

* * * bigger paychecks and * * * a healthier national economy * * * Of course the minimum wage did not cause all of this to happen, although it has played a significant role in the bigger paycheck part of this for people at the low end of the wage scale. But the fact that we are enjoying this continued economic boom, with increased employment at the lowest end of the wage scale, directly contradicts what the Republican Party made its official doctrine during the debate on the minimum wage, and Mr. Shields is right to document the glaring disparity between what they said and reality.

THE GOP'S CHICKEN LITTLES

(By Mark Shields)

When it comes to economic forecasting, conservative Republicans on Capitol Hill give a new respectability to astrology.

Consider the matter of the federal minimum wage. Last summer Congress voted to increase the minimum wage, effective last Oct. 1, from \$4.25 an hour to \$4.75 (it will rise again next Sept. 1 to \$5.15 an hour). Democrats almost unanimously favored the increase, and Republicans almost unanimously opposed it.

But many Republicans did more than merely oppose the hike, they were prophets of doom and gloom: Chicken Little and Gloomy Gus rolled up into a single morose caucus.

House Republican Whip Tom DeLay (R-Tex.) was his usual direct self in panning the increase: "The Democrat party is to job creation what Dr. Kevorkian is to health care; a job-killer cloaked in kindness." A little less restrained was Rep. Jack Kingston (R-Ga.), who accused House Democrats, whom he referred to in floor debate as the "comrades on the other side," of failing to understand that a minimum-wage increase would destroy jobs, adding, "The folks over there are simply economically ignorant."

But the Cassandra award belongs to Rep. John Shadegg (R-Ariz.), who declared: "Raising the minimum wage will put one out of every four minority workers between the ages of 17 and 24 who are out of school and working out of work."

What was being voted on then was a modest proposal that simply would guarantee that a worker in America who labors 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, would earn about what a member of Congress is paid every three weeks.

Republicans were wrong. The economy, almost eight months after the minimum-wage increase became law, is much better, not worse. The nation's unemployment is at its lowest point in 24 years. The proportion of the population with jobs is the highest in American history. The stock market continues to set new altitude records.

But what about the dire GOP predictions concerning lost jobs? Minimum-wage opponents emphasized that job losses would be heavy in the eating and drinking industry, where nearly one out of three private-sector minimum-wage earners is employed. In the first four months after the minimum wage was raised, employment in eating and drinking businesses grew at a rate four times faster than it had in the year before the increase.

And wait, there is still more good news for the workers this hike was intended to help. Teenage unemployment is measurably lower than where it stood just last September, before the wage increase. In a soon-to-be-released study, the Economic Policy Institute finds that not only has unemployment for teenagers and young adults not been adversely affected in the first eight months following the wage increase but that the bene-

fits have primarily gone to low-income working families.

Minimum-wage workers, contradicting the myths spun by foes of the federal wage law, are not typically the spoiled stepson of the investment banker just picking up gas money for his BMW convertible. Instead, 35 percent of the workers who benefited from the increase are the sole breadwinners in their families. Three out of five of them are women. Seven out of 10 are 20 or older.

That's why it's encouraging to learn that the increase has had its biggest impact upon the earnings of black and Hispanic teens. The benefits of the wage increase have gone overwhelmingly to low-income working families. Nearly 56 percent of the families that have benefited from the wage increase are in the bottom 40 percent of American income.

With no adverse effect on the employment of young workers, with bigger paychecks and with a healthier national economy, about all that's left to say to those pessimistic, it's five-minutes-to-midnight conservatives is, "Cheer up, fellas, eventually things will get worse."

GEORGE PATRICK MACRIS—
GUAM'S SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. George Patrick Macris, recipient of the State Small Business Person of the Year Award. He was recently honored for his work as president of the Harmon Doctor's Clinic at a luncheon hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration on June 3, 1997.

Dr. Macris holds a degree in zoology from Rutgers University and a medical degree from Rutgers University Medical School and New Jersey Medical School. He also served as a medical officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve for several years before settling down to private practice in Anchorage, AK.

Since 1991, Mr. Macris has been practicing in Harmon, Guam, where he operates the Harmon Doctor's Clinic, serves as commander in the Naval Reserve, and sits in numerous hospital committees. Moreover, he has been an advocate of health care reform and is currently the Governor appointed and elected chairman of the Guam Health Coordinating Council and a staff member at Guam Memorial Hospital and the U.S. Naval Hospital, Guam.

