

Equally troubling, Mr. Speaker, is the brazen manner in which union salts go about their business of inflicting economic harm on non-union employers. Indeed, most union salts make clear when they apply for a job that their loyalties lie elsewhere and that they have no interest in working to promote the interests of the company.

One might ask why an employer would hire an individual that he knows is there to hurt his company. The complicated answer to this question, Mr. Speaker, lies in broad interpretations of who is covered by provisions of the National Labor Relations Act [NLRA], which prohibits employers from discriminating against employees because of their union interests or activities. These interpretations have had the practical effect of presenting employers with a Hobson's choice: either hire the union salt who is sure to disrupt your workplace and file frivolous charges resulting in costly litigation; or, deny the salt employment and risk being sued for discrimination under the NLRA. Either way the employer is faced with a hiring decision that may threaten the very survival of his or her business.

In an effort to remedy this situation, Mr. Speaker, last year I introduced the Truth in Employment Act of 1996. And, while I was disappointed that we concluded the 2d session of the 104th Congress without addressing the problems of union salting, I was pleased that a significant number of our colleagues were also sufficiently concerned to join me as co-sponsors of that legislation.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the problems of abusive salting persist today; and, they continue to take a heavy toll on employers in the form of costly litigation, lost productivity, and destroyed property. For those reasons, I am today reintroducing for consideration by the 105th Congress the Truth in Employment Act of 1997. This legislation is virtually identical to the bill I introduced during the last Congress. In short, the bill would amend section 8 of the National Labor Relations Act to make clear that an employer is not required to hire any person who seeks a job in order to promote the interests of another employer or organization for whom that person is acting as an agent. When enacted, the bill will help restore of the balance of rights that salting upsets and that is fundamental to our system of collective bargaining.

I want to again make clear, Mr. Speaker, as I did during the last Congress, that this bill is in no way intended to infringe upon any rights or protections otherwise accorded employees under the NLRA. Employees will continue to enjoy their right to organize or engage in other concerted activities protected under the act. And, employers will still be prohibited from discriminating against employees on the basis of union membership or union activism. The bill merely seeks to alleviate the legal pressures imposed upon employers to hire individuals whose real purpose for seeking the job is to disrupt the employer's workplace or otherwise inflict economic harm designed to put the employer out of business.

Mr. Speaker, at its core, the National Labor Relations Act—indeed, our entire collective bargaining system—is about balancing the rights and protections of both employers and the men and women who work for them. At its worst, salting upsets that balance in a way not contemplated when the NLRA was enacted. Surely, Congress could not have intended the

NLRA to be used as the legal shield that union salts now commonly invoke in defense of their abusive behavior. Moreover, common sense tells us that employers should be entitled to some measure of confidence when making hiring decisions that the job applicants they consider are motivated by their desire for work and promote the interests of that employer—not another organization bent on disrupting or putting that company out of business.

The Truth in Employment Act will help restore that confidence, Mr. Speaker, while at the same time protecting the rights of employees and their union representatives. Once again, I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE USCG AIR STATION, SAVANNAH, GA, FOR A JOB WELL DONE

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, when no one else was able to help, U.S. Coast Guard helicopter 6573, based at the USCG Air Station in Savannah, GA, swung into action to carry a 3-year-old burn victim from Statesboro, GA to much needed treatment in Savannah, GA. The air station staff's heroic actions are detailed in the following letter from Bulloch Co. EMS/Rescue Director Lee Eckles:

BULLOCH COUNTY EMS/RESCUE,
Statesboro, Ga, October 27, 1996.

Adm. ROBERT E. KRAHEK,
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, Washington,
DC.

DEAR ADMIRAL KRAHEK, I realize how busy you must be, but when it comes to expressing ones thanks for saving the life of a child, I felt like you just might have a few minutes to read this letter.

On September 25, 1996, our department was dispatched to respond to a "burn patient" some ten (10) miles away from our station. With no other information available, we responded. Arriving at the scene, our staff found a three year old female with second and third degree burns covering over seventy percent of her body. Within twenty-five minutes of our dispatch time, the child was receiving primary care treatment at our local hospital.

