

[From Fowler Elementary School; Feb. 14, 1997]

WHAT MY FUTURE WILL BE LIKE
(By Alicia Fernandes)

In the future I would like to become a Pediatrician. I would like to do that because I enjoy working with children.

When I get older I am going to try my best to get through high school successfully. When I graduate I would like to go to Harvard or Yale. I was even considering going to a university in Florida. When I go to college I am going to become a Pediatrician.

I am going to be smart. I am going to keep my head clear. I will not smoke, drink, or do drugs. Also, I will not ruin my education by having children while I am still in high school. I will have a good education, good job, before I have children. I will have children when I have a good job, a good education, when I am settled down and ready to support myself plus a child.

Until then I'm going to go to school to get a good education and have a good life. I am not going to make the mistakes some people make. I don't want to throw my life away, I want to be able to get up everyday to go to high school without having to call a baby sitter. I want to have a good educational life and I will because I am setting my mind to it. While I am writing this I am thinking about my future, me and all my friends standing on a stage in our caps and gowns while the principal of our school gives a speech and then he says it "The Class of 2993" then there is a big round of applause and we receive our diplomas and a few months later I'm packing my bags for college.

As I think to myself I did it! I am so proud!

HOW I CAN USE MY EDUCATION TO MAKE A
BETTER AMERICA

(By Andrea M. Dias, 4th grade, Doriare School)

The people today that are lawyers, teachers, sales people, doctor, and other jobs. The only way them people achieved there goals is because they went threw elementary school, middle school, high school and collage. They worked hard and stuff and got a great education. Also an education doesn't only make you achieve your goals and make you smart but also makes you a better and kind person. There are also people today who dropped out of school and did get an education and now those people regret and think about what a bad desision they made, thats why some of them went back to school and tried to get an education. So if your still a kid like me and you have a goal dream. One of the ways you'll get it is if you have an education. So I'll tell you right now! Believe in your dream, go for it! If your not that good at school and you want to get a good education then just keep on trying and trying until you get better and better. Say your goal was to be a teacher and you achieved it. You won't only get an education you'll be helping someone else get a education and achieved there goals and you'll be proud of your self for what you have done. Just remember the people who achieved there goals they have a education. Don't give up. I know you can get an education. Because if I can try you can try too. Go and achieve your goal!!!

WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP.

(By Meghan Bissonnette, 6th Grade, Healy School)

Today I'm young, a few more tomorrows and I will be going off to college. I must start thinking of what I want to do with my life. Many other children may not care, but I do, I think this is important. If I don't

start now, who knows where I could be 10 years from now.

After I finish college, I want to join the World Peace Conference. That is my life long dream. President William Clinton has inspired me the most. If I am chosen to join the World Peace Conference, I shall help the world stop fighting, and learn to help one another.

Also, I have a back up plan. If I am not elected to the World Peace Conference, I'll become a veterinarian; so if I can't help out people, I'll help out animals. This way I shall be happy. I'll always try my best. Nothing will stop me. I'll never do drugs, smoke, or do anything that will harm my body. This way I will be safe from harm.

If I ever inherit money, I'll make sure to donate it all to poor, homeless people, sick animals, and charity, this way the money will not go to waste. I'll never give up. I'll be strong and carry on. My dream for peace, fairness and equality will never die, neither shall my hope, or spirit.

HOW EDUCATION CAN HELP ME MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

(By Natalie Moore, Grade 6, Atlantis Charter School, Fall River, MA)

I'm a child of the future generation of adults and if I don't get an education I can't help change the world and the bad things in it.

I want to be like Martin Luther King, Jr. or Chico Mendes and make a difference; not necessarily the same way as them, but in my own way. I want to be a judge when I get older. I want to take the people selling drugs, and murderers, off the street. I want to stop the violence and abuse in and outside of homes. But if I don't have an education this won't happen, because it takes a lot of studying, hard work—and I'll have to go to school.

So many children are so scared of what's going to happen to them when they go home from school, or who they are going to fight, that they don't pay attention in school. And that's sad because if they grow up with abuse and violence then that will be what their children grow up with and this world won't change. I want that to be something that will change, so I am going to go to school and try to influence as many other people to go to school. And when I get older I WILL make the biggest difference I can.

FOSTERING A BETTER UNDER-
STANDING OF THE CHEMICAL IN-
DUSTRY

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, JOHN TANNER and I serve as the chair and vice chair of the Advisory Committee to the Chemistry and Technology Forum. The Chemistry and Technology Forum was recently established to foster a better understanding of the chemical industry among the general public and public officials. The Forum sponsors events and produces studies intended to improve the quality and quantity of information on industry issues available to the public and the Government. In doing so, the Forum believes that it will encourage the development of sound public policy and debate on the issues affecting the industry and the public it serves.

