

birthday to this outstanding American, wife, mother, journalist and friend. Hopefully we can all learn from the wonderful example that Mrs. Morrissey has set and follow the life of dignity and integrity that she has led.

OIL PRICE REDUCTION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3822) to reduce, suspend, or terminate any assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to each country determined by the President to be engaged in oil price fixing to the detriment of the United States economy, and for other purposes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in opposition to the Oil Price Reduction Act. This bill does not give the President any more authority or require more action than he currently possesses. Furthermore, the Republican leadership refused to allow any waivers for Democratic amendments that would have significantly improved this measure.

This bill authorizes the President to reduce, suspend, or terminate assistance, such as military assistance or foreign aid, to countries that fix oil prices to the disadvantage of the American economy. Oil price fixing under this measure is defined as participation in any agreement, arrangement or understanding with other countries that are oil exporters that increase the price of oil or natural gas by means of limiting oil or gas production or establishing minimum prices for oil or gas. Furthermore, this bill would require the President to report to Congress as to whether major oil exporters are engaged in the defined oil price fixing to the detriment of the U.S. economy.

It requires the President to "undertake a concerted diplomatic effort to convince" countries accused of oil price fixing that their production levels are inadequate and have significant negative impacts on world economies. Recently, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC] acted in concert to decrease oil production and hold approximately 4 million barrels of oil a day. Since this decision to curtail production of 6 percent of the global supply of oil, prices have steadily increased from \$11 a barrel in December 1998 to \$30 a barrel just last month. The United States has not seen prices this high since the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

Our Nation's truckers, airlines, railroads, buses, and automobiles have been adversely impacted by these drastic oil production cuts. Our Nation needs relief; however, we must be careful not to rush legislation that may not fully address our energy needs. I support the Democratic leadership's effort to include the enforcement provisions of this bill that will enable the President to effectively address situations where oil price fixing threatens the U.S. economy.

RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO DR. H.G. BRYANT

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. H.G. Bryant, Jr., of my district on the occasion of his retirement from Swedish Match North American, Inc., an employer of many in Owensboro, KY.

Dr. Bryant has been with Swedish Match for more than 30 years in a number of positions. He began his career in 1968 as a senior scientist with Liggett Group and ends his career as vice president for research and development, quality control and leaf procurement of Pinkerton Tobacco Co., which is now Swedish Match.

During his time at Swedish Match, Dr. Bryant has made a number of valuable contributions to the Owensboro area. He has served on the Kentucky Wesleyan College board of trustees, the Owensboro Community College Foundation and the Kentucky Council on Economic Education. His civic contributions to the community also include support of the United Way and local food banks.

Dr. Bryant has been a good friend to many in the community of Owensboro, as an employer and a civic leader. Today I acknowledge his commitments and achievements, along with his family, and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ROSEGARTEN, MAYOR OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Robert Rosegarten upon his retirement as Mayor of The Village of Great Neck Plaza, NY, on Friday, March 24th.

Mayor Rosegarten's work in Great Neck Plaza has been recognized on both the national and state level. His work to revitalize the downtown Great Neck shopping area is a model for local municipalities nationwide. Under the mayor's dynamic supervision, the village of Great Neck Plaza has not only experienced financial success, but is also highly regarded for its aesthetic beauty. Mayor Rosegarten's service to the community will undoubtedly be used as a measuring stick for future Great Neck public officials.

Prior to his distinguished service as mayor of Great Neck Plaza for the past 8 years, Mr. Rosegarten held the position of deputy mayor for 8 years and was also a village trustee for 2 years. Mayor Rosegarten has further distinguished himself in the Great Neck community as president of the Great Neck Village Officials Association, commissioner of the Great Neck Central Police Auxiliary and member of the executive board of Great Neck's United Community Fund.

In addition to his work in the village of Great Neck Plaza, Mayor Rosegarten has been a successful executive in the advertising industry for over a quarter of a century.

Robert Rosegarten is an avid sculptor and painter, whose art works have gained wide attention by appearing in many local galleries on Long Island. Mayor Rosegarten is a loving father of three sons and a proud grandfather to six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring Robert Rosegarten as he completes another milestone in his career and in wishing him many more years of active service to his family and his community.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, thanks to the efforts of enterprising women in Sonoma County, CA, March is Women's History Month. As we celebrate women's history, we must focus on the future of women. The right to choose and make family planning decisions is central to women's liberty and freedom in that future. Family planning represents an opportunity for women and empowers families to make decisions that impact their quality of life and their future.

United States support for international family planning is an integral part of a progressive agenda for women and a foreign policy agenda that saves the lives of women and children and improves life circumstances. Unfortunately, many impoverished women are held hostage to the conservative politics of the right wing of the Republican party and damaging restrictions on international family planning assistance that conservatives forced into law.

Last year, conservatives forced President Clinton to accept the undemocratic "global gag rule" restrictions that force foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to give up their right to participate in their own democratic process to become eligible for U.S. funds. These restrictions contradict the main objective of U.S. foreign policy, fostering democracy and stability throughout the world. They represent a strong setback for women and democracy. If the U.S. Government tried to impose similar restrictions on U.S.-based organizations, they would, without a doubt, be unconstitutional. They are undemocratic and deny women a fundamental right.

Restrictions on family planning assistance will restrict access for poor women, which will result in more unintended pregnancies, more births, more maternal deaths and injuries and more abortions. The World Health Organization estimates that 600,000 women die each year from pregnancy-related causes and more than 150 million married women who want contraceptives have no access to them.

Soon, I will introduce legislation, along with Representative NITA LOWEY and Representative CHRIS SHAYS, to ensure that the current restrictions are never again included in law. This forthcoming legislation, the Global Democracy Promotion Act, will stop foreign NGOs from being forced to relinquish their right to free speech in order to participate in U.S.-supported family planning programs. If we can't impose these restrictions on U.S. organizations, we shouldn't be imposing them on foreign organizations. If passed, our legislation will stop foreign NGOs from being