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SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3604, the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments. This bill includes an important provision: H.R. 3280, the Water Quality Right-To-Know Act of 1996, of which I am a cosponsor. I am pleased that the House will pass this bipartisan piece of legislation, which will continue to protect our Nation's drinking water. While I remain concerned about the last-minute inclusion of projects which threaten to diminish the State revolving fund [SRF], overall I believe this is a good bill. It is my hope that this issue will be resolved in the House-Senate conference.

This bill takes many important steps to improve the Safe Drinking Water Act. It authorizes the SRF, which is essential to our communities in providing safe drinking water; it gives the EPA more flexibility in issuing regulations; it requires that standards be set for arsenic and radon; and it requires the EPA to conduct studies on sulfates.

One of the most important provisions would require water systems to public information annually on the status of drinking water and notify consumers of any contaminants. While the United States has one of the safest drinking water supplies in the world, there have, unfortunately, been incidents of contamination. I have heard from many constituents who expressed support for this provision because Americans have a right to know what is in their drinking water. I agree with them, and that is why I am a cosponsor of this provision.

I commend my colleagues who kept negotiations on this bill open and involved all interested parties to produce a sound piece of legislation that will establish good public policy. It is a relief to support a commonsense, bipartisan bill that will ensure that Americans have clean, safe drinking water. This bill will allow our communities to meet the goals of the act cost effectively and responsibly without sacrificing the quality of our drinking water.

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to work in the House-Senate conference to ensure that funding for the SRF is not cut, and I look forward to passage of this important piece of legislation.

DISAPPROVAL OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT FOR CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, a year ago I heard and heeded the arguments of those who claimed that by maintaining MFN we would have the leverage to force

change in China. In light of what has transpired over the last year, I find it difficult to reconcile the benefits of MFN with China, with China's refusal to obey international law regarding the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its continued abuses of human rights. My hopes for change as a result of engagement through MFN were dashed.

The record of China over the past year merits a strong and unequivocal message of protest from this body. On every issue that is central to United States-China relations we have witnessed a steady and serious deterioration over the past year. In the critical areas of human rights, weapons proliferation, trade, and military aggression we have seen retreat, not progress.

I fully recognize the benefits of trade with China, and have held out the hope that by maintaining that relationship we could achieve progress in these critical areas. Therefore, I supported renewal of MFN last year. My hopes proved elusive, however, and the price of our forbearance has been an escalation in the threats to the security of the United States, both economic and strategic. I cannot stand by and watch China engage in practices that threaten the security of our Nation. If we are going to create a more secure place for the United States in the future, we must take the right actions today which will ensure that goal tomorrow.

The greatest threat to the United States and world security is the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In the hands of rogue nations, in the hands of nations that support terrorism, in the arsenals of nations with simmering disputes that stand the risk of erupting any day, chemical and nuclear weapons are a threat, not just to the United States but to the world.

In recent years, contrary to the promises made by the Chinese, China has increased both the quantity and the quality of its arms transfers. Not only has China transferred missile technology, but now China has transferred nuclear and chemical weapons technology to nonsafeguarded nations. Protests have produced promises, but what we have gotten in return for our indulgence and patience is continued defiance of international law. A record of broken promises is not strong enough to support renewal of MFN.

The human rights abuses of China are almost too numerous to mention. Time and time again, we have been promised that reforms would be enacted. But once again, there was not progress this year.

For these reasons, I cannot in good conscience support MFN renewal this year. I hope that in the future China reforms its practices, and demonstrates through meaningful, positive reforms its desire to join the international community. The door is open for a China that obeys treaties and respects the rule of law. There is no place for a China that behaves with the disrespect for international law which China has exhibited in the past year. There is a need to send a message to China when their behavior so endangers our national security. Therefore I will oppose MFN this year.

COST OF GOVERNMENT DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 193, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the cost of Government spending and regulatory programs should be reduced so that American families will be able to keep more of what they earn.

July 3, 1996, is Cost of Government Day, the date when the average American has earned enough in gross income to pay off all direct and hidden taxes—total Federal, State, and local government spending, plus the cost of regulation. In other words, July 3 is the day when Americans stop working for Uncle Sam and start working for themselves and their families.

This year, the total bill comes to \$3.38 trillion—\$13,000 for every man, woman, and child in America.

Mr. Speaker, the people that I represent live in the 12th most taxed congressional district in the Nation, and the 2d most taxed State in the Union. The cost of government has become too expensive, too burdensome, and they need relief. When working Americans are forced to take two jobs, work longer hours away from their families, simply to make ends meet, something is wrong.

