

House, the oldest building in America occupied by agencies of the Federal government, to commemorate National Historic Preservation Week.

I was honored to have been asked to participate in that ceremony. I took the opportunity to speak about the man whose name graces the historic structure, our friend, Bob McEwen. Characteristic of Bob, he called both my wife and my mother the next day to tell him how pleased he was with the event, and being the consummate gentleman that he was, added some gracious comments that any wife or mother would want to hear about her husband or son.

He called me, as well, to thank me. I remember his words: "Mr. Brick," he said, "it is not every man who gets to hear his own eulogy, thank you for letting me hear mine. I hope I won't give you reason to change your opinion of me when the time comes."

I responded by telling him he couldn't change anyone's feelings for him!

I didn't consciously prepare those remarks of 37 days ago as a eulogy. I prepared them because I wanted Bob McEwen to hear what I, and all of his friends, thought of him. But, I guess Bob knew I would repeat some of those thoughts when the time came.

One of the displays in the Customs House notes "historic buildings serve as symbols of the patriotism and pride Americans feel for their country."

I asked then and I ask again today that we acknowledge that historic building as a permanent monument to one of Ogdensburg's most prominent native sons, a gentleman who spent more than a quarter of a century serving in legislative bodies—11 years in the State Senate and 16 in the United States Congress.

May that building which Congress determined in 1980 should bear his name always serve as a memorial to his public service. May it stand strong and with dignity and class as he did for so many years.

He served more than three-fourths of his adult life in the service of New York and the nation. Bob was an American patriot and a North Country treasure whose senior statesman status was deserved because it was earned through 16 successive victories in special, primary and general elections. There might have been 17 or 18 or more, but Bob McEwen knew when it was time to come home to stay. Today, as Bob has made his final journey, we join together to celebrate his life, his contributions and his lessons.

Bob McEwen stood as a symbol of what makes our democracy survive. He was selected by his neighbors to be their voice in government, and he met their mandate with distinction. Success came easily to him because, as several newspapers have reported in the past few days, he never forgot where he came from and who he represented. He knew his district, whether it was one county or ten. His elections took him to Albany and Washington, but he never forgot his roots.

Bob knew that when the time came for him to answer his final roll call, as a veteran and former Member of the House of Representatives, he could be interred beside some of our nation's greatest national heroes, statesmen, Supreme Court Justices and other veterans from every American war in Arlington National Cemetery. He knew that he was entitled to an interment with pomp and circumstance.

But Bob was a man of our North Country. He wanted it simple. He wanted it here.

And we honor his wishes today.

Had he let us, we could have filled Ogdensburg's largest house of worship to the rafters, and then some.

He wanted it private and brief.

And we respect his wishes today. We do so just as Bob respected the people of the North

Country—the men and women who, he liked to joke, had the opportunity to renew his employment contract every two years.

Bob McEwen reflected the best of our public servants.

His honesty, his personal integrity and high morals and love for his family, combined with his respect for others—even those who may not have shared his beliefs or character—reflect what our Founding Fathers had in mind when they created the experiment which we call the American democracy.

I ask you to join me in thinking of the Customs House on the shore of Bob's beloved St. Lawrence as a monument to his countless contributions to the North Country. There is not a community or institution in the vast landscape between Lake Ontario and Lake Champlain which has not felt the influence of Bob McEwen.

It was Bob McEwen who singlehandedly laid the groundwork for the creation of the new Fort Drum which occurred after he retired from Congress. He built the foundation upon which Dave Martin and the Army created the only military installation in the United States built from scratch since World War II.

In an April, 1985, letter to his successor he called the new Fort Drum "the project that had been my greatest hope for our North Country." At this very hour, as we pay tribute to Bob, John McHugh and his colleagues in Congress are continuing that effort by debating the 1998 defense bill which contains nearly \$25 million for additional Fort Drum development.

Bob McEwen served in the Congress during a remarkable and exciting time in American history. He went to Congress in 1965 when Lyndon Johnson was transforming John Kennedy's New Frontier into his own Great Society, creating hundreds of new social programs and expanding the role of the federal government to address every social ill. Like his neighbors back home, he supported some and opposed others. He feared that some of them could contribute to uncontrollable deficits for future generations. Time has proven him to be a man of foresight.

He witnessed the expansion of our involvement in Vietnam and stood behind our servicemen even when the tide was turning against their involvement in an endless war on the other side of the globe.

He grieved when his President lost the faith of the American people. He thought there was no greater offense than abusing the trust of the people.

Bob McEwen never served in the majority party in the Congress, but there was never any doubt that he served the interests of the majority of his constituency—which he saw as his extended family.

To his immediate family, I say we all share in your loss. You have lost a husband, father and grandfather. We have lost a friend.

To Peg, we are grateful that you came into Bob's life when you did and for being a devoted wife and partner. Illness presented many challenges to Bob in recent years—challenges which would have devastated a weaker man. Peg, you were there to provide the emotional support which allowed Bob to fight his illnesses with the same vigor that he demonstrated in every campaign. You were challenged, as well, by illness and demonstrated that there was always reason to hope for better days.

