

why not liberate the entire American community to bring the full weight of its influence to bear upon Cuban people? Implementing an aggressive engagement policy to transmit our values to the Cuban people and to accelerate the burgeoning process of reform occurring on the island has a far better chance of ending Castro's rule than the machinations of Helms-Burton.

LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED STATES OF MEAT PRODUCTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION UNTIL CERTAIN UNFAIR TRADE BARRIERS ARE REMOVED

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will put American livestock producers on an equal footing with their European counterparts when it comes to illegal trade barriers. The European Union currently blocks United States beef imports simply because U.S. producers use hormones in the production of the beef. The E.U. also continues to block U.S. pork imports under their so called Third Country Meat Directive claiming that U.S. processing plants do not meet European standards.

These non-tariff trade barriers are in clear violation of the phytosanitary agreements which are part of the GATT. Scientists from around the world have determined that the use of these hormones poses no risk to human health. In 1992, through an exchange of letters, the Europeans agreed that U.S. and E.U. slaughter and processing procedures were essentially identical. The only reason for these bans is to keep U.S. meat out of European markets.

Since 1989, when the hormone ban went into effect, the Europeans have sent over \$2 billion worth of meat products to the United States. During the same period, U.S. exports to the E.U. totaled only \$342 million. Clearly the Europeans have little incentive to expedite the negotiations to end this unreasonable trade barrier.

The GATT agreement should be an effective tool to remove the hormone ban, but the Europeans have shown little commitment to working out these issues. On January 26 of this year, U.S. Trade Representative Kantor initiated formal action in the World Trade Organization against the E.U. on this issue. The European Parliament responded by voting to keep the ban in place. WTO action may take up to 18 months and the only beneficiaries of this delay are the Europeans.

The USDA has estimated that the loss of these markets costs our cattle producers \$100 million per year and our hog producers \$60 million. Clearly at a time when U.S. cattle producers are facing rising feed costs and the lowest prices in recent memory these unfair and trade barriers cannot be tolerated.

Just last week North Dakota hog farmers told me that access to the Asian markets following GATT has helped keep the price of pork stable over the last year. Clearly GATT can work to the benefit of American farmers. However, we need to send a strong message to the Europeans that further delay in opening their markets will not be tolerated.

This legislation is simple. It says that as long as the Europeans keep our meat from their markets they will not have access to U.S. markets. They are taking the resolve of their Parliament to the negotiations. The United States should be taking the resolve of Congress to those same meetings. This legislation sends the message that the U.S. Congress is serious about GATT working to open European markets. I urge my colleagues to join me in giving our trade representatives a valuable tool to meet the Europeans on equal footing.

LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED STATES OF MEAT PRODUCTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION UNTIL CERTAIN UNFAIR TRADE BARRIERS ARE REMOVED

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce legislation that will prohibit all meat imports from the European Union [EU] unless and until the EU lifts its ban on American beef and eliminates the nontariff trade barrier imposed by their "Third Country Meat Directive [TCD]. The EU ban on beef from cattle treated with hormones was put in place on January 1, 1989. Scientists throughout Europe and the world have repeatedly concluded there is no scientific basis for this ban. In fact, after legal challenges by the British Government in 1987 and the European animal health industry association in 1990, the EU admitted that the ban was introduced for political and economic reasons—to curb the growth of Europe's beef supply rather than to protect public health. The EU ban has resulted in lost American beef sales of nearly \$1 billion.

The TCD imposes meat inspection standards on U.S. meat exporting facilities that a wide majority of EU plants do not themselves meet. The United States has the most comprehensive and effective system of food safety management in the world. The TCD is designed and administered strictly to function as trade protection for higher cost, less competitive EU pork production.

The failure of the EU to live up to the 1992 bilateral meat agreement and re-list U.S. beef and pork plants is deeply disturbing. Prior to 1988, over 400 beef and pork plants were certified to export to the EU. Because of the TCD, only a handful of beef and pork plants are currently able to export to the EU. In 1985, the EU was the destination of over 20 percent of U.S. pork exports. Today, U.S. exports to the EU are negligible. The U.S. pork industry conservatively estimates that U.S. producers will lose \$60 million in export revenues during 1996 with losses jumping to approximately \$157 million per year by the year 2000 as EU tariff rate quotas on pork are phased in. Since January 1, 1989, America has allowed meat imports of \$2.1 billion from the EU while U.S. meat exports to the EU totaled only \$342 million. At a time when our cattle producers are struggling with the lowest cattle prices in recent memory and beef and pork producers are becoming more reliant on export markets, it is unconscionable to allow stubborn European bureaucrats to insult our cattle and hog pro-

ducers with these barriers to American beef and pork.

