

I do not believe the American people want a return to the pie-in-the-sky promises that built up this deficit in the first place. Today's jobs report is another indication that the President's economic plan is working.

The question the American people are facing is do we stay the course, or do we go back to the budget-busting policies of the 1980's. I, for one, truly believe the American people are beyond being fooled by false promises. Yes, there is work to be done, but they know we are headed in the right direction.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3754,
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report today. I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their concern about a provision that was of particular concern to me.

This House is obviously undergoing a change in management. As a result, many of our hardworking, loyal, nonlegislative House employees have been through a period of great unrest and unease.

As passed by this House, this bill originally contained language regarding the privatization of certain aspects of the Architect of the Capitol, including the maintenance workers. I am pleased that as a result of the work of the conference, and particularly Mr. SERRANO, that the report before us today now contains language protecting the current employees so that they will not be displaced by an privatization.

The bulk of this work force are older, minority employees who would be hard pressed to find new jobs at this stage in their careers. They have served this institution and its particular needs well. It would have been unfair at this time to proceed with privatization without properly protecting these employees. I am glad that the conference report now contains language providing that important protection.

Furthermore, as the Architect studies further privatization options, which I hope are not proceeded with, I believe it is important that we continue to consider the unique nature of the congressional buildings, the loyalty of the existing work force and the particular needs of our institution. I do not believe all the answers lie in outsourcing these services and will continue to work with the members of the subcommittee and on the House Oversight Committee on which I serve, to ensure fair and reasonable treatment for our hardworking employees.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the members of the conference for their sensitivity to these concerns and look forward to continuing to work with them.

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO SPEAK
OUT ABOUT THE PERSECUTION
OF CHRISTIANS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in many countries of the world today, Christians live in fear. Fear for their lives and fear for their livelihood.

Worldwide persecution and martyrdom of Christians has increased and intensified to such an extent that more Christians have died for their faith in the 20th century than in all prior 19 centuries combined.

In some parts of the world, Christians are forbidden to practice their faith and are victimized by religious apartheid which subjects them to discrimination as well as inhumane and humiliating treatment. In several Islamic countries, converting to Christianity from Islam is punishable by death. In many countries today, Christians are imprisoned, enslaved, tortured, and killed simply because of their faith.

The Government of Sudan is waging a jihad against the Christian southern part of the country, enforcing Sharia—Islamic law—against non-Muslim African Sudanese—torturing, starving, killing, and displacing over 1 million people and enslaving tens of thousands of its women and children. Today in Sudan, a human being can be bought for as little as \$15.

Christians in China have experienced the worst persecution since the pre-Deng period in the 1970's. There are more documented cases of Christians in prison or in some form of detention in China than in any other country. Both Evangelical Protestant house church groups and Roman Catholics have been targeted and named "a principal threat to political stability" by the Central Committee of China's Communist Party. In recent months, in three separate incidents, three Chinese Christian leaders were beaten to death by Chinese authorities simply because of their religious activities.

In Pakistan last year, a 13-year-old boy was forced to flee the country after he was convicted under Pakistan's blasphemy law. His uncle, who was also convicted, was shot dead by someone in the angry mob that swarmed outside the courtroom.

In 1994, three Christians in Iran were kidnapped and murdered during 1994 as part of a crackdown on the Iranian Christian community.

In Vietnam and other countries, Catholic bishops and priests and Protestant pastors are routinely imprisoned, Bibles are confiscated and churches are raided.

There is also severe persecution of Christians in North Korea, Cuba, and some countries in the Middle East.

Leaders of the international Christian community have begun to speak out about this serious and growing problem. Pope John Paul II recently sounded a call against regimes that "practice discrimination against Jews, Christians, and other religious groups, going even so far as to refuse the right to meet in private for prayer," declaring that "this is an intolerable and unjustifiable violation not only of all the norms of current international law, but of the most fundamental human freedom, that of practicing one's faith openly."

The National Association of Evangelicals in January 1996 issued a "Statement of Conscience and Call to Action" subsequently endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention, the executive council of the Episcopal Church, and the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church, United States of America. It pledged to "do what is in our power to the end that the Government of the United States will take appropriate action to combat the intolerable religious persecution now victimizing fellow believers and those of other faiths."

