

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WILLIAM F. HALLORAN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the accomplishments of the William F. Halloran Alternative School in Elizabeth, NJ, for their designation as a 1997 blue ribbon school. The criteria for being chosen as a blue ribbon school includes several conditions of effective schooling such as leadership, parental involvement, organization, teaching and student environment, and community support. The criteria for designation also includes indicators of success such as student performance, positive attendance rates, good student retention or graduation rates, postsecondary pursuits of students and previous awards given to the school, teachers, or students. This highly competitive and prestigious designation is one of the top honors awarded to any school by the U.S. Department of Education. The William F. Halloran Alternative School has been granted this honor because they have generated an excitement about learning and a commitment to educational excellence that has allowed them to meet the above criteria for a blue ribbon school.

The William F. Halloran Alternative School offers a gifted and talented program that attracts the best and brightest students from Elizabeth and also has a special education program for students who are identified as communications handicapped. The school emphasizes the performing arts and curriculum that promotes diversity awareness for all students and faculty. All students are encouraged to become skilled in current technology and are able to take advantage of afterschool tutoring. In addition, students participate in ministudies and clubs designed to develop their special talents, such as visual or performing arts or physical education.

Teachers at the William F. Halloran Alternative School participate in a program called Team Teaching that is designed to offer in-class support to students who need extra help. Staff are also encouraged to become involved in professional development programs so they remain updated and attend teacher conferences.

Mr. Speaker, the William F. Halloran Alternative School is an example of the positive achievements occurring in our public schools. They should be commended for their commitment to enhancing community and parental involvement in our schools. It is my hope that the William F. Halloran Alternative School will serve as a model for other schools in our area of New Jersey and across the country for educational excellence.

HELPING EMPOWER LOW-INCOME PARENTS [HELP] SCHOLARSHIPS AMENDMENTS OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Education and Workforce Committee, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2746, the Help Scholarships Act.

In the 105th Congress, our education agenda centers around four important priorities—sending more dollars directly to the classroom, returning control of education to local communities, bolstering academics, and increasing parental involvement by providing more choices.

H.R. 2746 is an essential component of our education agenda because it provides low-income parents with choices normally reserved for well-to-do families—to be able to send their children to the best schools of their choosing.

Additionally, H.R. 2746 maintains the primary role that States and local communities play in our education system. Before Federal funds can be used for school choice programs, State governments must enact legislation establishing a choice program in their State.

Therefore, it is my hope that following passage of the Help Scholarship Act, all 50 States will quickly pass enabling legislation so that our country's neediest students have an opportunity to attend the school that is best for them.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 2746.

LEGISLATION TO HELP PRESERVE AND ENHANCE OUR NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's parks are among our Nation's greatest treasures and an integral part of our national heritage. We have an obligation to protect them for future generations to enjoy, learn from, and experience.

Unfortunately, in recent years we have failed to take proper care of our parks. The cover of the U.S. News & World Report's July 21, 1997 edition was entitled "Parks in Peril", this magazine focused on overcrowded parks, crumbling historic structures, limited access to collections and increased pollution. Over the past 20 years, annual funding for our national parks has decreased by \$635 million. And yet during that same period, our national parks served approximately 40 million more annual visitors than they did in 1978. While it is incumbent upon Congress to appropriate adequate funds for the operation of our national parks, the backlog of natural and cultural resource protection needs, together with other needs for transportation improvements and building repairs, is now so great that we need to find innovative and aggressive funding sources for renewing and enhancing our national parks.

That is why I have introduced legislation to create National Park Bonds. These Bonds will be sold to the general public, in the same way War Bonds were sold during World War II. My legislation will set up a National Park Capital Improvement Fund within the Department of Treasury. The Capital Improvement Fund will be secured by existing national park entrance, special use, and concession fees. My legislation also requires the Department of Treasury to work with the Department of Interior to set up a program for disseminating the bonds. The National Park Bonds will have competitive interest rates, reach maturity in no longer than 20 years, and be fully guaranteed by the Federal Government.

The National Park Bonds will be focused towards the billions of dollars in backlogged construction and renovation needs in our parks including: new infrastructure, wildlife protection and preservation, development of transportation systems, scientific assessments and research, and the development of educational and interpretation programs. The bonds would not go to any new land acquisition projects.