Recently the Forum heard a presentation from Mr. J. Lawrence Wilson, the chairman and CEO of Rhom and Haas Co. and the chairman of the Chemical Manufacturers Association on international trade and the chemical industry. Mr. Wilson points out that since 1993 chemicals have been the largest U.S. export sector and that exports have doubled in the past 5 years to more than \$60 billion. Today, 1 out of every 10 U.S. export dollars earned comes from chemical sales. Every billion dollars in export sales creates or preserves 4,000 jobs. Access to the markets of Asia and Latin America are key to this industry's future and renewal of "fast track" authority is a competitive necessity.

I am entering Larry's speech in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and encourage Members of Congress, particularly those with substantial chemical employment in their districts', to read the speech.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE—WORKING HARD TO
STAY AHEAD OF THE GAME

I'm pleased to be here this afternoon because it gives me another opportunity to talk about my favorite subject—the U.S. chemical industry.

Those here today already know about the contribution this industry makes to the U.S. economy—and to the world economy, for that matter:

The chemical industry: Provides essential building-block products used by every sector of the manufacturing economy, and by most of the service economy; is high-tech and internationally competitive; provides high-paying, stable jobs; is a multi-billion dollar sponsor of research and development; and is a leader in health, safety and environmental protection.

And this business is so dynamic that the chemical industry of today did not even exist 20 years ago.

All of this is no surprise to you—but these facts are surprising to many of your colleagues who are not here today. In my experience, I've found some congressional representatives regard the chemical industry as "ancient." Perhaps even "outdated." Some even regard us as a bargaining chip to be used in the international trade wars.

That's why I'm so pleased that Congressman Tom DeLay of Texas and Congressman John Tanner of Tennessee have taken leadership roles in this Forum—and that you all have demonstrated your interest and support of the chemical industry by taking the time to come today. On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge that both men represent states where some of Rohm and Haas Company's largest facilities are located.

Congressman DeLay has the added distinction of having both personal and business experience in the chemical industry.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The chemical industry is the nation's most powerful, most successful international competitor. Ten years ago, exports accounted for 10 percent of our total shipments. Today, that number stands at a little over 16 percent. Exports are beginning to drive our growth.

Many people believe the global economy is entering a new Golden Age. Jeffery Sachs, the noted Harvard economist, recently said we have reached an important historical moment in time. He says global economic growth "will raise the living standards of more people, in more parts of the world than in any prior time in history."

Some economists are predicting world growth rates will average an astounding 4 percent a year for the next 20 years.

I'm proud to say that American companies are leading the way. Bill Lewis, CEO of the

respected McKinsey Company, says, "U.S. firms have developed the best practices over the greatest range of industries." This is certainly true of the U.S. chemical industry!

The U.S. is the world's largest producer of chemicals, accounting for almost one-fourth of total world chemical production.

Chemical exports have doubled in the past five years to more than \$60 billion.

One out of every ten U.S. export dollars earned comes from chemical sales.

And, since 1993, chemicals have been the largest U.S. export sector, running ahead of agriculture and far ahead of the aircraft industry.

Exports create American jobs. In 1986, the chemical industry employed 1.02 million people. In 1996, the number stood at 1.04 million—in jobs that wages that are one-third higher than the average wages for all of manufacturing. In a time of downsizing and restructuring, and of maturing markets in the developed world, the U.S. chemical industry has preserved and strengthened high-paying, high-tech jobs for more than a million people.

The ability to compete internationally has been critical to our success. It's likely you've heard this statistic before, but it remains true: Every billion dollars in export sales creates or preserves 4,000 jobs.

And the U.S. chemical industry has not sealed itself off from international competition or opportunity. Quite the contrary—we are active players in every part of the globe. Three years ago, 201 U.S. chemical companies operated a total of 3,050 foreign affiliates. These foreign investments create demand—and pipeline—for U.S. technology and products. And the sales made by these affiliates help underwrite the research and development necessary to continually renew and strengthen U.S. competitiveness.

MAINTAINING OUR NUMBER ONE POSITION

Every developing nation wants to build its own chemical industry—to support their growing manufacturing industries, to add value to their raw materials and to create a technology base that will improve the quality of life for citizens today and in the future.

These nations will move to meet these needs—with or without the U.S. chemical industry. Today's chemical industry is global, and there are plenty of competitors from Europe and Japan who will compete with us to establish footholds in these developing countries.

The U.S. chemical industry today is vibrant and strong—but success is not a given. Our ability to succeed must be nurtured and encouraged. The competitive environment gets tougher, while the margin for error gets smaller. In the past, companies might have been free to raise prices to cover miscalculations, or could have relied on their reputation to become the sole source supplier—but no longer.

The old markets—the developed world of Europe and Japan—are where we cut our trading teeth and built trade surpluses. But they are not the growth markets of the future.

Asia and Latin America are our future. Why? Because within these regions, 11 countries hold more than two-thirds of the world's population. And these economies are growing at astounding rates—double or triple the economic rates of the U.S.—and they will continue at these rates for the foreseeable future! Yet today, just 13 percent of the total chemical industry investment abroad is located in these countries.

AN AGENDA FOR ACTION

These growth markets also are the very same markets that have the highest degree of protectionism in the form of tariff and non-tariff barriers. The U.S. has done a great job of tearing down trade barriers and unlocking closed economies—but we still have more to do if we are to level the international playing field. We need your help.

