

member of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International Union, and he was serving as President of Local 4-367 when elected in 1972 as a member of the Texas House of Representatives, a position in which he served for 8 terms. In the Texas Legislature, Ed was a leader on issues of law enforcement, education, environmental protection, and creating economic opportunity, and he served several terms as Chairman of the Harris County Delegation. Currently he is a Community Liaison on my congressional staff in Pasadena and Deer Park, Texas.

Ed is a charter member of the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce and a charter member of the Lions Club. He served fourteen years as a volunteer fireman and is now one of six honorary members. He has been actively involved in the Wheel House, a 30-day alcohol rehabilitation facility, since 1954 and serves on their board of directors. Ed visits daily, reaching out to the residents, solving problems when they arise, and funding.

Ed also serves on the board of directors of the Interfaith Helping Hands Ministry. He also volunteers his time at First Baptist Church, serving on the Benevolence Committee and reaching out to people not only in the church, but in the community as well. Because of his caring ways, Ed was named Deer Park Citizen of the Year in 1987.

Jerry's achievements are also impressive. In 1961 Jerry went to work for the Registrar of San Jacinto College. In 1963 the College began teaching about computer science, and Jerry began taking classes and working on the college information system. During some semesters, she was taking a class, working, and teaching a key-punching class after work. During this time, she and three of her children were all enrolled in college. Jerry received her Certificate Technology Degree in Computer Science the same night her younger son received his A.A. Degree in Computer Science. She retired from San Jacinto College in 1982.

Jerry was one of the earliest members of the Deer Park Ladies Civic Club and assisted in preparing the first Deep Park telephone book to be published. With Ed, Jerry also works with the Interfaith Helping Hands Ministry and she has served on the Bereavement Committee at First Baptist Church many times.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ed and Jerry Watson on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary and commend them on a lifetime of achievement. Their commitment not only to one another, but to others as well, is an example for all of us. May the coming years bring good health, happiness, and time to enjoy their eight grandsons, one granddaughter, and one great grandson. On this joyous occasion, I am pleased to join their family, friends, and community in saying congratulations and thank you.

“OVERTURN THE ROYALTY
GIVEAWAY AMENDMENT”

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, last week, legislative larceny was committed in the conference committee on the Emergency Supplemental. As happens too often in this Con-

gress, the hold up was committed by wealthy interests who want to make themselves still richer with money that belongs to the taxpayers of this country.

Senator BARBARA BOXER put up a valiant fight to prevent the committee from accepting the oil companies' \$66 million royalty giveaway amendment, but the industry had the conference wired. The oil industry, which has been cheating taxpayers for years, won.

Today, we are introducing legislation to reverse that legislative maneuver and restore the money to the people who own the oil: the taxpayers of the United States.

I wrote the provision of the offshore oil law in 1978 that requires that coastal states receive a share from the oil produced from federal lands adjacent to their coasts. But the oil companies have been cheating taxpayers and the states by underestimating the value of the oil and underpaying royalties to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. The Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service drafted rules to end this underpayment fraud and assure that taxpayers get the money they deserve.

But the royalty giveaway amendment stops the Interior Department from implementing new rules that would require more accurate pricing of oil produced from public lands. Those rules, the product of long investigations, would base the value of the oil on actual market prices instead of on the much lower prices reported by the oil companies. Delaying this rule from going into effect will cost taxpayers \$66 million a year—\$5.5 million for each month that the rule is delayed. That means a loss of \$1.8 million a year for California alone.

Our state turns federal oil and gas royalties over to the public schools, and most other states share a portion of these revenues with their schools—money that could be used to buy computers or pay teachers' salaries or reduce class size. If the federal government had collected the royalties we were due, California could have paid the salaries of 45 teachers next year. Instead, thanks to this sneaky amendment, that money will line the oil industry's pockets.

Senator HUTCHISON, who sponsored this amendment, claims more time is needed to study the issue. We already spent years studying the issue. A task force has filed its report documenting hundreds of millions of dollars in underpayments.

The current system must be changed. The Justice Department recently decided to intervene in litigation accusing four major oil companies of knowingly having underpaid hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties from federal and Indian leases in the Gulf of Mexico, Wyoming, New Mexico and California. There is no justification for preventing the Interior Department from performing its legal mandate: to ensure that we get fair market value from the production from public lands.

The giveaway rider ignores substantial evidence of underpayments developed by the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, thanks to the leadership of Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, who joins us this morning. We call on the Congress to reverse this greedy and unwarranted action and pass the Miller-Boxer bill to restore the royalties that the taxpayers, and the schoolchildren, of this nation deserve.

PART 2: JOBS WITH JUSTICE:
FIRST NATIONAL WORKERS'
RIGHTS BOARD HEARING

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Jobs With Justice convened its “First National Workers' Rights Board Hearing on Welfare/Workfare Issues” in Chicago in 1997. This hearing featured a number of community, labor and political leaders. I include their remarks for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Part 2 of this statement includes: Joselito Laudencia of Californians for Justice; Christopher Lamb of the Center on Social Welfare Policy and Law; Sabrina Gillon of the Campaign for a Sustainable Milwaukee; and Paul Booth of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

CALIFORNIANS FOR JUSTICE

(By Joselito Laudencia, Executive Director)

Good morning. My name is Joselito Laudencia and I am the Executive Director of Californians for Justice. Californians for Justice is a grassroots multiracial organization working to build political power among communities of color, and poor and young people of all colors in California. Earlier this year, we launched a campaign for Economic Justice. With welfare reform devastating our constituencies, we decided to launch a multi-year campaign for public jobs. Specifically, with the state government pushing hundreds of thousands of welfare recipients into the workforce, we feel that the state government has a responsibility to ensure that jobs are available, that these jobs are good paying jobs with benefits, and that these jobs actually address the needs of California's communities.

Let me provide some context. The signing into law of welfare reform on a federal level sent a simple message that everyone on welfare needs to get a job. The new law says that everyone on welfare must be at work within 24 months for a minimum of 20 hours a week. Currently, there are over 900,000 welfare recipients in California, with at least 300,000 facing this two-year time limit within two years. And families have only 5 years in a lifetime to receive welfare—even if there are no jobs.

This destruction of the welfare system comes at a time when jobs have been leaving over the last 25 years. Corporations have been downsizing, automating, shifting to part-time workers and moving overseas.

If any job growth is happening, it occurs in two fields. One area includes highly skilled jobs. As Times Magazine in January 1997 highlighted, the hottest fields in terms of new jobs include teachers, nurses, executives, lawyers, financial managers, computer engineers, and accountants, jobs which require extensive levels of education and training.

The other arena includes the fast growing occupations and industries that frequently offer part-time or temporary work and often lack basic benefits, especially in the retail trade and the service sector.

We also have to realize that the U.S. and the California economy have never provided enough jobs. Although the unemployment rate has been at its lowest in 23 years, over 1 million people in California are “officially” unemployed. On top of that, California will witness over 100,000 college graduates and over 270,000 public high school graduates. This also doesn't take into account the over