

less neurotic, damned, healthy, saved, de-based and great. That does not mean you send the grocer to fix your your plumbing. . . . [You] try to reach beyond characterization to political impact."

A subsidiary industry of the news business is the post-election conference or seminar on how we went wrong in our work. Why did we commit so much "tabloid journalism"? Why was coverage of the "real issues" so lousy? Why didn't we better understand the candidates, their characters, their personalities?

When all this psycho-babble is over and the next campaign comes around, we tend to repeat the same scenario because we can't help ourselves, because the habits of journalism are too hard to kick, because our history is too hurried, because truth and news are not the same.

#### TRIBUTE TO W.D. "BILL" FARR

#### HON. WAYNE ALLARD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 1995*

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Mr. W.D. "Bill" Farr for his 40 years of service on the board of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District [NCWCD]. Mr. Farr was a true pioneer in the development of water for Colorado's front range.

During the drought years of the 1930's, the importance of water to farmers, fishermen, and other users on the front range became all too clear. In response, a friend of Mr. Farr's established the Northern Colorado Water Users Association, which would later become the NCWCD. One of the association's first projects, with which Mr. Farr was intimately involved, was to push for the construction of the Colorado-Big Thompson project [C-BT]. In 1954, the C-BT became fully operational and brought a supplemental supply of water from the western slope to seven northeast Colorado counties. Mr. Farr was certainly correct when he said that the "C-BT is like a second Poudre River. Without it, we would not have the front range we see today."

In 1955, Mr. Farr became a board member of the NCWCD. In the 1970's, Mr. Farr was instrumental in planning the C-BT's windy gap project and headed the municipal subdistrict of the NCWCD that built facilities below Granby Lake. As such, he is known as the father of the windy gap project.

Mr. Speaker, so that the House may fully appreciate W.D. Farr's unrivaled contribution to water development in Colorado, let me run through a brief chronology of his involvement with this issue: 1931—became board director with the Town-Boyd Lateral Co. of Eaton; 1942—named president of the board of the Sweet Jessup Canal of Carbondale; 1947—became board director of the Greeley-Loveland Irrigation Co.; 1955—became board director with the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District; 1970—named first chairman of the Municipal Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District; 1971—became president of the National Cattlemen's Association; 1973—appointed to the Water Pollution Control Advisory Board of the U.S. Department of the Interior by President Richard Nixon; 1974—named chairman of the Region 208 Areawide Planning Commission of the Larimer-Weld Council of Gov-

ernments; 1975—became first chairman of the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority; 1975—became member of the Colorado Water Congress; 1985—named the Wayne Aspinall Water Leader of the Year by the Colorado Water Congress; 1994—represented the Farr Family at the dedication of the Farr pumping plant at Granby reservoir. The plant is part of the Colorado-Big Thompson project.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, W.D. Farr's service to the State of Colorado cannot be overstated, and I thank you for joining me in recognizing his 40 years of service with the NCWCD. As the Representative for the mostly rural and agricultural Fourth Congressional District of Colorado, I have a deep appreciation for the life-time commitment W.D. Farr has made to ensuring that the front range has an adequate water supply year after year.

Thank you, W.D. Farr.

#### PESONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DOUGLAS "PETE" PETERSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 1995*

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the United States-Russian Joint Commission on POW/MIA's, I was asked to attend critical meetings with the government leaders of two former Soviet Republics during the week of November 6. This work precluded my attendance in the House and as a result I missed a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 765—Yea, rollcall No. 766—Yea, rollcall No. 767—Yea, rollcall No. 768—Yea, rollcall No. 769—Yea, rollcall No. 770—Yea, rollcall No. 771—Yea, rollcall No. 772—Nay, rollcall No. 773—Nay, rollcall No. 774—Yea, rollcall No. 775—Nay, rollcall No. 776—Yea, rollcall No. 777—Yea, rollcall No. 778—Nay, rollcall No. 779—Nay, rollcall No. 780—Yea, rollcall No. 781—Nay, rollcall No. 782—Yea, rollcall No. 783—Nay, rollcall No. 784—Nay, rollcall No. 785—Nay rollcall No. 786—Nay, rollcall No. 787—Nay.

#### PURPA: COSTING CONSUMERS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS

#### HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 1995*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to another Federal regulation which has outworn its welcome, the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act [PURPA]. Born in the energy crisis of the 1970's, PURPA was designed to encourage renewable energy sources which would provide power more efficiently. We clearly have made great strides in producing energy in our country and a great many small, independent power producers have introduced us to alternative forms of power generation. These producers play a central role in fueling the wholesale power market. However, like many Government mandates, PURPA has created a backlash which runs counter to its original goals of less costly, more efficient power generation, and allows a

loophole whereby producers that burn primarily fossil fuels qualify as independent wholesale generators. But even worse, Mr. Speaker, PURPA has become downright harmful to American taxpayers, consumers, laborers and business.

Allow me to submit for the RECORD an article which recently appeared in one of New York's capital region papers, *the Schenectady Gazette*. While focusing primarily on a case in my home State of New York, the message of the author, Charles Conine, holds true throughout many regions of the country.

[From the Schenectady Gazette]

#### FEDERAL RULE KEEPS N.Y.'S ELECTRIC RATES HIGH

(By Charles T. Conine)

Niagara Mohawk last week proposed opening its service territory to full competition. This may be the first of many such actions by utilities to stop the financial bleeding caused by the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), a little-known boondoggle from the 1970s that costs consumers tens of billions, deprives the government of billions in taxes, wastes resources and eliminates skilled industrial jobs.

If the House of Representatives is looking for a regulation to reform, it should consider this one. Ending PURPA would find support from Republicans, Democrats, organized labor and consumers.

PURPA was adopted during the oil shortage of 1978 to promote renewable, domestic energy sources and increase energy efficiency. But instead of small, independent projects fueled with renewable energy, PURPA has spawned hundreds of unnecessary electric-generating plants, most of which burn fossil fuels.

PURPA developers can force public utilities to buy their electricity at a premium, regardless of whether the power is needed. PURPA developers also pay less in taxes than utilities do. The combination can be economically devastating for a state. New York, California, Pennsylvania and Maine have been hardest hit, but Colorado, North Carolina, Oklahoma and New Jersey also have their share of "PURPA machines," as these projects are called.

#### UNNEEDED POWER

Let me tell you what PURPA has done to consumers and workers in upstate New York. This year, Niagara Mohawk has been forced to buy \$1 billion of unneeded electricity from independent power producers, \$400 million more than it would have cost the utility to generate the same electricity. In other words, business and residential customers will pay \$400 million more this year for PURPA electricity, a figure that will continue to rise.

And because NiMo does not need the additional electricity, it has been forced to shut down power plants and eliminate the jobs of 2,000 electrical workers. Our union has worked closely with management to make changes in work practices and work flexibility, but the situation keeps getting worse.

These are prime industrial jobs that support many service jobs in the community—teachers, insurance agents, merchants, restaurant workers. The higher cost of electric power also puts other industrial jobs at risk and stifles growth. The only business that's growing in upstate New York is the moving business.

The loss of tax revenue also hurts. For example, the Nine Mile Point nuclear plant pays \$52 million a year in local property taxes. Nearby is an independent power plant of equivalent size that burns natural gas, owned by Sithe Energies USA, a subsidiary controlled by Campagnie Generale des Euax