

## SUPPORTING NATO EXPANSION

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 1996*

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of NATO expansion by encouraging qualified emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe to become members of the NATO Alliance. Since 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has provided the foundation for the peace and political solidarity of all of its European members. For this reason I encourage such expansion in order to provide for the continued security, freedom, and prosperity that has existed for NATO members since the formation of the NATO Alliance.

Among the countries seeking NATO membership, including Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, I would like to acknowledge three additional countries namely, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia as strong, viable candidates that should be considered for NATO membership. Each of these countries, according to their individual preparations, can and should be granted NATO membership at the earliest possible date. For this reason I would like to ask that the President encourage other member countries of NATO to start negotiations for the accession to NATO, along with Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, of Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

Not only have each of these countries expressed an overwhelming desire to become full-fledged members of NATO, but they have actively pursued and achieved the qualifications for membership. According to Title II—NATO Participation Act of 1994, countries seeking membership in NATO must be full and active participants in the Partnership for Peace, and have demonstrated progress toward democratic institutions, free market economies, civilian control of their armed forces and the rule of law.

Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia are all successful participants in the Partnership for Peace [PFP] and have succeeded in establishing western-style democracies and efficient market economies. Not only have these countries been successful in their membership with PFP, but each has also made great strides in preparing to become worthwhile and beneficial members of the NATO Alliance.

In particular, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia have made great advances toward compliance with the requirements for NATO membership. Romania was the first nation in Central and Eastern Europe to join the Partnership for Peace and is currently participating in a "sixteen plus one" dialog with NATO. Militarily, Romania has a coherent and valid national defence doctrine and has the only armed forces in former East Block whose structures are fully compatible with NATO. The Romanian military enjoys an excellent relationship with neighboring countries as well, especially Hungary, with whom there are regular meetings of defence ministers, an open sky agreement and other manifestations of cooperation.

In fact, on September 16, 1996, Romania and Hungary signed the Treaty on Understanding, Cooperation and Good-Neighborliness. This treaty allows both Romania and

Hungary to continue to pursue their joint desires to integrate in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, European Union and Western European Union; to improve the security and prosperity of Europe; help protect minority rights through the implementation of the Council of Europe Framework Convention; and, to work toward the continued success of the relationship between Romania and Hungary.

Slovakia has also made great strides. They have had considerable dialog with NATO regarding the Study on NATO Enlargement which detailed the conditions and steps to be undertaken by a prospective country in exchange for a full membership. Slovakia submitted a document called Preparation for NATO Membership, which was further elaborated in the Individual Discussion Paper [IDP] on March 18, 1996. Slovakia was the first country among PFP members to submit this paper.

Slovenia's accomplishments and cooperation within the PFP, has made them, according to general consultation in 1995 on expansion of NATO, one of the most qualified candidates for NATO membership. According to the Statements and Consultation of the Parliament and Government of Slovenia on April 11, 1996, membership in NATO is the strategic security aim of Slovenia.

Therefore, in order to expedite the process of NATO enlargement, grant membership in NATO to all qualifying countries, and strengthen the stability in Central and Eastern Europe, I would ask that the President, at the earliest possible date, to encourage other member countries of NATO to start negotiations for the accession to NATO, along with Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, of Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

Already Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia have been successful in their attempt to meet the general requirements in order to be considered for NATO membership. And thus I am submitting legislation that will encourage and expedite the granting of membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to these countries.

## REPORT FROM INDIANA—TRIBUTE TO THOMAS JACKSON AND NATIONAL POLLUTION PREVENTION WEEK

HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 1996*

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my report from Indiana.

Each weekend, my wife Ruthie and I travel across Indiana to meet with Hoosiers. And every time to travel to the second District of Indiana, we become more impressed with the hundreds and hundreds of individuals who are out there working day and night to make a difference taking responsibility to make our communities better places to live. I like to call these individuals Hoosier heroes.

Hoosier heroes because they do good things for their friends and neighbors. For my first part of this weeks report, today I recognize Thomas Jackson of Anderson, IN, as a Hoosier hero. Ruthie recently spent a day with Thomas.

Afterward she shared with me Tom's tireless efforts to help children in Madison County.

