

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT
LEE AND THE PEOPLE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Republic of China and its President, Lee Teng-Hui, on the anniversary of Taiwan's first Presidential election. In 1996 President Lee became the first freely-elected President in the history of China. President Lee, who received over 54 percent of the popular vote, has proven that strong leadership does not come from strong-arming the people. Over the past year, his administration has continued to build on the same cornerstones our own country was founded on: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and the pursuit of economic freedom through private enterprise.

Ever since the Republic of China was founded 86 years ago, we have enjoyed a very friendly relationship. Part of that friendship has been based on the Republic of China's strong foreign policy leaders. The Republic of China's newest Minister of Foreign Affairs, John Chang, has done an outstanding job of continuing this tradition. Prior to his appointment last year as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Chang worked more than 30 years to promote better relations between our two countries. Educated here in the United States, Mr. Chang served as the Director of North American Affairs in Taipei, and most recently the Minister of Overseas Chinese Affairs. Many Members of Congress have had the opportunity to meet with him over the past year, and I am sure they join me in congratulating him on a successful first year.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to congratulate Taipei's Representative here in Washington, Ambassador Jason Hu. Ambassador Hu has worked hard to strengthen the political and economic relationship between our two countries. Ambassador Hu has been instrumental in helping Chung Hwa, the newly privatized Taiwanese telecommunications company, open an office here in Washington. Chung Hwa is seeking to purchase more than 10 billion dollars worth of U.S. goods and services. Ambassador Hu's leadership in promoting political and economic relations between our countries is an invaluable resource to our continued friendship. Recently, Dr. Hu received an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Southampton where he studied from 1976 to 1978, earning a master's degree in social science from the Department of Politics. Dr. Hu later earned his Ph.D. in 1985 from Oxford University. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate President Lee for having so wisely chosen a scholar/diplomat to represent the Republic of China in the United States.

A little more than one year ago, Mr. Speaker, the Republic of China held free and fair Presidential elections despite military bullying by the People's Republic of China. The PRC claims to hold elections, but the entire world knows that the people on the mainland have no choice in deciding their political leaders. That is not the case with the Republic of China, which has a multi-party system, respect for individual rights and a robust economy based on free trade. Therefore, it is particularly appropriate to take this opportunity to

congratulate the people of the Republic of China, President Lee, foreign Minister Chang and Ambassador Hu on a very successful year. I know my colleagues join me in wishing them continued success in the future.

**HONORING RIVERSIDE MEMORIAL
CHAPEL**

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak in honor of the Riverside Memorial Chapel which is celebrating its 100th anniversary. It can be said that the Riverside Chapel has been a mirror of the Jewish community of New York City which it has served so faithfully for the past century.

It started in 1897 when Louis Meyers provided a horse-drawn funeral livery service on the lower East Side. These modest beginnings reflected the state of Jews in New York as recent emigrants. The company followed a newer generation to Harlem and in 1926 made a landmark move to Amsterdam Avenue and 76th Street, still the signature location of what was to become Riverside Chapel.

This spectacular four-story building, with its Gothic style chapel and hand-painted religious frescoes, had an implicit dedication to the sensibilities of the three main streams of Judaism. In 1933 Edward and Herman Meyers, grandsons of Louis Meyers, bought the company, renamed it Riverside Memorial Chapel and opened chapels in Far Rockaway and Miami Beach. After World War II, Riverside expanded by purchasing the adjoining building and building new chapels in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Mount Vernon.

Riverside has also expanded throughout the country to establish a national presence so that as Jews left New York City they could still have a "Riverside" funeral. Riverside Chapel has acquired a sterling reputation for service, thanks in part to my close friend, Senior Vice President David A. Alpert. Riverside Chapel is a landmark in New York City which has earned our praise.

**COMMEMORATING THE 135TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF D.C. EMANCI-
PATION**

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, last month, I had the honor of participating in an event commemorating one of the greatest events in our Nation's history—the 135th anniversary of the emancipation of the District of Columbia. On April 16, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law legislation freeing the more than 3,000 slaves owned by residents of the District of Columbia. The action occurred 9 months before Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863.

The mission to free the slaves in the District of Columbia began following a discussion in early 1862 between President Lincoln and Senator Sumner of Massachusetts. During the

conversation, Sumner asked the President if he knew who was the largest slaveholder in the United States. President Lincoln must have been jolted when Sumner answered, "It is you, Mr. President."

