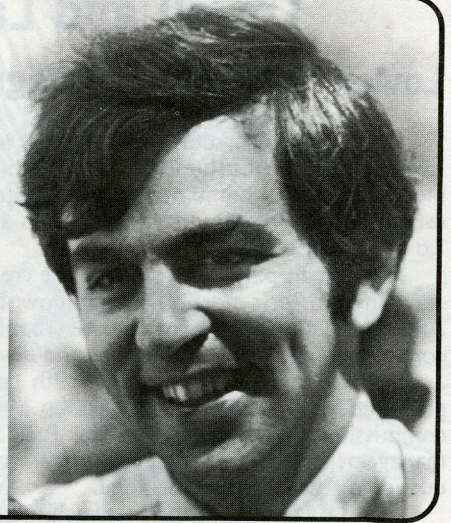


Congressman

Paul Tsongas Reports



Carter and Congress and Energy



The energy crisis is real.

The situation is going to get worse.

If we do not face up to the energy crisis now, we will place our children's future in jeopardy.

These are the facts about the energy crisis. They are, indeed, sobering. President Carter established the proper tone when speaking about the energy crisis in his first "fireside chat." Facing up to this challenge will require Presidential leadership, Congressional cooperation, and public sacrifice.

The consensus among experts is that within thirty years the world will have run out of oil and natural gas. How then do we assure future energy supplies? In order to answer this question we must understand both the advantages and disadvantages of potential energy sources.

Coal is our most abundant domestic resource available for power generation. We currently have more than 1.5 trillion tons of coal. U.S. supplies of coal could satisfy energy needs for hundreds of years. However, production would have to increase by 1500%, a massive expansion of transportation modes would be necessary, and serious environmental problems would have to be resolved. The National Academy of Science has concluded that there is evidence of damage to lungs in areas where coal is burned. New technologies to reduce toxic by-products and alternative ways to produce energy from coal are now being developed. This involves substantial cost and ultimately, higher coal prices.

Nuclear energy, unfortunately, will be necessary during the next few decades. There will have to be much more stringent safeguards. All of our coal, alternate energies, and conservation will not be sufficient to meet this country's needs. I have grave doubts about nuclear power because of potentially lethal waste and the spread of nuclear weapon capability throughout the world. This is frightening. But an energy starved world is also frightening.

The Energy Research and Development Administration projects that nuclear plants will provide about 21% of total energy capacity by 1985. However, known uranium reserves (to power the reactors) may be exhausted in about 50 years. The proposed breeder reactor would produce electricity and plutonium at the same time. The plutonium, in turn, is a fuel for the reactor. In spite of its enormous potential, extremely serious doubts exist about breeder economics, safeguards, and scientists' ability to solve monumental technical problems.

Solar and solar derivatives (wind, geothermal, ocean thermal, etc.) should be developed as soon as possible. I have sponsored legislation to increase solar funds and initiated action to locate the Solar Energy Research Institute in Massachusetts. Solar home

heating and cooling is now available and cost efficient. Yet, solar can provide no more than 10% of our energy needs before the turn of the century.

The energy crisis is also a money crisis. Available fossil fuel is becoming increasingly unaffordable. Prices will not go down. Cost for energy is being determined by the world market and the OPEC cartel. Congressional action, while placing a reasonable ceiling on domestic prices, has discouraged exploration. It has also made development and use of alternate energy uneconomical. It will be impossible to maintain lower than world market prices. Hopefully, higher prices will be gradual and taxes will prevent oil company windfalls. In addition, we have an obligation to assist those who will not be able to afford these costs, such as senior citizens. And we must have conservation to reduce costs; restrictions on gas guzzling cars, home insulation programs, and energy efficient standards.

What do all of these facts mean? They mean that we must have the time and money to develop alternate energy sources. For now we must buy time. This will mean conservation on a scale that will require changes in lifestyle.