You see Tom owns and operates his own restaurant—the prime time deli and more.

And between spending time with his family and the responsibilities of running his own business, but that doesn't stop Tom from helping others.

He has taken on a crucial challenge. Thomas has taken on himself, the mission, to spread the message just say no to our young people. Tom travels to schools in Madison County educating, warning and teaching children to say: No to drugs and alcohol. Thomas' mission is special and close to his heart.

Nine years ago, his own son Thomas Jr., became involved with a drug cartel in the neighboring city of Muncie. His son almost lost his own life. Thomas Jr. was in pretty bad shape but with the love of his father and family, he survived. He turned his life around.

Thomas Jr. was recently married and today lives a happy life. Thomas Jackson, Sr., decided that the best way for others to avoid the same tragedy as his own son was to take a leadership role in warning children.

He started an alcohol and drug awareness program: Youth needs prime time. That's reassuring. Today he educates children about the very real danger and possible lethal consequences of drugs and alcohol use.

One of his volunteers is a 24 year old, ex gang member, Roosevelt Rees. Roosevelt has turned his life around, and is now dedicated to making sure kids don't make the same mistake of using drugs like he did.

The effort—is crucial, especially, when study after study tells us that drug use among America's children is at an alarming all-time high. Drug usage among 14 and 15 year olds are up 200 percent since 1992. And that's frightening. So today, I want to lift up Thomas Jackson as a Hoosier hero, for taking his own version of just say no to children of Anderson, IN.

For the second part of my report I will report on National Pollution Prevention Week efforts in Indiana. The week of September 16 to 22 is being recognized across America as National Pollution Prevention Week.

I strongly believe that pollution prevention is not only the most effective means of protecting human health and the environment, but also makes excellent business sense. I believe that free market principles can actually do a better job of ensuring we have a cleaner America.

In observance of this week, I would like to commend the efforts of those in Indiana to increase the development and use of pollution prevention methods.

In particular, I would like to applaud the work of the Indiana Pollution Prevention and Safe Materials Institute. This State-funded organization provides technical assistance and educational services to a variety of Indiana's industry.

Specifically, this institute helps businesses develop pollution prevention programs to reduce waste at the source and to prevent the environmental and health hazards of manufacturing wastes.

With the assistance of this institute, numerous Indiana manufacturing facilities have adopted pollution prevention strategies that have resulted in the significant reduction of pollutants being released into the environment.

They have also saved considerable dollars. Today, I also would like to recognize the metal finishing industry—a key segment of American manufacturing and a leader in pollution prevention initiatives.

This industry is dominated by small businesses, with most employing less than 25 people. For the past decade, the metal finishing sector has worked diligently to improve its environmental performance. Today, nearly 30 percent of the total expenditures of these small companies are invested in pollution prevention and control equipment.

However, current regulations imposed on this industry are actually hindering the achievement of additional environmental gains by stymieing the development and use of innovative technology that would allow reuse of valuable metals resulting from the manufacturing process. Under these regulations, businesses presently are given a choice of expensive offsite recycling or burying valuable resources in the ground.

In fact, companies like McDowell Enterprises in Elkhart, IN, pay a 25-percent premium to save their resources through recycling. Certainly, a better option exists. We should be encouraging onsite metal recovery or the use of the innovative treatment technologies.

A sound national pollution prevention program should spur voluntary initiatives. We must promote a broad range of risk management options, for reducing environmental releases of toxic chemicals and in some cases eliminating the generation of hazardous wastes altogether. This includes such methods as source reduction, reuse, recycling treatment and other waste minimization techniques.

A broad program will permit businesses, large and small, the flexibility to design pollution prevention strategies based on the level of risk to public health and the environment.

I urge Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency to provide leadership to free America's innovative spirit. We must encourage all Americans to create new technologies that will allow industries to go beyond compliance and that will lead to a better environment.

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 1996*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this important piece of legislation, which is the result of much effort and hard work. As the former chairman of the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee, I maintain a deep concern for this issue. In 1994, I released a General Accounting Office report, which was undertaken at my request, that called for reexamination of employee housing needs within the National Park Service [NPS]. During consideration of H.R. 2941 in the Resources Committee this year, I continued to offer my input to improve it, including an amendment I offered which is now part of the bill. I want to commend my colleagues, Mr. HEFLEY and Chairman HANSEN, along with Mr. RICHARDSON for their positive efforts regarding this proposed policy.

