

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WHAT AMERICANS THINK ABOUT FAST TRACK AND NAFTA EXPANSION

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it may surprise some of my colleagues that the majority of Americans believe labor and environmental issues should be negotiated as part of trade agreements. In fact, this isn't a majority of 51 percent, 55 percent, or even 60 percent. It is a vast majority of 73 percent. Seventy-three percent of Americans believe that protecting the environment and protecting labor rights should be integral part of trade agreements.

I completely agree.

Apparently, the administration does not. Unfortunately, the administration's fast-track proposal does not reflect the feelings of the vast majority of Americans. The administration's proposal falls far short. To be truthful, it's even a step backward from fast-track proposals under Reagan and Bush. Under the administration's proposal, the President would be forbidden from including labor, environmental, and other standards of the same enforceable, core nature as now are provided for the protection of intellectual property or investors' rights. The proposal isn't a bridge to the 21st century—it's slide back to the 19th century. There truly seems to be a disconnect with the administration and the American people.

In my opinion, and that of the vast majority of Americans, fast-track legislation must include enforceable labor and environmental provisions. To do anything less would be shortchanging working families across our country. It would further compromise our environment, the safety of our foods, the wages of American workers, and our overall quality of life.

Where's the evidence? Well, we have 3 years' worth of evidence from NAFTA. It has been 3 years since this broken trade agreement went into effect, and the evidence is clear that NAFTA has failed for the American working man and woman. Our modest trade surplus with Mexico has ballooned into a huge deficit. We've lost hundred of thousands of jobs. Moreover, the evidence shows that the much ballyhooed labor and environmental side agreements in NAFTA are hugely ineffective. In the United States employers used NAFTA as a tool to fight unions and keep wages down. Companies effectively intimidate workers and stymie union organizing efforts by threatening to move jobs to Mexico. And the health of working families are threatened by increased industrial and toxic emissions and waste along the United States-Mexico border.

NAFTA failed because it failed to protect workers' rights and the environment. It deeply concerns me that NAFTA protects intellectual property rights and investors' rights while it turns a blind eye to workers and the environment. There are more protections for compact

discs and Wall Street financial investors than there are for the Smith family next door and our rivers and streams.

We've seen what happens with a trade agreement that does not include adequate labor and environmental protections, and it certainly isn't pretty. Let us learn from it.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to carefully evaluate these vitally important trade issues in the coming weeks. I strongly urge my colleagues to carefully evaluate the impact of NAFTA expansions and fast-track legislation on American workers and American families. Let's listen to the American people.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INDIANA STATE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Indiana State League of United Latin American Citizens [LULAC] as it hosts a reception in honor of LULAC national president, Belen Robles, tonight, September 26, 1997, at the Empress Casino in Hammond, IN. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Indiana LULAC State officers, Maria Pizana, Vicki Lipiniskis, Terry Serna, Andrew Martinez, Amelia Velez, and Louise Martinez, for the leadership they have displayed in organizing this special event. This marks the first time the Indiana State LULAC has honored a National LULAC President.

Founded in 1929 in Corpus Christi, TX, LULAC was established to protect the constitutional rights and freedoms of Hispanic-Americans. Over the years, LULAC has improved the social and economic status of Hispanics through its activism in the areas of equal justice, housing, employment, and education. By 1954, LULAC had earned recognition for winning two landmark civil rights cases, which served to integrate the Orange County, CA school system, and secure jury duty rights for Mexican-Americans in Texas. Since that time, LULAC has worked hard to achieve full access to the political process for all Hispanics, as well as equal educational opportunity for Hispanic children. LULAC councils across the Nation work toward this goal by holding voter registration drives and citizen awareness sessions, sponsoring health fairs and tutorial programs, and raising scholarship money for the LULAC national scholarship fund. In addition, LULAC's activism has expanded to include the areas of language and cultural rights. In response to a recent increase in anti-Hispanic sentiment, LULAC councils have fought back by holding seminars and public symposiums on language and immigration issues. The Nation's oldest and largest national Hispanic civil rights organization, LULAC continues to be a strong voice in the

struggle for equal opportunity for Hispanic-Americans.