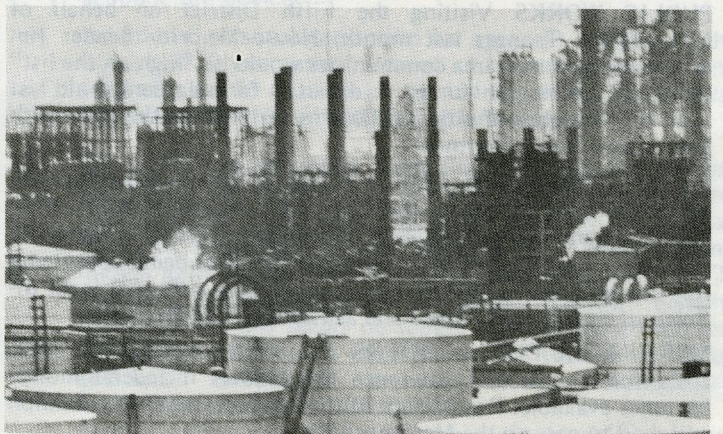
While the U.S. totals 6% of the world's population, we account for 35% of its energy consumption. It is projected that in the next thirty years the world will use more energy than in the entire prior history of mankind. New England, for instance, will double its electricity needs by the year 2000.

Despite the oil crisis of 1973 and the natural gas crisis of 1977, we have not gotten the conservation message. Oil consumption is up. Oil imports have increased to 44% of supplies. The Arab share of imports is up to 90%. The sale of small cars has declined. Convenience appliances such as electric toothbrushes and instant burger cookers continue to be promoted and sold. The World Watch Institute reports that we waste about one-third of our energy. The International Energy Agency has twice criticized the U.S. for failing to take action to conserve energy.

We need to have a long term perspective. We need to think of the type of world that we will leave behind to our children and their children. What will they think of us? If we do not face up to the energy crisis, they will have every right to condemn us for our failure to heed the messages of '73 and '77. Or hopefully, they may thank us for finally having abandoned our relentless pursuit of comfort and convenience for a lifestyle more in harmony with the finite resources of our earth.

I sense a willingness to deal with these problems. President Carter has made a positive start. His energy plan will be made public next month. Certain provisions may not be popular. But if the plan is equitable and will result in a coherent national energy policy, I will fight for it as hard as I can.

I look forward to discussing this issue with you at open town meetings this year and next.



Lowell and Lawrence Move Ahead on Revitalization

Lowell Park Bill to Congress

Legislation will soon be submitted to Congress to establish a Lowell National Cultural Park. The bill is based upon recommendations of a combined local — state — federal commission established by the Congress two years ago and endorsed by the Lowell City Council.

The urban park plan calls for the creation of an intensive use zone in a historic portion of the downtown and a preservation zone based around canals and riverbanks. Major renovation of commercial and public properties and development of exhibitions and recreational areas along the 19th century theme have been proposed. The legislation also sets up a new 15-member advisory commission to assist the National Park Service in formulating a management plan and to guide cooperative preservation activities outside of the intensive use zone.

The Lowell Park is the first such urban park proposed for the country. The precedent-setting nature of the plan guarantees close scrutiny from Congress and opposition from some who believe that national parks should be limited to scenic areas mainly in the West.

It is hoped that the House Subcommittee on National Parks will tour Lowell this Spring. Washington hearings would be scheduled following the field trip. Major allies in the fight for the urban park include House Interior Committee Chairman Morris Udall and Speaker O'Neill.

Park legislation asks the Congress to declare that "the sites in Lowell, the first planned industrial city in the United States, symbolize in physical form the Industrial Revolution and ought to be preserved for the benefit and inspiration of present and future generations." The Congress would then establish the national park along guidelines proposed by the local-state-federal commission. The commission, under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Thomas P. O'Neill, III, has worked hard in preparing an excellent plan for the consideration of Congress.



Innovative Lawrence Plan Unveiled

The City of Lawrence and its business community have set in motion a sweeping revitalization for the downtown. The renewal project reflects the historic character of the city and utilizes many of the remaining Industrial Revolution structures and attributes to promote economic development.

The plan was prepared by the Boston consulting firm of Anderson Notter and has a 1980 completion date.

