

New York City and one of four daughters born to Isaac and Bertha Liberman. She graduated in 1950 from Bennington College and earned a master's degree in education from New York University in 1955.

In 1976, Mrs. Smith became a professor in the School of Education at American University, where she led the master's degree program specializing in learning disabilities.

Tonight, I ask Members of Congress to join me in honoring her life and the gifts that she bestowed upon the world of education. Mrs. Smith's empathy, experience, and creative expression prompted her to create the internationally acclaimed Lab School in Washington, D.C. in 1967.

The Lab School is one of the Nation's premier places for students with learning disabilities and an institution that uses arts as a central component to the school's education process. In fact, the Lab School students spend half of the day in highly specialized, individualized classrooms and offer the other half in the arts.

Inspired by her pursuit to assure that her youngest son received a quality education, Mrs. Smith created a school designed to educate students diagnosed with one or more learning disabilities. Relying on her intuition and creativity, Mrs. Smith developed the "academic method," which serves as the core of the Lab School's curriculum. The academic method is a nontraditional academic approach founded on the belief that a child's future to learn means that the teacher has not yet found a way to help him.

Not only did her academic method lead to her youngest son's academic and professional success, but it has also left behind a gift that has enriched the lives of so many. Her great legacy will continue to live through the success of the current students and adults that attend the Lab School of Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and Philadelphia. In addition, her excellence will live on through her literary works, many of which have earned her recognition.

Mrs. Smith was well accomplished in academia and also accomplished in awards, advisory board appointments, and was even highlighted by NBC's Today Show.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that the Members understand that there are many Americans, including myself and including many others, that have been honored by the Lab School of Washington. Those of us that have learning disabilities, auditory processing, dyslexia, what have you, Mrs. Smith gave young people the inspiration and adults the inspiration to pursue beyond their disabilities. Those have been honored by the Lab School because Sally was a part of lifting the hopes and the dreams not only of the students but the parents, people like Magic Johnson, James Earl Jones, and also Danny Glover and Charles Schwab have been honored by the Lab School.

We will miss Mrs. Smith, but we know that her legacy and memory will continue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the body tonight about what we are facing in this country as we experience higher gasoline prices, higher energy prices. Today there is an article that I will submit for the RECORD today: Dow Chemical announced it is going to cut jobs and close plants in the United States.

DOW CHEMICAL TO CUT JOBS AND CLOSE PLANTS

(By Bob Sechler and Ana Campoy)

DEC. 5.—Dow Chemical Co. plans to cut 1,000 jobs and shutter a number of underperforming plants, saying it will put the savings into higher-growth opportunities.

The job cuts constitute about 2.3% of Dow's estimated 42,500 employees. The chemical company expects to incur a fourth-quarter charge of \$500 million to \$600 million, including costs for severance and asset write-downs.

The effort "reflects our commitment to prune businesses that are not delivering appropriate value and tackle tasks more efficiently across the entire organization," Chief Executive Andrew N. Liveris said in a statement.

Dow Chemical, based in Midland, Mich., has been struggling with higher prices for natural gas and oil, the main feedstock for chemicals, and lower prices for commodity chemicals, or the basic building blocks for more complex chemicals. Basic chemicals account for about 50% of the company's revenue.

To reduce its costs, the company has been actively moving its commodity-chemical production to places like Asia and the Middle East, where raw materials are cheaper. It has also worked with local companies in those regions to reduce the amount of money it has to invest.

The company also is trying to expand its specialty-chemical business, which is more profitable and less exposed to the ups and downs of energy markets. Dow has been widely expected to unveil a major joint venture or acquisition that would reduce its dependence on low-margin commodity chemicals.

The company pegged the annual savings from the moves at \$180 million once complete.

Among the moves announced yesterday, Dow said it will exit the auto-sealers business in North America, Asia Pacific and Latin America, and explore options for the business in Europe. The company will close an agricultural-sciences manufacturing plant in Lauterbourg, France.

Now, it's not that it is cutting those jobs in the United States and simply lowering its production worldwide. What it is doing is cutting jobs in America in order to make more competitive changes to the company and have those jobs overseas.

This is a significant thing that we on the Republican side have been talking about for the last several years. It is time for us as a Nation to fight the economic fight that we are faced with. We cannot continue to ignore what other nations are doing and what our energy costs are or we are going to continue to see headlines like this today with Dow Chemical cutting jobs and closing plants.

Now, we had a precursor to this earlier this year. Dow Chemical announced that it was going to build a plant in Saudi Arabia that cost \$22 billion, an investment that large in Saudi Arabia, and meanwhile they are going to also start in China another plant for approximately \$8 billion, and they knew at that point that they would begin this transfer of jobs.

Now, we have to ask ourselves is it because Dow Chemical is just a bad corporate partner? Maybe they are just after corporate greed. They're going to make profits at the expense of the United States, because that's what we have heard. We have heard on the House floor that corporations are evil, that they don't have the interests of the country at heart.

As we look at it a little bit closer, we recognize that in the United States just today the prices for natural gas are quoted at above the \$8 range. We have at the same point, and natural gas is a very key component of Dow Chemical's products; in other words, about 50 percent of their costs, if I am not mistaken, come from their raw material costs, of which natural gas is the key component. So there is a direct correlation between the price of natural gas and jobs in this country. Now, when we are paying above \$8 for natural gas, what are they paying in Saudi Arabia? In Saudi Arabia the price is today about 75 cents. So almost one tenth, one tenth the cost for 50 percent of their raw materials in Saudi Arabia versus here.

Now, you don't have to be schooled in economics. You simply have to understand that you are not going to Wal-Mart and pay ten times the cost for something you buy when you could go down the street and get it somewhere else. You go to buy and get the best deal. Companies have to have the same incentive. If Dow Chemical stays here and pays ten times more, ultimately they become noncompetitive in the world. Someone else will set up the plant in Saudi Arabia with one tenth the cost of raw materials, and the jobs will come away from Dow Chemical and go to another plant. So all that Dow Chemical is doing is saying we have competitive forces that cause us to consider this move.

We have done nothing in this Congress to dispel those costs, to drive