

spirit against such great odds with passion and loving care.

We are about to celebrate yet again that freedom which set hundreds of thousands of our ancestors free and to give the society they were to inherit, as free men and free women, the capacity to become civil, tolerant and enduringly humane.

The great Haitian leader, Touissant l'Ouverture in his memorable reply to the President of France, the colonial ruler asserted (and I quote) "It is not a circumstantial liberty conceded to us that we wish, but the unequivocal adoption of the principle that no man whether he is born red, black or white can become the property of his fellow man".

It is that spirit of determination to effect human equity and equality for which we here in Jamaica have struggled, regardless of race, colour, political affiliation or creed.

The celebration of August First, then, remains an important observance for all who inhabit this land of ours. Today's challenges may appear formidable. But the fact that our forebears could overcome the greatest hardship of all—that of being enslaved—is cause enough, both for hope and for the strengthening of our resolve, to overcome every obstacle.

We dare not betray the trust placed in us who have come after the generation of 1838. We must never give up the fight to become the self-directed, liberated human beings we were created to be.

The abolition of slavery meant more than the emancipation of the slaves. It also meant the emancipation of those who held them in bondage, at least from the burden of callousness and greed—factors that devalue human life and desecrate any society intended to nurture that life.

So, let us again say thanks for that Emancipation which allowed thousands of others, whose descendants now call Jamaica "home", to enter a free society. They were still being exploited on contract during the period of indentured labour, but at least there were prescribed rules of engagement covering conditions of work.

They bequeathed this precious legacy to our workers and their trade unions, to our professionals and their staff associations, to our citizens and their right to choose their leaders who hold power in trust on their behalf. It was this legacy which was to help guide us into Independence, another milestone that we will observe in a few days. This legacy set us on the road to civil society, democratic governance and peaceful co-existence.

Our Emancipation Day observance is therefore a fitting tribute to that legacy of determination and inner strength which our freedom-loving ancestors have given to posterity.

May I wish blessed and pleasant Emancipation Day to everyone!

(P.J. Patterson is Jamaica's Prime Minister. The Emancipation Day Message was read to hundreds of worshippers at a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday afternoon at Hanson Place Central Methodist Church in Brooklyn by Dr. Basil Bryan, Jamaica's Consul-General in New York).

INTRODUCTION OF THE AFFORDABLE GAS PRICE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Affordable Gas Price Act. This legislation

reduces gas prices by reforming government policies that artificially inflate the price of gas. As I need not remind my colleagues, the American people have been hard hit in recent months by skyrocketing gas prices. In some parts of the country, gas prices have risen to as much as \$4 per gallon.

This increase in the price of gas threatens our already fragile economy and diminishes the quality of life for all Americans. One industry that is particularly hard hit is the trucking industry. The effects of high gas prices on the trucking industry will be reflected in increased costs for numerous consumer goods, thus further harming American consumers.

Unfortunately, many proposals to address the problem of higher energy prices involve increasing government interference in the market through policies such as price controls. These big government solutions will, at best, prove ineffective and, at worst, bring back the fuel shortages and gas lines of the seventies.

Instead of expanding government, Congress should repeal Federal laws and policies that raise the price of gas, either directly through taxes or indirectly through regulations that discourage the development of new fuel sources. This is why my legislation repeals the Federal moratorium on offshore drilling and allows oil exploration in the ANWR reserve in Alaska. My bill also ensures that the National Environmental Policy Act's environmental impact statement requirement will no longer be used as a tool to force refiners to waste valuable time and capital on nuisance litigation. The Affordable Gas Price Act also provides tax incentives to encourage investment in new refineries.

Federal fuel taxes are a major part of gasoline's cost. The Affordable Gas Price Act suspends the Federal gasoline tax any time the average gas prices exceeds \$3 per gallon. During the suspension, the Federal Government will have a legal responsibility to ensure the Federal highway trust fund remains funded. My bill also raises the amount of mileage reimbursement not subject to taxes, and, during times of high oil prices, provides the same mileage reimbursement benefit to charity and medical organizations as provided to businesses.

Misguided and outdated trade policies are also artificially raising the price of gas. For instance, even though Russia and Kazakhstan allow their citizens the right and opportunity to emigrate, they are still subject to Jackson-Vanik sanctions, even though Jackson-Vanik was a reaction to the Soviet Union's highly restrictive emigration policy. Eliminating Jackson-Vanik's threat of trade-restricting sanctions would increase the United States access to oil supplies from non-Arab countries. Thus, my bill terminates the application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to Russia and Kazakhstan, allowing Americans to enjoy the benefits of free trade with these oil-producing nations.

Finally, the Affordable Gas Price Act creates a Federal study on how the abandonment of the gold standard and the adoption of freely floating currencies are affecting the price of oil. It is no coincidence that oil prices first became an issue shortly after President Nixon unilaterally severed the dollar's last connection to gold. The system of fiat money makes consumers vulnerable to inflation and to constant fluctuations in the prices of essential goods such as oil.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Affordable Gas Price Act and end government policies that increase the cost of gasoline.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
KEVORK "GEORGE" ARSLANIAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. Kevork "George" Arslanian, loving family man, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and dear friend to many, as his friends and loved ones gather in honor and celebration of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Arslanian's life reflects a brilliant spectrum of survival, courage, tenacity, triumph, devotion to family and service to others. As a young child, Mr. Arslanian and his two brothers became orphans. During WWI, 40 members of the Arslanian family, including their father and mother, were killed in the horrific Armenian massacre by the Turkish military. The Armenian genocide resulted in the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians. A Turkish neighbor hid the three boys in her home, saving their lives. Soon after, they were sent to a Red Cross orphanage in Syria, where they barely survived among 60,000 other orphans.

Throughout their years of struggle, Mr. Arslanian and his brothers remained focused on the promise of a new life in America. They left the Syrian orphanage and journeyed to Cuba, from where they had heard that entry into the U.S. would be easier. They soon discovered this was not the truth. The children spent 5 years in Cuba, surviving with nothing more than their own determination, courage and the promise of reaching the shores of America. In 1927, the boys, who had by now become young men, made the escape out of Cuba as stowaways on a ship that delivered them to a life of freedom, hope and possibility in America.

The Arslanian brothers settled with relatives in Cleveland. Mr. Arslanian attended Miller Barber College in Cleveland, where he initially honed the art of his trade without pay. He then earned twenty dollars a week for 25 cent hair cuts. He soon became a licensed barber—the 11th in the State of Ohio, and in 1932, opened up his own shop in Garfield Heights. Six days a week for seventy-five years, Mr. Arslanian worked in the shop with his brother, and continued giving hair cuts until just a couple of years ago. Together, Mr. Arslanian and his beloved, late wife, Virginia, raised three sons. George and Virginia Arslanian were married for 67 years. Mr. Arslanian, one hundred years young, continues to be the foundation, center and light of his family—a family that includes his three sons, seven grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren.

His life-long devotion to his family and to his shop extends throughout the community, and is evidenced within his strong faith and his dedication to preserving the history, faith and culture of Armenia. Mr. Arslanian continues to be deeply involved with the Armenian Orthodox Church, and led the effort to establish St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church. His unwavering support for immigrant families and for the preservation of Armenian culture is reflected in his long-time involvement with the