

HONORING NATIONAL COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DAY**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Community Economic Development Day (National CED Day), which will be celebrated by community development corporations (CDCs) across the county on Wednesday, April 8, 1998.

This third annual event, held during National Community Development Week and sponsored by the National Congress for Community Development (NCCED), recognizes the achievements of more than 2,500 CDCs working in America's low-income urban and rural communities. More than 800 NCCED members are actively involved in housing renovation and construction, real estate development, industrial and small business development, employment-generating activities, and other innovative programs to revitalize communities. More than 21 million people benefit from the work of CDCs.

This year's National CED Day theme, Community Empowerment Through Partnerships, underscores the benefits of building effective alliances between community and faith-based organizations, businesses, and state, local, and federal governments. Collectively, these partnerships work to foster a better social and economic quality of life for America's families. National CED Day gives CDCs the chance to form and expand productive partnerships with local businesses, corporations, banks, academic institutions and public officials, which strengthens the economic base of both urban and rural communities nationwide.

Community Development Corporations are good at what they do around the country and in Houston. They recognize the interrelated factors that cause economic decline. They evaluate the needs of each community and create plans for each neighborhood. They then develop comprehensive strategies for community economic development using entrepreneurial solutions, and they stay in the community for the long term.

Effective community development depends on all of us working together, developing and sharing good ideas, and bringing individual talents and resources to bear addressing the economic challenges facing our families and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I commend all involved with National Community Economic Development Day and the good work that CDCs have done in Houston and around the country. I look forward to continuing to work together in this crucial effort.

1998 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R.

3579) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, the House Report accompanying the Supplemental Appropriations bill contains a little-noticed section that could cost taxpayers many millions of dollars in revenues from public lands in the Gulf of Mexico.

Technological advances in recent years have made it much cheaper to find and produce oil and gas in what was formerly considered "deep water" in the Gulf. In 1995, the Congress unwisely passed a Deepwater Royalty "holiday" to stimulate oil companies (most of whom were already enormously interested in deep water leases) to bid on these tracts. Here's how Congress provided that incentive: instead of charging royalties on oil and gas produced from these new leases, the oil companies would be given as much as 87.5 million barrels absolutely free! We have given away hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars in royalties from leases on public lands that the oil industry was already clamoring to bid on. It came as little surprise that companies are snapping up the royalty-free leases and paying higher than normal front end bonuses to acquire them. Why wouldn't you pay more if you know you will get nearly 100 million barrels of production royalty-free?

Thanks to improved technology and cheaper production costs, oil exploration and production in the Gulf are booming. As reported in Forbes magazine last year, Gulf of Mexico deepwater development costs have dropped to as little as \$3 per barrel, one-third the level in 1987.

This is great news for the oil industry, but might not be quite so good a bargain for the taxpayers who own the oil and gas. The Minerals Management Service, which oversees offshore production, wants to look at possibly raising the royalty rates on the holiday leases once royalties do begin to apply in an effort to determine whether or not the public is actually receiving fair market value on its oil and gas. MMS is fully allowed to take such corrective action under the 1995 law that gave away the leases royalty-free.

But the oil industry, enjoying the benefits of the 1995 law and flush with money from Gulf leases, now wants to curtail the government's legal right to make adjustments to ensure the public's financial interest is fully protected. The House Appropriations Committee's Report on the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill includes language to prevent the Secretary of the Interior from making any changes to the lease terms. This language undermines the Secretary's authority to set terms that guarantee the taxpayer receives fair market value on the sale of its mineral resources.

Congress should be protecting the public's right to receive a fair return—not tying the hands of the Interior Department when it is attempting to secure fair market value for the taxpayers. This Report language is irrelevant to the Emergency Supplemental and, by revising the authority granted Interior in the 1995 law, constitutes an indirect effort to legislate on an appropriations bill.

I would hope such instructions are not included in the Conference Report or the Statement of Managers. And I would recommend that Members oppose the Conference Report should it be included. If the weakening rec-

ommendation is in the Statement, the MMS should ignore this unwise effort to tamper with the law and shortchange taxpayers.

TRIBUTE TO PHIL WALKER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Phil Walker, a Fort Collins, Colorado, native and 40-year broadcaster for KCOL radio who has just been recognized as the Colorado Broadcasters Association Broadcast Citizen of the Year.

This annual award is given to an individual who displays an outstanding record of community citizenship. Phil was selected for his tremendous service during Fort Collins' 1997 devastating flood when he stayed on the air non-stop for four days, broadcasting relief coverage and directing emergency assistance.

However, Phil has been known to our community and his listeners long before last summer's flood. He started work at KCOL as a freshman at Fort Collins High School in 1957. Today, we start our weekday mornings at 6:00 a.m., hearing, "Good morning everyone! How's my city? on News Talk 1410 AM, Monday through Friday. What better way to wake up than to hear this cheerful greeting emanating from a man who loves and knows his city, my hometown.

Phil has been recognized as a visionary who constantly thinks about Fort Collins' future, but he also airs a very popular radio feature about the 200-year history of Fort Collins and northern Colorado, known as "Visions Along the Poudre." As he proudly states, "This is my home town," obviously giving him great insight and knowledge of the area.

Phil has won numerous awards during his career including Best Regularly Scheduled Newscast by the Colorado Broadcasters Association in 1996; Best Broadcast Feature Writer in Colorado by the Society of Professional Journalists in 1994; and Best Radio Program in Colorado by the Broadcasters Association in 1980-83, 1989, and 1991-96; was chosen as the "Best Local Author" in the annual Coloradoan poll four years in a row for "Visions Along the Poudre Valley;" President's Award by the Fort Collins Historical Society in 1996; and this year, was chosen as the Honorary Historian for Larimer County by the Larimer County Commissioners.

His community involvement is extensive as well, including being the founding member of the NewWestFest committee; creator of the Annual community Carolfest held during Christmas; administrator of the town's 4th of July fireworks display for 15 years; established a fundraising program for the Fort Collins Museum; master of ceremonies for many charitable events; and was recently the Honorary Chairman of Riverfest, the annual celebration of the Poudre River.

Recalling a conversation he had with his father as a youngster, he asked his dad, "Why are you doing all this volunteer work? You don't get paid for doing it?"

His dad responded, "Well, it's my turn." Phil asked, "What does that mean," to which his dad said, "If you keep your nose clean and live in this town for about forty more years, you'll know what it means."