

outlays for the Department of Energy's synthetic fuel activities. Funding of this level will insure continued progress in the synthetic fuel demonstration plant projects. I must also note that while the administration proposes to transfer funds on a reduced level from DOE to the Synthetic Fuels Corporation for certain demonstration projects, the authorizing legislation for the Corporation does not allow it to fund demonstration projects. In other words, the true intent of the administration is to terminate Government funding for these projects entirely.

This would have grave consequences. If the private sector is unable to finance these demonstration projects the value of this research would be lost to the Nation. Experience gained by these projects could lower the cost of subsequent synthetic fuel plants and speed their development which will only help the Nation meet its energy goals in a more expedited fashion. This, Mr. Speaker, is the business of both the private sector and the Federal Government.

And what are these energy goals? Foremost, I believe, is reducing this Nation's continued dependence on foreign oil. This must be our priority. It is a concept forged by both Republican and Democratic administrations and Members of Congress since the early 1970's. Government spending in the area of synthetic fuels, solar and conservation—retained in the Budget Committee's resolution—will save oil. It will save oil now, and over the long term. However, I seriously doubt whether spending for nuclear programs will save oil now. We need long-term research to provide for future needs, but in the same sense, we must also provide energy security for the rest of this century. In this aspect, I believe the administration's priorities are misdirected.

Along this line, I would also urge proper funding for another program geared to wean this Nation off imported oil. That, specifically, is the program to convert electric utilities from oil to coal and other alternative energy sources. The administration proposes to eliminate funding for the fuels conversion office in the Economic Regulatory Administration which is part of DOE. In short, this proposal could seriously undermine the Nation's ability to cope with a serious fuel shortage, leave the public much more dependent on foreign oil and ultimately lead to even higher electric rates. The fuels conversion office enforces certain provisions of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978. The elimination of this office will limit the ability of electric utilities to overcome regulatory obstacles in switching from oil to coal as a boiler fuel. Although many plants would voluntarily convert to coal because of its

lower price, under a provision of the Clean Air Act a voluntary conversion does not get the same treatment as a mandatory conversion order under the Fuel Use Act. Utilities mandated to convert receive delayed compliance from new source performance standards while voluntary conversion do not. Thus, the elimination of this office would preempt the issuance of mandatory conversion orders and lead to continued excessive use of foreign oil by electric utilities. While the argument can be made that these utilities can switch to natural gas, this fuel is far more expensive than coal. Furthermore, I am not yet convinced there is indeed such an abundance of readily obtainable gas reserves as to allow a sudden and dramatic increase of this fuel in utility boilers. If the gas industry's estimates are wrong, this Nation may face the prospect of paying a bill for imported gas as high as that of imported oil.

While the Budget Committee resolution does not address this point on a line-by-line basis, I have been assured that committee is not opposed to continued funding in fiscal year 1982 for the fuels conversion office. Likewise, I believe the same holds true for the authorizing committee. For this reason, I would urge the Appropriations Committee to give serious consideration when the time comes to an adequate level of funding for coal conversion.

Mr. Speaker, because of my belief that the Budget Committee resolution preserves the intent of the American people and provides a more equitable distribution of funds I urge full House adoption of this budget.●

#### JUST COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES INCURRED WHILE ASSISTING THE COAST GUARD

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 1981*

● Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on August 19, 1976, Mr. Stephen C. Ruks incurred substantial damage to his airplane while performing a search and rescue mission near Cordova, Alaska. Mr. Ruks undertook this rescue because the Coast Guard requested assistance in picking up survivors of an aircraft accident. To date, Mr. Ruks has been unsuccessful in obtaining just compensation for the loss he incurred.

Mr. Ruks is a member of the Civil Air Patrol in Alaska. It was because of this status that he was called upon specifically to rescue the two persons on board the beached aircraft. Coast Guard aircraft would have not been available for 2½ hours. This request came from the Coast Guard's search

and rescue coordinator at Kodiak, Alaska, via the FAA Flight Service Station at Cordova.