The Harmon Doctors' Clinic, for which Dr. Macris received his award, is a unique health care facility which provides comprehensive services to both health care professionals and patients. In 1996, it became a designated Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS] Civil Surgeon Center and received Communicable Disease Control [CDC] vaccine approval—travel clinic. Currently, the clinic offers medical/health care services in general/internal medicine, diving/hyperbaric medicine, school physical, vaccination and travel clinic, cardiopulmonary diseases, urgent care, x-ray, OSHA/preventative medicine physical and laboratory. Moreover, Dr. Macris intends to expand services to include the only privately owned and operated decompression chamber and cancer treatment center. He has already

received positive responses from the American Cancer Institute in establishing a cancer treatment center on Guam.

The clinic has also been successful administratively. It generated revenues in excess of \$900,000 and anticipates a 12-percent growth in 1997. The patient base has also grown from 30 to over 11,000 member patients. The clinic employs 17 persons under the direction of Dr. Macris.

Again, I congratulate Dr. Macris for his outstanding leadership in the medical field. His exemplary service and innovative thinking are certainly assets to Guam. Not only have they garnered him recognition from the Small Business Administration, they have also won him Guam's respect and admiration.

FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO CHINA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, a few days from now, Members will be asked to vote on one of the toughest issues they will face this year—whether to renew China's most-favored-nation trade status.

I recently had sent to me a copy of a report of a study tour to China by a delegation of former Members of Congress.

I am taking the liberty of reprinting the summary section of this report in the RECORD, in the hope that it may be of some use to Members as they consider the issues involved in the MFN debate in the days ahead.

REPORT OF STUDY TOUR TO CHINA

A delegation of members of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress traveled to China during the period September 1-10, 1996 at the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress. The trip included meetings in Beijing, Xian, Shanghai and Guilin. The delegation was led by the President of the Association, former Representative Louis Frey, Jr. (R-FL) and included: former Senator Daniel B. Brewster (D-MD); former Representatives John N. Erlenborn (R-IL), who is Treasurer of the Association; Beverly B. Byron (D-MD); Lawrence J. Hogan (R-MD); Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY); John W. Jenrette, Jr. (D-SC); Philip E. Ruppe (R-MI); Richard T. Schulze (R-PA); Carlton R. Sickles (D-MD); and the Executive Director of the Association, Linda A. Reed. Also on the trip were: Marcia Frey; Judy Brewster; Kirk Walsh, husband of Beverly B. Bryon; Mary and Elizabeth Ruppe, daughters of Philip E. Ruppe; Nancy Schulze; and H. Thomas Collins, husband of Linda A. Reed. The members of the delegation paid their own international transportation costs; all expenses in China were covered by the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Prior to the trip, members of the delegation received briefings from personnel in the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs at the Department of State and staff of the House International Relations Committee, and had the opportunity to review hundreds of pages of background material on China prepared by the State Department, the Congressional Research Service and the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.

In Beijing, the delegation was given a welcoming banquet by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress,

hosted by the Chairman, Mr. Zhu Liang. Meetings were held with Mr. Qiao Shi, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, in the Great Hall of the People, and with Mr. Qian Qichen, Vice Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. Others with whom discussions were held in Beijing included: Mr. Yang Zhenya, Member of the Standing Committee and Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Mr. Jiang Shunxue, Member of the Standing Committee and Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Ms. Zhao Jie, Deputy Office Director of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Mr. Lin Hu, Deputy to the National People's Congress and Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Professor Wang Fosong, Member of the Standing Committee and Vice Chairman of the Chemistry Division of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; Mr. Wang Fe Song, Mr. Zhang Ting, Mr. Lin Shangyuang and Mr. Lin Hu, Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Mr. Li Zhong Ying, Advisor to the Foreign Affairs Committee; Mr. Shi Zong Ben, Advisor to the Foreign Affairs Committee who also traveled with the delegation throughout China; Ms. an Xiaoru, Division Chief of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Hon. James R. Sasser, U.S. Ambassador to China; Mr. William C. McCahill, Jr., Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy; Mr. William Stanton, Political Counselor, U.S. Embassy; Mr. Robert Goldberg, First Secretary (Economics), U.S. Embassy; and Ms. Sylvia Reed Curran, Second Secretary (Political), U.S. Embassy.

