

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.

A broad 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 Delores. 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—

Edgemar, Pacific Manor, Manor Village, Westview, Sharp Park, Fairway Park, Vallemar, Rockaway Beach, Linda Mar, and Pedro Point—were jointed together and incorporated as the city of Pacifica.

The name given the new city is the Spanish word for “peace”—“pacific.” Although the area has a long and distinguished Spanish heritage, the name of the city does not derive from the early Spanish settlers or explorers of that area. It was the product of a contest held in 1957 to find an appropriate name for the newly incorporated city. The winning name was derived from an 80-foot statue by sculptor Ralph Stackpole, which was created as the theme symbol for the Golden Gate International Exposition held on Treasure Island in 1939–1940. Although the 80-foot statue was destroyed after the Exposition, two of the sculptor's working models have been saved and both are now in Pacifica—one is over the front stairs of the Pacifica City Hall and the other is in the city council chambers.

“Wisdom in Progress” is the slogan adopted when the city was incorporated, and that phrase has indeed marked the development of Pacifica since its establishment. The city has constructed a fishing pier, an important facility for visitors and residents to enjoy the ocean. Pacifica has also fostered a number of important projects to establish and improve the outstanding quality of life its fortunate residents enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I invite the Congress to join with me today in extending congratulations and best wishes to the 40,000 residents of Pacifica on the important 40th anniversary of the founding of this excellent city.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2367, a bill to increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain veterans. This bill will strengthen our Nation's efforts to continue to provide veterans with a suitable quality of life. I would like to commend Chairman STUMP, Congressman EVANS, and the Veteran's Committee for continued dedication, leadership, and hard work on these measures and others affecting the veterans' community.

America's veterans have stood as the vanguards of freedom and prosperity. So many of them have put their lives in harm's way so that the guiding principles that we hold so dear remain protected. Just as they fought on the front lines protecting the security of our great Nation, we must lead the charge in the battle for their well being and security.

This measure will direct the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs to compute and provide increases in the monthly rates of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation, effective December 1, 1997. The rates will be increased by the same percentage as Social Security. This increase will

help our disabled veterans and their families offset the cost of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index. Since the COLA is assumed in the budget resolution baseline, the bill would have no budgetary effect relative to the baseline as modified by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

Again, I would like to commend the committee for its dedication, leadership, and vision in passing H.R. 2367. This bill will allow us to continue to fortify this Nation's commitment to provide our veterans with a better quality of life. More importantly, we owe our veterans no less than the dedication and commitment that they have given to protecting the noble ideals and principles of this great Nation. Once more, I express my strong support for this bill, and I urge my colleagues to take a stand on behalf of veterans and support this important bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to the recent death of my father and my attendance at his funeral services, I was unable to cast votes on many issues considered during the week of October 27, 1997. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted as follows:

Tuesday, October 28, 1997: Rollcall 532, “No”; rollcall 533, “Yes”; rollcall 534, “Yes”.

Wednesday, October 29, 1997: Rollcall 535, “No”; rollcall 536, “Yes”; rollcall 537, “Yes”; rollcall 538, “Yes”; rollcall 539, “Yes”; rollcall 540, “Yes”; rollcall 541, “Yes”; rollcall 542, “Yes”; rollcall 543, “Yes”; rollcall 544, “Yes”.

Thursday, October 30, 1997: Rollcall 545, “Yes”; rollcall 546, “No”; rollcall 547, “No”; rollcall 548, “No”; rollcall 549, “Yes”; rollcall 550, “No”; rollcall 551, “No”; rollcall 552, “No”; rollcall 553, “No”; rollcall 554, “No”; rollcall 555, “Yes”; rollcall 556, “No”; rollcall 558, “Yes”; rollcall 559, “Yes”; rollcall 560, “Yes”; rollcall 561, “Yes”; rollcall 562, “Yes”; rollcall 563, “Yes”; rollcall 564, “Yes”; rollcall 565, “Yes”.

Friday, October 31, 1997: Rollcall 566, “Yes”; rollcall 567, “Yes”.

CHARTER SCHOOLS AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. “BUCK” McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2616) to amend titles VI and X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and expand charter schools:

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2616, the Charter Schools Amendments Act.

H.R. 2616 is one of a series of critical education bills House Republicans have scheduled for consideration during this Congress.

H.R. 2616 builds upon our goals of returning control to our local communities and increasing

parental choice by providing additional resources to assist States in creating new, innovative charter schools.

During the last year, I attended several hearings throughout the country on charter schools. During our visits, committee members heard from parents, teachers, administrators, and students who credited the success of their schools because they no longer operate under burdensome education rules regulations.

One principal stated her view of the charter school process as, “a waiver of all waivers. We don't have to apply for waivers any more. We dream those big dreams, set those high standards, and we meet those missions.”

I was struck most, however, by the enthusiasm and interest shown by the parents and students.

Parents felt empowered by their newfound ability to fully participate in their children's education. For example, many serve on decisionmaking boards, monitor and assist in classes, and help maintain school grounds.

Likewise, students expressed a new sense of responsibility and achievement not found at their old public schools. Many of the schools provided these students with individual attention, smaller classrooms, and original programs.

H.R. 2616 builds on these types of successes by carefully targeting funds to those States which emphasize autonomy, open the doors for new charter schools, and demand accountability.

In closing, I want to thank my colleague and fellow subcommittee chairman, Mr. Riggs, for his outstanding work in bringing this important legislation to the floor.

And, I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for the Charter Schools Amendments Act.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RESTRUCTURING AND REFORM ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, due to a technical error I was omitted as a cosponsor of H.R. 2676, the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1997, but wanted the fact that I was an early supporter of this legislation known as a matter of record.

I am a strong supporter of the IRS restructuring and reform bill. I think the time has come to significantly restructure the Internal Revenue Service [IRS]. Recently, incidents of abuse within the IRS have been spotlighted at congressional hearings proving what many of us have suspected all along: that certain divisions within the IRS believe that a taxpayer is guilty until proven innocent.

This bill is really quite historic. It will provide a major overhaul of the IRS, and give citizens who become involved in disputes with the IRS 28 new protections designed to enhance taxpayer rights. One of the most important things this bill will do is to strengthen the rights of taxpayers by placing the burden of proof in certain disputed cases, on the IRS, rather than on the taxpayer.

I am such a strong supporter of this legislation because, even in the relatively short time