The World Evangelical Fellowship has declared September 29, 1996, and each annual last Sunday in September, as an international day of prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians. That day will be observed by numerous churches and human rights groups around the world.

Mr. Speaker, its time for Congress to speak out. I am introducing a resolution that would condemn the human rights abuses and denials of religious liberty to Christians around the world; strongly recommend that the President expand and reinvigorate United States international advocacy on behalf of persecuted Christians; encourage a reexamination of all U.S. policies that affect persecuted Christians; encourage the President to appoint a White House special adviser on religious persecution; and applauds the actions of the World Evangelical Fellowship in designating an annual day of prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians.

The United States has forcefully taken up the cause of other persecuted religious minorities. During the cold war, we repeatedly passed resolutions condemning the persecution of the Soviet Jews. In recent years, we have passed resolutions condemning the persecution of people of the Baha'i faith.

We have the ability to intervene in a similar manner for persecuted Christians. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important resolution.

H. RES. —

Whereas the worldwide persecution and martyrdom of Christians has increased and intensified to such an extent that more Christians have died for their faith in the 20th century than in all prior 19 centuries combined;

Whereas in many places throughout the world, Christians are restricted in or forbidden from practicing their faith, victimized by a "religious apartheid" that subjects them to inhumane, humiliating treatment, and are imprisoned, tortured, enslaved, and killed;

Whereas in some countries proselytism is forbidden, and extremist elements persist unchecked by the government in their campaigns to eradicate Christians and force conversions through intimidation, rape, and forced marriage;

Whereas in several Islamic countries conversion to Christianity from Islam is a crime punishable by death;

Whereas the militant Muslim Government of Sudan is waging a jihad (religious war) against the Christian southern part of the country, enforcing Shari'a (Islamic law) against non-Muslim African Sudanese, torturing, starving, killing, and displacing over 1,000,000 people, and enslaving tens of thousands of women and children. Today in Sudan, a human being can be bought for as little as \$15;

Whereas Christians in China have experienced the worst persecution since the pre-Deng period in the 1970s. There are more documented cases of Christians in prison or in

some form of detention in China than in any other country. Both Evangelical Protestant house church groups and Roman Catholics have been targeted and named "a principal threat to political stability" by the Central Committee of China's Communist party. In recent months, in separate incidents 3 Chinese Christian leaders were beaten to death by Chinese authorities simply for their religious activities;

Whereas an Islamic court in Kuwait has denied religious liberty to a convert from Islam to Christianity, and the judge recommended that he be put to death;

Whereas 3 Christian leaders in Iran were kidnapped and murdered during 1994 as part of a crackdown on the Iranian Christian community;

Whereas severe persecution of Christians is also occurring in North Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, and certain countries in the Middle East, to name merely a few;

Whereas religious liberty is a universal right explicitly recognized in numerous international agreements, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Whereas Pope John Paul II recently sounded a call against regimes that "practice discrimination against Jews, Christians, and other religious groups, going even so far as to refuse them the right to meet in private for prayer," declaring that "this is an intolerable and unjustifiable violation not only of all the norms of current international law, but of the most fundamental human freedom, that of practicing one's faith openly," stating that this is for human beings "their reason for living";

Whereas the National Association of Evangelicals in January 1996 issued a "Statement of Conscience and Call to Action," subsequently commended or endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, United States of America. They pledged to end their "silence in the face of the suffering of all those persecuted for their religious faith" and "to do what is in our power to the end that the Government of the United States will take appropriate action to combat the intolerable religious persecution now victimizing fellow believers and those of other faiths";

Whereas the World Evangelical Fellowship has declared September 29, 1996, and each annual last Sunday in September, as an international day of prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians. That day will be observed by numerous churches and human rights groups around the world;

Whereas the United States of America since its founding has been a harbor of refuge and freedom to worship for believers from John Winthrop to Roger Williams to William Penn, and a haven for the oppressed, and has guaranteed freedom of worship in this country for people of all faiths;

Whereas, unfortunately, the United States has in many instances failed to raise forcefully the issue of anti-Christian and other religious persecution and international conventions and in bilateral relations with offending countries; and

Whereas, however, in the past the United States has forcefully taken up the cause of other persecuted religious minorities, and the United States has the ability to intervene in a similar manner for persecuted Christians throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) unequivocally condemns the egregious human rights abuses and denials of religious liberty to Christians around the world, and

calls upon the responsible regimes to cease such abuses;

(2) strongly recommends that the President expand and invigorate United States international advocacy on behalf of persecuted Christians, and initiate a thorough examination of all United States policies that affect persecuted Christians;

(3) encourages the President to proceed as expeditiously as possible in appointing a White House special advisor on religious persecution; and

(4) applauds the actions of the World Evangelical Fellowship in declaring an annual international day of prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians.

GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, when the House debated budget reconciliation last October, I submitted a statement for the RECORD in support of the provisions in the bill to reauthorize the generalized system of preferences [GSP] duty-free import program. Today, the House will again debate this issue as part of a larger bill to raise the minimum wage. I would like to again reaffirm my support for the reauthorization of the GSP Program. This program was designed as a way to help less developed nations export into the U.S. market. The GSP Program allows duty-free imports of certain products into the United States from over 100 GSP-eligible countries. The bill wisely provides that import-sensitive products are not to be subject to GSP treatment. Ceramic tile is a clear example of an import-sensitive product and is exactly the type of product which should not be subject to lower tariffs under the GSP Program.

Imports have dominated the U.S. ceramic tile market for the last decade and they currently capture nearly 60 percent of the market. This extraordinary level of import penetration is a result, in part, of over 30 years of documented unfair predatory foreign trade practices including dumping, subsidies, Customs fraud, import diversion, and abuse of a loophole in the GSP. The American ceramic tile industry, though relatively small, is efficient and competitive at normal tariff levels.

From its inception in the Trade Act of 1974, the GSP Program has provided for the exemption of "articles which the President determines to be import-sensitive." In light of the history of unfair trade in ceramic tile and the significant and growing import participation in the U.S. ceramic tile market, the U.S. industry has been recognized by successive Congresses and administrations as import sensitive, dating back to the Dillion and Kennedy rounds of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT]. During this period the American ceramic tile also has been forced to defend itself from over a dozen petitions filed by various designed GSP-eligible counties seeking duty-free treatment for ceramic tile into this market. If just one petitioning nation succeeds in gaining GSP benefits for ceramic tile, then by law, every GSP beneficiary country is also entitled to GSP duty-free benefits for ceramic tile. If any of these petitions were granted, it would eliminate American tile jobs and could destroy the industry.

A major guiding principle of the GSP Program has been reciprocal market access. Current GSP eligible beneficiary countries supply almost one-third of the U.S. ceramic tile imports and they are increasing their sales and market shares. U.S. ceramic tile manufacturers, however, are still denied access to many of these foreign markets. Many developing counties maintain exclusionary tariff and non-tariff mechanisms which serve to block the entry of U.S. ceramic tile exports into these markets. Industrial countries, including the European Union [EU], may use less transparent methods such as discriminatory product standards and testing methods to control their ceramic tile imports and, in some cases, to divert ceramic tile manufactured in third countries over to the U.S. market by imposing restrictions on those third-country exports to the EU.

I am in support of the reauthorization of the GSP Program and trust that import-sensitive products such as tile will not be subject to GSP.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, August 1, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 379 and 380.

Had I been here, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall 379 and "yea" on rollcall 380.

PITTSBURGH'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE 1996 OLYMPICS

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the contribution that one of my constituents, Mr. Peter Calaboyias, has made to the 1996 Centennial Olympic games in Atlanta.

Mr. Calaboyias, a resident of the Shadyside neighborhood in Pittsburgh, created the sculpture "Tribute" that adorns Centennial Park in Atlanta. Mr. Calaboyias, who is also an art instructor at Grove City College, is a very talented sculptor. He has spent years designing and creating this beautiful bronze sculpture, which features three Olympic athletes.

In this work, Calaboyias has highlighted the unchanging spirit of the Olympic games over the last 2,700 years by incorporating three separate athletes—one from ancient Greece, one from the first modern Olympic games in 1896, and one representing the present and future games—into his composition. The modern figure, incidentally, is a woman—to reflect the changing nature of the games as well as the values they share in common.

This outstanding sculpture is located in Centennial Plaza, the emotional focal point of the Olympic games. Consequently, it will be seen by millions of visitors—and by millions of television viewers—in the course of the games. After the games are over, "Tribute" will remain as a lasting reminder of the glory and human drama of the Centennial Olympics.