Mr. Speaker, National Park Bonds would give all of our Nation's citizens the opportunity to invest in the preservation and enhancement of our National Park System.

WILLIAM HUDSON ON FAST TRACK

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, as we reach the final phase of our consideration of legislation on fast-track trade legislation, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the recently published remarks on that topic. William J. Hudson, the chairman and CEO of AMP, Inc., a major electrical connection device manufacturer located in Harrisburg, PA, in my congressional district, makes a cogent argument for the passage of fast-track authority. I hope his remarks are read and followed by this Congress.

FAST TRACK: RENEW THE PROMISE

(By William J. Hudson)

A family quarrel in public isn't always a bad thing. When the quarreling family members are the Congress and the President of the United States, the result could well be a salutary demonstration of democracy at work. If Congress passes a fast track bill this fall, it will give the world just such a demonstration.

Now that the Senate Finance Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means have approved solid versions of a fast track bill that the White House can support, we have a clear signal that the Administration and the leaders of the House and Senate are working together to get this critical legislation approved. Let us hope they succeed. The first test should come later this fall when Congress votes on the fast-track, more formally, the "Reciprocal Trade Agreement Authorities Act of 1997".

If they do anything but pass it, the result will be far worse than the embarrassment of a public quarrel. It will be the public crippling of America as leader, the economic leader the world has depended upon for the past 50 years. To understand why, one needs to know a little about fast-track and a little recent history.

Fast-track is a promise. It is a promise that the Congress gives to the President and, by extension, to all of America's trading partners. The promise is this: If the President pursues Congressionally prescribed objectives with America's trading partners, and if his negotiators consult closely with Congress, then Congress will give any resulting agreement special treatment: an up or down vote—no amendments—in a definite period of time. That promise is the essence of fast-track.

There was a time when America's trading partners felt it was up to the Administration to determine when it needed "fast-track" authority. Those were the halcyon days before the summer of 1994 when the Clinton Administration and Congress failed in the effort to agree on a fast-track bill. More importantly, it was before Chile decided that, unless the U.S. Administration had the fast-track promise in its pocket—unless America could negotiate with one voice—there was no point in negotiating at all. In the fall of 1995, Chile broke off the NAFTA accession negotiations with the United States. It continued talks with Canada and Mexico, however, concluding separate agreements with those two countries.

The world will never be the same again, at least not for U.S. trade negotiators. Countries will no longer give them the benefit of the doubt. From now on, any trade negotiation with the United States must be one that Congress supports from the beginning with fast-track, or it won't happen.

Our company, AMP Incorporated, has its headquarters in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, but we produce in twenty-five countries and sell into over 100. Approximately 54 percent of our 1996 earnings came from sales outside the United States, and that figure is rising. To a significant degree our future depends upon increased cooperation among governments, the kind of cooperation that is expressed in trade agreements. That is one reason why we belong to the Pacific Basin Economic Council, because PBEC is dedicated to increased trade and commercial cooperation throughout the Pacific Region.

The opponents of fast track like to talk about the record, as if somehow it were damaging. The reverse is true. The record is one of startling success. Here in the United States, the pursuit of more open global trade and investment policies has given us an export boom, record growth, enviably low unemployment, and an economy that is consistently rated the world's most competitive.

Abroad the story is even more startling. In East Asia, for example, over 371 million people were lifted out of poverty in the two decades from 1975 to 1995. That wasn't all due to trade. But open trade and investment policies, and the development strategies they made possible, were important parts of the story.

Whether one's focus is on the U.S. economy or on developments abroad, the results of the liberal trade policies of the past decades have been astoundingly positive. Nothing, however, is automatic. The world can't produce good economic results with bad economic policies. Both good policies and strong economies require international cooperation. And that means fast track. On behalf of the U.S. Member Committee of PBEC, I urge every Member of Congress and every Senator to renew the promise of fast-track now.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, another day and still no campaign finance reform.

This week saw another reason why we need to change the current system. The Republican National Committee spent \$800,000 in the race to replace former Representative, Susan Molinari. This money came from unregulated soft money contributions to the national parties. In a race like the one in New York, this amount of money made a significant difference in the outcome of the election. We need to fix the system that allows any party to come into a race at the last minute and buy an election with unregulated soft money.

