

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SOLVAY POLYMERS, INC., AND SOLVAY INTEROX, INC.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Solvay Polymers, Inc., and Solvay Interox, Inc., Battleground Road Plant Site, upon their selection by the La Porte/Bayshore Chamber of Commerce as the 1998 Industry of the Year. Solvay's commitment to building a better future for the La Porte/Bayshore community has made it an example all industry can follow.

Solvay Polymers and Solvay Interox are subsidiaries of Solvay America, Inc., a holding company for the Solvay Group, a multinational group of chemical and pharmaceutical companies headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, with operations in more than 40 countries. Some 600 employees and approximately 500 contractors work at the two companies' Battleground Road plant. Located on 274 acres, the plant in more than four decades has grown from a one-product site into the two businesses that manufacture a wide range of products.

In addition to being an integral part of the area economy, the two companies also contribute greatly to the community. Their employees participate in such organizations as La Porte's Local Emergency Planning Council, Citizens' Advisory Council, La Porte Education Foundation, La Porte/Bayshore Chamber of Commerce, and Boys and Girls Harbor. The employees contribute almost 5,000 volunteer hours annually to surrounding communities. The company's stated goal is for La Porte citizens to feel that the community is a better place because of their neighbors, Solvay Polymers and Solvay Interox.

Dedication to worker safety and environmental performance has also been a hallmark of the two companies. Their employees actively participate in the Chemical Manufacturers Association's Responsible Care program, which promotes continuous improvement of health, safety, and environmental performance. Through a pollution prevention and waste minimization program, the plant reduced emissions of government reportable waste compounds by 50 percent between 1987 and 1996. The site holds a charter membership in Clean Texas 2000, and employees are dedicated to demonstrating a high level of commitment to the continued safe operations of the plant, along with the safety of the surrounding community.

The Battleground Road plant has a significant history. Solvay's predecessor at the site, Celanese Corporation, started plastic production at the plant in 1957, making it one of the first sites to produce high-density polyethylene. Today, Solvay Polymers, the plastics company, annually produces 1.7 billion pounds of high-density polyethylene and nearly 800 million pounds of polypropylene at this

site. This combined production level makes the site one of the world's largest plastic production facilities.

These plastics are used to make many products essential to everyday life. For example, high-density polyethylene is used to manufacture milk bottles, gas tanks, children's play toys, plastic bags, and liners. Polypropylene products include food containers for products such as ketchup and syrup, carpet backing, and children's products such as car seats and high chairs. The site's new polypropylene gas-phase line makes a special impact resistant polymer used to make automobile bumper fascias and other car parts.

The second company, Solvay Interox, produces more than 100 million pounds of hydrogen peroxide each year. This product is used in the pulp and paper industry as a wood pulp bleach and also has many environmental applications such as wastewater treatment and cleanup of contaminated soil. The company's high purity hydrogen peroxide is used as a cleaning and etching agent in the semiconductor industry. The site also produces persalts (percarbonates and perborates), which are used as color-safe brightener/deodorizers for fabric detergents.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Solvay Polymers, Inc., and Solvay Interox, Inc., on being named the La Porte/Bayshore Chamber of Commerce 1998 Industry of the Year. This honor is well deserved for their work in expanding business and job opportunities, producing products vital to our everyday lives, their commitment to environmental protection and worker safety, and their many contributions to the community.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANK E. CAMPBELL BURIAL AND CREMATION COMPANY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Frank E. Campbell Burial and Cremation Company on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. On Wednesday, October 21, Cardinal John O'Connor will be a special guest at Frank E. Campbell's 100th anniversary celebration.

In 1898, when Frank E. Campbell first opened the doors of his funeral home, he revolutionized the way people thought about funeral service. In the late nineteenth century, most funerals were conducted in private homes. But since a majority of New York City residents were living in apartments by this time, they did not have the capacity to handle large events.

Frank Campbell also understood the need of families to have time to grieve for their loved ones. By transferring the burden of planning a funeral from the families to a funeral home, Campbell eased the time of mourning.

Frank Campbell's funeral home combines a peaceful and serene atmosphere with an attentive and courteous staff. Over the past one hundred years, the Frank E. Campbell Burial and Cremation Company has served families from every strata of society including royalty of many nations and members of the arts and entertainment world. Frank Campbell's makes a concerted effort to honor the individual in the style in which he or she lived.