At that time, the Federal Government controlled the District of Columbia, where more than 3,000 slaves were held in bondage. Shortly thereafter, Congress passed legislation to free the slaves in the District of Columbia, and President Lincoln signed the D.C. Emancipation Proclamation. The first of our Nation's slaves had been set free.

This week, many great people came together in the District of Columbia to celebrate this momentous event. Among them was a wonderful woman named Loretta Carter Hanes, who along with her son, Peter, helped revive the annual program commemorating the D.C. Emancipation Proclamation. I must also thank my distinguished colleague, Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON of the District of Columbia, for her great work in the district and her diligence in making sure the commemoration ceremony continues year after year.

I was honored to be included in the commemoration program at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Sponsored by the U.S. National Park Service and D.C. Reading Is Fundamental, Inc., the 2-hour program featured reflections on history and prayers for the future. Particularly moving were the beautiful spiritual songs performed throughout the program. They represented the powerful hopes of the slaves as they one day dreamed of freedom.

Overall, it was an amazing program celebrating an amazing event in history. The only disappointing point of note were the hordes of empty seats in the main auditorium at the Department of the Interior. There should be standing room only for a program of this magnitude.

After speaking with the organizers of this year's event, we determined the D.C. emancipation commemoration would get more exposure—and thus more attendance—by presenting it in the Capitol next year. Not only should we encourage our schools to offer this program to their students, but Members of this body should attend as well.

I also would like to bring attention to a related event that is going to take place tonight at the Smithsonian Institution's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. This event is called the International Emancipation Day Initiative Program and will examine the abolition of chattel slavery by the British Empire within its colonies on August 1, 1834, a historic action which fueled abolitionists movements worldwide. Included at this event, Peter Hanes will speak and exhibit literature about D.C. emancipation. He will also introduce D.C. emancipation historian C.R. Gibbs, noted author, journalist, and historian of the African Diaspora.

**OPPOSITION TO H.R. 2—THE
HOUSING OPPORTUNITY AND
RESPONSIBILITY ACT**

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to vigorously call for defeat of H.R. 2—The Housing

Opportunity and Responsibility Act—or, more appropriately, Dooms Day Legislation. H.R. 2 is another example of the “Contract on America.” And we know that the Contract on America is a contract on poor people—more than 1.4 million families who live in public housing across our country.

I oppose this draconian bill for many reasons. They include the new power that the bill gives to local public housing authorities to raise rents. This will drive thousands of low-income working families out of public housing. Public housing must be preserved for low-income people who need it most.

But let me discuss a major reason I oppose H.R. 2. It does absolutely nothing to move public housing residents closer to real jobs at real wages. Section 105—one of the more vicious parts of this bill—is the provision to require forced volunteerism and to establish “self-sufficiency contracts.” H.R. 2 requires that nonelderly and nondisabled residents of public housing who cannot find jobs have to perform 8 hours a month of something called “community service.” The bill also requires that residents and the public housing authority sign an agreement as part of the lease. This “agreement” is supposed to set goals for self-sufficiency. And one of the goals is a timetable for families to leave public housing when they become self-sufficient.

But how are millions of public housing residents supposed to become self-sufficient, when Congress refuses to appropriate money to rebuild our communities? Now that would create real jobs at real wages. Instead of passing H.R. 2, this Congress ought to be holding hearings this week on H.R. 950—The Job Creation and Infrastructure Restoration Act of 1997. This bill, cosponsored by more than 45 Members of Congress and over 100 organizations, including city councils, calls for \$250 billion to launch a major public works program that could put millions of people to work rebuilding schools, roads, hospitals, and highways.

Self-sufficiency contracts make no sense. No public housing residents should be forced to sign such contracts when H.R. 2 contains no money for jobs or supportive services to help people find jobs. And why is this Congress considering a law that requires community work in return for receiving Federal assistance? Do we require “volunteer work” in exchange for the right to receive other types of Federal assistance such as farm subsidies, LIHEAP, corporate welfare, or loan guarantees?

Section 105 of H.R. 2 is a threat to working people, especially low-wage workers. The “forced volunteers” required by section 105 threatens to displace thousands of low wage workers currently employed by public housing authorities. If Congress passes a law that requires millions of hours of free labor by public housing residents, then public housing authorities will find no need to pay wages and benefits to other workers who currently perform vital security, maintenance, and other jobs.

