

CHANGE IN CHINA WILL COME
THROUGH ENGAGEMENT**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this body has once again completed its annual debate over retention of MFN, or normal trade status, to China. While the actual fate of MFN was never truly in doubt, during the week or two before the debate, that debate was marked by a wide array of accusations and charges. In the aftermath of this debate, it is understandable that there is some confusion as to the precise nature of our vital interests in China, and how best to pursue those interests.

This Member believes that linkage of trade to human rights does not advance United States vital interests, nor does it promote democracy in China. As an excellent editorial in the Lincoln Journal Star recently noted, "there is a fine line between making our views known to China and trying to, or even thinking we can, impose our will. * * * While we should continue to speak up for the rights of other peoples, including those in Hong Kong, we will have more influence if we simply maintain an open relationship with China in which there is a free flow of people and goods."

Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the July 2, 1997 editorial entitled "Best way to influence China through open relations, trade" in the Lincoln Journal Star and asks that it be submitted as part of the RECORD.

[From the Lincoln Journal Star, July 2, 1997]

BEST WAY TO INFLUENCE CHINA THROUGH
OPEN RELATIONS, TRADE

The spectacle that unfolded in Hong Kong this week has provided a good opportunity for Americans to focus attention on China. The more we know about the world's most populous nation, the better we will understand it.

And that's imperative as China develops into a world-class economic power.

In the sweep of history, the return of Hong Kong from British to Chinese rule is a welcome event. Hong Kong belongs to China. It is Chinese. The passing of the racist-tinged relic of Western colonialism should be a cause for celebration, not mourning.

The legitimate concerns surrounding this week's historic transfer of power center on protection of Hong Kong's economic and political freedoms. While the former seem relatively secure, the latter may turn out to be not quite as broad as they once were, certainly not as unfettered as we would want them to be. We will have to wait and see.

While we can, and ought to, monitor events as they progress in Hong Kong, we should recognize that the economic forces already unleashed in China are likely to carry it along the path to broader personal freedom. And we need to understand that, try as we might, we cannot dictate the pace of change.

It is fair to expect China to abide by the agreement it negotiated with the British in which it promised to abide by a "one country, two systems" formula that guaranteed a level of autonomy for Hong Kong that would protect its market economy and democratic freedoms. China should be held accountable for keeping its word.

But there is a fine line between making our views known to China and trying to, or even thinking we can, impose our will. We

need to be sensitive to such issues as sovereignty and national pride in making our case, and to China's long-held suspicion that we are embarked on a new form of colonial dominance called American hegemony.

It would be useful if we sometimes tried to step back and see ourselves from other people's eyes. China's leaders may ask how we would like it if they questioned our civil rights record, or the plight of our poor in the midst of vast wealth, in the court of world opinion.

While we should continue to speak up for the rights of other peoples, including those in Hong Kong, we will have more influence if we simply maintain an open relationship with China in which there is a free flow of people and goods.

In the long run, congressional approval of President Clinton's renewal of normal trading relationships with China will do more to positively influence the lives of Chinese citizens than any of our lectures.

It is difficult to keep societies open and progressive at the same time.

And economic freedom begets broader personal and political freedoms.

LET'S NOT REOPEN THE
IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL**HON. RON PACKARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged by the recent actions taken by Attorney General Janet Reno. Friday morning, I read that she unilaterally decided to suspend deportation proceedings for hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants. This decision to disregard the ruling by the Board of Immigration Appeals and attempt to overturn current law through administrative action is simply unacceptable.

Last year, we took strong and decisive action to curtail illegal immigration. Our immigration reform measure specifically raised the bar for those facing deportation because previous law enabled millions of illegal immigrants to remain in the United States permanently. It was an action taken to ensure that only those illegal immigrants who truly face an exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to an immediate relative remain in this country.

Now that we have shut the door on illegal immigration, the Clinton administration wants to reopen it. We have seen through the great failure of the Citizenship USA Program that this administration will do whatever it takes to allow illegal immigrants to remain in the United States. This most recent action is just another attempt at granting asylum for illegal immigrants. Illegal immigration is a growing problem and every illegal immigrant should be treated the same under current law.

Mr. Speaker, I have begun circling a letter to send to Attorney General Reno opposing her actions to suspend the deportation proceedings for illegal immigrants. The law is quite clear on this issue and everyone should be held to the standard that Congress set in last year's immigration reform bill. Illegal immigration is an enormous problem that affects every state in the nation. I encourage all of my colleagues to sign on to this important letter.

