at the balance within the federal research portfolio. Now we all know that that is a somewhat euphemistic way of raising the question, ''Is biomedical research bulking too large in the federal research budget?'' Those who believe that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are eating up a disproportionate share of the federal budget have two solid facts on their side: the extraordinary growth in that share, and the dependence of the American economy, and of biomedical research itself, on a wide range of research disciplines. And a cursory look at the numbers certainly gives one the feeling that things may be a little out of whack.

But if we are to take action, we're going to need to dig a little deeper and ask some tougher question. How would we know if NIH was over-funded in either relative or absolute terms? Given the public concern with health and the advances in biology why shouldn't NIH

These are not meant, in the least, as merely rhetorical questions. They are difficult questions that ought to be explored further if we're going to make a case for either limiting NIH's growth or greatly increasing the budget for every other field.

Similarly, we need to ask tough questions, if we're really thinking about doubling the entire federal civilian science budget. Questions like: Why double? What are we going to get for that money? How will we know if we are under- or over-spending in any field?

The science policy debate sometimes seems composed entirely of randomly generated numbers. We really need to push for more data.

I don't say this out of any opposition to the proposed bill that would set a goal of doubling the science budget. In fact, I'm kindly disposed toward that bill. I would like to find a way to pass it. The bill might do some real good because it would put Congress on the record as saying that science spending is a real priority.

But that shouldn't obscure the fact that doubling will never become a reality if we can't make a much more solid case to the appropriators.

It's a case that is going to have to be made agency by agency, as well as in general terms. Looking at DOE, for example, I want to get a much clearer sense of the Department's needs as it tries to upgrade aging facilities and replace a retiring workforce. And despite years of post-Cold War studies, my sense is that we still don't have a clear policy regarding the role of the national laboratories.

If we're going to increase the federal science budget, we also need to take a much harder look, brushing aside all cant, at the changing nature of our research universities. I'm thinking here especially of the questions raised by the growing partnership between universities and industry.

That partnership, encouraged by legislation, is having many beneficial effects. But it's time we make sure that we understand better how it's affecting the university—in terms of education, the free flow of information, the nature of university research, and the development of intellectual property, to name just a few matters of concern.

This is the time to review that relationship, when it is still developing and fluid. Neither partner has been sufficiently willing to do that. University officials sometimes simultaneously argue, on the one hand, that partnerships are at the cutting-edge of organizational arrangements and, on the other, that their hallowed institutions are still seeking the truth in the time-honored way that has not changed appreciably since the Middle Ages. I exaggerate, of course, but the discussion really does have to be a little bit more open.

Universities ran into trouble in undergraduate education, in part, because they were unwilling for too long to acknowledge that the rise of the modern research university had changed the nature of the campus. That reluctance stemmed from the understandable fear that raising questions would lead some to argue that research and education could not productively co-exist. But in the end, the lack of discussion hurt undergraduate education in a way that put research at greater risk. An honest, open look at partnerships now should help make them more productive rather than hampering them.

Obviously, there are many more issues before the Committee, but what I've discussed should give you a good sense of my approach and concerns.

My goal is to be your staunchest ally and your fairest critic. To be Shakespearean about it, my role model will be Cordelia—King Lear's daughter who would not utter false professions of love, but who stood by her father when everyone else had deserted him. I won't press the analogy—I don't want to imply that university presidents will become crazed, naked old men wandering helplessly about the moors.

All I mean to say is that you can count on me to fight for the nation's interest by bolstering, and drawing on the expertise of the scientific community. You can also count on me to ask tough and uncomfortable questions to ensure that the scientific community is acting in its and the nation's long-term interests. I intend to do that openly, fairly, cooperatively and with true intellectual curiosity.

I want to run the Committee in a way that would make Einstein smile. I want to make sure that as long as I'm chairman, no one plays dice with your universe.

I look forward to working with all of you.

IN HONOR OF GOV. RICK PERRY, BORDERFEST TEXAN OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, every year since 1977, the City of Hidalgo in my district has held BorderFest. This is a four day event celebrating the diverse ethnic groups in South Texas. Not only are there entertainment, educational and cultural events, but each year a recipient is chosen for the prestigious Texan of the Year award.

Past recipients of the award have included business and community leaders, college presidents, and government officials. This year's recipient is Texas Governor Rick Perry.

Governor Perry was recently sworn in as the 47th Governor of the State of Texas. He previously served as Lieutenant Governor, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, and a representative to the Texas Legislature. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University and served in the U.S. Air Force.

As a fifth generation Texan, Governor Perry has devoted his public life to serving his fellow Texans. He is committed to public school reform, and has pledged to make the Texas higher education system the best in the nation. He has also recognized the need to rebuild the state's infrastructure and take advantage of new technology. He is known for his willingness to work with members from both parties to get the job done.

Rick Perry is well-deserving of this honor, and I commend the BorderFest Award committee for its selection of Gov. Perry.

ARCTIC REFUGE WILDERNESS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, although nearly 95 percent of Alaska's North Slope is available for drilling, international petroleum companies are still pushing Congress to open the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas exploration and development.

I am pleased to join my colleagues Representative MARKEY and Representative NANCY JOHNSON as we continue efforts to permanently protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

My constituents in Rochester, New York are hurting due to the high energy prices.

But opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development is not the answer.

Forget for the moment that this area is the heart of a refuge which serves as critical breeding or migratory habitat for over 200 species of animals and more than 180 bird species and that exploration could cause significant environmental damage.

I would like to remind my colleagues that studies by the U.S. Geological Survey and the General Accounting Office have concluded there is probably far less oil in the Arctic Refuge than previously believed.

And if we allowed drilling for oil in the Alaskan wildlife refuge, it would not produce any oil for an estimated 10 years.

Even then, it would not significantly reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil.

During full operating capacity, ANVRR would supply only about 2 percent of America's oil demand in a given year.

Finally, none of the North Slope oil reaches the East Coast because it is too far to transport.

Therefore, development in ANWR would not have any measurable impact on home heating oil shortages or prices in the Northeast.

The Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado claims that 100% of U.S. electricity needs could be met by installing just 17 square miles of rooftop solar panels in each state. The possibilities are endless if we devote the necessary resources and expertise to meeting our domestic energy demand.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE A. CASTRO, II, RECIPIENT OF THE HISPANIC AMERICAN RECOGNITION AWARD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George A. Castro, II, President of