request. According to the National Association of Minority Contractors [NAMC], many minority contractors reported being turned down for a bond without an explanation. When explanations are not proffered, a perception of discrimination in the surety industry is created. This perception drives minority contractors to obtain sureties outside the mainstream, often at significant additional expenses and fewer protections, placing themselves, their subcontractors, and the Government at greater risk.

This legislation will create an environment in which small business firms, particularly those owned and controlled by minorities and women, can successfully obtain adequate surety bonding. This legislation will enable us to ferret out continuing biases in the industry. Whatever these prejudices may be, getting rid of them will open up the industry, creating entrepreneurial and employment opportunities and making the industry more competitive. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and help abolish the artificial impediments to the development and survival of emerging small businesses.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PLEASURE RIDGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL'S BASEBALL TEAM

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding baseball team in my district. For the third year in a row, the Pleasure Ridge Park Panthers baseball team took the Kentucky State baseball championship title.

This outstanding team was led by head coach Bill Miller who has served in that position for 17 years. The championship was won 5 to 3 against the Greenup County Musketeers after a long-fought battle. The upset came after a 21-game Musketeer winning streak.

Each team player gave it their all throughout the season and their dedication paid off in the final round. These young men deserve special recognition, and I am proud to have such athletes in my district. Members of the winning team included Simon Auter, Richard Boston, Darrell Davis, Matthew Fox, Adam Garris, Adam Gibson, Nathan Harp, Troy Hilpp, Shawn Hoover, Matthew Jarboe, Mickey King, Matthew McGohon, David McGovern, Royce Meredith, Paul Miller, Josh Newton, Matthew Page, William Pfister, Christopher Phillips, Brian Scyphers, Craig Shubert, Jeffrey Szymansky, Scott Terrill, Nicklaus Waddell, and Bradley Williams.

Special recognition should be given to head coach Bill Miller as well as the assistant coaches Jim Stokes, Rich Hawks, Don Vandgrift, Richie Wyman, Sherm Blaszczyk, Dennis Lankford, and Jim Dawson. Pleasure Ridge Park Principal Charles Miller, Athletic Director Russ Kline and Assistant Athletic Director Jerry Smith should be especially proud of their team.

THE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT LEAVE ACT

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Parental Involvement Leave Act of 1996.

There is no greater cause for this country than to strengthen the family. When we invest in children and families it provides dividends for life.

President Clinton and Vice President GORE know this to be true. In fact, they are in Nashville with their wives hosting a conference on families. So it is fitting that today I introduce the Parental Involvement Leave Act, legislation that strengthens the family.

This bill provides families with two very important benefits that will help assure the continued success of the American family. First, it expands coverage of the Family and Medical Leave Act to businesses with 25 or more employees. The Commission On Family and Medical Leave reports that the law is working well for millions of workers and their families. Two-thirds of covered employers have expanded their policies to come into compliance with FMLA. And the great majority of companies reported no or only minor new costs. Business have even seen increased productivity and lower worker turnover as a result of the FMLA.

Second, it gives parents 3 days of unpaid leave a year to attend activities related to their children's education.

Studies show that parental involvement is a key ingredient in a child's education. When families learn together, children learn better. In fact, one of the most accurate predictors of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which parents are involved in that student's education.

Moreover, the schools and communities also profit when families get involved. Research on families and education has found that: families make critical contributions to student achievement, from earliest childhood through high school.

When parents are involved at school, not just at home, children do better in school and they stay in school longer. The more the relationship between the family and the school approaches a comprehensive, well-planned partnership, the higher the student achievement.

But it is much harder today for families to find the time to participate in school activities.

The nostalgic ''Ozzie and Harriet'' image no longer represents the average American family. Today, only 7 percent of American families fit the 1950's image of breadwinner father, homemaker mother, and two children. Half of all children will spend time in a single-parent household. Moreover, 81 percent of single mothers work full time to support their children.

With more dual-income families, it is harder for parents to get time off to meet with teachers or attend their children's soccer games. In a survey of PTA leaders, 89 percent cite the lack of time as the biggest roadblock to parental involvement.

Under the bill, parents can take leave to participate in or attend an activity that is sponsored by a school or a community organization. Parents with children in child care through high school are eligible. Parents will have the flexibility to take leave a few hours at a time or longer. Federal employees are also covered under this bill.