TRIBUTE TO BORINQUEN PLAZA
SENIOR CENTER**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Borinque Plaza Senior Center as it celebrates 20 years of existence. The organization is located in New York City in the community of Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Throughout the years, the Center has been a vital resource and has provided a safe haven for one of our communities most precious assets—our senior citizens.

The Borinque Plaza Senior Center officially opened in 1977. However, before it was an established organization, it was first an idea born out of the hearts and minds of men and women of various cultures and nationalities. Through their tireless efforts and willingness to dream big, thus was born an organization whose ultimate mission is to care for the elders of our communities. Elders are the wise individuals who we also know as our parents and grandparents.

On any given day over 300 seniors pass through the doors of the Borinque Plaza Senior Center, receiving services ranging from breakfast and lunch to assistance in obtaining entitlement benefits. An additional 200 home-bound seniors receive meals delivered directly to their doorsteps as part of the Center's Meals-on-Wheels Program. Furthermore, the Center is one of the few programs that opens its doors on Thanksgiving and Christmas day to provide meals to seniors.

As we move forward into the next century, I am confident that the Borinque Plaza Senior Center will continue its outstanding work. The Center is a shining example of community service at its best and it will always have a friend and advocate in NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ.

In light of the above, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in congratulating the Borinque Plaza Senior Center on its 20th year anniversary.

SUPPORT THE LIBERTAD
ENFORCEMENT ACT**HON. BILL McCOLLUM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today the President served notice that he will waive key provisions of the LIBERTAD Act, otherwise known as Helms-Burton. This legislation had three significant provisions. First, it codified all existing Cuban embargo Executive orders and regulations. It denies admission to the United States to aliens involved in the confiscation of United States property or the trafficking of confiscated property in Cuba. Finally, title III of the act allows United States nationals to sue for money damages in U.S. Federal court those persons that traffic in United States property confiscated in Cuba when Castro took over. Essentially, Congress intended to let U.S. corporations and individuals who own property confiscated by Fidel Castro to recover the unjust enrichment from corporations of other countries who have been managing

and making a profit on these properties. The President was given the authority to waive this last provision in exceptional circumstances if it would expedite the transition to democracy in Cuba and if it were in the national interest of the United States.

Unfortunately, the President has somehow come to the ridiculous conclusion that waiving the provision allowing suits to be filed has expedited the transition to democracy. As far as I can tell, there are absolutely no signs of democracy in Cuba. There is, in fact, no transition to expedite. Furthermore, U.S. nationals continue to suffer the loss of their property, now being used for profit by Castro and businesses of our trading allies. Apparently the President believes this is in our national interest—helping our European allies, Canada and Mexico profit at the expense of United States nationals. This is outrageous.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of this continued charade by the President, I am introducing legislation that will allow Helms-Burton to go into full effect despite the President's continued caving to pressure from our allies. Our colleagues, Mr. BURTON, Mr. GOSS, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. ROS-LEHTINEN Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. COX, and Mr. BALLENGER, are also joining in this effort. The bill is the LIBERTAD Enforcement Act, which would repeal the waiver authority granted to the President in the original Helms-Burton legislation. It is clear that the President has abused his authority, waiving critical provisions of Helms-Burton without making even a remotely convincing case that it is expediting democracy in Cuba or that it is in our national interest. Therefore, the authority should be repealed.

Let me explain why the repeal of the waiver authority is so important. Cuba has been under a dictatorship for about 38 years now. Castro's dictatorship makes a mockery of human rights and it is an absolute disgrace that we allow this to happen 90 miles from my home State of Florida. We need to end this situation, and we should have done so long ago. The biggest problem facing us is no mystery at all. It is our allies in Europe, Canada, and Mexico who sustain Castro's regime through continued economic activity. These accomplices have continued to argue that their involvement was used as leverage against Castro and his tyrannical regime to improve human rights and promote democracy in Cuba. To date, these efforts have had zero success. In fact, the economic relationships of their businesses have not only profited these foreign corporations at the expense of American owners of Cuba property, but also hurt efforts to end Castro's dictatorship. The continued flow of hard currency into the island has helped Castro maintain an otherwise difficult situation. The threat of Helms-Burton enforcement has at least forced some lip service from our allies about human rights and democracy in Cuba. Unfortunately, the President has received little more from them than that as he continues to bow to our allies' pressures to waive the right to file lawsuits against those who traffic in confiscated property.

