

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE
ESTABLISHMENT ACT

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the Department of Trade Establishment Act.

The idea of creating a Trade Department is not new. In fact, some of us have been working for years for a fundamental re-organization of our trade agencies. My own work on this issue began some 12 years ago.

Our deepening trade deficit makes this issue urgent. Last year, we had a \$166 billion merchandise trade deficit—the worst in our history. But this year, the merchandise deficit is headed toward \$200 billion, \$40 billion worse than last year. Yet, our economy has just been judged the most efficient in the world. Clearly, our current trade programs are inadequate.

The weakness of our current trade organization is also reflected in the fact that exports account for barely 10 percent of our gross domestic product, lower than any of our major competitors. As our domestic economy matures and slows down, exports will be crucial to our future economic growth and strength.

What we need is an across-the-board, government-wide consolidation and strengthening of our trade functions. We are spending about \$3 billion on 150 trade programs, spread among some two dozen trade agencies. As GAO testified before my Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade last week, these trade functions are scattered, duplicated and uncoordinated. The result is inadequate to assist our exporters in today's global markets. Moreover, it is too costly.

By contrast, our major trade competitors—Japan, Germany, France, and Korea—all have fully coordinated and streamlined trade ministries.

Establishing a Trade Department is the right course, for three reasons. First, it would assure a government-wide consolidation of trade functions. Second, it would make our trade programs consistent and coherent. Third, it would give trade issues the proper attention and priority within our own Government and in our relations with other nations.

Mr. Speaker, included with this statement is a brief summary of my bill. A section-by-section analysis is available in the office of the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade, room B-359 Rayburn. In my judgment, this is the right framework to lead us into the 21st century as the most competitive trading nation in the world.

BRIEF SUMMARY DEPARTMENT OF TRADE ESTABLISHMENT ACT INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN TOBY ROTH

The Act establishes a Department of Trade to provide a streamlined, coordinated and more effective trade organization. It consolidates some two dozen federal trade agencies and some 150 separate programs into a cohesive and less costly structure.

KEY PROVISIONS

(1) The Act establishes a Department of Trade and transfers the existing trade-related functions of the Commerce Department to the new department.

Included are all the functions of the International Trade Administration, the Bureau

of Export Administration and the Office of International Economic Policy.

(2) The new Secretary of Trade is the President's chief trade policy-maker and coordinator of the federal government's trade-related activities.

The Secretary chairs both of the key inter-agency trade committees (the Trade Policy Committee and the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee), and serves as Chairman of the Board of both the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC).

(3) The U.S. Trade Representative is retained as the chief trade negotiator, in the Executive Office of the President.

The Trade Representative reports to the President and functions under the policy guidance of the President and the Trade Secretary.

Responsibility for administering trade sanctions, including the Section 301 program, is transferred to the Department of Trade.

(4) The President is required to transfer and consolidate all non-agricultural trade promotion functions from other departments and agencies into the Trade Department.

(5) After the government-wide consolidation, the President is required to reduce overall spending on the consolidated functions by 25 percent from the overall level of the previously unconsolidated functions.

HONORING A DELEGATION FROM
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
PAKISTAN

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, last week marked the first time a bipartisan delegation of legislators from Pakistan headed by the National Assembly's Speaker has called on us in Washington.

It was my privilege to meet with these distinguished officials on September 7 and I know that several other colleagues have had the opportunity to meet them, as well.

The delegation included the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Honorable Yousuf Raza Gilani, as well as the Honorable Kazi Asad Abid, the Honorable Ijaz-Ul-Haq, the Honorable Naveed Qamar, the Honorable Junaid Iqbal, and the Honorable Abdul Rauf Khan Lughmani, who are members of the National Assembly.

They have been accompanied by Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, and distinguished Pakistani-Americans Dr. Murtaza Arain and Dr. Ikram Khan.

Mr. Speaker, our two nations—the United States and Pakistan—share several important issues of mutual concern, and it is my hope and belief that this visit will help to move us forward.