In each of the provincial capitals visited, the delegation had a welcoming banquet and other meetings. In Xian, Mr. Zhang Boxing, Member of the Central Committee of the CPC, Deputy to the National People's Congress and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Congress, was host to the delegation along with Mr. Chen Fushen, Secretary-General of the Standing Committee of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Congress. In Shanghai, Mr. Sha Lin, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress, was host to the delegation along with Dr. Wang Dao Min, Member of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and Deputy Director of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee. In addition, the delegation toured the Jinqiao Export Processing Zone and visited the offices of Rosemount Shanghai Co., Ltd. In Guilin, Mr. Hong Puzhou, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Guilin Municipal People's Congress, hosted the delegation along with Mr. Zheo Ke, Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Guilin Municipal People's Congress.

It was obvious from the beginning that the Chinese had rolled out the red carpet for the delegation. There was very little sightseeing, with the emphasis being on talks with Chinese officials. There were no ground rules regarding the talks, and issues discussed included such varied topics as human rights, Taiwan, the problems with Pakistan, trade, Hong Kong and how to run a free enterprise system under a communist government.

Many of the members of the delegation had visited China before and one, Congressman Carlton Sickles, had been stationed there during World War II. All the delegation members were impressed with the enormity of the dramatic changes taking place. The task of increasing the standard of living of a population of over 1.2 billion people is such a large proposition that one would tend to think it impossible to achieve. However, the sights and sounds of a dynamic China, especially in the large cities and along the eastern coast, are convincing proof that this

task is being successfully fulfilled in part of the country and that the growth potential for the remaining areas is of staggering proportions. Unfortunately, the positive changes in the cities and coastal areas are in sharp contrast to the rural areas, which are lagging far behind.

This report includes overall general comments, followed by a more detailed description of the major meetings that took place. The following comments are not in any particular order.

1. The economy of China is still largely government controlled, although it is moving toward a free-enterprise system. One major problem is that over half of the government-owned industries are losing money. This problem is compounded further by the fact that these industries have borrowed substantial sums from Chinese banks, which adds to the negative effect on China's economy.

2. The Chinese people are clearly industrious and capable of assimilating knowledge in the new information age. People in the large cities are animated, well-dressed, cheerful, consumer-oriented and constantly in motion. Whether the middle class is 100 million or 300 million, it still represents an enormous and growing market.

3. The current Chinese leadership appears to have a near fixation about Taiwan and Hong Kong. They consider these territories to be integral parts of China; what happens to them is an internal Chinese matter. The Chinese government was embarrassed by the United States granting a visa to the President of Taiwan to return for his Dartmouth College reunion. The fixation on the return of Hong Kong is exemplified by a large clock in Tiananmen Square, which counts down the days, hours, minutes and seconds until Hong Kong is returned to China.

4. The Chinese do not understand how the American political system functions. They fail to understand the concept of a loyal opposition in a democratic system and are perplexed over statements issued by Members of Congress which seem counter to the position of the U.S. President and their understanding of U.S. foreign policy. The concept of checks and balances and a separate and independent legislative branch is something they neither understand (nor want to understand) nor probably are capable of comprehending in the immediate future.

5. The Chinese have been out-lobbied by some other nations. Apparently, they believe they do not need to have paid lobbyists in Washington to represent their views. When asked about setting up an active exchange program between Members of the U.S. Congress and the National People's Congress of China, interest was evident, as long as they are not solely responsible for the finances of the exchange.

6. The Chinese wish to be recognized as one of the world's great nations. However, at present, they do not feel compelled to play by the same rules. Everything something was mentioned about any subject that was controversial, be it human rights, Taiwan, Hong Kong or Tiananmen Square, their answer was that these are internal matters that are the sole province of the Chinese government. Unfortunately, as a country with a population of over 1.2 billion people, China is going to be scrutinized by other nations and are the world press and can't hide behind the rubric of calling these internal problems. The Chinese either choose not to or fail to recognize this reality.

7. There is some recent evidence of anti-American feeling exemplified by a book written by a young Chinese whose thesis is that the United States is trying to apply to China the policy that is similar to that which was applied to Russia during the Cold War, i.e.,

containment. The thinking of some Chinese is that some nations would like to see the present People's Republic of China split into various subdivisions, thus reducing its national power.

8. China still lacks a free press as Americans know it. The government is able to focus attention in areas that it feels are important and to present a one-sided view of issues. Just after the delegation left China, the government unveiled a major public ethics campaign that seeks to impose sterner controls over the media and culture. The Central Committee issued a statement that said, "Some government departments and leaders had neglected ethics and ideology while being quite strong in promoting material progress." This emphasizes the dilemma of attempting to maintain an authoritarian government while simultaneously developing a free market economy and a more open political system.