To Nancy and Mary: Bob so enjoyed your success as career women and the successes of your husbands. Having lost your wonderful mother, a warm and grand lady, you already know that the loss of a parent creates a void which can only be filled by memories.

Your father frequently talked about his father, a man from whom he drew great inspi-

ration and learned many lessons. Your father was a student of his family's heritage. I recall walking through the McEwen cemetery in the Town of Lawrence with him one summer evening and listening to him describe the life and times of each of your ancestors buried there. (To really know Bob McEwen, you had to know how to listen!)

Your father understood that the McEwen family tree has very deep roots, its branches are ever expanding, its leaves sometimes colorful, as was he, and takes its strength from the rich earth beneath it.

As you mourn the loss of your father, you will draw upon the strength of that heritage and you will find peace. You are, after all, Bob McEwen's daughters. I can think of no greater tribute to both of you.

To all the McEwen grandchildren, I say you are blessed. I hope in the years to come, as you become young adults and mothers and fathers, you will study your grandfather's career, learn from it, and if you are so inclined, emulate it in any way you can while maintaining your individuality. Whatever you do will make him proud.

Lastly, to my mentor and our friend Bob:

Speaking for all of those who were privileged to work for and with you in Albany and Washington, I thank you for allowing us the privilege of being a part of your team. We are better people for having had that honor. We're not here to say goodbye, as solemn as this moment is for all of us. We are here to remember you, to celebrate your life and to find joy in having walked the road of life with you. Our memories of you shall live forever.

We will pay tribute to you by cherishing your ideals and your principles.

May God grant that your memory ever inspire us.

And may peace and bliss be granted to you until we meet again.

A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE ORDER OF THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

HON. LINDA SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, under the leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include the following:

A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE ORDER OF THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

(By the Honorable Linda A. Smith)

Whereas membership in the Grange is synonymous with good citizenship and fraternal respect for others.

Whereas for almost 130 years the Grange has remained one of the best examples of a grass-roots, bottom-up organization, whose strength lies in the more than 3,000 local Granges in over 30 states which offer a wide range of community-oriented programs and activities for children, youth and adults, and hold regular meetings where local and national issues are often discussed. For over a century Grange halls have been community centers where residents gather for educational events, dances, potlucks, town meetings, political rallies and other meetings and have allowed Junior Grange, 4-H, FFA, scouting and Camp Fire groups to thrive; and each year tens of thousands of Grange members participate in numerous community service projects.

Whereas the Grange is one of the first major national organizations which allowed women to vote and sought the membership

and involvement of everyone in the family, and Grange members have an equal voice and an equal vote at meetings regardless of their age, sex or position within the organization.

Whereas the Grange's activities with regard to legislative action sets it apart from all other fraternities, service and family organizations, and since its earliest years, the Grange has included legislative involvement—from a strictly non-partisan position—as one of its distinctive characteristics such that all policies which the Grange fights for on the local, state and national levels are decided upon by the grass-roots membership.

Whereas the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, the National Grange, was founded in 1867, through the vision of Oliver Hudson Kelley, who recognized that farmers, because of their independent and scattered nature, needed representation and a voice at all levels of government as well as a means of coordinating social interaction, which is especially important to rural residents.

Whereas the Grange has been responsible for promoting cooperatives which had the potential of helping farmers economically; undertaken efforts to ensure that the voice of the farming community is heard by lawmakers at the local, state and national level which led to the Extension Service, Rural Free Delivery, and the Farm Credit System, among other nationally significant benefits; and has served rural America in many other ways such as championing the education of rural residents, which led to dramatic improvements in rural schools.

Be it therefore resolved the Grange should receive special recognition and thanks for its many activities, programs and functions benefitting its members, rural America and the nation as a whole;

Be it further resolved that on this day, June 23, 1997, this resolution will be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as part of the public record recognizing the civic achievements of the Grange and its membership and extending the gratitude and thanks of the nation.

VALUABLE INSIGHT ON THE MFN ISSUE

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit the following into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The first is an excellent response from the Reverend Daniel Su on extending most-favored-nation trade status to China. Rev. Daniel Su, a Chinese Christian, has lived in China and has valuable insight on the MFN issue. As Reverend Su states in his letter, "To sacrifice ourselves for the sake of principles is heroic, but to sacrifice other people for our principles is insensitive." With this letter, Reverend Su is responding to an open letter on China's persecution of Christians written by Gary Bauer, president of Family Research Council. I am submitting a letter from Mr. Bauer also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A RESPONSE TO THE "OPEN LETTER" BY G. BAUER AND OTHERS

(By Daniel B. Su)

I. AN OVERALL RESPONSE:

This Open Letter as well as other anti-MFN efforts are valuable in that they remind us of the important principles such as freedom and human dignity. They enhance the public awareness of China's human rights situation thus creating more pressure on Beijing and making the message of the MFN debate even stronger. It also gives the US government greater bargaining power with Beijing. NGOs should continue to speak out; the louder, the better.

