

media campaign, the Administration would do anything it could to help Bernie Schwartz (and Loral) if the need arose.

If in fact there is anything to investigate involving the Loral "allegations," it is—as set out in the Task Force's draft investigative plan—an investigation of the President. The President is the one who signed the waiver, the President is the one who has the relationship with Schwartz; and it was the President's media campaign that was the beneficiary of Schwartz' largess by virtue of his own substantial contributions and those which he was able to solicit. We do not yet know the extent of Schwartz solicitation efforts in connection with the media fund. However, if the matter is sufficiently serious to commence a criminal investigation, it is sufficiently serious to commence a preliminary inquiry under the ICA since it is the President who is at the center of the investigation.

For all these reasons, the Loral matter is something which, if it is to be investigated, should be handled pursuant to the provisions of the ICA.

CONCLUSION

We have been reviewing the facts and the evidence for the last ten months. During that time we have gained a familiarity with the cases, the documents and the characters sufficient to draw some solid conclusions. It seems that everyone has been waiting for that single document, witness, or event that will establish, with clarity, action by a covered person (or someone within the discretionary provision) that is violative of a federal law. Everyone can understand the implications of a smoking gun. However, these cases have not presented a single event, document or witness. Rather, there are bits of information (and evidence) which must be pieced together in order to put seemingly innocent actions in perspective. While this may take more work to accomplish, in our view it is no less compelling than the proverbial smoking gun in the end. As is evident from the items detailed above, when that is done, there is much information (and evidence) that is specific and from credible sources. Indeed, were this quantum of information amassed during a preliminary inquiry under the ICA, we would have to conclude that there are reasonable grounds to believe that further investigation is warranted. As suggested throughout this memo, there are many as yet unanswered questions. However, the information suggesting these questions is more than sufficient to commence a criminal investigation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Members are reminded not to make personal references toward the President or Vice President of the United States.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, this month is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This month is devoted to increasing the awareness of breast cancer and to promote a nationwide education effort for the love of life.

Breast cancer is a tragedy that we must fight to eliminate. A pink ribbon that I am wearing and many other individuals will be wearing this month

means more than awareness. It stands for the love of your wife, your sister, your mother, your grandmother, your daughter, and your colleagues.

We must do everything to stop this disease. About 182,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year alone, not to mention how many currently have breast cancer now or how many have died because of breast cancer.

Breast cancer prevention and treatment is an issue fought in the State legislature. It is one that I fought and I carried the legislation for the breast cancer stamp, the license plate for treatment and prevention. We must raise the awareness that the best protection is early detection and action.

There are measures women and their doctors can take to catch this disease early, including clinical exam, self-examination, and mammograms. During this month, I encourage all Members to spread the message about the importance of prevention and treatment. I encourage the Members to speak to their friends, co-workers, their families, and their communities. Some of the locations that we can speak at are hospitals, mammography centers, the health centers, and breast cancer awareness presentations.

This week I spoke at Loma Linda on behalf of a nonprofit organization named the Candlelight Research for Children that received treatment for cancer. And just this last week alone I spoke at Fontana Kaiser Permanente where they actually had the pink ribbon highlighted at the hospital for many individuals to see.

Congress should continue to support legislation such as H.R. 4386, the Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act. This bill, supported by a bipartisan majority of Congress, would provide the treatment to low-income women who currently receive screening under the Federal program.

We should also support legislation pending in Congress to extend the Federal breast cancer stamp which would fund breast cancer research. We must also fund Federal agency research efforts, such as the Department of Defense peer-reviewed breast cancer research program.

We must not stop. We must not quit. We must continue to fight. This is an important national priority. We need to encourage everyone to be aware of this issue and encourage them to pass information on to those that they love. It just might save their life or the life of someone they love.

To touch a life is to save a life.

AMERICA DEMANDS STRONG ENERGY POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, recently Governor Bush proposed a comprehensive energy policy which I believe will

go a long way towards increasing our Nation's energy self-sufficiency and strikes the proper balance between energy production and protecting the environment.

Last week, the Subcommittee on Energy and Power, on which I serve, held a hearing to examine the United States' energy concerns. Most of the hearing focused on the President's decision to release 30 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to supposedly help Americans in the Northeast who may face a dwindling supply of home heating oil for the upcoming winter.

While no one would argue that we must ensure that Americans' heating needs are met, I seriously question the motivation and the reason for releasing this oil.

First, the key word here is "strategic." The reserve was created in the wake of the 1973 oil embargo, and Presidential authority to draw down the reserve is contingent only upon the finding of a severe energy supply disruption. In fact, the Energy Information Administration, in a letter to the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), in February, stated: "The SPR is intended for release only in the event of a major oil supply disruption, not for trying to manage the world market of nearly 74 million barrels per day."

Last month, Treasury Secretary Summers and the Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan sent a memo to the President opposing the release of oil from the reserve based in part "it would be seen as a radical departure from past practice and as an attempt to manipulate prices."

Furthermore, Vice President Gore himself opposed the release of oil from the SPR earlier this year but suddenly had a change of heart with both winter and the elections looming ahead.

Upon announcing the release of 30 million barrels from the SPR, the President also announced the release of \$400 million of taxpayers' money in low-income home energy assistance program funding. However, these funds will have to be replaced by Congress, most likely through emergency supplemental appropriations, and the oil will have to be replaced, hopefully, when oil is at a lower price per barrel.

Mr. Speaker, this action is indicative of the administration's lack of leadership, I believe, on energy policy. This 30-million-barrel release amounts to only about a 36-hour supply. Instead of tackling our energy problems head-on with a coherent policy, the administration chooses to run in a circle throwing money at the problem or proposing politically expedient policies which fail to address the long-term solution.