Over the past century, Frank E. Campbell has become a landmark on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention the Frank E. Campbell Burial and Cremation Company as it celebrates 100 years of serving New Yorkers in their times of grief.

RAILROAD ECONOMIC REGULATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Alfred E. Kahn, the noted economist and "father of deregulation," has rightly earned our gratitude for his work over the years. With all due respect, however, Dr. Kahn is doing himself and his many admirers a disservice in his continued calls for increased economic regulation of the freight railroad industry in this country.

Dr. Kahn testified on April 22, 1998, before the Subcommittee on Railroads of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. At that hearing, he testified at length on his perception of anti-competitive conduct by the rail industry and his suggestions on steps that should be taken to alleviate such conduct. Dr. Kahn has repeated his viewpoints at other times and in other venues in recent months, including testimony to the Surface Transportation Board. Most recently, an interview with Dr. Kahn was the basis for an article in the October 5, 1998 issue of *Traffic World*. In that interview, Dr. Kahn continues to advocate misguided railroad reregulation.

At the April 22, 1998 hearing at which I was present and engaged in considerable discourse with proponents of reregulation, Dr. Kahn was challenged by a number of experts in railroad economics and finance. In my opinion, his pronouncements were inconsistent with operating and marketplace realities. I respectfully submit he likewise errs on a number of points in the recent *Traffic World* article, including the following:

Dr. Kahn's basic premise is that service by a single railroad is equivalent to monopolization and that competition does not now exist for shippers. To the contrary, railroads face intense competition from other railroads, from other modes such as trucks and barges, and from other sources for the vast majority of their traffic. Shippers of all types, including those which are served by only one railroad,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

almost always have ways to obtain competitive transportation. And because of this competition, rail customers exert meaningful power in negotiating railroad rates and services.

In those relatively few cases wherein shippers do not have effective transportation options, existing maximum rate regulation protects shippers from egregious railroad rates. In two recent cases, for example, two utilities were awarded millions of dollars in reparations by the STB because they were deemed to have been charged unreasonably high rates by the railroads that served them. In response to criticisms by Dr. Kahn and others that rate reasonableness case procedures were cumbersome, lengthy and expensive, expedited procedures for small shipper cases were recently implemented by the STB, though shippers have not taken advantage of them to date.

Dr. Kahn is wrong in dismissing the likelihood of reduced investment in rail infrastructure if mandated access forces rates too low. Under forced access, railroads would be unable to recoup the full costs of their investment in their infrastructure.

Without the ability to cover total costs, railroads would be unable to maintain or increase their investment commitment. This would lead to deterioration and/or shrinkage of the national rail system and reduced service levels. Given the vital importance of transportation to the national and global economies, this is the last thing the national transportation system needs.

Dr. Kahn is wrong in claiming that "structural remedies" such as mandated competitive access would assure rail-to-rail competition and permit market forces to determine rate and service levels. In fact, under a system of forced access, government bureaucrats would have to regulate anew an incredible variety of price and operational decisions, creating a system of economic regulation that would be far more costly and pervasive—and far less effective—than the current system.

Proponents of mandated access, like Dr. Kahn, essentially advocate that freight railroads should be regulated on the basis of how many railroads serve an individual shipper, rather than on the presence or absence of competition. They propose that access to a railroad's privately owned and maintained infrastructure by its competitors should be mandated, and that the fees for access should be set by regulation, not by competitive market forces. This uneconomical reregulation of freight railroads is an attempt to gain short-term rate reductions for some shippers, at the expense of other rail customers, railroad investors and society in general.

Deregulation of the U.S. railroad industry has led to tens of billions of dollars in savings since 1980 to shippers and, ultimately, to all of us. It would be a tragedy of enormous proportions to jettison these gains in favor of cleverly disguised regulation that has failed in the past and would fail again.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MAYOR,
ANTHONY E. O'BLOCK

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Anthony O'Block, the

distinguished and memorable first Mayor of Plum Borough. In his thirty years of service, Mayor O'Block, through his extraordinary commitment and diligence, placed the needs of his community front and center. He immigrated as a small child to the United States from Slovenia and settled in Plum.