The Indiana State LULAC has faithfully worked to fulfill the National LULAC mission through a strong commitment to community and education. The Indiana LULAC emphasizes the protection of civil and human rights for Hispanic citizens and immigrants, and it strives to achieve this goal by educating the Hispanic community. Extremely youth oriented, Indiana LULAC hosts annual career days and college fairs, provides numerous educational workshops and seminars for students, and offers several leadership training opportunities to students. In addition, Indiana LULAC continues to award scholarships to academic achievers throughout the State and, to date, has awarded over \$200,000 in college scholarships. In the future, the Indiana State LULAC aspires to open a LULAC National Education Center, which would provide counseling and tutorial services, scholarships, and low-interest loans to help Hispanic students attend college.

Belen Robles, the first female LULAC national president, has brought a new vision to LULAC. Belen, who works for the U.S. Customs Service, strives to structure LULAC more like a business in order to bring about a greater continuity within the organization. As a result, she has developed a 5-year strategic plan, which will establish a full-time national executive director for LULAC's Washington, DC office. In addition, LULAC is embarking on a membership campaign with the ambitious goal of increasing its current membership of 110,000 to 1 million members. As a law enforcement officer, Belen is knowledgeable about immigration issues, and she uses this knowledge to ensure that Hispanics will receive protection under current immigration law. In addition to her work with LULAC, Belen Robles is on the board of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, vice-chair of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, and she serves on the Federal Better Relations with Mexico Committee. In 1967, Belen Robles received a bronze Chamizal Medallion from President Lyndon Johnson in recognition of her efforts in the Cabinet-level hearings on Mexican-American affairs in El Paso, TX.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the national and State of Indiana LULAC organizations for their tremendous efforts in uniting Hispanic-Americans. All involved in the success of these organizations should be proud of their efforts in working toward equality for Hispanic-Americans.

HEROES KNOW HEROES

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on August 5, 1997, in Bogota, Colombia, our outstanding

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

DEA Administrator, Tom Constantine, a fellow New Yorker, attended a memorial service for the officers of the Colombian National Police [CNP], who have given their lives in the struggle against illicit drugs.

Our own courageous and outstanding DEA has also suffered losses in this dangerous battle, although not nearly as many as the thousands of men and women of CNP. These men and women in law enforcement, whether here or in Latin America, died for the sake of our kids, our future generations, our democratic institutions, and way of life.

Not long ago in Peru, five dedicated young DEA agents gave their lives in a plane crash in the mountains of Peru during pursuit of a drug trafficker. For those officers and those of the CNP the war on drugs was no cliché.

Administrator Constantine had important words last month to say to the men and women of CNP, who are led by outstanding men like Gen. Jose Serrano, and the chief of their elite antidrug unit, the DANTI, Col. Leonardo Gallego, both of whom visited with Members of the House here in the Capitol just last week.

A few excerpts from Mr. Constantine's remarks underscore the heroes we have in our own DEA, recognize other heroes when they see and work with them. Mr. Constantine said: "We gather today to praise an organization of heroes—the Colombian National Police—men and women whose courage and sacrifice have contributed so much to Colombia—and to the rest of the world. * * * You are a beacon of hope to the law enforcement agencies around the world faced with the danger and destruction caused by ruthless drug-trafficking syndicates."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the full text of our DEA Administrator's remarks at the CNP police memorial follow in the RECORD. The powerful statement will help my colleagues appreciate the human dimension in the struggle against illicit drugs, and especially the impact it has on the men and women we put on the front lines to wage this war. In many ways, only those who have carried a badge and gun can know the real meaning of loyalty and devotion that fellow police officers have to each other—whether here or abroad—in our war on drugs, which is real for them, each and every day.

NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the legacy and future of historically black colleges and universities [HBCU] during National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.

HBCU's were founded to eliminate the disparity of educational opportunities for minorities in the United States. In our struggle to offer the ideal of an equal education for all Americans, HBCU's have played a critical role to enrich and inspire postsecondary education

for African-Americans, low income, and educationally disadvantaged Americans. For many generations from slavery to segregation, HBCU's were the only institutions in which minorities could receive a postsecondary education. HBCU's offer a welcoming and nurturing environment for students while providing quality education and the skills needed for success. I am fortunate to have two HBCU's in my district—Wiley College and Jarvis Christian College.

