

As people who live in rural America well know, local radio stations are often the lifeblood of vital community life. WKSK radio is just such a radio station, and recent audience measurement results illustrate just that. According to these results, WKSK has the most loyal local audience in its home county of any station in North Carolina.

Next year, WKSK will celebrate the 50-year mark of service to the people of Ashe County. The fact that nearly 55 percent of listeners in Ashe tune their radios to WKSK, seven times more than the next closest station, is a true testament to the emphasis that WKSK places on serving Ashe County.

WKSK radio is a real community fixture, and I wish the station 50 more years of sterling service to the High Country.

EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE AIR FORCE TANKER CONTRACT AWARD

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express concern about the Air Force's award of a \$35 billion contract to a foreign consortium which received over \$5 billion in foreign government subsidies.

Of concern is the Air Force defying its own ranking system, which awarded the Boeing Corporation 98 positive discriminators and Northrop Grumman-EADS only 30, yet the tanker contract went to EADS.

Boeing's 767 tanker had a positive survivability rating. EADS' aircraft had a negative rating. Yet the tanker contract went to EADS.

Boeing has manufactured over 2,000 tankers with advanced fly-by-wire booms; EADS, zero. Yet the tanker contract went to EADS.

The lifecycle cost of the EADS tanker is going to be billions and billions more than that of the Boeing aircraft, yet the tanker contract went to EADS.

We continue to face record fuel prices, and it is critical that the Air Force's next refueling tanker meet or exceed their requirements and be as efficient as possible. An independent study has determined that the Boeing KC-767 fleet burns 24 percent less fuel than the EADS A-330s.

For the sake of the American workers, the American economy and our national security, it is time to revisit this contract.

MARKING THE 78TH ANNIVERSARY OF SMOOT-HAWLEY

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 78th anniversary of perhaps the most disastrous economic legisla-

tion in our Nation's history, the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1928. It set off a chain reaction of retaliatory tariffs that caused a sharp decline in global trade. Modern economists largely agree that it deepened the Great Depression.

Unfortunately, today this lesson seems to have gone largely unnoticed, judging by the isolationist course the Democrat House leadership is currently embracing. Expanded trade is critical to job creation and economic growth, it levels the playing field for U.S. workers, and is crucial to keeping our Nation as the world's number one economic trading powerhouse.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must reject the rising tide of economic isolationism and lead the world toward open markets.

WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER SERGEI STANISHEV OF BULGARIA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as cochair of the Bulgaria Caucus, I rise today to welcome Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev of the Republic of Bulgaria to Washington.

Since the defeat of communism in Eastern Europe, Bulgaria has emerged as a dynamic democracy. The country became a part of NATO in 2004 and the European Union in 2007. Recently the World Bank classified Bulgaria as one of the top 10 nations to have undertaken important economic reforms to attract business investment. Bulgaria is the only EU nation to be listed in the top 10.

Since my first visit as an election observer in June 1990, I have seen firsthand the talented people of Bulgaria emerge from totalitarianism to be one of the world's most vibrant nations as a free market democracy. Elena Poptodorova, the able ambassador from Bulgaria, has been vital in developing Bulgarian-American friendships.

I especially wish to thank Bulgaria for their continued support in the global war on terrorism. I have visited Bulgarian troops in Afghanistan, and my son Alan served with Bulgarians in Iraq. Our Nation and the world is safer and more prosperous by defeating terrorism overseas.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

THE TUNNEL RAIDERS OF EGYPT

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it seems like Indiana Jones is at it again. This time the search is on for the secret underground tunnels of Egypt.

The United States Army in Texas is training Egyptian soldiers to locate and destroy underground tunnels used

by criminals to smuggle arms from Egypt into the Gaza Strip. Our troops are out there teaching digging techniques to the Egyptians looking for the lost treasure tunnels of guns and rockets. We are doing this to help protect the borders of Israel and Egypt.

Meanwhile, the U.S.-Mexican border is still porous for underground smuggling. Since 9/11, more than 40 smuggling tunnels from Mexico to the United States have been discovered. Last year, the DEA located a high-tech, sophisticated concrete tunnel 85 feet underground filled with two tons of drugs. Law enforcement expects there to be more tunnels found.

Rather than just protecting the borders of other nations by training Egyptian tunnel raiders, maybe we ought to send the military to protect our own southern border from the underground secret tunnel invasion of guns, drugs and people coming into the United States without permission.

And that's just the way it is.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD REVOKE BAN ON EXPLORATION OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, oil prices climb to record highs; gasoline over \$4; diesel prices near \$5; family budgets stretched to the limits. And how do we handle this? We beg OPEC to produce more oil. The Saudis say they will give us 200,000 more barrels a day in the world market, but the daily world demand is 84 million barrels.

Hey, how about putting the U.S. in charge of our own energy? What about American energy? Sixty-four percent of Americans support American-made energy.

Today I will introduce a resolution calling upon the President to revoke a ban President Clinton extended in 1998 that prohibits exploration of our Outer Continental Shelf. The U.S. has the technology and regulatory framework to ensure that these resources are developed in an environmentally sound manner. The President has the power to remove this ban today, if he chooses.

I invite all my colleagues to cosponsor my resolution, and send a clear signal to the President and to the American people that we will help.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY NEEDED

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, during the Second Continental Congress, John Adams wrote a letter to his wife, Abigail. He said, "I have always felt dissatisfied, but apparently now I seem to reek of discontent." He reeked of discontent because he knew what the right thing to do was, but he couldn't