

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID MINGE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, August 1, the Secretary of Agriculture visited the Second Congressional district, which I represent. I felt obligated to accompany the Secretary because I had urged him to come to my district and because the success of agriculture is critical to the economy of Minnesota. Unfortunately, this caused me to miss Tuesday's vote on the floor of the House of Representatives regarding lifting the arms embargo in Bosnia.

Secretary Glickman's visit to Minnesota was worthwhile. He had the opportunity to attend Farmfest 95, one of the premier agricultural trade shows in the upper Midwest. Farmers appreciated the opportunity to offer him their views on federal farm policy and the Secretary appreciated the opportunity to better understand farming in Minnesota. En route to FarmFest, Secretary Glickman toured Heartland Corn Products Cooperative at Winthrop. Earlier, he had visited Phoenix Composites in St. Peter, which turns soybeans into a marble-like board. I appreciated the opportunity to educate the Secretary on Minnesota's emerging ethanol industry, the processing of soybeans for new uses and Minnesota's strong cooperative movement. Value-added production holds great promise for increasing income in rural areas. I do not take missing a vote lightly, but I felt it was important to fulfill my commitment to farmers and rural residents by hosting the Secretary of Agriculture on his tour of Minnesota's Second District.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM P. LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Chairman, I believe that deficit reduction is critical to our Nation's future. I have supported the balanced budget amendment, the line-item veto, the rescissions bill, and dozens of amendments to appropriations bills to cut spending. And I will continue to support across-the-board cuts in unnecessary spending because that is what is needed to restore our country's financial health.

I am however, particularly troubled by the priorities established in the pending Labor/HHS/Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill. This bill severely cuts invest-

ments in human capital which, in my view, will likely create long-term problems of a more severe and complex nature than the challenges we face today.

An example of this is the complete elimination of funding for Summer Youth Jobs. The Summer Youth Jobs initiative encourages at-risk young people to choose and value work over dependency. Summer Youth Jobs keep kids off the streets and out of trouble. In fact, do you know who are among the strongest supporters of Summer Youth Jobs? Well its local law enforcement, the people who we rely on to be on the front line in dealing with kids, drugs, gangs, and crime. By eliminating Summer Youth Jobs, this bill eliminates what law enforcement knows is the best approach to crime prevention in this country.

In my district, over 1,200 young people are taking advantage of this work opportunity. It is often their first opportunity to participate in the workforce. For many, it is their first exposure to a positive adult role model. How tragic that we in Congress would even consider eliminating a successful initiative like this when the net effect will predictably be more crime. How tragic that Congress would not value the work ethic and self-reliance—principles we all, Democrats and Republicans share.

There are many other misplaced priorities in this bill which require a vote against final passage. Cuts in Head Start, cuts in initiatives to keep our schools safe and free from crime and drugs, and cuts in post-secondary grant and loan programs which give millions of Americans the opportunity to go to college.

Mr. Chairman, my concern is not with taking the difficult steps to balance the budget. I have shown my willingness to make spending cuts across the board. My concern is with our priorities. I cannot believe that in this Congress, we would be proposing the cuts proposed in this bill when we continue to spend billions of dollars on senseless programs that are outdated or that the experts say are not needed. We can't afford this mistake if we are to be competitive as a nation in the next century. Our children and our Nation deserve better.

I strongly urge a no vote on this legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TRW
PLANT EMPLOYEES

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of a group of Tennesseans that placed them among the best 25 manufacturing plants in the country.

I am referring to the employees of TRW's Vehicle Safety Systems, Inc. plant in Cookeville, TN that recently found themselves at the top in Industry Week's sixth annual search for America's best plants. The 1995 finalists were chosen from over 150 nominations and 67 entries.

Cookeville's TRW plant was thrust into the winner's circle for their increased productivity and decreased manufacturing costs. Specifically, the plant reduced those costs over the

last 5 years by 77 percent while increasing plant productivity by 60.1 percent.

The inflatable restraint systems division of the TRW plant in Cookeville began its operations in 1991. Since that time, employment has risen dramatically and the plant now employs close to 800 workers.

Each day those workers are hard at work producing passenger airbag modules and inflators for Asian, European, and American companies such as Ford, General Motors, Chrysler, Nissan, Mitsubishi, Honda, KIA, Mazda, BMW, and Volkswagen. The plant produces an average of 70,000 passenger side air modules each week.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me and Tennesseans all across the State in thanking these employees for their commitment to product quality and their true interest in customer safety.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I will vote in opposition to the Solomon amendment. I wish to make clear that I do not support compulsory student fees for campus political groups whose views the student may not support. Rather, students should only be given an option to donate to a student group of their choosing if they wish through a positive check-off system, which would allow students to choose which groups, if any, received their money. Perhaps, if I were a university trustee and the amendment were a resolution before me I would vote for it. But I am not. I am a Federal legislator. As a Republican in the Federalist tradition, I stand opposed to national control of local and State matters.

Recently, we saw the Clinton administration try to coerce the University of California using the Federal spending power when it voted to end affirmative action. We should not similarly coerce colleges and universities to do what we Republicans wish. I did not come to Washington to replace one set of Federal rules, regulations and mandates with another.

Although the Solomon amendment represents a good idea, that students should not be forced to pay for political activities with which they do not agree, it is not enough. A good idea, when forced on States and local entities by Federal mandate, is no longer a good idea. For this reason, I oppose this amendment.