Wiley College, located in my hometown of Marshall, TX, has been an educational, spiritual, cultural, and economic anchor for the community since 1873. The college encourages students to strive for academic excellence through its Honor Track Program. In addition, the college offers several adult and continuing education programs and community service programs to assist in the students' overall development.

Jarvis Christian College, another faith-oriented institution, has maintained its mission of educating African-Americans with head, heart, and hand together since 1912. This college has produced three of its presidents, and has several alliances with universities and businesses to encourage further education and job placement opportunities for its students. For instance, the college's biomedical science program, in partnership with Meharry Medical College, is designed to encourage and better prepare minority students to enter medicine, dentistry, and other health professions.

Continuing the legacy of their founders, HBCU's today offer minorities choice and diversity in educational opportunities; cultural, financial, and social support; and serve as the backbone for community revitalization and development. For many African-Americans and others, HBCU's have created and enhanced opportunities for leadership and citizenship through their mentor and support programs. Today, HBCU's award almost 30 percent of all bachelor degrees awarded to African-Americans in the United States.

HBCU's also reach out to high school students through the Upward Bound Program. Upward Bound, which is part of the outreach programs at both Wiley College and Jarvis Christian College, encourages African-American high school students to pursue a college degree. The Upward Bound Program offers high school students tutoring in various subjects, academic counseling, and career guidance. Specifically, this program serves many counties in east Texas, including but not limited to, Camp, Gregg, Harrison, Morris, Smith, Upsher, and Wood.

Through creative means, HBCU's also address the needs of the community by continually addressing historic preservation and the economic and housing needs of communities. Wiley College has taken the old segregated high school for African-Americans and has developed it into a community center that serves youth and seniors of all races. Next year, Wiley will continue this development by adding a wellness center for the community.

In recent years, there has been much debate concerning the relevance of HBCU's and Federal funding of these institutions. I believe the importance of HBCU's can be seen in their mentor programs for youth; the lawyers, doctors, teachers, architects, and civic leaders they have produced; the community service

and historic preservation programs that are parts of their agenda; and economic and housing development that are so important to growth and fairness in our society. Yet the relevance of historically black colleges and universities truly lies in the evidence of things not seen. I congratulate HBCU's on the momentous work they have done, and wish them continued success in the future.

IN HONOR OF CLAIRE F. MORGENSTERN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Claire Morgenstern, who will receive an award this week for outstanding contributions to the Greater Cleveland community from International Services Center [ISC] in Cleveland, OH.

International Services Center is an agency that assists refugees, immigrants, and other newcomers to the United States to overcome social and economic barriers and adjust to a new culture and way of life. The organization is honoring four individuals this year for their exceptional work on intercultural and interracial issues. These individuals have been chosen because of their commitment to the community and their lifelong achievements which reflect the spirit and the mission of ISC.

Claire Morgenstern is a past president and lifetime trustee of ISC and has spent many years as an active proponent of various charitable and community causes. It is the dedication of people like Ms. Morgenstern that makes the difference in the life of neighborhoods and communities.

Ms. Morgenstern graduated from the University of Wisconsin and has pursued graduate studies at Case Western Reserve University. She is a dedicated community leader and for many years has demonstrated tremendously effective work in numerous organizations including United Way Services, the Cleveland International Program, the Epilepsy Foundation, Call for Action, the Temple Tifereth Israel, and Piano International. She served as president of ISC from 1988–90, leading the organization through a critical time of transition.

Ms. Morgenstern has encouraged and supported innovation and growth. She was one of the founders and the first chairwoman of the annual International Holiday Folk Festival in Cleveland. She continues to be one of the festival's greatest supporters as it has grown in stature and popularity. The festival not only provides a needed source of revenue for ISC, it is a major cultural event in the Greater Cleveland area fostering intercultural and interracial harmony.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating Claire Morgenstern, devoted grandmother, mother, wife, and dedicated community leader, on a lifetime of wonderful work for the multicultural community in the Greater Cleveland area.