

In the intervening six months, while two mediation sessions have occurred, the parties report little or no progress toward reaching a mutually agreeable settlement. While opinions may differ on whether Congress should intervene to settle the on-going case, there is little doubt that Congress should step forward to prevent such an arcane dispute from ever again threatening Alaska's energy industry.

For this reason, I am introducing today legislation identical to S. 822, already introduced by Senators STEVENS and MURKOWSKI, to limit the ability of FERC in the future to make retroactive the impacts of future Quality Bank valuation methodology changes. I plan to push for inclusion of this provision in the energy legislation being considered by Congress this year.

By this legislation, after Dec. 31, 2005, FERC still will be able to change the methodology for determining the value of oil flowing through the pipeline but will not be permitted to apply changes to Quality Bank valuation methodologies on anything other than a prospective basis.

I have proposed this provision to prevent this legal nightmare from happening again. This provision will first eliminate the perverse current incentive for all sides to promote further litigation regarding Quality Bank valuations based on the expectation of a retroactive application of changes that would result in a large economic windfall. The retroactive application of valuation methodology changes encourages the sides in a dispute to sue in hopes of gaining a larger benefit in the future. This is a "lottery," however, that Alaskans are guaranteed to lose.

By setting Dec. 31, 2005 as the date that FERC can no longer apply Quality Bank valuation methodologies on a retroactive basis, the legislation will put the FERC and the litigants on notice that the current dispute must be resolved by the end of this year.

Requiring FERC to apply valuation methodology changes in connection with any future disputes on a prospective basis only will eliminate the risk and uncertainty associated with the prospect of nearly unlimited retroactive application of Quality Bank payment methodology changes. That will allow all Quality Bank participants to be able to conduct business with the certainty of knowing that prices received and paid for oil today cannot be altered years down the road. In addition, this will eliminate the strong incentive that currently exists for some parties to engage in endless litigation, in hopes of gaining windfall benefits from retroactive application changes.

While I, along with Senators STEVENS and MURKOWSKI, continue to call on all sides in the current dispute to compromise and settle this case now, this bill will discourage if not eliminate this type of dispute in the future—a benefit for all Alaskans.

HONORING CHRIST MEMORIAL CHURCH WORSHIP AND MUSIC LEADER JOHN BRIGHT UPON HIS RETIREMENT ON MAY 15, 2005

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christ Memorial Church Music and

Worship Leader John Bright upon his retirement. John Bright, who with the enduring support of his wife Marylin, has faithfully ministered for 40 years, including 23 years at Hope Reformed Church in South Haven, Michigan and 17 years at Christ Memorial Church in Holland, Michigan.

John Bright is a true minister of the Word through his music. He turned Wednesday evening choir rehearsals into a worship experience. He evoked passionate singing in all of the choir's music by asking each member of the choir to personalize the message. He faithfully taught the Christ Memorial Sanctuary Choir the power of communal prayer. His choirs will always be remembered for excellence in singing, bringing clarity to the message and praise to the Lord. John consistently sought to coordinate the message of the music with the message of the Word. He used his God-given gifts and talents to provide a worship atmosphere for everyone who attended his choral-led services. Every performance by John's choirs, be it in a worship or concert setting, was conducted in the context of Psalm 115:1, "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."

His smiling personality refreshed the hearts of the saints as described in Philemon 1:7. John Bright emptied himself so that he could serve all. John's life and music always provide encouragement to those most in need. He brought joy to patients in nursing homes throughout the year, leading them in worship and giving them cards and gifts. He tirelessly accepted the many requests to minister with music at countless weddings, funerals and other events.

Let it be known to all on the 15th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2005, that the members of Christ Memorial Church and the Sanctuary Choir do affirm the above and ask for God's fullest blessings on John Bright as he and Marylin move to the next season of their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Ms. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following vote on April 27, 2005. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 140, on Motion to Recommit H. Res. 22, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that American small businesses are entitled to a Small Business Bill of Rights, I would have voted "no."

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MELINDA RIOS, ARLON SEAY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of

Melinda Rios, Arlon Seay Intermediate School Teacher of the Year.

Melinda Rios holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She has accumulated an impressive record of accomplishment in her 19 years of teaching.

Today, Ms. Rios teaches Science and Social Studies to sixth-graders at Arlon Seay Intermediate School in the Comal Independent School District.

Ms. Rios believes that teaching is an interactive process that requires adjustments and alterations to fit each individual student. She sees herself as a resource that students can call on as they work to achieve their life goals.

