Dorothy Ernestine Salmon Baker of Houston, Cleon Salmon of Grapeland, and H.L. Garrison of Palestine, and to the many other friends and relatives of his distinguished gentleman.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. FAZIO. Mr. Speaker, complex issues take not only courage but discipline and foresight to address. Global climate change is such an issue. While no one knows the precise answers, we do know the fragility of the environment around us and the importance of embarking on the journey to find those answers. It is in that spirit that the chief executive of British Petroleum, E. John Browne addressed global climate change in a speech this week at Stanford University in California.

Mr. Browne took a bold step in asserting that because the possibility that a link exists between human activity and climate change, that in fact we need to consider solutions now—while we have time to responsibly act. Mr. Browne's speech is grounded in reason. It provides a framework for moving forward in a constructive fashion on global climate change. His is a refreshing approach to a sometimes politically contentious, sometimes emotional, but always a fundamentally serious topic that affects humankind.

I commend Mr. Browne's speech to my colleagues in the U.S. Congress.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Dean Spence, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.

It is always marvelous to come back to Stanford . . . and it is a pleasure . . . and a privilege to be here to speak to you today on a subject which I believe is of the utmost importance.

I can't think of anywhere better than Stanford to discuss in a calm and rational way a subject which raises great emotion and which requires both analysis and action.

I think it's right to start by setting my comments in context.

Following the collapse of Communism in Europe and the fall of the Soviet Empire at the end of the 1980s, two alternative views of the consequences for the rest of the world were put forward.

Francis Fukuyama wrote a book with the ironic title "The End of History". Jacques Delors, then President of the European Commission, talked about the "Acceleration of History".

In the event, history has neither accelerated nor stopped. But it has changed.

The world in which we now live is one no longer defined by ideology. Of course, the old spectrums are still with us . . . of left to right . . . of radical to conservative, but ide-

ology is no longer the ultimate arbiter of analysis and action.

Governments, corporations and individual citizens have all had to redefine their roles in a society no longer divided by an Iron Curtain separating Capitalism from Communism.

A new age demands a fresh perspective of the nature of society and responsibility.

The passing of some of the old divisions reminds us we are all citizens of one world, and we must take shared responsibility for its future, and for its sustainable development.

We must do that in all our various roles . . . as students and teachers, as business people with capital to invest, as legislators with the power to make law . . . as individual citizens with the right to vote . . . and as consumers with the power of choice.

These roles overlap, of course. The people who work in BP are certainly business people, but they're also people with beliefs and convictions . . . individuals concerned with the quality of life for themselves and for their children.

When they come through the door into work every morning they don't leave behind their convictions and their sense of responsibility.

And the same applies to our consumers. Their choices determine our success as a company. And they too have beliefs and convictions.

Now that brings us to my subject today—the global environment.

That is a subject which concerns us all—in all our various roles and capacities.

I believe we've now come to an important moment in our consideration of the environment.

It is a moment when because of the shared interest I talked about, we need to go beyond analysis to seek solutions and to take action. It is a moment for change and for a rethinking of corporate responsibility.

A year ago, the Second Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was published. That report and the discussion which has continued since its publication, shows that there is mounting concern about two stark facts.

The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is rising, and the temperature of the earth's surface is increasing.

Karl Popper once described all science as being provisional. What he meant by that was that all science is open to refutation, to amendment and to development.

That view is certainly confirmed by the debate around climate change.

There's a lot of noise in the data. It is hard to isolate cause and effect. But there is now an effective consensus among the world's leading scientists and serious and well informed people outside the scientific community that there is a discernible human influence on the climate, and a link between the concentration of carbon dioxide and the increase in temperature.

The prediction of the IPCC is that over the next century temperatures might rise by a further 1 to 3.5 degrees centigrade, and that sea levels might rise by between 15 and 95 centimeters. Some of that impact is probably unavoidable, because it results from current emissions.

Those are wide margins of error, and there remain large elements of uncertainty—about cause and effect . . . and even more importantly about the consequences.

But it would be unwise and potentially dangerous to ignore the mounting concern.

The time to consider the policy dimensions of climate change is not when the link between greenhouse gases and climate change is conclusively proven . . . but when the possibility cannot be discounted and is taken seriously by the society of which we are part.