Congress created new programs in the past, often with the best of intentions, but failed to consider how its decisions affect the people who must pay the bills. When you add to the Federal tax burden the taxes paid at the State and local level, and consider the hidden costs—costs associated with compliance with Federal regulations and mandates—it becomes clear that the American people can no longer afford the huge government bureaucracy that has been created over the years.

I am proud to say that this Congress recognizes the fiscal pressures facing working Americans today, and is working to ease the burdensome cost of government. We passed a balanced budget plan to stop the runaway spending that threatens our future and the future of our children and grandchildren; we've passed regulatory relief legislation to restore a degree of common sense to the manner in which Government regulations are drafted and carried out; we've passed legislation to give working Americans a modest degree of tax relief, and we have even attempted to roll back the tax increase that President Clinton pushed through Congress in 1993.

Unfortunately, the President has fought us at every turn. We owe it to working Americans to keep trying, Mr. Speaker, and enact policies that will allow them to keep more of what they earn. The cost of government is simply too high. We can do something about it, and I urge my colleagues to join me today in supporting this important resolution, and join me in working for a leaner—and better—government.

TRIBUTE TO COACH CAMERON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation's teachers and students complete the end of another school year and enjoy a much-deserved vacation, I would like to salute our teachers and pay tribute to one in particular—coach James Cameron—a well-known and well-respected Texas coach who accumulated a record of more than 200 victories prior to his unexpected death last year. Coach Cameron leaves behind a legacy, however, that is far greater than his teams' victories on the playing field. The measure of his legacy can be found in the hearts and minds of those who had the privilege of knowing him and whose lives were influenced by a great coach who was also a great man.

Coach Cameron achieved fame first on the gridiron for Commerce in the mid-1950's and as an offensive center at East Texas State University, where he helped guide his team to consecutive Tangerine Bowl victories. He was drafted by the AFL's Los Angeles Chargers but chose instead to finish his degree. His coaching days began even before his graduation, and his reputation soon spread throughout the high school and small-college ranks of Texas. He amassed victories at high schools in Mansfield, Waco, and McKinney before taking over at Howard Payne University and leading his team to a tie for first place in the first and only Lone Star Conference championship. He then moved to Angelo State University, where he achieved the best record in school history. Along the way he was recruited by Grant Teaff at Baylor University and was considered for the top position at North Texas State University. For varying reasons, he did not find those positions to be part of his destiny. He returned to high school coaching at Rockwall, Kilgore, and finally Sulphur Springs, where he was coaching at the time of his death and where he led the Wildcats to half a dozen district championships.

But what equally distinguished his career was his influence on his players and his community. The Sulphur Springs News-Telegram wrote a feature about Coach Cameron in 1994 that included comments by those who knew him well. Joey Florence, head football coach at Cooper, said:

He gets more out of his kids because of motivation, but he also motivates the entire community. . . . He told me something one time that I'll never forget. He said he'd rather lose with class than win without it. And that's something I try to impart to our team.

Bill Grantley, superintendent at Kilgore, said, "It was more than just the winning—it was how he dealt with the townspeople and the students." Paul Glover, the superintendent at Sulphur Springs, said:

I think James saw the situation here and decided he could be a factor, not only in the athletic program but the community as well. He saw a need he could fill and obviously we have not been disappointed at all.

One of his students, Matt Rosamond, wrote an essay for his Sulphur Springs High School English class this year that illustrates Coach Cameron's extraordinary influence. Matt wrote:

Not only was he a great man, but also he was a great teacher. Not a class room teacher, but a teacher of life. . . . Coach lived his life the way most people only wish to live theirs. He was the most understanding and forgiving person I ever knew. . . . Coach was by far the most influential person in my life.

Coach Cameron was one of those exemplary teachers who made a difference in the lives of his students, and he was an exemplary American who made a difference in his community. He is truly missed by all those who knew him and loved him. His brothers, Bill and Raymond, who are prominent businessmen, outstanding civic leaders, and my good friends in Rockwall, are particularly proud of James and of what he accomplished in his life.

So it is a privilege, Mr. Speaker, to have the opportunity to pay tribute to this great man whose influence continues to live on in the lives of those who knew him. In his essay Matt Rosamond concluded, "I realized deep inside that Coach is very much alive. He is alive in every player and every person that knew one of the greatest men who had ever lived." Such is the legacy of coach James Cameron.

COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL ANTINARCOTICS COOPERATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a report issued following the Third Annual Narcotics Control Conference I and several of my colleagues attended in Taipei, Republic of China this past February. This report outlines the important and successful steps Taiwan has taken in their antinarcotics efforts, as well as their commitment to international antinarcotics cooperation. This conference was part of an on-going effort between the United States Congress and the Government of the Republic of China to improve bilateral and regional cooperation in the antinarcotics effort, and I would also like to thank Congressman ED TOWNS who participated in this conference with our delegation. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to personally thank Dr. Ying-jeou Ma, Taiwan's Minister of Justice, for his outstanding dedication and personal attention to our joint antidrug efforts, and I wish to commend him for a job well done in his role as Minister of Justice.

THIRD ANNUAL NARCOTICS CONTROL CONFERENCE

SUMMARY

Representatives Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), Edolphus Towns (D-NY), former Rep. Lester L. Wolff and former Rep. Frank Guarini participated in a 3 day conference in Taipei, Republic of China on Taiwan entitled the Third Annual Narcotics Control Conference, from February 14-17, 1996.

Conference included the following host country officials: Ying-jeou Ma, Minister of Justice; Dr. Cheng-Hao Liao, Director General, MJIB; Chuan Cheng, Deputy Director General, MJIB; Wei-Heng Hu, Director, Taipei City Psychiatric Center; Shih-Ku Lin, Chief, Taipei City Psychiatric Center; Szu-Yin Ho, Institute for International Relations; Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe, Director, American Institute in Taiwan; Harvey A. Somers,

American Institute in Taiwan; and Eric Wu, Former Member of Legislative Yuan.

Consultative meetings were also held with the following dignitaries: Lee Teng-hui, President; Frederick Chien, Foreign Minister; Stephen S.F. Chen, Vice Foreign Minister; and Chung-ling Chiang, Minister of National Defense.

The primary purpose of this conference was to discuss narcotics control issues facing the Republic of China on Taiwan, U.S.-RoC counter-narcotics efforts, and discuss cooperative solutions to the narcotics threat in Southeast Asia. In response to the shift from narcotics interdiction to "in-country institution building" by the current U.S. administration, the conference focused on the Republic of China's efforts in formulating a cohesive anti-drug strategy which focuses on law enforcement, public education, and drug treatment (including rehabilitation).

BACKGROUND

Although according to the U.S. State Department's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Taiwan is not a significant cultivator or producer of illegal narcotics, the illegal consumption of both heroin and methamphetamines does present a serious social problem. In recent years, Taiwan has faced a growing problem with heroin trafficking, to which the government of the Republic of China has responded with a major effort to stop the flow of Southeast Asian heroin into Taiwan, the United States and elsewhere. Taiwan continues to implement an aggressive domestic counternarcotics program, which has led to a decline in drug trafficking, demonstrated by lower seizure rates and consumption in Taiwan. Taiwan's cooperation with U.S. anti-narcotics efforts (conducted under the auspices of the American Institute in Taiwan) has substantially expanded over the past year, and the appropriate offices representing the US and the RoC are negotiating a new MOU on even broader counternarcotics cooperation. New legislation is under consideration to augment existing counternarcotics laws and bring Taiwan into conformity with the 1988 UN Convention and recommendations of the Financial and Chemical Action Task Forces relating to money laundering and precursor chemical controls.

NARCOTICS CONTROL CONFERENCE

The Narcotics Control Conference consisted of a series of meetings and fact-finding visits to various ministries within Taipei in order to receive information and exchange views on Taiwan's counternarcotics efforts. These ministries included the Ministry of Justice, Taipei City Psychiatric Center, Investigation Bureau (MoJ), Ministry of National Defense, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

INVESTIGATION BUREAU, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

On Wednesday, February 14, the delegation was received by Director General Dr. Cheng-Hao Liao, and Deputy Director General Cheng at the Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice. The delegation was given a thorough briefing on RoC narcotics issues, with particular emphasis being placed on efforts for increased international cooperation and coordination with U.S. efforts. Discussions were held concerning the RoC's efforts on halting the illegal trafficking of narcotics to Taiwan, in addition to stopping the illegal transit of narcotics through Taiwan's international ports. A useful exchange of views followed this briefing, covering various areas of mutual concern to both the Republic of China and the United States in their anti-narcotics efforts.

Following these discussions, the delegations was then escorted by Dr. Liou to the Investigation Bureau's extensive laboratory