

Cleveland Ohio, as the United States Conference of Mayors was meeting.

He writes:

"I am delighted to join my fellow Americans in observing June 16-23 as National American Automobile Centennial Week. More than any other invention in the past century, the automobile has shaped and defined America. Even as it has helped our nation to grow, the car has brought people closer together, advancing commerce and communication, and connecting our cities, suburbs and small towns on an intricate web of highways and roads. In the 100 years since the production of the first motor wagons, the automobile industry has become a source of pride for Americans and an inspiration for entrepreneurs around the globe.

"The car is now an inseparable part of our culture. Our poets, our songwriters speak of the joys of the open road. And for millions of us, the automobile embodies America's freedoms of mobility and expression. This week offers us a special opportunity to honor the pioneers of automotive engineering and the automotive workers who helped build this remarkable industry and make the American dream of a better life come true.

"As we celebrate the remarkable automotive achievements of our past, let us salute, as well, the work of the engineers who are developing the next generation of vehicles—the cars we will be driving in the 21st century. These dreamers and doers are continuing a legacy of progress: innovation, employment and competitiveness that have marked America's automobile industry since its birth 100 years ago.

"Best wishes to all for a wonderful Centennial Celebration and a memorial week."—President Bill Clinton.

Next, and finally, I would like to ask Robert J. Eaton, Chief Executive Officer, Chrysler Corporation; Carolyn Forrest, Vice President, International Union, UAW; John F. Smith, Jr., Chairman, CEO & President, General Motors Corporation; and Alex Trotman, Chairman and CEO, Ford Motor Company, if you would join me here at the podium.

The United States automobile industry celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, and it is only fitting that Detroit, the world's motor capital, serves as a national headquarters for this historic event. From June 16-23, Detroit will showcase one of the largest gatherings of antique and classic automobiles ever, along with the most spectacular automotive parade in a half century.

As the birthplace of the global automobile industry, Detroit acknowledges its legacy as a city that profoundly shaped the American lifestyle and changed the culture of the 20th century. Appropriately nicknamed "The Motor City," Detroit sparked a century-long love affair with the automobile. Detroit is also home to three of the largest employers in southeast Michigan. Ford Motor Company, Chrysler Corporation, General Motors Corporation, and the UAW.

This celebration is a tribute to the inventors, engineers, entrepreneurs and the workers who made the auto industry great. The strength of our society relies, in part, on the advances made in technology. From innovations in manufacturing to design and development of alternative fuels, the auto industry has enriched the lives of all Americans and made our fine city's name synonymous with automobiles.

As communities across the United States throughout 1996 are uniting to celebrate this milestone in our nation's history, I salute the American Automobile Centennial Commission along with its four sponsors, Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, and the UAW for its efforts to create a year-long commemoration of this special occasion. The metropolitan Detroit area marks this historic anniversary

with exhibits and displays, celebrity appearances and ceremonies.

Therefore, I Dennis Archer, Mayor of the City of Detroit, issue this proclamation in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the United States automobile industry. I urge all residents to embrace and celebrate this vital part of Detroit's history.

SUOMI COLLEGE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives and this Nation the 100th anniversary of Suomi College, located in Hancock, MI, a small community of about 4,000 people on the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The celebration of this event will occur this weekend, August 3-4, 1996.

Named for its founders' homeland and heritage, Suomi College was an outgrowth of the need for higher education for the sons and daughters of the hardy Finnish immigrants that settled in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, especially Hancock. They were quick to realize that education was a key to improving quality of life in their adopted country and wanted to make this opportunity available to all young men and women. At the same time, there was a strong desire to retain the proud ethic heritage that was brought with them, as well as the religious influence of the Lutheran Church. It was out of this framework that Suomi College was founded in 1896.

Suomi College proved early on to be highly innovative by offering scholarships, work opportunities, loans and other support services to students. It is a college that in its early years often saw gifts and tuition payments come, not as cash, but as contributions of food, firewood, books and building materials.

