PAYING TRIBUTE TO TED HAYDEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to Ted Hayden and thank him for his dedication to Colorado as a four-term Delta County Commissioner. His dedication and tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for his constituents. As Ted celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Delta County and the State of Colorado.

As a member of the Delta County Board of Commissioners for sixteen years, Ted has been instrumental in implementing a variety of projects. He represented Delta County on the Rail Transportation Research & Advisory Committee, helping to secure funding for a rail corridor safety improvement plan to upgrade public railroad crossings on the North Fork branch of the Union Pacific Railroad. Ted has also been very active in the North Fork River Improvement Association, the North Fork Coal Working Group, the Delta County Fairgrounds, and in developing a park and sports complex in Paonia. Ted served as Chairman of the Delta County Board in 1991, 1994, 1997, 2001, and 2003. Before serving as commissioner, Ted spent fourteen years in the service of the Colorado State Patrol.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Ted Hayden is a person that has displayed a terrific level of dedication and commitment to his pursuit of public service. Ted's selfless dedication to his Delta County community and the State of Colorado is truly outstanding, and it my privilege to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this nation. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PAPERWORK AND REGULATORY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2432. Like so many other bills that have come the House floor recently, this one has a good title that belies its real substance. The paperwork and regulatory burdens on businesses could certainly use improvement, but this bill is actually an underhanded way to weaken so many important regulations that protect American citizens by giving us clean air, clean water, protected public lands, and safe workplaces.

It is ironic that, even as we operate under one of the most industry-friendly administrations in recent history, the paperwork burden on the average American businessman has actually gone up. In fiscal year 2003, total government paperwork reached an estimated 8.1 billion hours. According to OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, the paperwork burden rose a record 570 million hours in fiscal year 2002 and another 72 million hours in fiscal year 2003.

So even as the Bush administration and the House leadership dole out special interest goodies to oil and gas companies, HMOs, and many others, the paperwork burden for businesses is going up. The bill we have in front of us will not relieve that burden or do anything to undo the sharp increase in paperwork that we have seen from this White House. Instead, it weakens the process of developing federal regulations that protect the health and safety of Americans and our natural environment.

It is also ironic that the House leadership has chosen to attack environmental regulations as imposing undue burdens on businesses when our laws and regulations still do not fully account for externalities like pollution. Polluting industries may decry the costs of burdensome government regulations, but it is average citizens who pay the real price when they breathe dirty air and drink polluted water.

Some reports have concluded that my home state of New Jersey has the worst air quality in the nation. So it is hard for me, and for my constituents, to tolerate the cries of the power industries when their pollution leads to the premature deaths of so many New Jerseyans. I am outraged when the Bush administration insists on rewriting environmental regulations to pad the profits of polluters and ignores the human costs of pollution.

There is a real danger with the details in this legislation, especially concerning environmental and health regulations. The bill directs OMB to have every federal agency provide an annual report estimating the total costs and benefits of regulations and paperwork pertaining to that agency. So the agency measures the costs, say, of installing pollution controls on a power plant and filling out the relevant paperwork. When it comes to measuring the benefits of a given pollution control regulation, however, are we going to include the value of premature deaths avoided and reduced asthma rates? I sincerely doubt that most federal agencies are going to be inclined, or even be able, to estimate such external benefits.

As a research scientist. I am also concerned that the bill does not require the cost-benefit analyses to be done using rigorous scientific analysis. If we want to seriously look at the real costs and benefits of our regulations, we need to use scientific methods, or we risk using complete speculation. This Administration has already undermined and ignored science numerous times—let's not give them another opportunity.

I understand the burden that many businesses, especially small businesses, face in filling out government paperwork. This bill, however, is more about coming up with excuses to undermine vital health, safety, and environmental regulations than about relieving the evergrowing paperwork burden.

ARE WE BETTER OFF THAN WE WERE?

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE-JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on where we as a Nation have come over the last 3 years of the Bush Administration.

The question that deserves to be answered is, Are we better off than we were three years ago? Is our security better? Are we as safe as we should be? Do the Republicans have a plan to create jobs, or to reduce the deficit? Is our health care better? Have the costs for college tuition gone down? Have we ensured our children a better start in life?

Mr. Speaker, I can categorically and honestly answer each of these questions with a solid "no."

But what has happened in the last three years?

When President Bush took office, we had a $236 billion budget surplus; the Nation had created 22 million jobs in the previous eight years and gas prices averaged $1.47 a gallon.

Today, the government spends $900,000 more a minute than it takes in. We are borrowing $1.1 billion daily; 8.2 million are looking for work; gas prices are at a 23-year high with a national average of $2.01 a gallon; and wages have grown flat while college tuition and health care costs have skyrocketed.

As a result, most Americans are not better off today than they were three years ago.

Most Americans do not feel safer; they are living in fear and are losing hope. Forty-four million Americans do not have health insurance. Most Americans cannot afford to send their children to colleges and universities. This trend must stop.

America can do better for Americans than this. We can restore hope. We can restore peace. We can get back on the right track.

Democrats want to put America back on the right track. We just need the Republicans to get out of the way.

HONORING JOHN CONRAD KAPTUR

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Father's Day, 2004, it is a great privilege today to offer respectful words of tribute on behalf of the entire Kaptur family—loving wife Rita, children and spouses Stephen, Christopher/Renee, James/Christine, Kenneth, Regina/Jeff. Sisters Virginia, Lillian, Christine, and the grandchildren, Nicole, Michael, Cassandra, Ashley, Brittany, Jacob, and Lucas—as we honor the beautiful life of John Conrad Kaptur. Surely, he is loved.

His children observe: "Dad has a smile that would immediately tell all that he was happy to be in company with you. He enjoyed a good joke and always enjoyed a brewed cup of tea. 'Refreshing', he would say. John was a gentleman, also a strongman, a man who exemplified the motto by which he lived 'always faithful'. Our beloved father, Steve, his uncle, said of John, 'He knew how to be a man'."

Born in 1925, John was a devoted son of Szepan and Mary, an American of Polish heritage. He was his parents first and only born son. His father was the eldest of 16 children. John grew up attending St. Stanislaus Church and Libbey High School during tough economic times. He knew struggle. He worked hard. He possessed the drive, inventiveness and skill for which Kaptur men are known. His kindness was rooted deeply in his early years when people survived by holding onto one another.

He valued family—to celebrate life and to weather the rough times. At 79, he was the patriarch of the Kaptur family.