

This is Miss Urban's essay, entitled "Liquid Gold Lacks Luster in the New Economy":

Oil has often been referred to as "liquid gold," but this commodity can also be an extremely volatile and obstreperous substance plaguing the United States. America's continued dependence on foreign oil is a serious threat to the success of its economy as well as to the security of the nation, especially as the war on terrorism is waged on Iraq and the flow of this "liquid gold" is disrupted. Not only must Americans understand this serious energy problem, but also new and viable solutions must be crafted in order to prevent the United States' dependence on foreign oil from becoming an oil slick into disaster.

The economic implications of dependence on foreign oil are staggering, especially when the U.S. has not been able to disentangle itself from oil providers, such as the member nations of OPEC, who directly oppose the American way of life. Unless the United States is able to wean itself from a constant flow of OPEC oil, the economy will continue to struggle well after the war against Iraq is over. Some of the fluctuations in the oil market come, surprisingly, not from foreign pricing, but from internal governmental regulations. In September of 2000, President Clinton released thirty million barrels of oil from the government oil reserves in order to alleviate high prices. While this action was a temporary fix for rising prices, when President George W. Bush replenished the thirty million barrels, oil prices rose significantly, more than the release in 2000 lowered them. Thus, governmental regulation of oil has not proved helpful, but rather this kind of intervention only further aggravates problems in the United States as it endures rising oil prices. Overall, the issue of economic repercussions for U.S. dependence on foreign oil is long lasting and serious for the future of the U.S. economy.

National security is greatly compromised as the U.S. continues to depend on foreign oil supplies. Nothing proves this point more than the risks involved with a war in Iraq and the possible loss of oil reserves for the United States' consumption. According to a House Committee on International Relations hearing on oil diplomacy of June 20, 2002, Spencer Abraham, the Secretary of Energy, stated that the U.S. holds only 2 percent of the world's oil reserves while the Middle East has nearly two-thirds of the World's oil reserves. These discouraging numbers leave the United States in a very delicate international relationship with oil-rich nations, complicating America's ability to insure its national security while facing a continuing threat from terrorism.

Both for the economy and in regard to national security, new sources for oil need to be discovered to eliminate the degree of dependence the United States has on foreign oil. To that end, some possibilities for new directions in energy supply include using cleaner more efficient fuels, utilizing renewable fuel sources, opening new geographic regions for oil, expanding dual refining, building nuclear power plants, and developing new technology in the transportation industry. Cleaner, more efficient fuels not only allow for greater environmental protection, but they also provide for better miles per gallon, a standard that has already been raised to alleviate energy crises in Europe and will help Americans drive farther using less oil. Renewable energy resources include air, water, and solar sources, all of which are both environmentally friendly and readily available. While some of these alternatives have initially high costs, their long-term benefits might far outweigh the initial expense. New geographic regions for oil include

much of Central America, Mexico, Venezuela, Canada, Russia, Africa and the Caspian Basin. These areas of the world do not pose as great a threat, both politically and economically, as the OPEC nations. An expansion of fuel refining would allow the United States to process and use more fuel than in the past and the United States could use more of the oil it already has, but has not yet processed. Nuclear power plants are a potential source for more energy, as long as they are made safer and provide for safe disposal of their waste. The transportation industry should be given greater funding and freedom to explore the development of hydrogen cell fuel sources as well as electric powered hybrid cars and solar powered cars. These types of development further alleviate the strain on the nation's resources. Finally, the nation as a whole needs to be come more mindful about energy consumption and greater efforts and campaigns could be launched to help people car pool, take public transportation, or walk whenever possible. To that end, public transportation systems need to be expanded and improved so as to accommodate these new changes in energy use. When all of these efforts are combined, American's reliance on the Middle East for oil can be greatly reduced while American oil prices are held at reasonable levels.

The impact of these solutions will positively affect both the economy and national security of the United States. Efforts on the part of the government and the energy industry, as well as individual Americans, will bring greater energy independence in the United States. Though oil is "liquid gold," it lacks luster as long as the United States' economy and national security are compromised by America's dependence on foreign energy sources. A significant reduction of such dependence will be achieved as the United States "brings home the gold" through a variety of production methods.

HONORING GEORGE
TCHOBANOGLIOUS, PH.D., P.E.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Tchobanoglous, Ph.D., P.E. for being selected as the recipient of the Athalie Richardson Irvine Clark Prize for excellence in water-science research. The National Water Research Institute, will honor him at an award ceremony and lecture to be held Thursday, July 17th in Orange County, California.

The prize is one of only a dozen water prizes awarded worldwide. It has been recognized as one of the most prestigious awards in the world by the International Congress of Distinguished Awards. George is the tenth recipient of this award.

Dr. Tchobanoglous is a Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Davis. Through his research, publications, public service, and international activities he has made significant contributions to the practice of environmental engineering. He is recognized for having advanced the use of new technologies in four key areas: construction of wetlands for wastewater treatment, the application of alternative filtration technologies, ultraviolet disinfection for wastewater reuse applications, and decentralized wastewater management. George is

also the author or coauthor of over 350 publications, including 12 textbooks that are used at numerous colleges and universities in the United States. The textbook, *Wastewater Engineering: Treatment, Disposal, Reuse*, is one of the most widely read textbooks in the environmental engineering field by both students and practicing engineers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. George Tchobanoglous for his excellence in the field of water-science research. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Tchobanoglous many years of continued success.

HONORS ZENA TEMKIN AS SHE
CELEBRATES HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and community members who have gathered to honor one of Connecticut's true living treasures, and my dear friend, Zena Tempkin, as she celebrates her 80th birthday. Born in England, Zena moved to the United States at a young age. Growing up in Detroit and attending college in Atlanta, Zena and her husband, Is, made Connecticut their home following World War II.

For as long as many of us can remember, Zena has been a driving force in Connecticut's political arena. A woman ahead of her time, Zena served as a State Representative in Connecticut's General Assembly from 1959 to 1962. She served as a delegate in two national conventions and has served as a political advisor to some of Connecticut's most influential elected officials including former Senator Abraham Ribicoff and former Governor Ella T. Grasso. Her unwavering energy and dedication has made her a true friend to many of those in Connecticut who have run and served in public office. I consider myself fortunate to have benefited from her wisdom and counsel, both when I worked for Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD and later in my own run for elected office. Her friendship has been invaluable and she has, and continues to be, an inspiration and role model for me.

Even more than her contributions in the political arena, Zena has long been an active member of her community. Our communities would not be the same without volunteers whose efforts and compassion are dedicated to improving the lives of others. Throughout her life she has dedicated countless hours to a variety of service organizations and has helped to shape our community. When you consider that she is also the mother of three, was an active member of her family business, and, at one time, a small business owner herself—Zena truly sets a standard for public service that we should all strive to achieve.

Connecticut has been fortunate to have someone like Zena working so hard on our behalf. She has left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy that is sure to inspire generations to come. I am honored to rise today to join her husband, Is; her children; Bruce, Alan, and Nan; and all of those who have gathered today to extend my very best wishes to Zena Temkin on her 80th birthday.