Mr. Speaker, you can count on my vote against H.R. 2. And you can count me in to continue to fight with public housing residents across this country to preserve the people's right to affordable housing. Thank you very much.

INTERSTATE 69 COMPLETION CRITICAL ISSUE FOR AMERICA'S HEARTLAND

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer the following resolution from the Vanderburgh County commissioners for my colleagues' consideration here in the Congress. It is but one of the latest examples I see daily confirming that there is widespread, deep support to complete Interstate 69 through my home State of Indiana and through America's heartland down to Texas.

I see this evidence daily through my work as the founder and chairman of the Interstate 69 caucus in the Congress. This caucus includes 37 members, including Representatives and Senators, from all points of the political spectrum.

As this historic Congress continues its work, Mr. Speaker, we need to push for a reauthorization of Federal highway spending to give States greater flexibility and more of the money that we all pay in taxes every time we gas up our cars and trucks. I think that need is well expressed in this resolution approved recently by the Vanderburgh County commissioners in Evansville, IN, and I commend it to the attention of my colleagues.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF VANDERBURGH

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County recognize that it has an important role to play in the economic development of Vanderburgh County; and

Whereas, the extension of Interstate 69 from Indianapolis to Evansville is an integral element of economic growth and prosperity for Southwestern Indiana; and

Realizing, that Southwestern Indiana does not have direct interstate access to its Capitol in Indianapolis, nor in any other North-South direction; and

Recognizing, that the expansion of Interstate 69 from Indianapolis to Evansville and then toward Mexico will greatly expand domestic and international commerce; and

Whereas, Vanderburgh County can attain only limited benefit from future expansion of trade without direct interstate access to the North and South;

Be It Resolved That, on this 10th day of March, 1997, the Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County endorsed the proposed extension of Interstate 69 from Indianapolis to Evansville and eventually on to Laredo, Texas for the purpose of creating a vital transportation link that will lead to the expansion of intrastate, interstate, and international trade; thus, providing a catalyst for creating numerous jobs and providing economic security for its inhabitants; and furthermore, we call upon our counterparts in all Southwest Indiana Counties along the proposed Interstate 69 route to adopt a similar resolution in support of said project.

RICHARD E. MOURDOCK,

President.

BETTYE LOU JERREL,

Vice President.

PATRICK TULEY,

Member.

Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Tourism Week. The designation of May 4 to 10 is a great way to deliver the message that travel and tourism are vital to the U.S. economy. Today, May 7, is actually Tourist Appreciation Day. Approximately 3,000 communities are expected to participate in this celebration with awareness campaigns to stress the importance and success of tourism in the United States.

I know it seems odd to tout the importance of something that many of us take for granted. It seems that as long as there are planes, trains, and automobiles, people will travel. But the positive impact of tourism is incredible. In fact, tourism is America's largest services export industry, second largest employer, and third largest retail sales industry. This is a \$440 billion industry, directly employing 6.6 million Americans.

Perhaps one of tourism's biggest benefits is on our trade situation. We continue to worry about our trade deficit. However, as the leading export, tourism drew more than \$80 billion in expenditures by 43.4 million international visitors, creating a \$19.5 billion surplus. It is staggering to think that international visitors spend \$218 million per day on their trips to the United States.

On a more local level for me, Orlando and the entire State of Florida are popular tourist destinations. The mix of climate, theme attractions and natural beauty are instant draws to my district and State. I have the honor and pleasure to represent the Orlando area and see firsthand the benefits tourism can bring. The revenues generated by people visiting our State allow the State legislature to keep State taxes low. Florida still does not have a State income tax for this reason. Employment in Florida, especially central Florida, remains strong. Over 650,000 jobs are supported in Florida by tourists.

But aside from the economic benefits of tourism, Mr. Speaker, we simply must recognize the other bonuses of tourism. Vacations yield families quality time together. Traveling to new and interesting places is educational for people of all ages. International tourism promotes cultural and political understanding among different peoples. The list is virtually endless.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important to realize the importance of tourism to the U.S. economy and that our efforts in Congress reflect that. It is my hope that my colleagues will take note of National Tourism Week and Tourist Appreciation Day. We cannot afford to discount this critical industry.

NATIONAL TEACHER'S APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of respect for National Teachers' Appreciation Week. Without a doubt, there