

power." Under the joint declaration's terms, Great Britain has the authority to govern Hong Kong until June 30, 1997.

The People's Republic of China's manipulation of the joint liaison group is part of the People's Republic of China's 10-year pattern of renegeing on its commitments under the joint declaration. Notwithstanding the recent public relations tour through the United States by Lu Ping, Beijing's top Hong Kong official, the People's Republic of China has repeatedly displayed its contempt for the joint declaration. Five years ago this week, in April 1990, Beijing codified significant deviations from the joint declaration in the basic law, the so-called miniconstitution for post-1997 Hong Kong that Beijing wrote and rubberstamped in its National People's Congress. The basic law subordinates the Hong Kong Legislature to the Beijing-appointed executive, and assigns the power of judicial interpretation to the standing committee of the National People's Congress rather than to Hong Kong's judges. The basic law's provisions on the legislature may become moot however, since the People's Republic of China has promised or threatened to dismantle the Legco and Hong Kong's two other tiers of government.

Beijing also threatens to abolish the Bill of Rights, enacted by the Legco in 1991 in reaction to the Tiananmen Square Massacre, and over the objections of the Hong Kong government. Finally, a high official of the Chinese supreme court has suggested that Beijing will replace Hong Kong's common law system, which is synonymous with individual rights and the rule of law within a civil law system. China's own civil law system is explicitly subordinated to the Communist Party.

The status of plans for establishing a high court before 1997 is cause for concern as well, and here the report's brief treatment of the issue is troubling. The details of a Court of Final Appeal, to replace the Privy Council in London, as the territory's highest court were agreed to in the joint declaration. The U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act report mistakenly accepts the 1991 agreement between the British Government of Hong Kong and China as a basis for the Hong Kong government's legislation implementing the court. The 1991 agreement explicitly violates the joint declaration and basic law. Accordingly, democratic legislators plan to amend it to bring it into accord with the joint declaration.

I was surprised and disappointed that the report did not address two matters of tremendous significance in this transition period and to post-1997 Hong Kong. First, the report omitted any discussion of the Patten government's rejection of proposals by Hong Kong's democrats for an official human rights commission. Over the next 27 months, the commission could define a human rights standard against which to judge the Hong Kong SAR government. The People's Republic of China's expressed

hostility to independent and democratic government institutions after 1997 is an argument for moving full-speed ahead with a human rights commission and other institutional reforms, not for backing off.

Also missing from the report was any mention of Great Britain's failure to report on human rights in the colony according to its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

As 1997 draws near, there will be a greater need for accurate and timely reporting on developments in Hong Kong. There is also a need for a clearer recognition of the implications of the People's Republic of China's behavior for the people of Hong Kong. I look forward to future reports and hope that, in the intervals between reports, my colleagues in the United States, Congress and other friends of Hong Kong will pay close attention to the statements and actions of the Beijing and Hong Kong governments. Above all, there must be more attention to the voices and concerns of the Hong Kong people.●

IMPACT AID

● Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, last night we completed action on H.R. 1158, the supplemental appropriations and rescissions for fiscal year 1995. I wanted to briefly discuss one provision included in the leadership amendment adopted last evening to restore funding for impact aid. As my colleagues know, the Impact Aid Program is designed to provide aid to assist communities which have significant Federal presence in meeting education objectives. Specifically, this funding is important to Hatboro-Horsham school district in eastern Pennsylvania. My colleague, Senator SANTORUM, and I have heard from the local school district regarding this funding.

I am aware of the importance of this funding to other areas of the country. In particular, I want to note the efforts of my friend and colleague from South Dakota, Senator PRESSLER, to preserve the impact aid funding. He personally told me of the adverse effect of the proposed rescission would have on a number of South Dakota schools, including the Pollock school district in northern South Dakota. I commend Senator PRESSLER for his leadership and for looking out for the educational interests of South Dakota schools, students, and families.●

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1995

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, when the Senate completes its business today, I ask unanimous consent that it stand in adjournment, and on Monday April 24, 1995, at 12 noon, following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, no resolutions come over under the rule, the call of the calendar be waived, the morning

hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business until 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, at the hour of 1 p.m., it will be the intention of the majority leader to proceed to the consideration of H.R. 956, the product liability bill. For the further information of all Senators, the Senate will begin the product liability bill at that point but no votes will occur before 3 p.m. on Monday.

ORDER FOR RECESS UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1995

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that following my own remarks, the Senate stand in adjournment under the provisions of House Concurrent Resolution 58.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Mr. GORTON. I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open until 2 p.m. today for the introduction of bills and statements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I wish briefly to add my reflections on the accomplishments of this Congress and especially of our colleagues in the House of Representatives during this first 100 days of that historic Congress.

The new leadership of the House of Representatives made certain commitments, ambitious commitments to the people of the United States in the course of last year's campaign covering a number of vitally important subjects to the people of the United States. Those commitments were repeated after the election was over. Those commitments have been kept to the letter by our colleagues in the House.

I believe that this remarkable record of achievement has created a distinct resonance on the part of the American people whose opinion of Congress, extremely low as recently as 6 months ago, has at least begun to recover. Perhaps more significant in the long run will be the content of the 100 days' promises, dramatic changes in the way in which Congress does its business, a very real attack on the problem of violent crime in our society, a major step

forward toward welfare reform, toward tax relief for families, and for the creation of jobs, toward our national security, and toward legal reform, Mr. President.

As each of us knows in this body, on the other hand, no one can safely make 100-day promises. The right of unlimited debate, vital to the liberties of the people of the United States, causes more careful consideration frequently of particular items and often frustration on the part of Members of the Senate and of the country itself. Nevertheless, at least three items in the contract for America have passed this body as well as the House.

The announcement I just made on behalf of the majority leader indicates that a portion of the legal reform agenda will be the first item to be discussed by the Senate upon its return, and I would hazard the estimate that before this year is over every one of the items on the Contract With America will have been discussed and voted on in the Senate. We can no more promise than the Speaker of the House can that all will be passed. Each and every one of these items requires at least a degree of bipartisan support in the Senate given the rules of this body. But it is

clear that this Congress as a whole has acted more decisively and has created a greater change in course and direction for the country than any Congress literally in decades.

Finally, Mr. President, I would be remiss if I did not express my personal pride in the new Members of the House of Representatives from my own State. My own State has provided more new Members from my party, more freshmen Members than any other State in the United States of America, five men and one woman of great distinction in their previous careers, enthusiastically dedicated to the goals of the contract on which they ran, and major participants, even though they are freshmen Members, in the wonderful successes which the House of Representatives has shown. I am proud to be a part of that delegation and express my great gratitude to them for all they have accomplished in as yet short but highly distinguished congressional careers.

Mr. President, I yield the floor

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
APRIL 24, 1995

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now

stand in adjournment until 12 noon Monday, April 24.

Thereupon, at 12:48 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Monday, April 24, 1995.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 7, 1995:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF GENERAL WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTIONS 601(A) AND 3033:

CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY

To be general

GEN. DENNIS J. REIMER, 000-00-0000

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 7, 1995:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

DENNIS M. DUFFY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (POLICY AND PLANNING).

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.