

AT HOME

Ending normal trade relations would also severely impact the United States. We would lose markets for \$12 billion worth of U.S. exports, which support 170,000 high-paying American jobs. It would mean higher prices for Americans who shop for low-cost imports.

It would deny us access to China's huge market, not only in the present, but for the foreseeable future. And faced with the need for higher defense expenditures, our hopes for balancing the budget and dealing with our domestic problems would evaporate.

AROUND THE WORLD

Ending normal trade relations has international consequences as well. We would lose the support of one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, which would have a significant impact on U.S. interests around the world.

U.S. efforts to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction in North Korea and elsewhere would be set back.

We would no longer count on Chinese help on regional security issues, or in addressing transnational issues such as narcotics trafficking, environmental degradation, or international crime.

IMPORTANCE OF A SMOOTH TRANSITION IN HONG KONG

The debate over China's trade status is not occurring in a vacuum, of course. The other major China-related event that will take place in the next few weeks is Hong Kong's reversion to Chinese control. I have been watching the transition process in Hong Kong with keen interest—and with a mixture of hope and concern. It is critical that the transition go smoothly.

HONG KONG TRANSITION WILL HAVE GREAT IMPACT ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

The Hong Kong transition will have a great impact on how most Americans view U.S.-China relations. If the transition goes well, this will sustain political support in the Congress and throughout the country for a policy of engagement with China. But if the transition goes badly—if Americans see television pictures of people being led off in manacles, and read news reports that suggest that Hong Kong's unique way of life is being threatened—then support for engagement will falter.

The Chinese leadership understands this. But I am less confident that those who wield power in Beijing will be able to exercise the necessary discipline, restraint and flexibility if—as is possible—the July 1st transition is met with public demonstrations and protests.

I'm equally worried about the long term outlook—the potential erosion of Hong Kong's freedoms over the next few years.

CONCERNS ABOUT THE TRANSITION

But the die is not yet cast for Hong Kong. China has taken a number of encouraging steps. It has approved Hong Kong's continued participation in international organizations. It will continue to link Hong Kong's currency to the U.S. dollar, and preserve Hong Kong's substantial foreign exchange reserves. It will keep Hong Kong's respected civil servants in place.

The key question, of course, is whether China will honor its pledges to uphold the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration—whether it will abide by its promise to establish and maintain "one country, two systems."

WHAT THE U.S. CAN DO TO ENHANCE A SUCCESSFUL HONG KONG TRANSITION

None of us can answer that question today, just as none of us knows what Hong Kong will be like 3 or 5 or 10 years from now. The chief actors, of course, will be China and

Hong Kong. But there are things the United States can do to increase the likelihood that the Hong Kong of the 21st century will retain the vitality and opportunity and freedom it enjoys today.

First, in all our dealings relating to Hong Kong, U.S. officials should underscore our deep commitment to freedom and democracy there.

Second, we should give Hong Kong's new chief executive some running room, so he is not immediately caught between those who say he must work with China and those who say working with China is impossible.

Third, we should refrain from threatening China, although we must not shrink from stating our views.

Fourth, we should firmly and repeatedly state our expectation that China abide by the Joint Declaration especially as it applies to civil liberties, rule of law, basic freedoms, and true autonomy.

Fifth, we should let the new authorities know we expect them to surpass Hong Kong's record in the rule of law, the honesty of the civil service, and the impartial administration of government.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE HONG KONG TRANSITION FOR TAIWAN

The Hong Kong transition also has implications for Taiwan. China understands that if the transition goes well, this will make the question of Taiwan's eventual reunification with China infinitely more manageable.

If for no other reason than this, Beijing has every incentive to make the Hong Kong reversion succeed. So do the other members of the Asia-Pacific community. The unsettled relations between Beijing and Taipei pose one of the most serious threats to peace and stability in East Asia. If a successful Hong Kong reversion helps to dampen tensions between China and Taiwan, then we all benefit.

CONCLUSION

Maintaining sound relations with China is essential for achieving a wide range of U.S. foreign policy objectives—including regional peace and stability, prosperity for our Asian friends and ourselves, and improved conditions inside China itself.

If we are to have sound relations with China, we must maintain normal trading relations. We must approve MFN for another year.

But that is only the beginning. U.S. policy toward China will require a steady and skillful hand over the long haul. We should not delude ourselves or engage in false expectations. We can expect rough patches along the way. Success will require a consistent policy, principled stands on key issues, and patient diplomacy aimed at finding solutions, not aggravating tensions. It will also require a China willing to abide by international rules and norms.

I want to leave you with two thoughts.