Last year Congressman Tsongas met with Mayor John Buckley and Chamber of Commerce officials to discuss intown revitalization. It was unanimously agreed that the city's business district was the key to Lawrence's survival and that any renewal should be directed towards tapping the potential of the downtown. An existing rehabilitation program was accelerated and the Lawrence Intown Development Commission was strengthened. The Commission devised standards for the plans and eventually selected the Anderson Notter consulting firm.

The proposal calls for a facelift for downtown businesses, an Essex Street shoppers trolley, upgraded streets, widened brick sidewalks, and new parking areas. Extensive landscaping is envisioned for Broadway, Essex, Common, and Union Streets while commercial and housing properties will be restored. New entertainment centers are also planned. State and federal funds will help the city pay for the project.

Congressman Tsongas has also proposed a private revolving fund to assist businesses with improvements that conform to the development theme. A similar fund has been started in Lowell.

Public and private officials in Lawrence are to be commended for their efforts and their willingness to address these serious long range urban problems.

Pay Raise to be Used for District Scholarships

Stating that "it is not proper to take a pay raise that I oppose and consider excessive," Congressman Tsongas has announced the establishment of a Fifth District scholarship program.

The scholarship fund will be administered by an independent committee and paid for by the recent Congressional pay increase. All but mandatory tax and pension deductions and a 4.8% cost of living allowance will go towards the scholarships for college students. At the beginning of each subsequent year a cost of living deduction will be made.

Tsongas had cosponsored two bills to defer the raise and attach a strict code of ethics and outside income limitation to any increase.

News Briefs

FORT DEVENS The reported conclusion of two studies conducted for the Army is that the cost of closing Fort Devens and relocating operations would exceed anticipated savings. This finding and the change in Administrations could result in a reversal of last year's decision to close the base.

TAX CREDIT FOR INSULATION Congressman Tsongas has cosponsored a bill to provide a tax credit for 25% of the cost of home insulation. The maximum credit would be \$375 for an individual and \$750 for those filing joint returns.

PUBLIC WORKS Visiting the Fifth District on behalf of Congressman Tsongas last month, House Majority Leader Jim Wright pledged that area communities would be "high on the list" for public works job funds. A disputed formula denied aid last year to a number of cities and towns throughout the state with high rates of unemployment.

CITIES GET HOUSING FUNDS A total of 300 housing units will be rehabilitated in Lowell and Lawrence with funds from a HUD pilot program. Only 20 cities in the country received designation. A number of mills and older buildings are now being considered for the program. The Congressional office informed local officials of the potential funds and assisted with applications.

MERRIMACK FISH LADDERS The state has agreed to share costs for Lowell and Lawrence fish ladders if federal money becomes available. Restoration of the ladders would allow salmon and shad to pass up the Merrimack River.

Minuteman Park Board Terminated

Last December, the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) denied a renewal application and terminated the Minuteman National Historical Park Advisory Commission. OMB made the decision state that the Minuteman Park Superintendent alone could better maintain communications through the use of "meetings, hearings, news media, local governments, or informal methods." This statement, in a letter to the Interior Department, was in direct conflict with a recommendation by the former Minuteman Park Superintendent to continue the Commission. The Interior Department also favored renewal of the panel.

At a cost of only \$320 per year the Minuteman Park Advisory Commission is a responsible and economical means of allowing direct community participation in park planning activities. This is particularly important at the present time in light of a park masterplan review, increasing traffic problems on Route 2A, and the recent bicentennial experiences.

Congressman Tsongas has joined with public officials and private citizens in Concord and Lexington to protest the termination. In a letter to Interior Secretary Andrus, Tsongas wrote, "The decision to dissolve the Advisory Commission appears to be based upon bureaucratic insensitivity and a failure by the Office of Management and Budget to understand the activities of the Commission." The Congressman also requested that OMB review their decision and "consider the democratic traditions of participation and representation fostered in Concord and Lexington" and the fact that the towns began historic preservation efforts long before the Minuteman Park was established.

Open Town Meetings

Residents of all Fifth District communities will again be able to "Tell It To Your Congressman" when open town meetings resume this June. The forums in each city and town consist of a question and answer session with those attending. Informality and straight answers are guaranteed.

