

Now, this is because of the undue influence of Enron, the largest energy conglomerate in the world. In fact, the CEO of Enron has personally, personally, over the years, given George Bush \$2 million to run for office, and has personally chosen the two new appointees to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to make certain that his interests are protected. And he is the only person that Vice President DICK CHENEY could name when he said he had been meeting with lots of people, lots of people, outside of certain special interests. In fact, he mentioned Ken Lay, Enron. Of course, he does happen to be the head of the largest energy conglomerate in the world, and they are profiting well.

But let us get back to Reliant for a moment. Here is what came out in the paper. They are cycling their plants up and down, destroying the plants, in fact, causing additional maintenance and long-term outages and long-term deterioration to game the market in 10-minute increments. They have a direct phone line from Houston, Texas, to their plant operators in California. And the guys in Texas are not looking to see whether the lights are on or off or the people need the juice or the businesses need the electricity. They are looking to see what the price is. And when the price starts to go down, they call the plant and they say, shut it down. They shut down. They watch, they watch, and 10 minutes later, if the price starts to go up, crank it up, we can make more money. This is the future.

I thought that the key for electricity was reliability, affordability and service. We were promised that deregulation would be more reliable, more affordable with better service. And instead we find that deregulation is rife with market manipulation, profiteering, and unreliable service, with rolling blackouts and brownouts, bankrupting businesses and residential consumers alike. And now the Bush administration thinks that is so spiffy that everybody in America should be subject to that.

That is definitely one part of their plan that has to go when this Congress acts on the so-called national energy policy.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE FIDENCIO M. GUERRA, SR.

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in our Nation's capital to render a salute to State District Judge Fidencio M. Guerra, Sr., of McAllen, Texas, on behalf of the citizens of the Fifteenth Congressional District of Texas and in honor of his outstanding service and dedication to the Judiciary in the State of Texas.

Judge Guerra was born on a small ranch in Jim Hogg County, Texas, on

August the 6th, 1909. Like my father, he grew up in a time where few, if any, Hispanics held leadership positions in the community or the government. He graduated from McAllen High School and went on to the University of Texas where he completed his law degree in 1940. The following year he married Estela Margo, a high school teacher.

During World War II, he was quick to volunteer to serve his country and was assigned to the State Department's legal office. In this capacity, he was sent by special assignment to the U.S. embassy in Bogota, Colombia, and the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Spain, where he helped negotiate several international cases, including the disposition of Axis war assets in Colombia and assisting the Spanish government in dealing with war refugees.

After the war, he returned to McAllen, Texas, and continued his practice of law. In 1949, Judge Guerra was appointed Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas where he was instrumental in presenting the State's case against the U.S. government over offshore mineral rights claims. The case ultimately reached the Supreme Court. As one of the first Hispanics to serve in the Texas State Judiciary, he was a role model to my generation and showed us that we too could succeed and hold public office.

During the 1950s, Judge Guerra and his wife Estela became leader in protecting and expanding educational opportunities for Hispanic students. Estela, who passed away in 1999, was a Spanish language teacher at Edinburg High School and also at McAllen High School for 20 years before her retirement in 1977. She received numerous awards for her dedicated service to the children of south Texas, including the American Association of Spanish and Portuguese Servantes Award.

In 1952, Judge Guerra was appointed as the presiding judge of the newly created 139th District Court at the new Hidalgo County Courthouse in Edinburg, Texas. He was successful in his bid to retain his post in the 1956 election, and until his retirement in 1980 ran unopposed in every single election. Even retirement did not slow down Judge Guerra. He continued to serve as a senior visiting judge until the early 1990s.

Judge Guerra has always been willing to answer the call to service both from his government and his community. He remains active in various community organizations, such as Our Lady of Sorrow Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, and the McAllen Rotary Club.

Judge Guerra and Estela raised seven children and taught them the value of staying in school and completing their education. Their children have followed their example and are professionals and community leaders. Diane Maria was a teacher; Robert is a retired teacher; Carlos is an attorney; Fidencio, Jr. is an attorney and former State district judge; Brenda is a teacher; Judy is a special education teacher;

and Daniel is a doctor. They continue Judge Guerra's legacy by teaching today's children that anything is possible if you work hard, you have integrity and follow your dreams.

In conclusion, Judge Guerra's dedicated commitment to both the Hispanic community in the State of Texas is an inspiration and challenge for us all. At age 91, he remains active in the community of McAllen. He truly exemplifies the values to which we all should aspire. Texas is a better place because of his many contributions. And as his Congressman, I wish him continued good health and good fortune. Thank you, Judge Guerra, Sr.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, before I begin the speech I had planned, I would like to comment on some of the comments made by other speakers.

I want to add my voice to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) when he spoke about how Federal employees, particularly those at the IRS, are doing the work of this country and doing it in a professional manner. He quoted from a rather vicious attack that proposes that somehow if we have a flat tax, that all problems of tax administration will be solved and the IRS could be dismantled.

Mr. Speaker, I headed the organization that collects the largest flat tax in America, the California sales tax, and let me assure my colleagues that flat taxes involve some of the same contentiousness, some of the same enforcement concerns as does any other tax or a progressive tax. And the IRS employees were professional and responsible, just as were our auditors, just as were our tax collectors with the California State Board of Equalization.

Let me also comment about the speech of my friend, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio), where he said that one company, Reliant, that made \$500 million, increased its profit by 2,000 percent. The gentleman from Oregon said, well, they did not do anything creative to raise that money. I have to disagree. Reliant, along with some of its sister corporations, invented a new definition for the term "the plant is closed for maintenance." "Closed for maintenance" means closed to maintain an outrageous price for each kilowatt. A new definition and true creativity.

They invented new ways to gouge California consumers, and they invented new ways to seek power here in