I support efforts to ensure that the housing needs of National Park Service employees are met. In this time of downsizing and fiscal con-

straints, we must scrutinize all programs including our natural resources programs, to make sure scarce Federal dollars are allocated fairly. This bill provides general authority for the Park Service to make housing available for its employees, both on and off Federal lands, at costs commensurate with comparable housing in the surrounding area. Authorization is given for leasing of Federal land to private contractors to permit them to build and maintain housing for parks employees.

When the bill was considered in the Resources Committee, my amendment added several important provisions. To ensure that the needs of parks employees and our responsibilities to the American taxpayer are both met, this bill grants additional housing authority to the Park Service only where that authority is necessary and justified. The NPS will have to review and revise the existing criteria under which housing is provided to employees of the Park Service. My additions also require that the NPS submit a plan on how to meet the housing needs of parks employees. When this review is completed for specific units of the NPS, and the need is established, authorization is given to enter into housing agreements to develop, construct, rehabilitate, or manage housing on, or off public lands for rent, or lease by NPS employees.

Clearly there are many NPS units today that do not require or justify public employee or private employee housing within or outside of the parks units. Times have changed and it is appropriate for the policy to recognize reality. Transportation and development have greatly improved and the necessity of NPS housing is much reduced. The problems associated with managing a National Park unit in the 1990's are tremendous, and park housing policy too often flows to business as usual, imposing more management headaches that are not justified by the circumstance. The National Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management with vast land, nearly 600 million acres, have far less, not even 20 percent of the employee housing, that exists in the 90 million acres of NPS lands. This speaks for itself even as we recognize the different missions and responsibilities. It is time the NPS reevaluate and refocus its housing policy. This measure is one such opportunity—a tough but necessary task.

With these provisions, this bill has been improved and updated. The bill is consistent with good management practices and sound policymaking. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM ARMSTRONG

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 1996*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute one of America's beloved former teachers and former mayors, James Armstrong of Torrance, CA.

I call Mr. "Mr. Mayor." I doubt anyone in Torrance would dispute that appellation. During his 6 years (1972–78) on the Torrance City Council and eight more as Mayor (1978–86), Jim oversaw Torrance's renaissance into a beautiful and modern city.

Jim Armstrong is also an educator. He taught American Government at Torrance

High from 1958 to 1986. Earlier in his career, he taught at Torrance Elementary School, where he was an inspiration to many generations of young people. Because of his influence, many of them have entered careers in which they too serve the community.

Through the years and in retirement, Jim has remained active by serving in leadership roles with many non-profit community organizations including the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation, the Torrance Education Foundation, the Torrance YWCA Advisory Board, the Foundation of California State University Dominguez Hills and the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce. In 1981, the city's municipal theater was named the James Armstrong Theater.

On September 21, the Torrance YWCA will be honoring Jim Armstrong as Man of the Year. I join with the YWCA and all the people of the South Bay by giving special recognition to our special friend.

#### CELEBRATION OF TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 1996*

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to note that the Republic of China [ROC] is preparing to celebrate its 85th anniversary. Taiwan's National Day, October 10, is an important celebration for the people of Taiwan and for freedom loving people throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, the ROC is the United States' sixth largest trading partner and one of our strongest allies in the Pacific rim. The ROC continues to purchase American goods and services at a healthy and growing rate. Hundreds of American corporations have offices in Taiwan, which has proven to be an excellent market for the United States in this rapidly growing region of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to travel to Taiwan 10 years ago. At that time, I saw a government transitioning democracy. Now, 10 years later, that transition has been completed with the popular election earlier this year of President Lee Teng Hui. I am certain that if I am able to return to Taiwan in the near future, I will see not only massive economic development throughout the island, but also a vibrant democracy at work.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is our friend and supporter. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating President Lee and all 21 million people on Taiwan on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China.

#### THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF SHOULD DECIDE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 1996*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago the House considered and passed H.R. 3308, the U.S. Armed Forces Protection Act, a misnomer, which I strongly opposed. I