It is these lawsuits that would curtail some, certainly not all, of the trade activity in Cuba. The cost and potential penalties involved in these suits would make dealing in stolen goods less appealing. It is this hit in the purse that will force our allies to confront the reality of abuses in Cuba. If their bottom line is af-

fected, maybe then our allies would do the right thing in Cuba and end their trafficking in stolen property while working more effectively toward democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress that that is all we are talking about here. This is not whether people trade with Cuba. That is another topic for another day. This is only about dealing in stolen U.S. property—otherwise known as unjust enrichment. It is our obligation to ensure that property rights of U.S. citizens is protected. I realize that this is not a situation unique to Cuba. There are other countries around the world that share similar problems which also need to be addressed. We should work for a multilateral agreement recognizing unjust enrichment rights of owners of confiscated property. However, Cuba's natural relationship (geography, culture, etc.) to the United States is unique. Therefore, we must take unparalleled steps against this practice now. That is what Helms-Burton was all about.

Helms-Burton was designed to make tough action a reality. For whatever reason, the President has continued to kowtow to European pressure and eviscerate the legislation by waiving title III for patently phony reasons. This outrageous practice must stop. I urge my colleagues to support the LIBERTAD Enforcement Act.

A RECOGNITION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KARTAR SINGH DHALIWAL PROFESSORSHIP OF PUNJAB/INDIAN STUDIES

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the establishment of the Kartar Singh Dhaliwal Professorship of Punjab/Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. This professorship, provided through a generous gift from Darshan Singh Dhaliwal to honor his father, will promote the study of the civilization of Punjab and India.

The professorship will focus on the study of the culture, religion, history, and civilization of this fascinating region. This professorship will allow American students to learn about an area that has existed since the beginning of civilization and whose constant development makes it one of the most exciting and innovative parts of the world. The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will appoint a professor whose teaching will include Indian languages and courses in Sikh and Indian civilization. In addition, there will be collaborative research projects undertaken with universities in Punjab, an exchange of faculty and students with these universities and a biannual conference on Sikhs, Punjab, and its culture.

As the world we live in becomes more multicultural and our communities become truly international, the gift of this professorship will ensure that this generation and future generations will learn about and appreciate the rich history and culture of Punjab and India. Milwaukee, and indeed, all communities can only benefit from this endeavor. Therefore, I commend and congratulate Darshan Singh

Dhaliwal and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on the establishment of the Kartar Singh Dhaliwal Professorship.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, H.R. 2107, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:**SHD***STERLING FOR-EST

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Chairman, this is a proud day for the people of New Jersey and New York, and I want to thank Chairman REGULA for his diligence in seeing that the purchase of Sterling Forest becomes a reality. The \$8.5 million included in this legislation will ensure that northern New Jersey's drinking water will remain clean and safe.

For years, I have worked with Chairman REGULA to secure the appropriate funding levels for Sterling Forest. Last year the chairman was instrumental in seeing that language was included in the Interior appropriations bill which ranked Sterling Forest as one of the nation's top two priorities for land acquisition and he recommended that Sterling Forest receive \$9 million as downpayment on the Federal Government's \$17.5 million share of the purchase price.

Without this final \$8.5 million Federal installment of funds, the entire \$55 million project would be at risk. With the passage of this bill today, we are one step closer to celebrating the completion of this landmark project.

WALLKILL RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

I am also most grateful that the chairman included \$1.3 million for the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge. Wallkill is one of the most fertile valleys and natural wildlife areas in New Jersey. The environmental education opportunities provided at the Wallkill Refuge as well as the important resources protected there are certainly a worthwhile investment that will have lasting impacts for generations to come.

However, while I am grateful for the \$1.3 included in this bill, I had requested \$3 million for the project this year. That \$3 million is needed this year to complete the acquisition of critical wildlife habitat lands along the river. I want to stress that these lands are currently available and ready for purchase from willing sellers. For this reason, I will continue to push for additional money to complete the acquisition.

Earlier this year, I joined several other members in sending a letter to Appropriations Committee Chairman LIVINGSTON urging him to increase the Interior Subcommittee's spending allocation for fiscal year 1998. After several years of continuous reductions for the subcommittee charged with ensuring adequate protection of our natural resources, I was pleased that our effort was successful and that the subcommittee was given an additional \$500 million. In addition, I was pleased that