The Coast Guard investigation reveals that Mr. Ruks was cautioned regarding the soft beach which might have posed problems on landing. However, no communication was received by Mr. Ruks to terminate the rescue. Prior to the incident, Mr. Ruks had made 12 beach landings in the area of the mishap and, using his judgment as a member of the Civil Air Patrol, believed the conditions suitable for landing. Mr. Ruks made a low pass of the rescue site prior to landing. On a second pass, Mr. Ruks landed his plane, rolled approximately 200 feet before hitting soft sand which caused the plane to flip. No personal injuries resulted but he sustained \$9,700 worth of damage to his plane.

Mr. Ruks filed a claim with the Coast Guard for the damage. He was advised, however, that the Coast Guard considered him a volunteer and that the damage to his plane had not occurred due to Coast Guard negligence. Therefore, they had no legal basis under the Federal Tort Claims Act of the Military Claims Act to compensate him. They have advised him, however, that the Coast Guard would not oppose legislation to compensate him for his loss.

I find this unacceptable that the Coast Guard could specifically request assistance and then walk away from the responsibility to accept what results from their bequest. Members of the Civil Air Patrol simply cannot be asked to perform rescue missions for the Government under these conditions. They perform too valuable a service for the public and the Government to be treated in this manner.

I have long held the view that additional search and rescue coverage by the Coast Guard is needed in the Cordova-Prince William Sound area. This case is just another example of what is required. In fact this year in the Coast Guard's budget, additional money has been included to address just this problem. In the meantime, the Coast Guard must rely on people such as Mr. Ruks to insure that adequate search and rescue services are provided.

For these reasons I am introducing this bill to make certain that just compensation can be given in Mr. Ruks' case.●

#### YOUTH HIKES ACROSS AMERICA

**HON. VIC FAZIO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 1981*

● Mr. FAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to a young man from my district who has certainly earned the re-

spect and admiration of all of those who know him or know of his accomplishments. His name is Robert L. Burns. He is 14 years of age and the youngest member of a group that is completing a cross country hike that began on April 12 of last year.

Robert is a determined and self-disciplined young man. He is a Boy Scout and has continued his studies during the 4,000-mile hike through tutoring and independent study. Moreover, his physical stamina is incredible, hiking 7 to 10 miles per day while carrying a 40 to 50 pound pack, which is twice the weight recommended for a person weighing only 108 pounds, as he does.

HikaNation, spearheaded by the American Hiking Society, was organized to call attention to the urgent need for more foot trails throughout our Nation, a goal that I have consistently supported and fought for since coming to the Congress.

On May 13, Robert and his hiking companions will arrive in Washington and will be welcomed on the West Front of the Capitol between 12 noon and 1 p.m. These individuals have accomplished an historic task and I am certain that many of my colleagues will want to be on hand to welcome and congratulate them.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I would like to request that the following articles be inserted into the official RECORD. One of particular interest was written by Charlotte Pruitt for the Vallejo Independent Press and gives some further insight into the strengths of this exceptional young man, Robert Burns.

[From the Vallejo Independent Press]  
YOUTH HIKES ACROSS UNITED STATES  
(By Charlotte Pruitt)

A Benicia youth who never back-packed before is making a name for himself in hiking circles.

Fourteen-year-old Robert Burns is the youngest hiker taking part in the historic Pacific to the Atlantic "HikaNation" currently under way by the American Hiking Society.

The continuous coast-to-coast journey of 4,000 miles began April 12 in San Francisco when 7,000 hikers became the only organized group to walk across the Oakland Bay Bridge since it opened in 1936. Two lanes of the big bridge were closed off to make room for the huge foot parade which kicked off the cross-country trek.

Its purpose? To dramatize the need for more foot trails in the United States.