For starters, we need Congress to renew "Fast Track" authority to allow the Presi-

dent to negotiate future trade agreements. Expansion of free trade agreements in which the U.S. is a partner is a competitive necessity!

This is especially true in Latin America. Having seen the benefits of free trade sparked by NAFTA, Latin American countries are moving quickly and aggressively to form strong regional pacts. These include MERCOSUR, which includes the Southern Cone countries led by Brazil, and the Andean Pact, which includes the East, Central and Northern Tier of South America.

Yet we also see another trend developing—one that is somewhat alarming. The Latin American regional pacts I just mentioned are forming agreements and having discussions with Europe and Japan. All of this can and will lead to preferential trading status for these countries—more preferential than U.S. status.

Here's just one example of what this can mean to the bottom line from my own company, Rohm and Haas. If MERCOSUR enters into a free trade with the European Community, monomer exports from our plant in Houston, Texas will be taxed at a 14 percent rate of duty. Product coming to Latin America from European-based companies will be taxed at duty rates of between 0 and 2 percent. At that point, the options for Rohm and Haas will be limited—either lose customers or be forced to build a brand-new plant within the Latin American free trade zones. Can you imagine what impact that might have on the economic health of our existing world-scale production facilities in the United States?

The U.S. cannot afford to sit on the sidelines! We must have Fast Track trade negotiating authority.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Many chemical companies have restructured in order to compete. In fact, it's fair to say that this industry has been through a decade-long makeover. We have taken the steps needed to become a force a global markets.

The legislative and regulatory process, along with our conduct of foreign affairs, must keep pace in order to help U.S. businesses maintain their number one, leading position. That means that government must be knowledgeable, nimble and involved in the international arena.

There will be some companies—and some nations—who will be forced to drop out of this race because they cannot compete. I can tell you that we in the chemical industry are working hard to stay at the top. We won't let up. You can help by shaping our country's international and trade agenda. We are ready to work with you toward that end.

You can tell by my accent, that I was raised in the South. I also was raised to be polite and to say thank you when you have asked someone to join with you in completing a task.

So today I say "thank you" on behalf of the U.S. chemical industry—for what many of you have already done—and for the actions you will take to help us remain a vibrant, growing, dynamic part of this economy and this country.

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WESTERN QUEENS GAZETTE

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 15th anniversary of the Western Queens Gazette, a weekly community newspaper that serves Queens County, in the State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, the first edition of the Gazette was published on January 27, 1982. At its in-

ception, the Gazette was a modest, 12 page weekly community newspaper. Today, the Gazette averages 80 pages weekly with a circulation of close to 100,000 for a single edition.

Under the direction of its Publisher/Editor Tony Barsamian who has owned the Gazette since 1990, the paper has expanded the geographic region it serves as well as its news features. The Gazette now serves the Queens neighborhoods of Astoria, Ditmars, Dutch Kills, East Elmhurst, Hunters Point, Sunnyside, Woodside, Laguardia Airport, Long Island City, Jackson Heights, North Corona, Ravenswood, Roosevelt Island, Steinway, East Flushing, and Bayside.

In New York City, the media capital of the world, there is a wide variety of news outlets for New Yorkers to choose from. However, to get quality, local community-based reporting residents of Queens turn to the weekly pages of the Western Queens Gazette. The Gazette covers the important issues facing residents of Queens on the national, state, and city level with a particular focus on neighborhood news. The Gazette brings attention to the neighborhood news that is often overlooked by the daily newspapers.

The Gazette has regular weekly news features including community reporting, insightful editorials, op-ed pages, a religious column, political profiles, the local police blotter, sports, community calendars dining and entertainment reviews, legal notices, and complete classified ads.

In their own words, the Western Queens Gazette is "Dedicated to bringing our readers a vital locally oriented view of the News." Indeed, the Gazette effectively brings this local view of the news to their readers every week of the year. The Gazette is community reporting of neighborhood news at its very best.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Tony Barsamian and everyone associated with the Western Queens Gazette on the joyous occasion of its 15th anniversary of publication.

NATO EXPANSION CANNOT BE LIMITED

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned with the U.S. congressional delegation led by Congressman DOUG BEREUTER from attending a meeting of the North Atlantic Assembly, the parliamentary arm of the NATO alliance, that took place over the just concluded congressional recess. There we discussed with parliamentary representatives from all of our allied countries the need to enlarge NATO in order to ensure its continued success without drawing any lines that would exclude additional countries from future enlargement. In fact, Mr. Speaker, if and when any of the former Communist and Soviet dominated countries meet the criteria to become eligible for NATO, which include irreversible democracy, a commitment to free market principles and the rule of law, respect for human rights and liberties, and a military that's interoperable with NATO forces, they should be extended an invitation for full and open membership in the alliance.

In that vein, Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to the remarks delivered by Congressman BEREUTER at the plenary session of the North Atlantic Assembly. His