Ms. Rios' commitment to service, and her willingness to learn and grow in her chosen profession, have made her one of her district's most valuable teachers. She is a tremendously valuable resource for her students, and for all of the families of her community. Her hard work prepares her students for future success, and helps to make them well-rounded citizens.

She is a credit to the Arlon Seay Intermediate School, and I am happy to have had the chance to honor her here today.

TRIBUTE TO MIDAMERICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT RICHARD SPINDLE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished leader in the fields of higher education and community service who soon will be stepping down after 15 years of valuable service as president of MidAmerica Nazarene University, which is located in the Third Congressional District.

Dr. Richard Spindle is a visionary leader who oversaw significant expansion of MidAmerica Nazarene University during his tenure as president, including a major enrollment increase, construction of two new dormitories, the Cook Center and the Bell Family Arena. Founded in 1966, MidAmerica Nazarene University is a private, liberal arts university offering undergraduate and selected professional and graduate degrees. Since the initial semester of operation, enrollment has increased dramatically and now totals approximately 1,400. A Christian community in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition, MidAmerica Nazarene University seeks to transform the individual through intellectual, spiritual and personal development for a life of service to God, the church, the Nation and the world.

During the past 2 years, I have been privileged to work with Dr. Spindle in a successful effort to obtain federal funding for MidAmerica Nazarene's criminal justice instruction program. He has been a major force for positive change and advancement in the Olathe community and throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. I join with many of our neighbors in wishing Richard and Billy Spindle all the best as they prepare to move to Brazil in August in order to consult with Brazilian Nazarene College.

Mr. Speaker, I am placing in the RECORD a recent news article from the Olathe News, which details a celebration that was held in Dr.

Spindle's honor at MidAmerica Nazarene, highlighting many of the personal qualities which made him a popular and effective administrator. I commend him to you, Mr. Speaker, and to our colleagues in the House of Representatives.

[From the Olathe News, Apr. 24, 2005]

SPINDLE PREPS FOR HIS 'TRANSITION'

(By Arley Hoskin)

Leaders don't retire, they transition. And that's the way MidAmerica Nazarene University president Richard Spindle views his departure in May. The community gathered Thursday at the university's Cook Center to celebrate Spindle's transition. As leaders in the community spoke of Spindle during the gathering, it became clear that Spindle had both their respect and admiration. "We've been fortunate here to have a leader like Dr. Spindle," Olathe Mayor Michael Copeland said. In Spindle's honor, Copeland deemed the day "Richard Spindle celebration day."

MNU experienced extraordinary growth during Spindle's 15 years as president. But the focus of the evening was not on MNU's all-time high enrollment, the development of Cook Center, the ground breaking for the new dormitory or the plans for a new cultural arts center.

When people spoke of Spindle, they spoke not just of a man with many accomplishments, they spoke of a friend. "Some people you feel good about and relate to," said Ron Wimmer, Olathe school district superintendent. Spindle was that kind of man, Wimmer said, and he also brought credibility to the university.

Many of the school districts new employees graduate from MNU, but Spindle contributed more to the community than a pool of employees.

Wimmer enjoyed his presence at the Olathe Chamber of Commerce meetings and Spindle is someone whom Wimmer considers a friend. Wimmer is not alone.

A video shown during the celebration was filled with accolades from faculty, staff and alum. Spindle is the kind of leader who knows students by their first names, MNU alum Bryan Beaver said. Others agreed. "I really did not expect to be able to call the president a friend. I feel like I can say that," said Allison Bartholomew a 2002 graduate.

Students were not the only ones who noticed Spindle's caring personality. A person's handshake says a lot and Spindle's spoke of confidence and care. Frank Devocelle, CEO of Olathe Medical Center recalled the first time that Spindle shook his hand. Both men extended their right hands, and Spindle reached out and cupped Devocelle's hand with his left hand. "It left (me) with a feeling of warmth, a feeling of caring and a feeling of concern for others," Devocelle said.

Spindle was known for his concern for others. "He was a role model of servant leadership," said MNU chaplain Randy Beckum. "Not by power, (but) by integrity."

Spindle took pride in beautifying the campus—he not only helped developed plans for campus renovations, but participated in some of those ventures.

Alumni president Jill Kenney remembers planting trees along Mur-Len Road with Spindle and his wife, Billy. It was cold and the trees were puny she said, but the Spindle's had a vision.

The trees were just part of the Spindle's vision. Spindle developed a 100-year plan during his time as president and he was able to see the two new dorms, and the Cook Center and Bell Family Arena built.