Robert took part in the two-day opener which was headed by a group of backpackers who plan to go the whole distance to Washington, D.C. Some 60 hikers are going part way and 43 will make the complete transcontinental hike. Enthusiasts for the cause join the route along the way and go as far as they want.

The young Benician, son of Mrs. Karen (Wold) Moore who teaches at Mary Farmer Elementary School, rejoined the group in mid-July and hiked through most of September, covering 600-plus miles through Utah and Colorado.

After a brief visit with his family in Benicia Robert left Friday by bus to Lajunta,

Colo., where he rejoined the core group which is now making its way towards the Central Plains. They plan to end up in the Nation's capitol some time between April and June of 1981 where they will meet with government officials.

The hikers, who average 7 to 10 miles a day, should be in Illinois on New Year's Day. A faster pace is planned through sprawling Kansas.

In Utah, Robert made the trip to Dark Canyon where very few hikers use the trails abandoned by the Indians over 100 years ago. Possessing a staid personality, he tells of straight down drops of 2,000 feet or more which failed to sway him from his goal.

Most of the trip takes place on trails, jeep roads and little-used secondary roads. The group also travels along some state and county roads as well as on private property when permission is given. They camp out on the side of the road, on government land and at times on private property. No stops are made at campgrounds which charge a fee for using the facility.

Robert, who will enter Benicia High School next year, will be given some school credits for his learning experience on the transcontinental hike which will include a certain amount of tutoring but mostly independent study.

His interest was drawn to the HikaNation through an article in Sunset Magazine. It would be easy to mistake Robert's passionless appraisal of his participation in the first-of-its-kind hike if you failed to perceive his inner strength and determination.

Robert carries his own gear, cooks his own meals and makes all the needed repair on his clothing and equipment. His pack sometimes weighs over 50 pounds but he tires to keep it down since it is only supposed to be 20 to 25 percent of your body weight. The young Benician weighs 108 pounds.

Setting their own pace, some of the hikers take side trips and then meet up again with the main group at prearranged places. There are support vehicles with food and other supplies which rendezvous with the group at certain intervals. All the hikers carry two-day emergency rations.

Elevations ranged from 8,000 to 12,000 feet when they crossed the Rocky Mountains.

In order to be part of the main group of hikers, Robert did odd jobs to earn the \$150 he used to purchase good boots (\$90), a stove and plenty of socks. His family made sure he had the proper clothing to begin his odyssey. Part of the family involvement was the preparation of dehydrated food for his trip.

Some of his assignments for school credit are collecting plants, taking photographs, keeping a journal about craft projects he sees, budgeting for food and clothing, cooking, and keeping a daily log of his unique adventure.

Trail coordinator Monty Montgomery discouraged most young people from taking part because they did not have enough self-discipline for the pilgrimage.

While most hikers participate only a day or two, the core group includes a 17 and 18-year old, a couple with backpacks their year-old daughter and several people over 60. One of the support vans is being driven by Glenn Seaborg of the Lawrence Radiation Lab, a Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Robert, who is looking forward to Alpine and ice climbing in future years, makes arrows and arrowheads and has an avid interest in unexplored Indian ruins. He is studying edible plants during the long hike.

Antique buffs, his family has been on numerous trips in California and Nevada to dig artifacts. Family members include stepfather Charles Moore, sister Laura and grandmother Mrs. Gladys Wold, a member of the Benicia school board.

"Robert earned his own money to go on the hike. He dedicated himself to doing it and is making some very levelheaded and mature decisions. I'm just as proud as can be about his participation in this great experience," his mother said.

Spearheaded by American Hiking Society President Jim Kerr, HikaNation also is sponsored by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Postum instant grain cereal beverage and Backpacker Magazine. There are numerous supporting organizations including the Boy Scouts and the Sierra Club.

In addition to wanting to announce clearly the need for hiking trails, the American Hiking Society wants to dramatize the value of walking, hiking and backpacking as low-energy forms of recreation.