Residents of the following communities should watch for notices in the mail regarding the first round of open town meetings:

Wilmington	Methuen
Acton	Pepperell
Dracut	Billerica

House Passes Tough Ethics Bill

A strict new code of ethics with financial disclosure requirements and an unprecedented limit on the amount of outside income a member of Congress can earn has been passed by the House. The vote was 402 to 22.

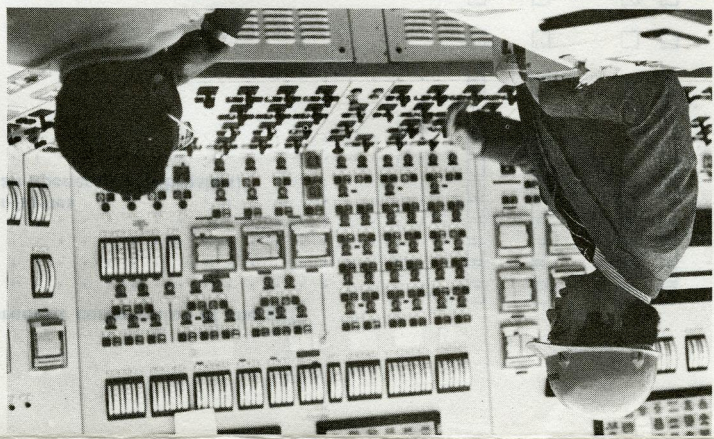
The overwhelming endorsement for the tough new code can be attributed to the leadership of Speaker O'Neill, the work of a Congressional and citizen's committee which recommended the reforms, and the concern by members of Congress over their poor public image. Approval of the bill is the most significant action taken in a number of years to guard against conflict of interest and insure complete financial disclosure.

The code includes:

- full disclosure of income, gifts, holdings, debts, security transactions, and real estate
- limits on outside earned income, including speech fees, to 15% (\$8,625)
- prohibiting the acceptance of gifts aggregating to over \$100 a year from those with direct interest in legislation before Congress
- prohibiting free travel for defeated or retiring members of Congress
- termination of office accounts from private contributions
- prohibiting free mass mailings (such as newsletters) within 60 days of a primary or general election

The passage of the ethics bill follows another major victory for House reformers, the ouster of Congressman Robert Sikes as Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction. In the Sikes case, despite evidence of conflict of interest and use of his Chairmanship for personal financial gain, the existing Ethics Committee recommended only a mild reprimand. The performance of the Ethics Committee has been poor. It has mishandled both the Sikes case and the investigation into the conduct of former Representative Wayne Hays. Speaker O'Neill, noting this record, has appointed an ad-hoc ethics panel to recommend changes in the present Committee.

Public opinion polls, media comment, and letters to members of Congress all indicate a lack of confidence in Congress and the federal government. The new code of ethics, the ouster of Rep. Sikes, and the leadership exhibited by Speaker O'Neill are important initial steps towards restoration of public confidence in the Congress.



Congressman Tsongas inspecting the control room at the Dresden I nuclear power plant in Morris, Ill. Dresden I was the first commercial nuclear plant. The inspection was part of a nuclear oversight tour by the Energy and Environment Subcommittee.

5th District Science Energy Panel

Is the breeder reactor the long-term answer to our energy problems? What are the dangers of experiments with DNA, the genetic material basic to all living things? Is the use of aerosol sprays a threat to the atmosphere? These are just a few of the complex and highly technical questions which the new Congress will be addressing. Issues which were once confined to the pages of professional journals are now confronting the House and Senate. The decisions that will be made by the Congress on these complex issues will have profound consequences for the nation. Yet few members of Congress have the experience to make necessary evaluations.

As a means of providing expert analysis of these issues to Congress, the Fifth District Science Advisory Committee has been established. Organized with the assistance of Dr. Harold Rosenbaum of the Avco Systems Division in Wilmington, its membership includes Dr. Harris Gold of Water Purification Associates, Mr. Joseph Levangie of Avco, Dr. Victor Reits of Lincoln Laboratories, Mr. Arthur Slater of the Raytheon Corporation, Dr. Arthur Sutherland of the Analytical Sciences Corporation, and Dr. Robert Weiss of Physical Sciences Incorporated. An environmentalist and an economist will be named this month to complete the panel.