It was clear from first observations that this three year old would need the specialized care of the "Burn Center" ninety miles to our west, in order to have any chance of survival. Due to the extent and severity of the burns and the fact that she had suffered extensive airway burns, transport time to the burn center would have a significant impact on her survival. Air transport was the only option. The regional Trauma Center in Savannah, fifty miles to our east has the only civilian medivac helicopter available in all of South Georgia. Upon making the request, I was notified that their helicopter was out of service for maintenance. They did however, quickly refer us to the military M.A.S.T. helicopter unit at Fort Stewart. As I dialed the phone, I remembered from my military tour of duty with the Coast Guard (1978-1981), the bureaucratic process that would have to be overcome in order for a military aircraft to be approved for use on a civilian medivac mission. The desk sergeant quickly transferred my call to the duty officer. My first comment to the Major was to

apologize for my sense of urgency, but a child's life was on the line. Simply stated, I ask if his M.A.S.T. Helicopter could be airborne in five minutes or less for a medivac flight. His response was brief and very direct "It will take me at least thirty minutes to find someone who is capable of giving authorization," I thanked him for his time, and hung up the phone.

I realized at that point we were out of options. One of my staff members, feeling helpless said "why don't you call the Coast Guard, I know they have a helicopter." With nothing but the cost of a phone call to lose, I called the Coast Guard Air Station in Savannah Georgia. One again, I explained the urgency of my request. This time however, the response was different. Within five minutes, USCG 6573 was airborne and enroute to the Statesboro Municipal Airport. To make a long story short, the Coast Guard answered the call for help when no one else was available. The medivac mission was carried out without a hitch. Our every request was quickly accommodated.

Every one involved, from the pilots and air crew to the individuals operating the telephone played an extremely crucial role in the critical care transport of Stacie Martin. At this point in time, I am not certain about Stacie's outcome because of the extent and severity of her injuries. One thing I certainly know, is the role played by All Coast Guard Personnel involved will be credited with every positive milestone that Stacie overcomes on her long road to recovery.

For four years, stationed at USCG Group Charleston, being a SAR small boat coxswain, the Coast Guard Motto, Semper Paratus, seldom took on a very significant meaning. However, on Wednesday, September 25, 1996, being "Always ready" had a much greater meaning than each and every day of my brief Coast Guard career. On that Wednesday, it seemed that the bureaucracy worked against Stacie, until Coast Guard assistance was requested. No bureaucracy, no delay, no excuses, simply immediate response, few questions, and extraordinary execution of duty and responsibility by all USCG personnel involved. I have always been proud of the many roles that I was involved in while a member of the Coast Guard, but never as impressed as I was on Wednesday the 25th.

I realize how truly insignificant our language and my own vocabulary really is when trying to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to everybody at the Coast Guard Air Station in Savannah, and to the personnel at the District Office in Miami. This is truly a case of one of the most outstanding humanitarian missions ever undertaken by my former branch of service.

There were probably many people who were involved whose names I did not have a chance to document, but those names I do have are as follows:

Captain Clark—OSR Miami.
Captain Thomas W. Sechler—OIC, Coast Guard Air Station Savannah.
Lieutenant Richard Craig—Pilot.
Lieutenant Thomas Gaffney—Pilot.
Glenn Boggs—AD1.
William (Bill) DeCamp—ASM2.
Lieutenant Pat Ryan.
Rob Jerger—AM3.
Mike Forchette—AE1.

I know these people and all others involved in this mission were only doing their job, but, speaking in behalf, of the family of Stacie Martin, the Bulloch County Department of Public Safety, Bulloch County EMS/RESCUE, and our entire community, I wish again to express a very heartfelt thanks. The entire United States Coast Guard came through in our time of need. It was truly an answered prayer.

I know we at EMS/RESCUE in Bulloch County will never be able to repay all those involved, but, if you ever have any need here in our community, please don't hesitate to call.

Very Sincerely,

LEE ECHIES,
Director.

UNITED STATES-JAPAN SECURITY
RELATIONS AND OKINAWA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased on behalf of myself and Representatives BE-REUTER, and BERMAN, to introduce a resolution recognizing the vital role of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan in ensuring the peace and prosperity of the Asia Pacific region, and expressing gratitude to the people of Okinawa for the special role they have played in ensuring the implementation of this treaty.

My friend and colleague, WILLIAM V. ROTH, Jr., is introducing a similar resolution in the other body today.

I agree with former Member of this House, and former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Mike Mansfield, who called the relationship between the United States and Japan "the most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none." The end of the cold war and resulting instability in Asia has only reinforced the fundamental importance of this relationship to our two nations, the Asia-Pacific region, and the world as a whole.

Indeed, as Secretary of State Madeline Albright stated to the House International Relations Committee this week, "our alliance with a democratic and prosperous Japan is one of the great successes of the postwar era." Our security alliance has endured over the years, and remains strong today, because the United States and Japan are united not by a common enemy, but rather, by common interests.

In the formulation of former Assistant Secretary of Defense Joseph S. Nye, security is like oxygen. You tend not to notice it until you begin to lose it. Once you lose it, you would pay any price to have it back.