His early life in Plum was extremely modest, yet in the spirit of the American dream, he established his own construction company, presided over the successful People's Bank of Unity, and was one of the most respected figures in Pennsylvania Democratic politics. Despite his successes, he never forgot his roots, his family, or his neighbors throughout the borough. His love for his community led him to tirelessly focus on the needs of others and of the entire borough. During his tenure, Plum Borough gained recognition as a prosperous community, both for businesses and for families.

Through his contributions to the growth and the development of the Plum community, he expanded social and community services, attracted business investment, and made the Borough a truly exceptional place in which to live. All this was accomplished while keeping taxes at an all time low, a truly remarkable task.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to rise in tribute to Mayor Anthony E. O'Block. Mayor O'Block honored his family, his friends, and his community. He will forever be remembered as a friend and mentor to so many people. He will truly be missed.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANTHONY S.
LENZO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise before you to congratulate one of Northwest Indiana's most noble, selfless, and dedicated individuals: Dr. Anthony S. Lenzo, of Crown Point, Indiana. On October 11, 1998, Dr. Lenzo will be honored by the Cesare Battisti Lodge #27, as this year's Member of the Year. In addition to his many years of service to the Lodge, he is being honored for his tireless efforts as a community leader.

The Cesare Battisti Lodge #27 has been honoring its most dedicated members since 1966. A lifelong member of the organization, Dr. Lenzo serves as an excellent role model for both members of the Cesare Battisti Lodge, and for the people of Indiana's First Congressional District. Not only has he maintained a lifelong membership with Lodge #27, Dr. Lenzo has been a lifelong leader of the Lodge. He is currently the financial secretary and the editor of the Lodge newspaper. As Walter Lippman said, "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on." Dr. Lenzo's efforts in the community, in addition to his nationwide efforts for peace, have certainly inaugurated an enduring legacy. For many years, he has worked to have the United Nations designate a "Weekend of Prayer, Meditation, and Thought on the Futility of War and the Desperate Need for Peace in the World." In his own words, "It will be a thankful day

when we can once again live in peace . . . peace in the world, peace within our nations, peace in our neighborhoods, peace in our streets."

Since he began his campaign for peace, Dr. Lenzo has met with great success. He has received positive responses from former Secretary-General of the United Nations Boutros Boutros Ghali, Pope John Paul II, and Elizabeth Taylor. Nearly all who hear Dr. Lenzo's plea for peace commend him on his campaign. I also commend Dr. Lenzo for his activism, leadership, and ardent dedication to a noble cause. This campaign is as poignant now as it was in January 1991 when I first called your attention to it. As members of NATO stand poised to initiate air strikes in Kosovo and Serbia, Dr. Lenzo's works remind us of the gravity of the actions they contemplate. As options are considered, his message to these nations is to keep the goal of peace in sight. Dr. Lenzo's suggestion that we step back and remember to whom we are accountable is as important now as it was then.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Tony Lenzo is an inspiration to us all. I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in commending Dr. Lenzo for not only his award as Cesare Battisti Lodge #27's Member of the Year, but also for his extraordinary campaign for world peace. His superhuman efforts and selfless dedication are an example for every citizen of the United States to emulate. Northwest Indiana is lucky indeed to have such a resident.

IN HONOR OF THE ATHENIANS
FEDERATION OF ATHENS CELEBRATION OF THE LIBERATION
OF ATHENS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Athenian Federation of the United States of America and Canada. The Association is organizing the twentieth Archieratical Tedeum to commemorate the Liberation of Athens from the Nazis 54 years ago.

The official Archieratical Tedeum will be held at the Greek Orthodox Church Cathedral in New York City on Sunday, October 11, in the presence of the Consular, officials of the Greek community, Greek organizations and members of the Greek community.

The Tedeum commemorates the Liberation of Athens from Nazi occupation by the Allied Forces on October 12, 1944.

On April 27, 1943, Nazi tanks entered Athens as the remnants of the British forces evacuated Greece. The citizens of Athens lived under the siege of Nazi terror and occupation for three and a half years until liberation when the Allied Forces hoisted a Greek flag on the holy rock of Acropolis, signaling the end of the occupation. The Greek flag replaced the flag of the Nazi regime which hung over the Acropolis of Athens throughout the occupation.

The anniversary of the liberation is celebrated annually in Athens and amongst Greek communities here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention this important anniversary in the history of Greece, Greek citizens, and Greek-