9. Despite recent militant statements by the Chinese government regarding Taiwan, it appears that, in the long run, increasing economic cooperation between the two will ease the problem. The Chinese indicated that they were opening new air and maritime routes and postal service and are encouraging investment and commerce with Taiwan. At present, Taiwanese investments in China exceed those of any other nation. As commerce increases, followed by travel, tensions probably will be reduced.

10. The Chinese recognize that the world will be watching the transfer of power in Hong Kong. Most people in China and Hong Kong seem to believe that, during the first three or four years, the Chinese will allow "two systems of government within one country." Hong Kong, apparently, will be given more freedom and leeway than exists now on the mainland. It remains a question as to how much freedom will be allowed and how long it will last. If China continues to develop an expanding free-enterprise system, with the inevitable erosion of the central governmental controls, Hong Kong may be able to avoid total control from Beijing.

11. Great progress has been made in some areas of the infrastructure. For instance, some commercial aircraft are modern, mostly U.S., and many airports have been updated in the major cities. Highways in and around the major cities also have been improved greatly. There are major environmental and power problems, however. Infrastructure in rural areas needs to be improved greatly or rebuilt completely.

12. It appears, at least on the surface, that the question of succession has been amicably settled. The age and physical condition of Deng are such that, as a practical matter, he rules in spirit only. The public statement of the Chinese leaders is that the succession has taken place and that the policies, especially economic policies, will not change significantly. While it is recognized that China can do a 180 degree turn on a moment's notice, e.g., the Cultural Revolution, the development of a free-enterprise system and relative economic prosperity among many Chinese have made such an impact that it would be extremely difficult. It would necessitate the use of military force to return China, i.e., to turn back the clock, to a communist economy.

13. The Chinese still are a long way from a rule of law and also have major human rights problems. In this regard, they are not unlike many other nations in the world. The United States must decide whether it would be more effective to use the carrot or the stick in its approach to China. It appears obvious that the better the economy, the more foreign investment and trade, the further the free-enterprise system develops, the better the chances are for a rule of law and improvements in human rights. There probably

is a middle ground where the United States can point out firmly, strongly and, hopefully, politely that problems exist without diluting those principles that underlie our democratic tradition while working with China in a positive manner to bring about economic progress.

14. The Chinese must understand that when the United States acts, it is acting in its own self-interest, but it is in the United States' best interest to work cooperatively with an economically strong and politically sound China. It would appear that a strong China can bring stability to Asia, help the world with problem nations, e.g., North Korea, contribute to the solution of world ecological problems and present American businesses with new opportunities.

15. It is the delegation's opinion that there should be increased bilateral meetings and governmental exchange programs. A lack of understanding regarding key issues now exists on both the part of the Chinese and the Americans. The United States has a great opportunity in China. There is no deep feeling of hostility. The Chinese seek respect as a major player in world affairs. They are moving, albeit slowly, in the right direction. It is in our interest to help them continue this forward trend.

16. It would appear that the Chinese are looking for a statement from the United States as to where the relationship is going. In the past few years, both nations have reacted and, in some cases, over-reacted to problems such as Taiwan, Pakistan and trade issues, including transshipping and violations of copyright laws. Tension between the United States and China has been increased by the debate over the most favored nation status. Statements from various Members of Congress, many of which are aimed more at appeasing their own political constituents rather than for foreign consumption, are upsetting to the Chinese. After the U.S. Presidential election, more U.S. attention should be directed to China, working perhaps toward a summit sometime in late 1997 or early 1998.

A TRIBUTE TO JIM CONNELLY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding public service of my dear friend, Jim Connelly. Jim is retiring after a highly distinguished public relations career and will be recognized for his many years of service an event in his honor on June 27.

Jim was born in Youngstown, OH on April 2, 1992 as the fourth child of Cora and Martin Connelly. He served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945 with the Military Railway Service and the Armed Forces Radio Service in China, Burma, and India. Upon leaving the service in 1945, he served as public relations director for Edward J. DeBartolo, the shopping center king. He later served as public relations director for the Kenley Theater Summer Stock Co. where he was charged with securing publicity for celebrities including Mickey Rooney, Alan Jones, Burt Wheeler, and others.

Jim moved to California in 1959 and embarked upon a newspaper career. He worked for a number of area papers including the *Rialto Record*, *Bloomington News*, and the *San Bernardino Independent Press*. At this time,

he also handled public relations for Bob Hope including many of the Bob Hope Desert Classic Golf Tournaments and the many USO shows overseas conducted to entertain our American troops. In a recent note, Bob Hope said he was unable to attend Jim's retirement party because he was running in a 100-mile marathon.