More importantly he saw the lives of students change. "These 25 years have been filled with joyous opportunities," Spindle said. The students were always his main con-

cern, said academic dean Frank Moore. He was the same man inside the office as he was outside, Moore added.

Billy, who shared her husband's passion for students, was also honored at the celebration. Billy served on the women's auxiliary and generated more than \$150,000 worth of scholarships through the sale of birthday cakes and the MNU country store, now MNU mercantile and diner. Billy also is known for leading by example. "She is a part of everything, heart and soul," said Kathy Smith, who served with Billy on the women's auxiliary.

The Spindles plan to move to Brazil in August where Richard Spindle will serve as a consultant for Brazilian Nazarene College.

COSTS REDUCED IN HALL ULTRA-DEEP AND UNCONVENTIONAL ONSHORE NATURAL GAS PROGRAM

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I know you share my concern about the need to increase domestic natural gas supply—the cleanest of the fossil fuels. One sure way to do that is by developing the technologies that are necessary to produce our 1400 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable natural gas.

As the original sponsor, I want to commend Chairman BARTON, Chairman DREIER and Chairman BOEHLERT for their hard work to develop my ultra-deepwater and unconventional natural gas research and development provision that was passed by the House last week. It was a challenge to reconcile the different versions of the provisions that were reported from the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Science Committee. This natural gas research and development provision will increase domestic natural gas supply and lower the cost of energy to consumers.

The Science Committee, on which I am proud to serve, passed its provisions for the comprehensive energy bill in early February. Those provisions included a program in ultra-deepwater and unconventional onshore natural gas supply R&D that tracked the language in the conference agreement on H.R. 6 in the previous Congress. The provisions funded this program through \$1.5 billion in mandatory spending over 10 years. In the last Congress much good work was done to improve this legislation. That good work was reflected in the legislation reported from the Science Committee and I appreciate the hard work.

Several weeks later, the Energy and Commerce Committee, on which I am also pleased to serve, reported its version of the energy legislation which included a similar provision for the ultra-deepwater and unconventional onshore natural gas research and development program that complied with the \$500 million ten year mandatory spending limit contained in the House Budget Resolution. However, this provision was also problematic because the score in the first year was \$100 million.

The House Rules Committee was responsible for reconciling the differences between various energy provisions reported by several House Committees prior to consideration on the floor of the House of Representatives, as well as to ensure that the final version of com-

prehensive energy legislation complied with the House Budget Resolution. The ultra-deepwater and unconventional onshore research and development provisions that were sent to the floor and passed by the House are a skillful combination of the work of the Science and the Energy and Commerce Committees. The combined provisions provide the opportunity for implementation of a robust program of research and development, which the DOE Energy Information Administration says would both increase supply and pay for itself in the form of increased royalties, to help develop new technologies to find and produce more of our domestic gas.

It is my understanding that the gas supply R&D provision that was passed by the House was scored by the Congressional Budget Office at \$500 million over 10 years or \$1 billion less than the provision passed by the Science Committee. I believe that the return to America consumers—according to EIA, a rapid technology scenario could save up to \$7 billion in the year 2025 alone—is worth a \$50 million per year investment over 10 years. This provision would establish a rapid technology scenario for natural gas production in this country. It is responsive to both budget constraints and is good public policy.

I also commend the Chairman and Chairman POMBO and Chairman NUSSLE for their hard work to ensure that mandatory funding was made available for these vital natural gas supply research and development provisions and other measures in the bill. There are three other provisions in the energy bill that were also granted \$500 million in mandatory spending by the Budget Resolution. The energy savings performance contracts will improve the energy efficiency of federal buildings and help mitigate the environmental consequences of power generation. The domestic offshore energy reinvestment program will provide funds to Coastal Energy States from federal oil and gas royalties. The electric reliability standards enforcement measure will improve the reliability of the Nation's electricity transmission system. Each of these provisions addresses specific problems associated with energy production and consumption. And each, for different reasons, need to be funded outside of the appropriation process. I thank the Chairman for his time.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CORAL REEF AND COASTAL MARINE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2005

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Coral Reef and Coastal Marine Conservation Act of 2005. This bill will credit qualified developing nations for each dollar spent on a comprehensive reef preservation or management program designed to protect these unique ecosystems from degradation. This bill builds on the model of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, expanding it to include coral reefs.

I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ALCEE HASTINGS) for being the lead cosponsor of this bill. This very same bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 382-32 on October 16, 2001.