We applaud Secretary Glickman and U.S.T.R. Kantor for initiating action against the EU hormone ban under WTO dispute settlement provisions and for their efforts to open export markets around the world for U.S. meat. However, EU Agriculture Commissioner Fischler has clearly indicated that even if the EU loses the WTO case, which might not be resolved until late 1997, the hormone ban will remain in place.

Although reasonable and prudent negotiation would clearly be preferred to address these trade disputes, our Nation's livestock producers need access to EU markets now. They are demanding a much stronger negotiating tool. My bill will provide a clear and unequivocal message to the EU that further delay will no longer be tolerated. Unless the EU eliminates these unscientific sanitary trade barriers, this legislation will prohibit the entry of all EU meat within 15 days of enactment. Please join me in providing a simple, but very effective negotiating tool to Secretary Glickman and U.S.T.R. Kantor.

BRING BART TO THE AIRPORT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last week the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation heard testimony regarding funding of mass transit projects across the country. The subcommittee heard from the united bipartisan Bay Area congressional delegation which supports funding the San Francisco Bar Area Rapid Transit [BART] extension to San Francisco International Airport. As you know, this Congress has supported this project over the years, and I am happy to report that BART is now ready to move forward on construction to provide tens of thousands of travelers quick, convenient, and reliable access to the nation's fifth busiest airport.

The BART extension to San Francisco International Airport is a longstanding regional priority with overwhelming and broad support from the public. Voters in San Mateo County have twice approved ballot measures directing local funds and taxes to be used for the airport extension and all but one of the cities impacted by the project have passed resolutions in support of this project. We have fought the hard battles at the local level. We have reached a regional consensus. We are ready to move forward on the most important and necessary transportation link in the San Francisco Bay area.

Mr. Speaker, local officials and residents in the bay area have made the tough choices in planning and providing local financing for the BART extension to SFO Airport. These decisions were made in an open and public access process at the local level and should be supported here in Washington. I would like to urge my colleagues to continue their support of the BART extension to the San Francisco International Airport.

A recent editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle summed up this issue brilliantly. I respectfully request that this editorial be placed in the RECORD for the benefit of my colleagues.

DON'T STOP THIS TRAIN

Bart's plans to reach San Francisco International Airport by the year 2000 have run into two potentially significant adversaries in the nation's capital. One is the airline industry, which has been concerned that the airport might try to raise landing fees or slap on a ticket surcharge to cover its \$200 million share.

Although the airline industry carries clout on Capitol Hill, we are confident that Congress will not be swayed by a selfish pitch against a project of such importance. Besides, the industry may eventually realize that this huge step in convenience to its passengers is well worth a relatively modest investment.

A more unsettling development is the effort of a handful of peninsula naysayers to resurrect the battle they clearly lost at the local level. Their testimony before the House Appropriations Transportation subcommittee last week may have given some legislators the impression that the Bay Area is still debating how to best provide mass-transit service to the airport.

And Congress may be reluctant to commit \$700 million when the issue remains unsettled.

Well, the matter is settled.

After years of torturous deliberation, there now is an overwhelming consensus on a plan that would put a BART station just outside the International Terminal. It would get at least half the passengers within a five-minute walk to a ticket counter and it would have a light-rail connection to other terminals. It is a good compromise.

It's time to get on with it. Opponents of the airport BART station are living in a dream world if they think that derailing the project will suddenly lead Congress to shift the money over to Cal-Train. The proposed \$87 million fiscal 1997 federal contribution to the BART project would almost surely be scooped up by another legislator for another region.

We trust that the subcommittee members, having seen the strong support of six Bay Area members of Congress, will realize that the fighting is finished. This train is on the move.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GREEK AMERICAN MONTHLY

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The Greek American Monthly on the occasion of the first anniversary of this outstanding publication, and to congratulate my colleague from southwestern Pennsylvania, Congressman RON KLINK, who has been awarded The Greek American Monthly's first annual Hermes Award.

The Greek American Monthly is a periodical dedicated to promoting, preserving, and perpetuating Greek culture, history, and heritage. It also serves as a timely source of information on issues of importance to people of Greek ancestry throughout the world. I am proud to say that The Greek American Monthly is based in Pittsburgh, PA, which is part of my congressional district.

The Greek American Monthly has accomplished a great deal in its first year. In just 1 short year its readership has grown from 2,000 to nearly 30,000, and it has attracted readers from all over the world. It is linking

members of the Greek community around the world in a new way. Its focus on content has resulted in a journal filled with important world news and cultural events from around the globe. I anticipate only continued and greater success for The Greek American Monthly in the future as more and more members of the Greek community—and other people in the United States and abroad—become acquainted with this excellent publication. The publisher and staff have produced an outstanding publication.