Tax Tips For Senior Citizens

Many older Americans may be able to take advantage of special provisions in the income tax laws designed to protect them from overpayment. The Senate Special Committee on Aging has prepared a list of guidelines for Senior Citizens in preparing their 1976 income taxes. A summary of the key points appears below.

- Medical and dental expenses (unreimbursed by insurance or otherwise) are deductible to the extent that they exceed 3% of a taxpayer's adjusted gross income — line 15C, Form 1040.
- One half of medical, hospital, or health insurance premiums are deductible (up to \$150) without regard to the 3% limitation for other medical expenses. The remainder of these premiums can be deducted, but is subject to the 3% rule.
- Drugs and medicines may be included in medical expenses (subject to 3% rule) but only to extent exceeding 1% of adjusted income — (line 15c, Form 1040).
- Other medical and dental expenses allowed (Subject to 3% rule):
 braces
 artificial limbs and teeth
 anesthesiologist
 ambulance hire
 acupuncture services
- Additional personal exemption for age — In addition to the regular \$750 exemption allowed a taxpayer, a husband and wife who are 65 or older on the last day of the taxable year are each entitled to an additional exemption of \$750.

Tax credits An expanded, simplified tax credit formula for the elderly has replaced the previously complex retirement income credit. This credit can reduce taxes by as much as \$375 for single persons and \$562.50 for married persons filing a joint return. You must be: (1) Age 65 or older, or (2) under age 65 and retired under a public retirement system. Eligibility for this credit no longer requires earned income during each of any 10 years before the present year. For additional information on this credit provision see instructions for Schedules R and RP.

Further advice for senior citizens is available at IRS offices.

Congressional District Office Hours

- Lowell: 50 Kearney Square, Room 211
459-0101
Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays

- Lawrence: 477 Essex Street, Room 513
683-5313
Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays

- Lexington: 1620 Massachusetts Avenue
(across from Town Hall)
Open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Thursday

Coming Soon
An All Energy
Newsletter



Paul C. Tsongas
 M.C.

POSTAL PATRON — LOCAL
 FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 MASSACHUSETTS

QUESTIONNAIRE

The following questionnaire deals with constituent services and issues that will be facing the new Congress. Please take a few minutes to respond to these questions. There is space for two sets of answers for each household. When the form has been completed, refold the newsletter so that the return mailer is on the outside, staple or tape together, and mail with a 13¢ stamp.

Constituent Service

	respondent 1		respondent 2	
	yes	no	yes	no
1. Do you think the "open town meeting" question and answer sessions Congressman Tsongas holds in all district communities should be continued?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you plan to attend one of these sessions in your own community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. In addition to existing Congressional offices in Lawrence, Lowell, and Lexington, do you favor constituent office hours in other towns throughout the district?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The use of a 5th District mobile van is being considered to bring constituent services to all communities. Would you favor such a proposal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. When Congressional offices were organized two years ago, the decision was made to place a greater percentage of staff resources into the district offices rather than Washington. Do you agree with this approach?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues

6. Which of the following personal sacrifices do you think are necessary to promote conservation of energy?				
a. keeping thermostat at 65° during winter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. higher energy prices or special taxes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. purchase of smaller cars	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. increased use of mass transit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. installation of energy saving devices and alternative energy sources for homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. limiting manufacture of non-essential home appliances (e.g. electric can openers, toothbrushes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. limiting use of home air conditioners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. gasoline rationing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Are you in favor of keeping the 55 m.p.h. speed limit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Do you favor a comprehensive national health insurance plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Do you think the national economy is in better shape than it was a year ago?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Do you feel that President Carter's economic recovery plan, which includes tax rebates and a public works program				
a. goes far enough to stimulate the economy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. goes far enough to create new jobs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Many of you wrote your names on the last questionnaire response form. Because of the thousands of returns that are received, it is not possible to respond to each one personally. However, the results will be printed in the next newsletter.

PLACE
 STAMP
 HERE

Congressman Paul Tsongas
 217 Cannon House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515