

THE NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT
OF 1997**HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Chairman BLILEY and the Commerce Committee for passing out of committee H.R. 1270, The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997.

Fifteen years ago the Department of Energy, under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, was given the responsibility of determining the best location for a centralized nuclear storage facility and for readying it to receive irradiated fuel by January 1998.

The rate payers, our constituents, have financed this operation at a cost of \$13 billion. We have built and tested shipping containers and found them to be reliable and safe. Our European counterparts regularly ship similar canisters both domestically and internationally. With the passage of H.R. 1270, we can consolidate our spent nuclear fuel in a centralized facility.

So why the holdup? The problem is not money or safety, but politics.

As we wait for passage of H.R. 1270, the price tag to our constituents grows. Continued delays could force nuclear powerplants to build additional storage space at the rate payers' expense. Furthermore, because Congress fails to use the funds accumulated in the nuclear waste fund, other nonrelated projects siphon money from this depleting account.

It is time that money collected for the nuclear waste fund be spent for its intended purpose and that the administration keeps their promise to the American people. Let's stop wasting our citizen's money and finish the job: Support H.R. 1270.

ON BILL REGARDING SALLIE MAE
REFINANCING**HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, on September 18, when I introduced H.R. 2511, a bill to correct an unfair practice occurring as a result of the privatization of Sallie Mae, the bill's effective date was in error. I am introducing the same legislation, but with an effective date of today to correct the problem.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks have now passed since the August congressional recess, and still no campaign finance reform. The frustration among Members is growing over the inability of this House to take action on this issue.

There is no issue that is demanding more attention this fall, yet we have not found the

time to consider any bill in the Government Reform and Oversight Committee or on the floor of the House. On today's calendar we are considering 15 pieces of legislation, including a bill to study the feasibility of changing the U.S. quarter-dollar coin to commemorate all 50 states. While this idea may have some merit, it clearly is not as pressing an issue as campaign finance reform. The trend in this Congress, the last several months, has been to investigate rather than legislate. Today, unfortunately, we have decided to commemorate rather than legislate.

Mr. Speaker, I and my constituents are tired of hearing no as an answer. It is time to schedule campaign finance reform for a vote.

TRIBUTE TO THE CATHOLIC
HOSPICE**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the efforts of the Catholic Hospice, a nonprofit organization located in my congressional district, and the commitment and efforts of all of their volunteers. The Catholic Hospice is an organization established in 1988 by the Catholic Archdiocese of Miami, SSI Mercy Health System, and St. Francis Medical Health Care Services, whose mission it is to serve the physical and emotional needs of terminally ill patients and their families of all faiths in Dade and Monroe Counties.

Among some of the projects Catholic Hospice offers are Camp Hope, a 3-day intensive therapy session that is offered to children who have lost a parent or very close caregiver within the last 12 months; bereavement support groups, which are counseling sessions offered to adults to assist them to deal with grief and loss; and a volunteer program, where volunteers offer their services free of charge to patients and families who need basic support through a very critical time.

In recognition of the dedication of their volunteers, the Catholic Hospice will be having its annual volunteer luncheon this September 27, where their most valuable volunteers will be recognized. It is volunteers such as Claire Salichs, Tish O'Neil, Lois Newmark, and Berta Friedman, among many others, who have selflessly given their time and energy to assist patients as well as their families during these difficult periods. It is these same individuals who have been indispensable in making the Catholic Hospice a success and whose efforts I commend.

I congratulate the Catholic Hospice for serving so many of south Florida's patients and families and I applaud the efforts of all its volunteers for their dedication to all of those who are sickly or bereaving the loss of a loved one. Death is an experience that is hard to bear for everyone and it is the support of the volunteers at Catholic Hospice that allow those who have lost a loved one to heal more rapidly and enjoy the memories of those who have passed away.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, 1997, I was unavoidably detained during two rollcall votes: No. 398, on agreeing to the Goodling amendment and No. 399, on agreeing to the Hoekstra amendment. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yes" on No. 398 and "no" on No. 399.

GAO'S OUTSTANDING RESULTS
ACT WORK**HON. RICHARD K. ARMEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the Government Performance Results Act, popularly known as the Results Act, holds the promise of achieving a smaller, smarter, commonsense Federal Government. It provides the tools we need to comprehensively evaluate Federal programs and agencies in order to determine what's working, what's wasted, what needs to be improved, and what needs to be rethought. It will help us ferret out fraud, waste, error, and redundancy in current programs.

For these reasons, effective implementation of the Results Act is a high priority for the Congress. Indeed, we have already devoted much attention to ensuring that the act achieves its full potential. We recently completed extensive congressional consultations on draft agency strategic plans through a coordinated effort that involved virtually all House committees and featured outstanding teamwork across jurisdictional and party lines. Our September 4 interim report, entitled "The Results Act: It Matters Now," provides an overall assessment of the agency draft plans based on our consultations.

Our evaluations and feedback on agency draft plans drew heavily on analyses done for us by the General Accounting Office. I want to take this opportunity to commend the GAO and its many dedicated employees for their superb work on this project.

At our request, GAO conducted comprehensive reviews of draft strategic plans for 28 departments and agencies. In order to meet the need to complete congressional consultations promptly, GAO reported to us within 30 days following receipt of each agency's draft plan. The reports were uniformly thorough and insightful. Their detailed analyses and constructive criticisms provided invaluable assistance to us, to our committee teams, and to the agencies. In addition to issuing written products, the GAO staff responsible for each report provided oral briefings to our committee teams.

GAO's ability to produce so much outstanding work in such a short time period is a tribute to the breadth of knowledge, expertise, and commitment of its outstanding staff. Each of the individuals involved in this project can rightly be proud of his or her accomplishment. This project reflects the highest standards of GAO's service to the Congress and to the American taxpayers.