Robert Burns is helping make this important statement.

[From the Benicia Herald, July 11, 1980]

BENICIA YOUTH BEGINS JOURNEY TO UTAH

Robert Burns is off to Brice Canyon, Utah, this weekend to join some 60 hikers participating in a cross country hike.

To illustrate the need for hiking trails in the United States, the hike was initiated from San Francisco's Golden Gate Park in April, with Washington, D.C., the final destination. The trip is scheduled to take fourteen months.

Thirteen year old Burns was one of the hikers who spanned the Golden Gate Bridge on the first leg of the journey into Tilden Park. Now with the school semester safely behind him, equipped with a store of dehydrated food and hiking gear, he will join the hikers in Utah.

His mother, Karen Moore, and sister, Laura, will drive back to rendezvous with him and the travelers by next Friday. Burns will hike through to Durango, Colorado, an estimated thirty to forty-five day hike. From there the seasoned hiker will catch a bus for home.

A resident of Benicia for ten years, Burns began hiking as a Scout three years ago. "It's fun," he described. His pack will contain beef jerky, fruit rolls, and trail mixes prepared by his mother. He will carry two water containers. "And I might get another one," he said.

A portion of the trail Burns will share with the other hikers passes through a large canyon. They will be in almost total darkness for four or five days, and they must carry all of their own water, Burns described.

The HikaNation is jointly sponsored by the American Hiking Society and the United States Department of the Interior, through the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. From coast-to-coast the entire trip is over 4,000 miles.

The event has been in the formal planning stages for a year prior to the April starting date. The adventure is estimated to cost each hiker \$5 per day or between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for the entire trip.

Hikers are predicted to go through two sleeping bags, two tents and one pair of hiking boots, twice re-soled, during the fourteen month excursion. Hikers are welcome

to join the party at any stage in the procession eastwards or to drop out at any time.●

IN CELEBRATION OF CINCO DE MAYO

HON. EDWARD R. ROYBAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1981

● Mr. ROYBAL. Mr. Speaker, today is Cinco de Mayo, the 5th of May, a holiday celebrated by our great neighbors to the south in Mexico, and by many persons of Mexican descent in communities throughout the United States. This date celebrates the Battle of Puebla in 1862, when a small, patriotic force of Mexican soldiers, under the leadership of General Ignacio Zaragoza, defeated the much larger and better equipped French forces of Napoleon III. In fact, the French Army at that time was considered one of the mightiest in the world. The defeat of this French Army at Puebla stands as a landmark in the history of Mexico and symbolizes the victory of a proud and independent human spirit over foreign invasion. This spirit made it possible for the Mexican people to eventually expel Emperor Maximilian and the French from Mexico in 1867 and molded a sense of national pride that still exists today.

While we honor the heroic actions of the Mexican Army at the Battle of Puebla, it is well to also reflect on the vast contributions Mexican Americans have made to this country. The culture of Mexico—her art, music, dance, food—have greatly enhanced the richness of American life. Mexican immigrants began settling this country long before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. Many areas in the Southwest United States can point to over 200 years of Hispanic culture and history. Mexican Americans have played a prominent role in every war the United States has fought, and their many acts of bravery are a matter of record. There are countless other examples of Mexican contributions to American society. The growing American recognition of these contributions will, I hope, lead to much closer relations between our two great countries.

The expressed desire of President Reagan to strengthen relations between the United States and Mexico is a very encouraging sign. I have long encouraged the development of strong ties with Mexico, and have introduced legislation to investigate the possibility of forging an economic and energy alliance between the United States, Mexico, and Canada. I believe such an alliance would greatly strengthen each country individually as well as the relationship among the three countries.