First, we cannot isolate China. We could not build a coalition to contain or isolate China if we tried.

No one would support us.

We can disengage from China. But China is too big and too important for us to isolate successfully. If we try, we will only isolate—and hurt—ourselves.

Second, if we treat China as an enemy, it will become our enemy. Our hand should remain open.

Thank you.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS HONORING FREEDOM AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the upcoming Juneteenth celebrations honoring freedom and African-American history. Texas has honored Juneteenth as a State holiday for nearly 20 years, observing the day with joyous public celebrations. But outside of the Lone Star State, many do not understand the significance and meaning of Juneteenth in the lives of African-Americans past, present and future.

Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom for African-Americans. It honors the day that black slaves in Texas finally learned of their emancipation. Juneteenth honors a day that was far too long in coming. Though President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves was signed on January 1, 1863, the proclamation did not bring immediate freedom for slaves. Only after the Civil War ended in 1865 was the Emancipation Proclamation enforced, using Union soldiers to finally free slaves in the South. On June 19, 1865, Gen. Gordon Granger of the Union Army arrived in Galveston, TX., to ensure the freedom of the slaves. Though news of the Emancipation Proclamation had been kept quiet throughout the war, the word had spread, and when General Granger arrived in Galveston a large number of slaves turned out to greet him and his troops.

Legends abound of the origins of Juneteenth. One holds that word of emancipation spread through the Union Army via black soldiers who spread the news as the Army moved South. Another states that a messenger carrying the news was murdered on his way to Texas, while another claims that a black ex-Union soldier rode a mule from Washington, DC, with a message given to him by Abraham Lincoln. But the origins are not as important as the purpose of the celebration itself?

Today, Juneteenth is widely known as Black Independence Day, as significant to many African-Americans as July 4th. It is a chance for all Americans to celebrate freedom and learn more about African-American history. June 19, 1865 is the day when blacks in Texas began to realize their opportunities as free Americans. Though the struggle continues, Juneteenth allows us to recognize how far our Nation has come and celebrate the history, achievements and contributions African-Americans have made to our Nation.

REGARDING REV. FRANK BEALL

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 1997

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I take the floor of the House of Representatives today to pay homage to a distinguished member of my district. He is a man who has held himself to a high standard while showing unconditional love to those who

fall. He is an intellectually gifted man who has retained his common touch. And he is a man who has gained the great respect and acceptance of his peers through seeking only God's acceptance. He is an author, a reverend and a friend who our community knows as Frank Beall.

Frank Beall made a difference. As a pastor of Trinity Presbyterian, he took a fledgling church and turned it into the heartbeat of northeast Pensacola. Under Frank's direction, Trinity experienced an explosive growth unrivaled in Pensacola over the past two decades. He succeeded because he dared to make a difference.

Frank Beall also succeeded because he dared to step out of the comfort zone and take positions that may not have been universally popular in our community. But he did so because he knew in his heart that Christ's calling demanded that he love the unloved and give hope to the hopeless. Whether he was an early supporter of civil rights in the deep South, or was serving on the Governor's Commission on AIDS, Frank Beall has always given a cup of water to the thirsty, fed the hungry, clothed the poor, looked after the sick, and invited the stranger in.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 25 that the Son of Man will return in his glory and separate the sheep from the goats based on how they helped the helpless, gave hope to the hope-

less and loved the unlovable. On all counts, Frank Beall has proven himself worthy and has run the good race for his friends, his family, his church and his God. Now his work continues, but when Frank leaves, he will leave a part of himself with all of those he touched * * * through the church, through the lessons he taught and through the lives he changed.

Yours has been a race well run, Frank. But, don't slow down yet, God has quite a few more races left for you to run. And, with the past as prologue, we know your future challenges will be races you will run with all your might. And that those you pass along the way to the finish line will be the real winners.

May God bless you, Frank.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 54,
PROHIBITING THE PHYSICAL
DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF
THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the constitutional amendment which

would prohibit desecration of the American flag. Each day millions of Americans place their hands over their hearts and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Think of the words in that pledge:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, One Nation, under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all." Think of the power of this act of affirmation of flag, God, and the Unity of our Nation and you begin to understand why so many Americans support this amendment, and why people have fought for the flag and died for the flag. We send people around the world to defend the flag. This amendment lets us defend it here at home.

The very constitutional protections which all Americans are guaranteed today exist because of the commitment which people have to the highest ideals of our nation as expressly symbolized by the flag. It is not just a piece of cloth. The flag proudly stands as the emblem of our Nation. And I am proud to stand in support of the flag.