

and choirs, to community clean-up projects, to feeding the homeless and homebound AIDS patients, to working with physically and mentally challenged youngsters. They have played sports, joined teams, held down jobs, and been recognized and honored—both locally and nationally—for their scholastic abilities. In short, these six young women and six young men have shown us that, if given a chance, every child has the ability to succeed.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally commend each of the 12 students participating in the 1997 Oliver Project, as well as the Orphan Foundation of America for giving these young Americans a chance to be tomorrow's leaders.

EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, if our economy is so great, than why are American workers losing their jobs? If our economy is so great, than why are American workers going bankrupt in record numbers? If our economy is so great, why do many families need three jobs just to pay their bills? And Mr. Speaker, if our economy is so great, why are so many manufacturing plants going out of business?

On May 31, 1997, something happened in my congressional district that deeply affected 70 of my constituents and their families. The Camcar Textron Brainard Rivet plant in Girard, OH closed its doors and told its workers to go home. The workers at this plant, scared for their futures and the futures of their families, wanted to work with the parent company of Camcar, Textron to negotiate an employee buyout through an Employee Stock Ownership Plan [ESOP]. Unfortunately, Textron did not feel that selling the plant to the employees through an ESOP would be in the best interests of the company. I was particularly concerned over the fact that Textron has referred 50 former Brainard Rivet customers to another non-Textron company. These customers could have been the base for an employee-owned company.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to do all it to encourage ESOP's. That is why today I am introducing legislation, the Employee Ownership Enhancement Act, to require that an employer closing a manufacturing plant to offer the employees an opportunity to purchase the business through an ESOP. This legislation would exempt companies that are planning to continue using the assets and/or capital from a closed plant at another location or the companies that close a plant but still are manufacturing the same product at another plant.

The current economy presents many challenges for both workers and employers. Congress needs to put in place reasonable laws to enable hard working Americans a chance to own and operate manufacturing plants if the owners don't want to anymore. My bill would apply to only a handful of plant closing a year, but would provide hope and opportunity to thousands of workers and their families. It is that simple.

I urge all my colleagues to support this very important piece of legislation.

STATEMENTS BY TISON CAMPBELL AND JONATHAN LAFARGE REGARDING THE U.S. IN THE 21ST CENTURY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD these statements by high school students from Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

Mr. CAMPBELL. In the next three years the United States will enter the 21st Century. We will find ourselves faced with many challenges that will be difficult but not impossible to overcome. These challenges are overcoming the national debt, dealing with fossil fuel shortages, threats to national security and the future of the global community.

As we near the beginning of the next century, we face a growing national debt. This debt is consuming more and more government money. We must act before this debt gets so large that it causes the downfall of our economy.

In order to solve this problem, the government must raise more money. The most practical way to do this is to raise taxes or to implement a national sales tax. The added income from the tax increase or sales tax would greatly aid in the eradication of this debt.

We will also face the problem of fossil fuel shortages. As we consume more and more of these non renewable resources, we will find it necessary to convert to alternate energy sources. We can utilize the energy from the sun to generate electricity. The most efficient way to accomplish this is to place satellites fitted with solar panels in orbit and then to have the energy beamed back to collecting stations on the earth. This would give us an unlimited supply of cheap electricity thus allowing us to gradually phase out fossil fuels.

There will be many threats to national security in the next century. These threats will be both physical and mental, domestic and international. The mental threat to our society is the public distrust of the government. The members of our government must act to change this image so that people will once again realize that the government is there to make their lives better, not to destroy them. This could be accomplished through a series of speeches or an advertising campaign in which the representatives for a certain district or a state would answer questions from the people about the state of a government.

Another threat to our society is that of terrorism. As the countries of the world grow more peaceful, violent people will have to shift to terrorism in order to get their goals accomplished. In order to combat this threat, we must devise better security measures to scan people entering the country. We can also work with the nations of the world to track down terrorist organizations before they can cause any real damage.

To combat terrorism originating in our country, we must pass strong anti-terrorist laws that call for strict punishment of terrorists. By taking a strong stand on this issue, we can convince potential terrorists that if they want to reform the system, it needs to be done from within with the consent of the majority of the people.

With the invention of the airplane, it became possible to travel long distances in

short periods of time. This brought the world together and caused the formation of the global community. As this community expands, alliances will be formed. We are already seeing examples of this with the formation of the European Union and the United Nations. As the world continues to evolve, the people will eventually realize that it will be beneficial to form a world government. This government would be an expansion of the United Nations that would operate under a constitution based on that of the United States. This constitution would guarantee that all people will have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The creation of this government would all but abolish war. The armies of the world would be combined to form a large world army with each country keeping a smaller force to act as our National Guard does today. This would ensure that the rights of each independent country would not be abused and that, if necessary, the country would be able to defend itself.

The world government would also eliminate the need for atomic weapons. This would allow us to destroy the weapons and to shift our scientific resources to things more beneficial than the creation of weapons.

The world government would allow us to achieve peace on earth and it would ensure the rights of every man, woman and child on the planet.

Mr. LAFARGE. This government would be formed by an expansion of the power of the United Nations. It would be the job of this government to carry out the solutions to the problems listed above.

First, all countries would need to form into a council modeled after the United States Senate with each country having two members. This council would need to choose a chief executive. The Executive Branch would be headed by the chief executive with a cabinet of seven officials. The seven departments would be Justice, Defense, Treasury, Space Exploration, Interior, World Health and International Transportation. The Judicial branch would be headed by an international Supreme Court. There would be a branch of the international court in every country. Then, once established, the government would gradually need to form a world currency. This would ease transaction and aid in the forming of a world stock market. This would also allow businesses around the world to merge and further unify the world.

With the constant advances in technology, this government would need to play an active role in the development of these technologies. Space exploration and medicine are the most prominent areas of study. There could be whole space stations dedicated to one field or disease. Dangerous biohazards could be contained and controlled. The unique properties of a low G environment would enable us to do things that we cannot do on earth. Scientists could create more resilient strains of plants and then clone these to solve world food problems. Scientists could use accelerated cellular reproduction to grow food faster and allow for faster distribution.

Through the implementation of these programs, we can bring humanity into a golden age where all men live under a fair, just government based upon principles in the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I haven't seen much progress with just what I've witnessed from Congress. There have been attempts to balance the budget, and that's a good start; but even with a balanced budget, we won't generate enough capital to quickly pay off this debt before it can really start to affect our economy. I believe that eventually we're going to be forced to increase taxes in order to pay for this.

There was the suggestion of cutting different programs, but the way that I see it is that we're already cutting so many programs as it is that if we end up cutting more programs, some of them are going to eventually have to be dropped and it may be unfortunate, but I believe that if we drop any programs, it will end up being stuff like education or entitlement programs and that would greatly harm a lot of people. We could cut back on defense a bit. I think we're spending a little too much on that. Other than that, I don't really see any that we can really make huge cuts in.

A lot of people might fear that with the formation of a world government we could end up having a dictatorship or an oligarchy where only a few people would really have power. We would have to ensure that this would not happen through different actions before it was even implemented. The people of the world would have to evolve to such a point where they can actually deal with this and where we would be prepared to set this government up without having these dangers. We have to combat that now. If we can get people to trust the government of the United States if we decide to form a world

government, we could encourage that—we could show people that the government would be there to benefit them and to help them, not to take over just for the sake of power.

Mr. LAFARGE. People might fear about the formation of a world government is the loss of culture and the individualism of everyone and that people like Africans maybe might start to lose their history or people just might feel that by moving in this step that they will become kind of like everybody else, and that's sort of a fear.