The school struggled financially in the early 1900's, but never lost sight of its stated mission of providing a quality education. As money was raised in the 1930's for expansion and to provide financial assistance, the Great Depression forced these funds to be rechanneled to pay for daily operating expenses. In the 1940's, enrollment and revenues started to significantly increase only to be halted again with the start of World War II. Regardless of these and other setbacks, leaders of the school, such as Viljo K. Mikander, who served as president of Suomi during their 50th anniversary, provided the encouragement to continue, even to the point of suggesting the school expand to a 4-year college of liberal arts.

It is the belief in the institution and its mission by its current and past administrations, faculty, students and supporters that have allowed it to get through the tough times and become the progressive, innovative and growing college it is today. Suomi College is establishing an outstanding record and providing excellent opportunities for its students.

Today, thousands of Suomi alumni are present in every walk of life and in every area of the country with more than 1,600 area residents alone having graduated or completed courses at Suomi. Suomi graduates are leaders in law, religion, medicine, administration

and many other fields and all have as a basis of their education in their course work done at Suomi, nurtured in the Finnish heritage.

Liberal arts and humanities serve as a mainstay for this small, personalized, church-related college. Math and science are also strongly encouraged in any curriculum. To date, Suomi has been a 2-year community college granting associate degrees. However, beginning this fall, a new 3-year baccalaureate degree will be offered, again demonstrating the innovative thought that Suomi is known for. A 3-year degree obtained over eight consecutive semesters significantly reduces costs and provides greater efficiency and applicability of courses taken and quickly moves young people into the workforce.

The Suomi College Centennial Celebration this weekend will be highlighted by several events including the groundbreaking ceremony for its new chapel and library expansion. In attendance for this event will be Archbishop John Vikstrom of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland as well as Presiding Bishop H. George Anderson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and Bishop Dale Skogman of the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

Mr. Speaker, the 100-year history of Suomi College will serve the institution well in its second century as it continues to serve the Upper Peninsula and this Nation. On behalf of the First Congressional District, the State of Michigan and the House of Representatives, I congratulate President Robert Ubbelohde, his staff, the faculty, the student body and the Hancock community on this momentous occasion.

TRADE FREE ZONE IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, a bill (H.R. 3599) which aims to help address some of the economic deprivation in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland's six border countries was proposed here in the House on June 6, 1996. I was pleased to be an original cosponsor of this important proposal by my good friend—Representative THOMAS MANTON, of New York. In light of the current outbreak of turmoil in Northern Ireland the introduction of such a proposal aimed at economic improvement and change, has become even more crucial today.

Our bill (H.R. 3599) concerns the potential establishment of a free trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, which governs the aforementioned areas. It provides authority for the President to negotiate such a treaty, consistent with the goals and policies of the European Union.

Indeed, it is envisaged that a strengthened economy in Northern Ireland and the affected border countries would help facilitate the precarious peace process which has become most imperative in light of the recent outbreak of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland.

The bill will not solve all of the region's many difficult problems, but it can greatly contribute toward a long-term shared economic strategy, which will be of mutual benefit to workers in the North of Ireland and American

companies as well. It would help create a shared economic development, greatly needed in the current times of turmoil.

Most notably the proposals have been welcomed by a diversity of groups both in Ireland and the United States. Dr. John Alderdice, leader of the Alliance Party believes that the bill could "help underpin political agreement." His voice is joined by Hon. Dr. Joe Hendron, MP, member of Social Democratic and Labour Party [SDLP], who stated that such an incentive could help "bring a new day to Northern Ireland." Hon. Cecil Walker, MP, member of the Ulster Unionist Party [UUP] has also lent his support, believing the bill to be "one of the most promising economic development proposals on the horizon for my beleaguered part of Northern Ireland." In addition, Fr. Sean McManus of the Irish National Caucus, Inc. in Washington, DC, Senator Sean Maloney and Senator Patrick McGowan of the Republic of Ireland, have all welcomed this trade free zone legislation.

Importantly, the proposals are aimed at improving the most economically disadvantaged regions of the North of Ireland, through the condition that only articles grown, produced, or manufactured in such areas will qualify for this proposal duty-free treatment. Those employers who seek to take advantage of the incentive must also be in compliance with the principles of economic justice dealing with fair employment, namely the MacBride Principles.