With all of the Federal cuts in education, the question is how can we help families that want to be more involved with their kid's education? It is time for this Congress to take a stand for kids. I hope you will join me in sponsoring the Parental Involvement Leave Act and allow parents to make a real investment in their children's education.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF INDIAN GAMING

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, Indian gaming is one of the most misinterpreted issues in the media and on Capitol Hill in recent memory. The following document reviews some of the major issues currently surrounding Indian gaming and offers an opposing viewpoint to the many accepted and pervasive pro-Indian gaming arguments in the media and in the public. Much of this material can be used to effect a greater awareness of the true nature of Indian gaming.

There has been explosive growth in Indian Gaming since the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) in 1988. Since the Act some 200 tribes have set up 237 gaming operations in 29 states. This trend is only increasing as more and more tribes seek permission to open up gaming operations. In arguing their case, the pro-Indian Gaming interests continually isolate the same few examples of Indian Gaming prosperity and champion these cases in the media and on Capitol Hill. The example of the Mashantucket-Pequot's Foxwoods casino in Connecticut is somehow being mistakenly applied universally to all Indian Gaming nationwide. The fact is that even their darling Mashantucket-Pequot casino in Connecticut is destroying taxpaying businesses and having a detrimental effect on the surrounding communities.

In 1983 the U.S. Congress established a 2,300-acre settlement boundary for the Mashantucket-Pequot tribe in Connecticut. This settlement boundary outlined an area in which the Indians could acquire land and place it into trust. Under current law, this land then becomes part of the tribe's sovereign lands and is no longer within the jurisdiction of state or local governments. More notably, the land is no longer subject to taxation, zoning or environmental controls. Thus acquired land does not have to be reservation land and the Secretary of the Interior only requires that Indian tribes not acquire land in trust for gaming purposes in states where they currently have no land. Originally, the local communities in Connecticut were very supportive of this 1983 ruling and honestly believed that the tribe was owed some historical redress. But the subsequent loss of tax revenue and local control has made Indian Gaming a nightmare for many communities.

The Mashantucket-Pequot tribe is profiting over $800 million a year from their Foxwoods casino and the 320 members of the tribe are becoming incredibly wealthy. Besides enriching themselves, the Indians have taken the casino profits to purchase land

within these settlement boundaries and put them into trust. The result has been a loss of property taxes to the local community and loss of authority and the ability to regulate Indian Gaming expansion. The local community is experiencing this loss in tax revenue at the same time that it must spend for greater services to administer the increased traffic and crowds that the casinos attract. These local communities are finding it necessary to hire more police and more employees in order to meet the increased traffic and road problems, as well as the increased demand for emergency services. Also included in these revenue costs are the increasing number of depleted businesses. Indians are setting up non-gaming, untaxed businesses and attracting consumers who would otherwise spend their dollars in local businesses. In response, the three cities of Ledyard, North Stonington and Preston, Connecticut formed a coalition to fight the increased practice of Indians taking lands into trust and are now in court in an attempt to stop Indian Gaming expansion. If Indian Gaming was as beneficial to states as the Indians claim, states would not be so unwilling to negotiate with tribes and would not go to court in an attempt to stop the expansion of Indian Gaming.

Another typical example of the negative effects of Indian Gaming is what is occurring in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Similar to what is occurring nationwide, the local Sault Ste. Marie tribe is using the substantial profits from its casinos to acquire lands and then transfer these lands to federal trust. The city of Sault Ste. Marie is finding out first hand just how powerless it is in restraining this uncontrolled and untaxed expansion of Indian Gaming. Sault Ste. Marie is losing its tax base and losing authority, for example its zoning and building inspection authority, and is against the Indians taking more land. The complaint that the city of Sault Ste. Marie filed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to curb expansion of Indian Gaming in its locality is still pending. These examples illustrate that many Indian tribes sense the ''boondoggle'' nature of the current Indian Gaming laws and, knowing a good deal when they see it, will employ shrewd tactics to realize their goals. Indians are simply exploiting ambiguities and loopholes in the current laws and offering revisionist views of Congressional intent. The Indians are succeeding in their long-term goal of acquiring as much land as possible and putting it into trust.