Since the Clinton-Gore administration took office, America's oil consumption has increased by 14 percent, while domestic production has decreased by 18 percent. America is the world's only superpower, and we are 56

percent dependent on foreign countries for our main energy needs.

In contrast, during the crippling 1973 oil embargo, the United States was only 36 percent dependent on foreign oil. And to add insult to injury, Iraq has now become the fastest growing oil supplier to the United States.

Another fact that I found troubling is that the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is made up of predominantly foreign oil. For crude oil received up to 1995 for the SPR, only 8 percent came from domestic producers.

I find it ironic that we developed the SPR so as to never again be at the whim of foreign nations in terms of oil supply and yet we fill our reserve with foreign oil.

I would also like to point out that Americans also use a large amount of natural gas for home heating. However, I have heard of no cry from the Clinton-Gore administration to help these Americans.

The demand in price of natural gas is skyrocketing, while natural gas production has been virtually flat over the past few years, primarily because domestic exploration has been hindered by this administration's severe environmental policies.

At last week's hearings, witnesses testified that we do in fact have a type of natural gas reserve, but because of the lengthy permit process and access restrictions enforced by this administration, we are unable to adequately tap these reserves.

Mr. Speaker, our country's demand for both oil and natural gas will increase dramatically over the next 10 to 20 years. It is time for a real energy policy and not a Band-Aid policy.

RECOGNITION OF THE URBAN LEAGUE ON ITS 89TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to give special recognition to a premier social service and civil rights organization that has fought the relentless fight for African Americans in the achievement of social and economic equality.

Historically, this organization has built bridges over the obstructions that impede the social freedom of citizens. Time and time again, this organization has been in the vanguard, providing guidance and instruction to millions.

As a principal shepherd, this organization has been a conduit that has negotiated on behalf of the voiceless and neglected. But most of all, this organization has contributed enormously towards inoculating the disease of institutionalized racism which continues to negatively impact many in America.

The organization of which I speak is the National Urban League as it prepares to celebrate its 89th birthday.

From the moment of its inception in 1911, the National Urban League has

been in the forefront of promoting social change, promoting black conscientiousness and racial pride.

Furthermore, the National Urban League has been contributing to the transformation of American social, cultural, and political life.

□ 1930

The National Urban League consistently has been on the front line to gauge pressure, temper ills and provide solutions over adverse forces that permeate all sectors in our society.

During the Great Migration, the National Urban League created successful social action programs aimed towards improving employment opportunities for African Americans who migrated northward to escape the endless cycle of poverty that held their lives hostage. The National Urban League successfully helped these citizens by working through local affiliates to help them adjust to urban life. These affiliates taught citizens the basic skills necessary to secure employment. In addition, the National Urban League sponsored community centers, clinics, kindergartens, day care, summer camps, as well as a host of other programs tailored to meet the specific needs of black newcomers. In essence, these social programs provided a comprehensive social support system that enabled African Americans to thrive and compete in mainstream society. Thus, the National Urban League firmly established itself as a lead organization for reform in America.

Under Lester B. Granger's mentorship, the National Urban League reached unprecedented new levels during the Great Depression. By focusing its reform efforts on coercing the Federal Government to develop equitable policies dedicated towards inclusion for blacks, the National Urban League lobbied government to end discrimination and open its doors of opportunity. As a result of direct pressure, President Franklin Roosevelt issued an executive order ending discrimination in defense industries and Federal agencies.

While the face of America was transforming in the turbulent 1960s, the National Urban League stood strong and helped organize extensively to help African Americans take an active role in the political process. Under the direction of Whitney Young, Jr., the National Urban League launched vigorous voter registration drives. Mr. Young's vision of political empowerment for blacks did not end there. To complement efforts to increase blacks' access to the polling booth, the National Urban League sponsored leadership development and voter registration projects. As a result of these and other initiatives, African Americans as a unit began to wield their newly developed, fine-tuned political prowess far more effectively in the political process.

Today, the National Urban League continues to promote social, economic,

and political empowerment. By using tools of advocacy, research, and program service as its main approach, the National Urban League has expanded its programs to help African Americans meet anticipated challenges in the new century.

Under the direction of Hugh Price, the National Urban League has worked to provide information and technical assistance to thousands of small businesses as they compete in the technological and global economy. In addition, the National Urban League is helping to tackle the sprouting problems that seize our Nation's failed schools. Mr. Price is committed to closing the digital divide that has a crippling effect on our Nation's youth.

Furthermore, the National Urban League continues to lead African Americans to new opportunities that will help them attain economic self-sufficiency and is helping to fight racial profiling and police brutality. Through its various programs, the National Urban League is helping to move America into a new era with vigor and vitality.

I could not mention the work of the Urban League without mentioning the tremendous work done by the Chicago Urban League under the leadership of its president and chief executive officer, James Compton, who is noted as one of Chicago's most outstanding leaders. Prior to the advent of Jim Compton, the Chicago League was led by William "Bill" Berry who was voted as one of the most effective leaders of his day. His wit, charm, and personality helped to move many situations.

IN OPPOSITION TO INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to oppose the Interior appropriations bill that is likely to come upon us, at least in the form that we have been hearing about. It is pumping millions of dollars into the appropriations process but guts CARA, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, that three-quarters of this House voted to support. CARA has a trust fund. When we talk about the Medicare and Social Security trust funds being restored, we also have an obligation to put the money into other trust funds before we engage in disbursing it into various appropriations accounts. We have a number of smaller trust funds but they are nonetheless trust funds where we take fees from people and tell them they are going to be used for an intended purpose and then divert it, here in the case of many people who hunt or fish or pay different fees and have had their fund diverted into the general budget.

Secondly, by gutting CARA, this will hurt our efforts to increase oil drilling