If the House adopted a ban on soft money, like the one in the Bipartisan Freshman Campaign Reform bill, we would allow races to be decided by local candidates and their supporters, not by the parties or the special interests in Washington. That is how we will restore the public's faith in our electoral system and actually see voter participation increase, rather than the decline we have seen over the past several years.

Mr. Speaker, the time is now to move forward on a vote on campaign finance reform. The people of my district refuse to take "no" for an answer.

LEO PINCKNEY SALUTED FOR DEDICATION TO BASEBALL

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute today to Leo Pinckney, who has been making the 100-mile trip from Auburn, NY to Cooperstown for Baseball Hall of Fame inductions most of his life. An avid baseball fan and an active participant in professional baseball in central New York, Mr. Pinckney is a community legend in the upstate region of Cayuga County and we are very proud of the role he played in the commemoration of 1996's Baseball Hall of Fame Game.

That was when Leo Pinckney participated in the first pitch with Hall of Fame inductees Jim Bunning and Earl Weaver.

The event marked an official Hall of Fame congratulations to Leo, a former sports editor of the Auburn Citizen daily newspaper, for attending his 50th induction weekend.

Leo Pinckney was instrumental in returning professional baseball to Auburn in 1958 by helping to establish the Auburn Astros. Today, he is the President of the successors, the Auburn Doubledays.

Mr. Pinckney was President of the New York-Penn League from 1985-1992 and he now serves on the League Board of Directors. One of its divisions is named after him.

We are very proud of Leo Pinckney in central New York and happy for him that he has been so honored by professional baseball.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF PACIFICA, CALIFORNIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on November 22 of this year, Mr. Speaker, the city of Pacifica, CA, will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its incorporation. I am delighted and honored to call this anniversary to the attention of my colleagues here in the Congress, and I invite them to join me in congratulating the citizens and the city leaders of Pacifica on this noteworthy occasion.

Although the city of Pacifica is only 40 years old, the area is one of the most important historical areas in the State of California. In November 1769, a group of 63 Spanish explorers under the leadership of Don Gaspar de Portola climbed the mountain now known as Sweeney Ridge which lies within the boundaries of the city of Pacifica. They were the first Europeans to view the glorious panorama of the San Francisco Bay. It is noteworthy, Mr. Speaker, that the birthplace of de Portola—Balaguer, Spain, in the region of Catalonia—became a sister city of Pacifica in 1970.

Through the tireless efforts of many local Pacificans as well as other concerned citizens of our peninsula, coupled with the consistent and long-term effort of a number of us here in the Congress, Sweeney Ridge—the Plymouth Rock of the west coast—was included within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in 1984. Eighteen acres of land in Pacifica at the Portola discovery site have been designated a national historical landmark.

Mr. Speaker, lime pits beside Calera Creek in what is now Pacifica were exploited to provide whitewash which was used for the Presidio of San Francisco in 1776. As early as 1785, crops were planted in San Pedro Valley in Pacifica at the outpost of Mission Dolores. Two years later, willow fences were built to keep grizzly bears from the surrounding mountains away from the crops. In 1839 Don Francisco Sanchez was given a Mexican land grant by the Governor of the Mexican State of Alta California with boundaries similar to the present city boundaries of Pacifica. In 1846, Don Francisco moved to what is now called the Sanchez Adobe, which still stands on Linda Mar Boulevard. Throughout the first century of its history, this building was used as a home, hotel, bordello, speakeasy, bootleg saloon, hunting lodge, and artichoke packing shed. The building was acquired in 1947 by San Mateo County, and it is currently maintained as a county museum and park.

Pacifica remained an agricultural area until this century. In 1907 a quarry was opened in what is now Pacifica to provide stone for the rebuilding the city of San Francisco following the devastating earthquake of 1906. At about that same time, the Ocean Shore Railroad was extended into the area, and the development of housing in the Pacifica area began. The Little Brown Church, Anderson's Shore, and the San Pedro School—which later became city hall—also date from this period.

After World War II, growth accelerated in an effort to meet the housing needs of the many young families moving to the peninsula. On November 22, 1957, 10 communities—