The alliance between the United States and Japan provides the oxygen which allows the economies and societies of the Asia-Pacific region to thrive. It rightly remains the foundation of American security strategy for the Asia-Pacific region. The United States, as a Pacific power, and world's leading exporter, gains more than any nation from the region's peace and prosperity.

The Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security encapsulates the terms of the bilateral alliance. This past December, the United States and Japan agreed to measures to renew our security relationship in the Special Action Committee on Okinawa [SACO] Final Report issued by the United States-Japan Security Consultative Committee. This report set forth a timetable for return to Japanese control of one-fifth of the land used by the U.S. military in Okinawa. This island prefecture, as host to over half of the forward-deployed troops of the United States in Japan, has long borne a major share of the burdens of maintaining regional security.

The SACO Final Report therefore also provided for changes in operational and training procedures and in the Status of Forces Agreement which will maintain the operational capability and readiness of forward-deployed U.S. forces while lessening the impact of the U.S. military presence on the daily life of the Okinawan people.

For centuries Okinawa has been known as the Land of Courtesy. The Okinawan people deserve our gratitude for their many contributions to the United States-Japan relationship, and to the peace and security of the region. Their continued understanding and support are vital to the successful implementation of the SACO Final Report, and the Mutual Security Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution I introduce today reaffirms that the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security remains vital to the security interests of the United States, Japan, and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. It acknowledges the achievement of the United States and Japanese Governments in reinvigorating the alliance through the SACO Final Report. It also recognizes the special contributions of the people of Okinawa, to the implementation of the Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the critical importance to the United States of our relationship with Japan, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this resolution.

THE SECRET LIFE OF THE
SANDINISTAS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the 105th Congress the newly released book entitled, "The Secret Life of the Sandinistas." This book written by Roberto Arguello, outlines the last decade of Sandinista activity.

Mr. Arguello writes material published in as many as 140 newspapers in Latin America and is a member of the U.S. Senate's Hispanic task force. This latest work is a capstone to his efforts for advocating free enterprise and fighting for the elimination of totalitarian oppression.

Mr. Arguello's, "The Secret Life of the Sandinistas," will be available in the near future through the Library of Congress. I would encourage all of my colleagues who have either a general interest in international affairs or a specific interest in Nicaragua to review this excellent book.

RAYMOND "TIM" GORECKI NAMED
1997 PERSON OF THE YEAR BY
THE COUNCIL OF SOUTH SIDE
ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Raymond "Tim" Gorecki, on being named one of the 1997 Persons of the Year by the Council of South Side Advancement Associations.

By honoring Tim, the Council of South Side Advancement is recognizing a man who has served Milwaukee's south side for over 20 years. In that time, he has had a direct impact on the lives of many Milwaukeeans.

Tim Gorecki has shown his dedication to his community through his involvement in several organizations. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors for the Council of South Side Advancement Associations, Tim also served as the Sergeant at Arms for the Milwaukee County Council of the American Legion, and is a member of the South Side Business Club and the George Washington Legion. Tim's involvement in these organizations demonstrates his commitment to Milwaukee.

Tim Gorecki has clearly set an example for all of us to follow. I join the Council of South Side Advancement Associations in commending Tim Gorecki on his outstanding dedication to the south side of Milwaukee, and I congratulate him on being named one of the 1997 Persons of the Years.

IN SUPPORT OF TRIO PROGRAMS

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of one of the best educational and welfare reform tools available today in the United States, our TRIO programs. The TRIO program is designed to identify students in need and provide them with information on academics; financial aid; tutoring support; and other needed services so they may have a chance to enter and graduate from a post-secondary institution. I can think of no better use of our precious fiscal resources than providing someone with the tools to earn their own way in this world.

I also wish to applaud the efforts of the TRIO program at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL. Under the direction of Stillman's president, Dr. Cordell Wynn, and the director of their TRIO program, Mr. Vernon Freeman, I feel we have one of the more forward reaching programs in the country. In closing, I wish to offer a special commendation to the parents of our TRIO students for the encouragement, participation and love which they have shown to their children. For after all, one of the greatest legacies which we may leave our children, is a sound education in which they may build their future.

REFORM OF THE 1872 MINING LAW

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, in the long and expensive history of corporate welfare, no law has evaded reform more successfully than the mining law of 1872. For 125 years, since the administration of Ulysses S. Grant, this law has governed hard rock mining in America. And throughout those 125 years, as billions of dollars in public gold, silver, and other valuable resources have been mined, the taxpayers have not received one dime in royalties.