Pakistan is a strong ally of ours. When the community of nations has called, Pakistan has responded in Somalia, in Bosnia, in Cambodia, in the Persian Gulf, and in Afghanistan. That is why building these bridges is so important.

I look forward to working with these distinguished Pakistani officials and my colleagues in attempting to achieve more fairness in our policy toward Pakistan and addressing the critical issue of Kashmir.

Mr. Speaker, I extend the warmest welcome to our friends from Pakistan and hope that this is the first of many more such visits.

IN APPRECIATION OF CORPORATIONS
NATIONWIDE WHICH DONATED
THEIR PLANES, PILOTS,
AND FUNDS TO THE CESSNA
CITATION SPECIAL OLYMPICS AIRLIFT

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the more than 200 corporations that donated planes, pilots, and funding for the purpose of flying Special Olympians to and from the World Games in New Haven, CT on June 30, and July 10, 1995 respectively.

This airlift, properly known as the Cessna Citation Special Olympics Airlift, was the largest peacetime airlift in history. During the airlift period, which spanned almost 2 days, more than 400 pilots flew 1,500 athletes in and out of Bradley International Airport. The planning and preparation for these pilots, the ground crew at Bradley International, and the Special Olympics travel coordination team was truly remarkable. In fact, during the airlift, each citation arrived and departed Bradley International within a 10-hour window; that's 600 minutes! With 215 citations involved, a take-off or landing occurred every 90 seconds. All of this took place with normal Bradley air traffic in progress.

Despite obstacles such as stormy weather over Pennsylvania and New York, speed regulations that restricted airlift arrivals to specific time slots, and, in some cases, picking up Olympians on airstrips that were closed because of recent flooding, each citation aircraft made it safely to and from the world games. This is truly a remarkable accomplishment and one in which all who were involved should be proud.

The corporations and all who participated in this endeavor have given a memorable gift to the athletes, their coaches, and families. I feel privileged to have witnessed this historic undertaking, and I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the corporations, their pilots, and all who were willing to volunteer their time, energy, and funding to the world games and the spirit it represents.

THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE PEE
DEE CONFERENCE OF THE AFRI-
CAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
ZION CHURCH

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize an event of special importance in my 5th Congressional District of South Carolina. On October 1, 1995, the Pee Dee Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in South Carolina will commemorate the bicentennial of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Nearly 200 years ago, certain individuals decided to leave the John Street Methodist Church in New York because of discrimination and denial of religious liberties. These individuals organized what was to become the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Zion was added to their name in 1848 to distinguish this denomination from other African Methodist bodies. The Right Reverend George E. Battle, Jr., bishop of the Pee Dee Conference, has declared a week of celebration for the week of October 1–8, 1995, to commemorate the founding of their denomination.

I congratulate the many churches of the Pee Dee Conference as they celebrate their 200th anniversary and commend them for having kept the faith, and morally and spiritually nourished individuals and families within their congregations, and for having been vital forces in their communities. I extend to the Pee Dee Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church my best wishes for their next century of service.

A TRIBUTE TO COL. CHRISTOPHER RUSSO

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MATSUI and I rise today to pay tribute to Col. Christopher F. Russo, who is retiring his command of the 77th Air Base Wing, Sacramento Air Logistics Center, McClellan Air Force Base, CA.

Colonel Russo graduated from Syracuse University in 1965. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps programs that fall, and received his pilot wings from Moody Air Force Base, GA the following year.

Colonel Russo was deployed to Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, in Vietnam. After his combat tour, he was an instructor at Vance Air Force Base, OK. In 1972, he was assigned to Nellis Air Force Base, NV, for his training in the F–111A, and then deployed to Takhli Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, where he completed another combat tour. During his tour at Takhli, he became the first aircraft commander to complete 100 combat missions in the F–111, a record he still holds.

Colonel Russo is a command pilot with more than 4,500 hours flying time. He has flown 250 combat missions, with over 500 hours of combat and combat support time. His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Medal, Republic of Korea Gallantry Cross, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with seven oak leaf clusters, and the Combat Readiness Medal. He holds a master's degree in the International Relations from Troy State University, AL, and is an outstanding graduate of the Air War College seminar program.