To say the least, Jim has had a most remarkable life and career. He worked on behalf of the Presidential campaigns of both John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy. He served as the director of public relations for the State of California Veterans of Foreign Wars. He also directed public relations for the grand opening of the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans Hospital in Loma Linda. Over the years, he has served many, many worthy organizations with his time, energy, and talent.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Connelly provides an example of community outreach and leadership that is deeply respected and admired by his professional colleagues and our community at large. I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Jim's many admirers in thanking him for his remarkable public service over the years and in wishing him and Rose the very best in the years ahead.

STATEMENT BY MARYANN
SCHRUPP REGARDING CHILD
LABOR

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by a high school student from Vermont, who was speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

Ms. SCHRUPP. It is estimated that between 100 million and 200 million children of the world under the age of 15 work. The concern is for children exposed to hazardous working conditions, for those who are exploited and endangered mentally and physically. These children make barely or under subsistence level wages and work without any proper benefits or hope of receiving an education. This education can lift them out of their present state of living and this is the education that is not available to them.

This is not a new phenomena, one that has recently become a priority for global consideration and global course of action. Unicef's 1997 report on the state of the world's children has focused specifically on the problem of hazardous child labor. Western media has started informing Americans of the conditions of soccer ball workers, soccer ball assemblers in Asia, rug makers in Pakistan, glass makers in India and textile workers in Asia and Central America. These workers are children hired for their low cost and expendable nature, their small fingers, and their inability to organize or question.

The fact that some of these children are working for American-based transnational companies has put the pressure on these companies to discontinue condoning the practice of child labor. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's report on the apparel industry and codes of conduct, corporate codes of conduct under business guidelines prohibiting the use of child labor are becoming more common as consumers as well as religious, labor and human rights groups are

increasingly calling upon companies to take responsibility for the conditions under which the goods they sell are being manufactured.

Codes of conduct for American industries such as sports equipment and textile manufacturers are essential to stopping the importation of goods made by child labor either correctly or indirectly. Huge and popular names like Disney, Gap, Nike, Getz, Arizona, Eddie Bauer, and Gitano have been directly linked to overseas and in some cases national sweatshops where they can take advantage of the cheap and hard working supplies of local labor.

The most obvious examples of overseas sweatshops owned by American-based companies are the Maquiladoras of Central America where textiles are manufactured. 15-year-old girls who work in the Maquilas of Honduras tell how they're forced to take birth control pills on a daily basis and are required to pay for an expensive abortion injection if they do become pregnant. These girls are not allowed to leave each day until they fill a production quota. If a rush order for clothes came in, observers would note these girls entering the Maquilas at 7:00 a.m. and not returning until sometimes as many as 23 hours later. That's a 23-hour workday.

In China, Indonesia, and Pakistan, sporting equipment used in the United States is manufactured by child laborers. Jonathan Silvers wrote the following report in the *Atlantic Monthly* on soccer ball factories in Pakistan. No amount of preparation could have lessened the shock and revulsion I felt on entering the sporting goods factory in the town of Sialkot where scores of children, most of them aged five to ten, produce soccer balls by hand for about a dollar and 20 cents a day. The children work 80 hours a week in near total darkness and total silence. A partial list of infractions for which they may be punished is tacked to a wall near the entrance. It's a document of dubious utility. The children are illiterate. Punishments are doled out in a storage closet at the rear of the factory. There children are hung upside down by their knees, starved, caned or lashed. The punishment room is a standard feature of a Pakistani factory, as common as a lunchroom at a Detroit assembly plant.

Eighty percent of the soccer balls sold in the United States are imported from Pakistan. These are the same soccer balls that were used in the 1996 summer Olympic games and all professional sporting events. The Fowl Ball Campaign, a campaign launched by a coalition of non-governmental organizations, cannot prove that any soccer balls manufactured in Pakistan are not made by children.

Still, these reports show only a fraction of the picture. Most cases of child labor do not involve western companies but occur in domestic households unseen and unregulated. The more sinister forms of child labor such as child prostitution and the virtual slavery of bonded labor are often far removed from western markets and influence. They remain a national issue for these developing companies, many of which protest sovereign rights to run their nation's factories as they see fit. Most of the time, however, the children are employed at ages ruled illegal even by their country's governments.

For this reason, the United States needs to take responsibility for more than direct involvement with child labor. Countries, companies, and non-governmental organizations around the world are working together to not only eliminate child labor but to create conditions in developing countries which will prevent the exploitation of children.

The Convention on the Rights of a Child was signed into international law by the United Nations in 1990. It is the most widely ratified treaty in history signed by all but