Changes should be made to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 to give states more authority to limit/control the expansion of Indian Gaming. As the Act stands now, which allows tribes to seek land outside their reservations without regard to any legitimate land claim or settlement issue, chaos and disorder will continue, making planning by states for future Indian Gaming growth impossible. Further, the Act currently demands that states must negotiate compacts with federally recognized tribes. These states constantly find themselves on the defensive with regard to their negotiating positions due to the ambiguity of the law, the aggressiveness of the Indians, as well as their misinformation agenda, and past decisions by the courts in favor of the tribes. A state should not be charged with negotiating in bad faith if it simply wants to limit a tribe's gaming operations to that of the state's public policy on gaming.

The state of Wisconsin provides a good example of the unfair advantages that Indian-owned businesses have over non-Indian businesses and how this is ultimately hurting the local communities. A 1995 independent study entitled ''The Economic Impact of Native American Gaming in Wisconsin'' by the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute showed that the 17 Indian casinos in Wisconsin, which gross approximately $655 million a year, are also generating an additional $60 million through stores, lodging and other non-gaming businesses. The report documents that many businesses in the local economy, such as restaurants, bars and movie theaters are losing money to Indian-owned businesses and would experience higher demand if nearby Indian Gaming was not available. The study further disclosed that areas in the state without casinos are losing about $223 million to areas where Indian Gaming is present. The report estimated these transferred funds to be a gain of $7,882 per tribal member. This transfer is nothing more than a shift of business and money from non-Indian, taxpaying citizens and localities towards further enriching government assisted tribes. Despite all the claims from the Indian lobby, this independent report also concludes that when all effects are taken into account, Indian Gaming is not even a major revenue source for the state.

A large majority of the proceeds from Indian Gaming go to investments and land acquisitions. Contrary to what pro-Indian Gaming forces would have you believe, the majority of these investments do not include healthcare, charitable contributions, non-gaming related capital construction, education or social services. The Mashantucket-Pequot tribe, for example, is even attempting to expand into the Las Vegas market through heavy investments. Clearly, with these types of expenditures, Indian Gaming is nothing more than a business machine that is escaping taxes.

In addition, many tribes make per capita distributions of net profits to all enrolled members of their tribes, or to a select few. The IGRA does not require that Indian profits be devoted to collective programs of the tribes; therefore, in many cases, only individuals profit. The previously discussed 1995 study by the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute revealed that a Minnesota tribe, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, with 218 members, had given members per capita grants of $450,000 each out of casino profits for a single year. The example of the Yavapais tribe from Arizona illustrates another instance of tribal members enriching themselves, as has been the case for other gaming tribes across the country. The tribe of 800 members is raking in over $100 million a year in profits from their Fort McDowell casino. In fact, the tribe is profiting so much that each member receives an annual dividend check of $36,000, pushing the income of some members to over $100,000. In addition, children as young as 13 are taking financial management courses in preparation for the day they reach their eighteenth birthday. At this time these teenagers will receive as much as $500,000 in trust money. It is not uncommon for car dealers to park their vehicles on the reservation for eager buyers looking to unload some cash. The bottom line is that these tribes are getting incredibly rich and according to the Wisconsin study, such wealth is resulting in members quitting jobs and young members ending their educations early. Clearly, these payments to members do not have long-term tribal benefits. It would make better sense to apply the proceeds of gaming to long-term tribal benefits and not to payments to make specific individuals wealthy. Put simply, tribal members are not only receiving welfare payment from the tribe but from the federal and state government as well.

Despite the fact that Indian Gaming is a $4 billion a year business, the federal government continues to provide Indians with billions in additional compensation. In this climate of budget cuts, funding is being taken away from other programs in order to continue to fund the insulated Indian programs. Due to the large funding of Indian programs out of the Interior Appropriations bill, other Interior programs will face steep cuts as a result. These forfeited programs—i.e. the National Park Service maintenance program, the Smithsonian, the National Gallery of Art, and the federal government's land-management responsibilities—have no secondary sources of revenue as Indian Gaming does. Interior Appropriations is the sole source of funding for these programs. Compared with 1995 levels, forest services are being cut by over 20% and land management accounts are losing about 15% of their funding. The overall result is a depleted natural resources budget which will weaken the government's ability to protect national parks and wildlife refuges. Revenue from Indian Gaming is in no way reducing the government deficit as Indian interests like to claim.