Mr. Speaker, we join his wife Pam and his children, Kristen, Jodie, and Nicholas, in wishing Colonel Russo a happy and productive retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BEATRIZ VALDEZ ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great public servant. Please join me in honoring Beatriz Valdez, who has earned the gratitude of the citizens of Los Angeles County for her tireless commitment to good government.

Beatriz Valdez, the eldest of eight children to Maria Del Rosario and Miguel Valdez, graduated from Montebello High School and immediately obtained employment with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Following the principles of punctuality and hard work, she quickly rose from the ranks of secretarial to administrative duties.

Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 1957, Ms. Valdez began working for the county's Registrar-Recorders office. In 1975, Ms. Valdez was appointed to the position of Assistant Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk of the Elections Office and was responsible for the election functions of the department. Her duties included the nomination process, formatting the ballot, processing absentee voters and campaign statements, the official canvass, analyses of legislative proposals and public information functions. In 1984, she also was assigned to oversee the county's 3.6 million voter affidavit file and the processing of an initiative, referendum, recall and nominating petitions.

On March 31, 1993, Beatriz Valdez was sworn in as Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and assumed the position as head of the largest election agency in the United States. She is the first Hispanic-American to hold this position since Ignacio Del Valle in 1850. She is responsible for conducting elections within L.A. County for Federal, State, and local offices, maintenance of an active voter registration program which includes a registration file of over 3.6 million and 4,000 voter outreach locations.

Each year the department provides support services for over 200 school, city and special district elections. Each major election requires the processing of approximately 275,000 voter registration forms, 500,000 absent voter requests, staffing over 6,100 precincts and processing over 500,000 petition signatures. Beyond her electoral duties, she is responsible for the recording of property documents within L.A. County, maintaining birth, death and marriage records, issuing marriage licenses and filing fictitious business names. Beatriz Valdez directs the annual budget of \$60 million, the collection of \$70 million in revenue and staff resources of 700 permanent employees.

Mr. Speaker, Beatriz Valdez is an extraordinary woman who I am proud to count as my constituent. The city of Montebello, the State and the Nation owe her a debt of gratitude. My colleagues in the House of Representatives salute her and wish her well in retirement.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF THE MAJORITY WHIP TOM DELAY

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of the Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill for fiscal year 1996, Messrs. ISTOOK, MCINTOSH, and EHRLICH offered very important legislation regarding political advocacy. The amendment was included in the committee reported version of the bill. The legislative measure was successfully defended on the House floor. The amendment to strike the provision by Mr. SKAGGS of Colorado was defeated with 232 Members voting against the amendment to strike.

In my statement I referred to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. I stated that organizations from all sides of the political spectrum from Act-Up on the left to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have taken Federal funds and have lobbied for more Federal funds.

It is now my understanding that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce does not receive Federal funds in any capacity that could be used for lobbying purposes.

In no way was it my intention to paint a picture of the U.S. Chamber taking funds for lobbying purposes. Quite the contrary is true. The U.S. Chamber has played an integral role in the revolution that has and continues to take place here in Congress. They have been advocates of the Contract With America and many other important pieces of legislation. Without their support, I am sure that many of the victories we have experienced during the first 8 months of this session would not be a reality. I want to commend the U.S. Chamber for all their hard work and effort and express gratitude for their guidance.

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

HON. BARBARA ROSE COLLINS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Miss COLLINS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased today to pay tribute to women around the world, from Africa to China, from America to South America, who recently attended the women's conference in Beijing. I want to pay special tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Maryann Mahaffey, president of the Detroit City Council, and one of the participants in this important conference. I want to commend Ms. Mahaffey's leadership in this historic forum, where women of every economic and political stature joined to focus world attention on issues that matter most in the lives of women and their families.

Regrettably, I was unable to participate in the Beijing conference, but I have every confidence that the city of Detroit, where my congressional district is located, and the State of Michigan, were very ably represented with Ms. Mahaffey's superior leadership.

I want to also commend the extraordinary contribution of our First Lady, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, without whom the conference would have been tragically incomplete.