

Hiram Fong's political career was interrupted by World War II, when he was called to active duty with the Army Air Corps. He served as judge advocate with the 7th Fighter Command of the Seventh Air Force. He later retired as a colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

As a member of the Hawaii Territorial House, Fong supported legislation designed to help organized labor and working families. In 1954, he supported what became known as the "Little Wagner Act," which allowed agriculture workers to unionize. It was Hiram Fong's understanding of and identification with Hawaii's laborers and plantation workers and fellow immigrant families that enabled him, a Republican in an increasingly Democratic Party-dominated Hawaii, to continue winning elections.

His one electoral defeat, which ended the first phase of his political career, came in 1954, when he lost his race for re-election to the Territorial House seat by a mere 31 votes. Hiram Fong then focused on real estate, insurance, and investments, and established a number of successful island firms: Finance Factors, Finance Realty, Finance Home Builders, and Finance Investment, to name a few.

In the statehood year of 1959, Fong embarked on the second phase of his political career by running for and winning one of the two new United States Senate seats created for the newly established State of Hawaii. He won re-election in 1964 and 1970, and served with honor and distinction, beloved by all in his native Hawaii and beyond, until his retirement on January 2, 1977. At his retirement, Senator Fong was the ranking Republican on the Senate Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

But even then, Senator Fong, as he was universally known thereafter with great affection, returned home and to his various business enterprises and to the devotion of and to his expanded family. Well into his nineties, he was a remarkable sight as he strode through downtown Honolulu on his way to and from work, excited by what the day brought and eager to continue his long string of accomplishments. At his death, his body lay in state in Hawaii's State Capitol as whole generations of citizens paid tribute to a remarkable man who led a remarkable life.

It is both fitting and appropriate that we provide this modest memorial, as he would have wished, in order to remember the essence of public service and a life well lived by Hawaii's quintessential native son, Hiram L. Fong.

CONGRESS SHOULD LISTEN TO
ETHAN SENSER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues a letter that I re-

cently received from Ethan Senser, a remarkable 7th grade student who attends the Sager Solomon Schechter Middle School in Northbrook, Illinois. Ethan's letter is a persuasive and thoughtful call to action for all of us about the need to prevent global warming and protect the environment for this and future generations.

Ethan not only asks Congress to respond to the looming dangers of global warming and environmental destruction, he lays out clear and eminently doable measures that we can take to achieve those goals. He has provided us with a common sense list of steps to take, from the promotion of energy-efficiency appliances and cars to public transportation to alternative fuel production as a substitute for drilling in environmentally-fragile areas like ANWR. By following Ethan's suggestions, our legislative legacy will be to leave the world a cleaner, safer and better place. If not, Ethan's generation will face the enormous task of cleaning up environmental disasters that we can act now to prevent.

Finally, I want to commend Ethan not just for his ideas but for his activism. He is not just asking Congress to act, relying on us to fix problems. Ethan wants to know what he can do as a young student who is concerned about the environment. Here, too, Ethan is sending a correct and compelling message: that the protection of the planet is everybody's business.

I know that, after reading Ethan's letter, my colleagues will be as impressed with his commitment and vision as I am. And, I hope that it will result in enactment of the legislative priorities that he has suggested we pursue.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN SCHAKOWSKY: My name is Ethan Senser. I am in 7th grade at Sager Solomon Schechter Middle School in Northbrook, IL. I am very worried about global warming and how it will affect the world in the future. There are several things that I am concerned about. I am worried about air pollution from cars and factories. I am concerned with the rain forests. The rain forests are disappearing because of the need for lumber and grazing land for cattle. Forests are also being destroyed in this country for lumber. Forests are important because trees remove carbon dioxide from the air, a major greenhouse gas that causes global warming. They are also important animal habitats and many animals are in danger of becoming extinct because of their loss of a place to live and feed. With global warming I am also worried about the Polar ice caps melting and raising the sea level. If this happens cities that are on a coastline would be in serious danger of flooding.

I am hoping that Congress will do something to help stop global warming before it goes too far. I think that Congress should try to make more laws to really help the environment. They should make sure that there is no drilling for oil in the Alaskan nature preserve. Besides ruining animal habitats, tanker accidents can pollute the water. Congress should pressure auto companies to make more fuel efficient cars. They should give incentives for the development of alter-

native fuels. They should also try to get factories to find ways to produce their products in a safer, cleaner way. There should be more pressure on people to use public transportation. Also, people could be encouraged to use bikes more often. More cities should try to use Carpool lanes to get people to carpool. Companies should make environmental friendly products. Household appliances makers should do the same. More products should be made in recyclable containers. Paper products could be made on recycled paper as well as pop bottles. Many products are over packaged and should be sold in simpler, smaller packaging.

I am writing to you, Congresswoman Schakowsky, because I want to get involved in ways to help stop global warming. As a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and someone also very concerned about the environment, do you have any suggestions on how a middle school student can make a difference?

TRIBUTE TO RADIO STATION
KALW

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Radio Station KALW for its continuing service to the people of the San Francisco Bay Area and to congratulate KALW on its fifty-fifth anniversary of operations.

KALW began broadcasting in 1941. It was the first FM radio station in San Francisco, the first educational FM station in the United States, the second non-commercial FM station in the country and the first non-commercial FM station west of the Mississippi River.

In a time of media consolidation, KALW maintains its independence and its dedication to local news. Its programs reflect the extraordinary richness and diversity of the people of the Bay Area.

KALW has received more than a dozen national excellence awards in the past five years for its exemplary news coverage. In its programs it draws on the expertise of a brain trust of local community members, including scholars, job coaches, musicians, independent bookstore owners and many others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a remarkable national resource, radio station KALW, and extending to everyone involved with the station our congratulations on its fifty-fifth anniversary.