However the Letter miscalculates the overall impact if the MFN should be revoked. Revocation would create more problems than what it may solve. It defies all logics that Beijing government would turn around and improve its human rights situation if it were humiliated with its loss of MFN.

The Letter scores high in preaching moral principals, but we need to make one important distinction: To sacrifice ourselves for the sake of principles is heroic, but to sacrifice other people for our principles is insensitive—to say the least.

We all deplore the gross human rights violation in China. But the Letter does not want to address the most important question in this serious debate: Will revoking China's MFN improve or worsen its human rights situation and religious freedom? By avoiding this serious question and relying more on emotional appeal, the Letter becomes less serious and relevant.

While the views of those who signed the Letter should be respected, we also notice that many other well respected Christian leaders' names are not on it. And that in itself is a reflection of the healthy diversity among Christian leaders' opinions over the MFN issue.

II. SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO THE LETTERS' ARGUMENTS (PAGE AND PARAGRAPH NUMBERS IN BRACKETS):

[p. 1, par.2]: We may agree that many Christian leaders may not think it appropriate to voice their pro-MFN views in public, but let's not underestimate the integrity of those who do speak out. Missions leaders understand China better; that is why they tend to favor renewing China's MFN.

[p. 1, par.3]: We agree that the US should and could have engaged China in a more effective way to improve its human rights; relying on trade and other current policies is not enough. On the other hand, our ideals need to be tempered with a sense of realism. The US leverage is limited; contrary to our wishes, the US government is not able to solve all the problems of the world. After all, we live in a fallen world where all countries have fallen short of the higher standards.

[p. 1, par.4]: We should continue to be the voice for the voiceless in China despite Beijing's threats, for the persecuted find strength and consolation in knowing that we care and are speaking up for them. However, on the abortion issue, unless the US government first outlaws abortion on its own land, it has no moral authority to teach other nations how to do abortion. (The NGOs are better qualified to do the job.) The US and China differ only in how abortion is achieved, but in both cases does it not end up depriving the baby's inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? Let's pray for the day when the US regains its moral ground to address such issues.

[p. 1, par.5]: A serious warning should be given to those who try to exploit the plight

of Chinese Christians and make them look like the archenemy of the Beijing government. What's at stake here is the cause of Christ and

[p. 1, par.5]: A serious warning should be given to those who try to exploit the plight of Chinese Christians and make them look like the archenemy of the Beijing government. What's at stake here is the cause of Christ and the lives of many Chinese Christians! China's Christians are simple religious people who do not have a political agenda, and they despise those who try to put a political label on them. There is indeed a serious danger that the arguments made by the Letter may be sized upon by those China bashers and new hawks whose only interest is to make an enemy out of China—now that the Soviet enemy is no more—and to demand sacrifices from American people.

[p.2, par.1] With the fall of communism, it may well be the panic reaction of some elite intellectuals to suggest "strangling the baby [the church] while it is still in the manger," yet we still need to be truthful enough to acknowledge that the current Beijing government policy is only to control and contain the growing church, thus allowing for some limited freedom.

[p.2, par.2] NGOs should be commended for speaking up for the Chinese persecuted.

[p.2, par.3] Of course, things can be much worse in China—anyone who understands China knows that. Christian gatherings of worship could have been forced to close totally; those political dissidents in jail today could have been executed; dissidents could have been sentenced to 15 years instead of 5; families of the prisoners could have faced much more harassment and discrimination.

[p.2, par.4] While we protest against the inhumane treatment of Pastor Wong, we can agree that this is an exceptional case rather than the rule. We all know that technology cuts both ways. While the Chinese police become better equipped, Chinese Christians and political dissidents also benefit from having access to computers, copying and fax machines, Internet, and so on, making it difficult for police to control people.

[p.2, par.5] It sent a wrong message to Beijing and Chinese people when President Clinton declared to delink human rights concerns from the MFN. However, revoking China's MFN can only backfire.

[p.3, par.1] Let's quit making the US the model to all nations and instead take an honest look at reality. The US is part of the fallen world where we see rampant abortions, racial tension and violent crimes, partisan spirit and demagoguery in politics, divisions and scandals within the church, consumerism and hedonism in society, and alarming moral decay in culture. Christian leaders should know better than to display the US as a model. Let's make a distinction between the United States and Christian faith. The early America did share biblical aspirations for justice, equality, and human dignity, but such aspirations are Christian, not American. Though America's sins, past and present, in no way justify Beijing's abuse of power, they do help keep us humble, don't they?

III. CONCLUSION

China today is in a critical stage. It can either evolve into a more open and democratic nation or an enemy to the US. If the Soviet Union could evolve into a democracy, why can't China? Let's not be like the pessimists who say things won't change; instead, let's work to turn possibilities into realities. What's crucially needed today is for American leaders to unite in formulating a con-