The widespread enthusiasm for the trade free zone among the parties of Northern Ireland and many others, is indeed proof that agreement can be reached, if the Government of the United States, Britain, and the Republic of Ireland are willing to take advantage of the opportunity H.R. 3599 provides. Although the arduous path of political compromise and solution has yet to be forthcoming in Northern Ireland today, increased economic prosperity in the region would help lay the foundation of goodwill and trust, which are required now more than ever.

UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD
SAUDI ARABIA

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I found this article by Mr. David Dunford in the Tucson Citizen to

provide an illuminating analysis of the United States policy toward Saudi Arabia. I commend it to your attention:

[From the Tucson Citizen, June 28, 1996]

UNITED STATES ASKS TOO MUCH OF SAUDIS,
WHO SACRIFICE PEACE AT HOME

(By David J. Dunford)

Tuesday's terrorist bombing in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, which killed 19 Americans and wounded hundreds of others, forces us to focus again on our critical relationship with Saudi Arabia.

It is critical because Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil producer and the United States is the world's largest oil consumer. It is critical because Saudi Arabia is the most important of the Arabian peninsula monarchies and provides the major platform from which we project our military forces to defend against Iraqi and Iranian threats to our interests.

Since the successful end of the 1990-91 Gulf War, our policy toward this part of the world has been on automatic pilot. We look to Saudi Arabia to take a forthright stand in favor of the Middle East peace process and we look to Saudi Arabia to provide assistance to the Palestinians and the Bosnians which our Congress refuses to provide. We also look to Saudi Arabia to buy our civilian and military airplanes and our telecommunications equipment. Although we pledged in 1990 that as soon as the crisis was over, we would leave, almost six years later we still have 5,000 U.S. Air Force personnel in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government pays their expenses.

What we have failed to recognize is that Saudi Arabia has changed and, as a result, the Saudi monarchy may no longer be able to respond to the multiple demands that we place on it. Gone are the days when Saudi Arabia had \$150 billion in foreign exchange reserves and the ability to buy social peace by providing employment and subsidized government services for all.

Saudi Arabia today, with its rapid population growth, educated but underemployed youth, and chronic budget deficits, provides fertile ground for Islamic militants.

While we may not know for some time who was responsible for Tuesday's bombing, it is likely that it was related to the bombing of the American military advisory compound in Riyadh in November, which killed five Americans. The message the militants seek to send by this latest terrorist act is that the Saudi government's beheading last month of four of their number convicted of involvement in the November incident has not weakened their strength or resolve.

Ironically, it may well be that some of the militants are so-called "Afghans"—Arabs

who trained to fight the Soviets in Afghanistan in a program supported by both the Saudi and U.S. governments. The militants oppose modernization, Westernization and Arab reconciliation with Israel. They are particularly indignant that, despite tens of billions of dollars spent on sophisticated weaponry, the Saudi government was forced in 1990 to rely on "infidel" troops to defend their land, which includes the two holiest places in Islam—Mecca and Medina.

The first step in fixing our Saudi policy is to confirm an ambassador and send him to Riyadh. King Fahd's recent illness and his decision to relinquish power temporarily to Crown Prince Abdullah have raised uncertainty about who is really in charge. It is particularly important to have an ambassador on the ground to monitor this situation.

During my four years as deputy ambassador in Saudi Arabia, I was acting ambassador for 15 months. Since I left more than four years ago, there has been an ambassador in Riyadh for less than half of that time. It should hardly surprise us that there was no ambassador on the ground when the truck bomb exploded on Tuesday.

Second, we should reduce our reliance on Saudi help financing our national security policy and we should be more judicious about pressing the Saudis to take public positions that incur the wrath of a substantial percentage of Saudi citizens. The Saudi government needs a reprieve to turn its attention to domestic economic and political priorities.

Third, we need to devise an end game for our Iraq policy. We must not withdraw our forces in Saudi Arabia under the duress of terrorism but, at the same time, policy drift is not a good reason to leave them there indefinitely.

Finally, we need to be more proactive in our encouragement of needed economic and political change in Saudi Arabia and in neighboring monarchies. Change is hard and Gulf rulers will not always welcome our injection of internal issues into diplomatic exchanges. That should not deter us.

Their survival and the maintenance of our vital interests in the region depend on orderly change.