

around \$100 a ton, nearly doubled, and the production of alcohol for transportation consequently had to be cut by a third. Ethyl alcohol feedstocks have been limited because the yeast that has been used for millennia in fermentation can only convert food crops. But advanced biocatalysts and genetically engineered microbes now make possible the cost-effective conversion of cellulose: grass, trees and biomass waste.

Even at today's fossil fuel prices, it is likely that as ethyl alcohol's cost declines it will come to be used as the emission-reducing oxygenate that is added to gasoline. But the key issue is whether alcohol derived from biomass can become cheap enough to begin to replace gasoline. Over the past 15 years the cost of producing a gallon of alcohol from corn has been cut in half, to about \$1 a gallon. If the new technology were to make it possible for costs to fall another 30 to 40 cents, alcohol would become competitive with gasoline when oil reaches around \$25 a barrel.

Is such a reduction in cost plausible? Consider switch grass, common on the prairie. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates twice as much alcohol could be produced per acre from it than from corn. Since switch grass requires almost no tilling, planting, fertilizing or other use of fuel or chemicals, using it as a feedstock would yield several times more energy than would be consumed during production—far better than with either gasoline or corn-derived alcohol. Switch grass and many biomass crops enrich the soil instead of depleting it. Vastly more of the earth's surface is available to grow such grasses, fast-growing trees and aquatic vegetation than is available for feed grains. For example, thinning forests by removing underbrush and small trees reduces forest fires and preserves wildlife habitat—and some cousin of zymomonas would doubtless love to dine on such scrap brush.

Will oil prices hit \$25 a barrel in a few years, making it possible for even unsubsidized alcohol to replace a large share of gasoline? The Energy Department forecasts a flat market, but the oil bulls have a strong case because of perennial instability in the Mideast and because demand will burgeon as a growing share of the growing population in Asia moves into cities. Fortune magazine noted two years ago that once China's and India's energy consumption per capita reach South Korea's current level, these two countries alone will need almost 120 million barrels of oil a day—nearly double what the world uses today. In spite of oil discoveries elsewhere, it is likely that at least three-fourths of any new demand will be filled from the huge reserves of the Mideast, transferring more than \$1 trillion over the next 15 years to the autocratic (and worse) states of the unstable Persian Gulf alone, in addition to the annual \$90 billion they receive today.

Thus, if genetically engineered microbes and advanced biocatalysts can start a transition from fossil fuels to biofuels, a major Middle East war involving the U.S. would become less likely. We would become freer to support democracies and our friends—Israel, Turkey, Jordan—without weighing whether we might offend an oil state. At the same time, subsistence farmers in Africa and Latin America, paid to grow transportation fuel, would begin to climb out of poverty; Ukraine, rich in fertile land, would become more independent of oil-rich Russia; China would feel less pressure to befriend Iran and to build a big navy to dominate the oil-rich South China Sea.

RURAL PROSPERITY

What's more, new markets for biofuel crops would help rural America to prosper; substantial improvements in air quality

would let EPA Administrator Carol Browner stop worrying about our power lawnmowers and let Detroit produce four-wheel-drive sports vehicles to its heart's content; and the U.S. trade deficit would shrink substantially, reducing Wall Street's propensity to panic whenever the Japanese prime minister gets grumpy about holding U.S. debt.

Who would lose? Chiefly oil-exporting states. But many others would need an attitude check; oil companies, if they resist diversifying; bureaucrats who don't like flexible-fuel vehicles, because they aren't subsidized in their particular fiefdom; environmentalists who don't like them either, because they permit Detroit to build larger cars (the more they burn alcohol, folks, the less you should care); Archer Daniels Midland, which will have to get used to losing its near-monopoly of the ethanol market; and of course Roger Tamraz, because struggles over pipeline routes will become boring.

What would we need to do before the December Kyoto summit? Just announce that, in view of biofuels' advantages, we are going to use government purchases and policies to help give them a stable market until early in the next century while production gears up, somewhat as we did with silicon chips. We might even add that, except for continuing to do basic research and development, we plan to phase out all energy subsidies (including oil's remaining foreign tax credit) toward the end of that period.

Then we could stand back, and let the new bugs and the market do the rest.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF ALLEGAN, MI

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of the first Thanksgiving worship in Christ Community Church of Allegan, MI's new meetinghouse. The Christ Community Church's congregation has traveled a long way to get where they are today. Without a church home in December of 1993, a core group of Christian friends gathered to discuss the planting of a new church in the Allegan area. By December of 1996, this dedicated group grew nearly threefold, and was worshipping in a brand new facility built with their own hands and prayers. In just 3 years, a land contract had been drawn up and paid for in full, and a church home was built that could serve up to 350 worshippers.

This faithful assembly of friends derives its members from over a 25-mile outlying area encompassing much of southwestern Michigan. They are a contemporary group concentrating in non-traditional and culturally relevant Christian fellowship. The congregation focuses its energy and resources on local and international missions and ministry. Also, personal familiarity with the Bible and Christian ideals is promoted and nurtured.

Indeed, his Thanksgiving is a special one for the devoted men and women of Christ Community Church. The community is certainly well ministered to by this congregation. As they look forward to building further services and facilities, Christ Community Church will continue to champion the needs of its members and community. Again, it is an honor for me to recognize Christ

Community Church and their first Thanksgiving celebration.●

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDER OF AHEPA

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this past August, I was privileged to address the Order of AHEPA during the celebration of its 75th anniversary in Atlanta, GA, the city of its founding. AHEPA, American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, the largest Greek-American fraternal organization, has played a pivotal role in bringing Greek-Americans into the mainstream of American life, and promoting the ideals of Hellenic culture. It has also launched significant philanthropic and educational initiatives which have benefited both the Greek-American community and American society at large.

As part of this 75th anniversary commemoration, James Scofield, a past supreme president of AHEPA, prepared for article on the early origins of AHEPA entitled, "Forgotten History: The Klan vs. Americans of Hellenic Heritage in an Era of Hate." This piece, written by Mr. Scofield, recently retired after 30 years as a senior executive at the St. Petersburg, FL, Times, has appeared in the AHEPA magazine and many Greek-American publications.

It records the struggle which Greek-Americans encountered in their effort to participate fully in American society. AHEPA's history, as presented by Mr. Scofield, also reminds us of the extraordinary progress which our country has achieved in providing opportunity for people of all races, religions, and backgrounds.

We are most appreciative to Mr. Scofield for his unique contribution and admonition to continue our efforts to ensure justice and respect for all. I ask that his article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

FORGOTTEN HISTORY: THE KLAN VS. AMERICANS OF HELLENIC HERITAGE IN AN ERA OF HATE

(By James S. Scofield)

AHEPA EMERGES 75 YEARS AGO TO WIN BATTLE AGAINST BIGOTRY

It was 1922, Americans of Hellenic heritage were suffering personal and economic intimidation orchestrated by the revived Ku Klux Klan. It was time for them to unify and organize, to protect and defend life and livelihood.

The widespread and often violent discrimination against immigrants from Greece is an almost forgotten page of American history. This is probably because of their subsequent success and the great accomplishments of their descendants. Very few persons today, Hellenic or not, are even vaguely aware of the massive continental strength of the Klan of the 1920s and its intensive persecution of foreign-born Greeks, including those who had chosen to become American citizens.

They do not know how deeply the evil shadows of bigotry, hatred and intolerance cast their malignant darkness over North America. Perhaps it is time to remind them.