Once again, I would like to extend my sincere best wishes to the Republic of Mexico and to all Americans of

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Mexican descent during this 118th anniversary of Cinco de Mayo. I invite you all to join in saluting the heroic actions of the Mexican Army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862, and in celebrating the proud spirit of the Mexican people.●

GOLD STAR MOTHERS

HON. DANIEL B. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1981

● Mr. DANIEL B. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, while honoring the memories of those courageous Americans who served their country so nobly by making the supreme sacrifice, we should equally honor those brave women who must endure the continuing pain of having lost a son in the defense of America. Gold Star Mothers deserve a special place of honor in the annals of American History.

Judy Ragel, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Schukar of Vandalia, Ill., has so eloquently expressed the feeling that all Americans have for the Gold Star Mothers that I wanted to share two of her poems with you.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that all of our colleagues join with me in commending Judy for not only her literary talents, but also for the feeling of patriotism that is so well expressed in both of these excellent poems.

The poems follow:

I WAS THERE, GOLD STAR MOTHERS

I've been with them all from land to land,  
From underground tunnels to the whitest sands.

I've been with your loved ones from shore to shore,  
For whom your Gold Star is now proudly worn.

World War I to Germany we went,  
Too many rules had already been bent.  
They were all brave, from land, sea and sky,  
These soldiers united, not afraid to die.

I was there, in World War II,  
Oh how they fought for me and you.  
No one had ever assaulted our land,  
So with a bomb we dealt with Japan.

To Korea, so many were sent,  
Hey, they loved their country, so they gladly went.

The battles were fierce, how our boys bled,  
They protected me always, many lay dead.

Then Vietnam, what a horrible sight,  
Killer land mines were set late at night.  
Yes, I watched them die bravely and bold,  
For this was the land they thought they must hold.

By now you have guessed, Old Glory, that's me,  
And thanks to your loved ones, I'm still flying free.

I've been with them all, their songs I still hear,  
"We are Americans and we love our land dear".

They always fought hard, their jokes were a pleasure,  
Yes, Gold Star Mothers, they were your treasures.

May 5, 1981

God be with all you Mothers, so special you are,  
You deserve so much more than just a Gold Star.

MY GOLD STAR MOTHER

This is the story my Mother has told,  
How she received her Star of Gold,  
Her son, a paratrooper, went off to war.  
To hold him, to thank him, she can no more.

Your country needs you, said Uncle Sam,  
To go and fight in Vietnam.  
And so her oldest son, named Ron,  
Went off to face the Viet Cong.  
No one will ever take up my slack,  
This Communist aggression must be held back.

These were his words, so brave and bold,  
He turned her Star from Blue to Gold.  
Six miserable months, slowly passed by,  
Then the telegram, and the question why.  
My mother sat, in a mass of tears,  
For now she acknowledged her most dreaded fear.

The words came slowly as my Mother read,  
We're very sorry, your son is dead.  
He served his country brave and gladly,  
And now he'll be missed, oh so badly.

So on the day he was laid to rest,  
She knew once again he had given his best.  
For it was God's will, that he must die,  
And not for his Mother to question why.

Everyday, she still suffers the pain,  
But knows her son did not die in vain.  
For many young men died in that place,  
And now are with God, by His heavenly grace.

With these beautiful memories, she now lives,  
Of a son so brave and willing to give.  
His life, his ambitions, for freedom and peace,  
In a hope that someday, the fighting will cease.

So now, Gold Star Mother, walk proud and walk tall,  
For it was your loved one who gave us his all.

Not the cowards and draft dodgers, who reap of this land,  
No, they were not there, to lend him a hand.

Salute Old Glory, sing the Anthem out loud,  
Your young son will hear you, and know you're so proud.

There are many Gold Star Mothers, this one is mine,  
He was my precious brother, so courageous and kind.

In honor of my Gold Star Mother, Kathryn Schukar.●

CALL TO CONSCIENCE VIGIL,  
1981—THE JACOB SOSNA FAMILY

HON. JOE MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1981

● Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to express my sadness regarding the great tragedy and injustice that is taking place in the Soviet Union. I am referring to the ongoing policy that refuses to allow