In addition to buying up businesses, acquiring land and enriching themselves, Indians are also using their untaxed profits to influence politicians and legislation in order to expand their government subsidized monopolies. Using the state of California as an example, an initiative is currently in circulation that would allow slot machines in Palm Springs. If enough signatures are gathered, it will appear on the ballot on November 5, 1996. Indian tribes are using millions of dollars generated by illegal gaming enterprises in California for both lobbying and campaign contributions in an attempt to make their illegal activities legal. These Indian tribes are currently offering slot machines on their reservations despite unsettled lawsuits contesting their legality and Governor Pete Wilson's opposition to them. Indians have manipulated the rules in California by being able to operate casinos while non-Indian owned gaming businesses, which are regulated and taxed, are unable to operate in the state. Governor Wilson and Attorney General Dan Lungren argue that Indians are breaking the law by operating over 9,000 gaming devices, including about 8,500 slot machines, at 20 California casinos on tribal land. These tribes are operating these devices without the benefit of any compact signed by Governor Wilson.

The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, an 18 member tribe from Indio, California, have given $606,282 worth in campaign contributions to further their cause. Observing the size of these contributions and the fact that none of the tribe's gaming profits are subject to federal or state tax, one can only imagine as to what extent this tribe is enriching themselves through their illegal gaming activities. The Cabazon tribe is not alone. Total contributions by all Indian groups in the state reached $2,421,076 in the period from 1994–1995. In addition, the California Indian Nation PAC contributed $658,843 from 1993–1995. Indians have also learned how to influence lawmakers and policy on the national level. Through large contributions, savvy lobbying, a media push and by developing a network of advocacy groups, the Indians recently stopped an effort in Congress to impose a tax on revenues generated by their gaming operations. These tribes also hired expensive lobbyists to further their cause.

The uncontrolled expansion of Indian Gaming makes these operations highly vulnerable to money laundering and other types of illegal activity. A recent GAO study concluded that these casinos may become more susceptible to individuals who attempt to launder illegal profits due to the increased amount of money wagered. This determination is correct as Indian tribes across the country are experiencing a rise in crime and corruption from gaming operations on their

lands. Indian Gaming is not required to disclose its recordkeeping and most currency transactions as most businesses are required to do under the Bank Secrecy Act of 1970. This information is used by law enforcement and regulatory agencies to ensure compliance. Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, Indian casinos are not subject to the Bank Secrecy Act and report currency transactions pursuant to a more limited Internal Revenue Service provision. This reporting provision applies only to certain cash receipts and includes no recordkeeping requirements. To date, the IRS has not completed any compliance reviews of tribal casinos. This recent GAO study determined that these differences in reporting requirements may cause problems for law enforcement looking for a consistent paper trail of records with which to trace all gaming activity of customers engaged in large cash transactions, as well as to help identify potential money laundering activities. Currency transaction regulations and reporting requirements provide the primary deterrent to, and means of detection of, money laundering and corruption.

Counties with casinos in the state of Minnesota experienced twice as much crime as counties without casinos between the years 1988 and 1994. This increase was primarily due to crimes associated with gaming, such as fraud, theft, forgery and counterfeiting. Several members of the White Earth tribe, for example, have recently been indicted for alleged corruption in connection with the theft of funds allocated for construction of a casino on tribal land. Local police are burdened by the crime on these Indian casinos. As an example, they now respond to twice as many incidents of crime at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs operated by the Mille Lacs Bank of Chippewa Indians. State authorities are powerless to subject Indian Gaming operations with the proper limitations and controls to combat crime as other businesses must abide by. Even when states do sign compacts with the tribes they are helpless in monitoring the Indians to see whether they are abiding these compacts. In short, these authorities are unable to ensure the safety and integrity of Indian casinos. Taxpayers not only find themselves supporting Indian programs through federal funding, they are also paying heavily to have these corruption cases investigated and the criminals prosecuted and punished.