I also want to congratulate Congressman RON KLINK, who has been awarded The Greek American Monthly's first annual Hermes Award for his promotion of Greek culture and of issues of interest to the Greek-American community. Congressman KLINK, who has Greek forebearers, was chosen for the Hermes Award because he has introduced legislation of great interest to the Greek-American community, and because he has been tireless in his advocacy for issues before Congress that are important to the Greek-American community—issues like the partition of Cyprus and the treatment of ethnic Greeks in Albania.

In closing, I want to congratulate Mr. Gregory C. Pappas, editor and publisher of The Greek American Monthly, and the staff of this fine publication on the first anniversary of its founding, and I want to commend them for selecting Congressman RON KLINK as the first recipient of The Greek American Monthly's annual Hermes Award.

MARIETTA'S "MIRACLE"

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my fellow colleagues to read the following editorial from the Marietta Daily Journal which describes the wonderful opportunities Habitat for Humanity has offered many of my constituents. I have volunteered for Habitat in my district and can attest that it is a very rewarding experience to see future homeowners alongside public-spirited citizens. Furthermore, it is a program that combines prayer with practical help.

American-style volunteerism is proven every day by those noble individuals who are willing to give their time to make others' lives better. In the American tradition of volunteerism and charity, I would encourage all of my friends and colleagues in the House to get involved with Habitat in their own communities, as well.

[From the Marietta Daily Journal, Feb. 28, 1996]

MARIETTA'S "MIRACLE"

Many people lament the plight of the homeless, but leave to others the hard work of housing the less fortunate. Not so those involved with Habitat for Humanity.

Since the establishment of its first Cobb County branch in 1986, Cobb Habitat has built or rehabilitated 54 homes: 22 in Power Springs, 16 in Marietta, nine in Acworth, four in Kennesaw, two in Smyrna and one in Austell.

Now the group is in the process of acquiring 11 properties in one of Cobb's most drug- and crime-ridden neighborhoods. The project has been christened "The Marietta Miracle: Roosevelt Circle Renewal," and is focused on

the Roosevelt area, where drug dealers, prostitutes and vacant houses have blighted what was once a fairly typical working-class community and where law-abiding residents sometimes are afraid to leave their houses.

The targeted properties consist of a variety of vacant lots and dilapidated duplexes. Habitat will buy the properties, refurbish the duplexes and build single-family homes on the vacant lots. The upshot is that when the project is complete, up to 18 families will have new homes.

As with all Habitat projects, the new owners will be picked from a pool of qualified families based on need, their willingness to work in a partnership and their ability to repay the 15-year loans used to finance a house. Only those with incomes are considered as prospective owners. Those chosen also must undergo a rigorous interview process and put in 300 hours of "sweat equity" on Habitat construction projects.

"It'll be a big leap of faith for the families that will move into the homes," said Craig Satterlee, Cobb Habitat's executive director. "Our mission is to eliminate poverty housing in Cobb by building new homes and rehabilitating existing homes. There is no place more in need than Roosevelt Circle."

The project is expected to cost \$730,000, of which \$400,000 already has been pledged by local churches and businesses, including eight Catholic churches, St. Catherine's Episcopal, St. James Episcopal, Home Depot, Crawford & Co., the Cobb Board of Realtors, and students at Kennesaw State College.

"Far more important than the economics is the spirit of giving of yourselves. That's what makes a good community," said U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-east Cobb, at Saturday's kickoff for the "Marietta Miracle" at First Baptist Church of Marietta. "Habitat doesn't give to the poor—it involves the poor in creating a better life for themselves."

And as Marietta Ward 5 Councilman James Dodd put it: "Other people in the [Roosevelt Circle] community will see these homes and will use them as a model to upgrade theirs."

Hopefully, the Habitat project will have a ripple effect in the community, as its others have so many times before. And hopefully, those ripples will continue to widen.

CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE ACT OF
1996

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Citizen Representative Act of 1996.

For years, it has been widely recognized that deep flaws and gaping loopholes in the way campaigns are paid for in America have amplified the importance of well-heeled special interest groups, reduced the clout of small individual contributors, and favored wealthy candidates while effectively silencing the voices of citizens unable to raise the large sums of money needed to mount a campaign for Congress.

Citizens across the country and many here in Congress understand that our system for financing campaigns in this country is broken and needs to be fixed. Skyrocketing campaign costs discourage everyday Americans from running for public office. Small, individual campaign contributions are crowded out by big money contributions from political action committees [PAC's]