The 1995 Wisconsin study sums up the current Indian Gaming state of affairs quite well. It makes the correct conclusion that public officials need to have access to more data on this new industry than current agreements allow in order to fully understand its impact. Most information about the scale of this new industry is being promoted by the Indians themselves. The government and the public should not be coaxed into permitting the Indians to operate without any regulation and to expand at their uncontrolled and ever increasing rate; especially with their assistance in the form of tax dollars. This expansion is harming the relationship and any future cooperation between the federal, state, and local governments on the one hand and tribal governments on the other. It is also debasing the good intent of the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The law had the intention of balancing the rights of Indians to use their land without undue interference by the state with the state's concerns about controlling activities within its borders that affect the well-being of its citizens. Allowing the Indians to acquire land throughout the state, gain trust status, and then open up gaming operations free of taxes, state controls and regulations that apply to other businesses unfairly favors the Indians over the states. An attempt should be made to clarify Congressional intent in order to prevent further instances of Indian interests taking advantage of the loopholes and ambiguities in the laws, which allow for uncontrolled Indian Gaming expansion, local government helplessness and unnecessary litigation. The Wisconsin report correctly recommends that before additional agreements with Indians are negotiated or renegotiated, more studies should be done to determine Indian Gaming's true consequences. Americans are entitled to know the facts about the country's fastest growing enterprise.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3662) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I think it is important that we revisit the issue of the timber salvage rider that was part of the Rescissions bill last year. While I felt at the time that it was important to address the problem of dead and dying trees, and the issue of forest health in general, in hindsight it was clear we dealt with it in too much haste.

I did not vote on the Yates amendment when it was considered on the floor last year because I was with my wife at the hospital while she had minor surgery. I did vote for the bill on final passage, however, both because it helped to provide disaster relief to California and because it had the administration's support. At the time I think few Members of Congress were aware that the salvage timber rider allowed section 318 timber sales to be reinstated as well. If they had been aware of the deficiency, I do not think this rider would have gotten through.

The 1990 section 318 sales were intended to allow the development of a compromise in the Northwest but they did not succeed and were halted due to environmental concerns. These sales only affect old growth timber. The issue of salvage timber—or the attempt to glean the forest of dead or dying trees particularly after drought periods like the one recently in California—is a different concern altogether.

To my knowledge, these two issues were never intended to be intermingled. Fortunately, the Appeals Court has stepped in to stop the expedited 318 sales of old growth trees so we will have a chance to deal with option 9 in a responsible manner.

Given the vagueness of the definition of salvage timber, it was not unexpected that this provision could be ill used to harvest healthy trees. We should not have gone forward with the salvage timber rider without tightening up how the Forest Service implemented the program in the first place. In practice, the program allowed for more than dead and dying trees to be cut.

For those of us in this Congress who see a real threat to forest health and who have a strong desire to find the appropriate solution, the salvage timber rider simply went too far. Instead of merely allowing the timber companies some flexibility in helping to prevent future wildfires, those pursuing a different agenda took advantage of the opportunity and sought to cut healthy trees and old growth timber as well.

I would like to cite an example of how such sales can be extremely detrimental. Recently in my district the Forest Service sought to reinstate the Barkley timber sale in the Lassen National Forest. I personally appealed to the Department of Agriculture to stop the sale because it would have seriously unraveled the cooperative local efforts among landowners, conservationists, and government officials to produce a collaborative strategy for resource management.

In particular, the Quincy Library Group is a broad-based organization which worked hard to come to an agreement on timber harvests in the Sierra Nevadas. The Barkley timber sale would have jeopardized that carefully balanced effort. In response to my concern, the sale was stopped.

We must seek an appropriate balance in identifying solutions that will work over time. I support the amendment before us to restore environmental review to the timber salvage process. We need to provide a check to the extreme actions being undertaken under the guise of harvesting dead and dying trees.

TEN TREASURY SECRETARIES ENDORSE MFN FOR CHINA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I have received a letter from Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin enclosing another letter signed by all 10 living former Secretaries of the Treasury, calling for unconditional renewal of most-favored-nation status for China.

These distinguished Americans—Douglas Dillon, Henry Fowler, George Shultz, William Simon, Michael Blumenthal, William Miller, Donald Regan, James Baker, Nicholas Brady, and Lloyd Bentsen—have guided America's financial and economic destiny during every administration since President Kennedy's.

Their collective wisdom and judgment should not be ignored.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Secretary Rubin's letter be inserted in the RECORD, along with the letter of the 10 former Secretaries.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, DC, June 18, 1996.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEE: I wanted to bring to your attention a letter signed by all ten former Secretaries of the Treasury that called for President Clinton to renew most favored nation trading status for China. In the letter, the former Secretaries emphasized that more can be achieved on contentious issues such as nuclear non-proliferation, the environment and international security by engaging China fully in an active trading relationship than by trying to isolate China. In addition, the letter clearly demonstrates the strong national interest America has in renewing MFN trading status for China. They note, for