

not have to compete with cheaper versions from the developing world. In certain industries, like garments and sporting goods, however, low wages can pose a threat to American workers. In Haiti, for example, workers who stitch T-shirts for one major American company earn about 26 cents an hour.

Low wages are not the only problem. Indentured labor still exists in some parts of the world, where workers commit to work for someone for a set amount of time, often for less than the prevailing wage, in exchange for a guarantee of a job that pays subsistence wages. Millions of workers also toil under conditions where their health is endangered and their lives threatened. Unsanitary and unsafe conditions are a common sight in Third World "sweatshops".

Child labor can also be a problem. In some developing countries, children under 12 are made to work long hours for sub-standard wages under hazardous conditions, allowing them little for rest and no time for school. The Geneva-based International Labor Organization (ILO) says there are between 100 and 200 million workers under the age of 12 worldwide.

Yet the ILO suggests that while the majority of these children are mistreated and underpaid, they would likely be worse off if child labor was eliminated without a corresponding improvement in the overall economic condition of the countries in which they live. Some Third-World governments see no political advantage in improving working conditions or banning child labor, but trying to punish those governments often means punishing their guiltless citizens by throwing them out of work.

Goods on American Shelves: Hoosiers do not want to provide a market for goods produced by the sweat and toil of mistreated workers. Yet many of the products made by low-wage earners end up in American homes. Because of their low prices, consumers here may unknowingly buy brand-name toys, clothes, and running shoes made by abused workers. In doing so, we may be supporting "sweatshop" conditions we find abhorrent.

One suggestion which has gained considerable support is an effort to get responsible employers to create a labeling system for goods produced without child or exploited labor. This would go a long way in helping U.S. consumers make informed choices.

Buying goods from countries which treat workers fairly helps build their economies and makes them strong trading partners. On a human level, it raises workers' incomes in those countries, giving them a higher standard of living, and allowing them to start buying American-made goods.

While there is no consensus, "internationally recognized workers' rights" tend to include the following: the right to form and join labor unions; the right to bargain collectively; a prohibition against forced labor; a minimum age for child workers; a minimum wage; a maximum workday and workweek; occupational safety; and freedom from discrimination.

Thanks to the Fair Labor Standards Act and enforcement by the Department of Labor, American workers enjoy most of these rights. But things are not perfect here at home, as reports of TV personalities lending their names unknowingly to products made in "sweatshops" illustrate. While we are better-off than most countries, child labor and the exploitation of workers continue to be problems in America.

Possible Legislation: Last session, Congress considered various measures to help protect the standards that American workers enjoy, and to help improve the lot of workers worldwide. They included: a bill to beef up enforcement of federal labor laws

aimed at combatting sweatshops in the U.S.; a bill to ban trade in products made by children; a recommendation for a code of conduct for U.S. companies manufacturing abroad; and a measure linking foreign aid to advancements in workers' rights. However, none of these proposals became law. We still have a long way to go.

One strategy the Administration has been pursuing is to encourage countries to grant their workers greater labor protection in return for better trading opportunities with the U.S. Since the 1970s, our trade regulations have aimed to encourage dealings with countries which support strong workers' rights. I believe labor conditions should always be on the table when we negotiate trade deals.

This approach has its obvious advantages, and has had encouraging results. For example, prior to the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Mexico was not enforcing many of its guaranteed workers' rights. The side agreements to NAFTA required the signatories to protect their own workers' rights, and the situation in Mexico has since improved.

Conclusion: I remain confident in American workers' ability to compete because of our high productivity and the quality of our products. At the same time, we need to keep the pressure on countries which treat their workers unfairly, and continue to encourage improvements in working conditions.

America cannot demand that companies in developing countries pay their workers what we pay ours, but we can demand that basic worker rights are recognized and that children are protected. Paying low wages gives the Third World a competitive advantage; treating workers badly is unfair to them and unfair to us.

Fair trading is crucial to the world economy and to America's leading role in it. As labor rights take hold worldwide, America's trading position will improve, because countries that cannot exploit their workers will be forced to sell their goods for higher fairer prices.

SALUTE TO THE EFFORTS OF HOSANNA INDUSTRIES, INC.

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown, PA, and its mission Hosanna Industries, Inc. This remarkable organization, led by executive director Donn Ed, has offered and delivered its construction services to over 340 structures in my district and across the United States.

Founded in 1990, Hosanna Industries, Inc. has donated labor, materials, and faith to victims of impoverishment and disaster. Dedicated to helping whenever the need arises, Hosanna epitomizes the community involvement needed to make the world a better place.

It is with great pride that I approach the House of Representatives today to commend Hosanna Industries on their most recent endeavor. Reaching out in a time of crisis to help heal the wounds of a heinous crime, Hosanna Industries will be traveling to the rural Arkansas town of Chelford to rebuild the St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church. Their church destroyed by arson, St. Mark's members have

been without their place of worship since November 1995. With the help of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ, 15 missionaries from Hosanna Industries will travel to Tyrone, AR, on March 16 to begin a 9-day quest to rebuild St. Mark's Church in time for their Easter celebration.

As Members of Congress, we can legislate against the burning, desecrating, and destruction of religious property, but our strongest weapon against the purveyors of hatred is the strength of the people in groups like Hosanna Industries and their search to expose the goodness of man.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hosanna Industries for their past and future efforts. In the words of project coordinator Mike Killian, "you bring light where there is dark and love where there is bitterness." Your spirit, faith, and peaceful offerings are a true commitment to the people of not only your worship community but also your congressional district and the United States of America. On behalf of all the Members of Congress, I thank you for all you have done to make right the wrongs of society. Your contributions have not gone unnoticed.

TRIBUTE TO THE EASTERN FAIRFAX ALL-STARS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to applaud the Eastern Fairfax All-Stars for the terrific job they did marching in the inaugural parade. This is a group of very talented high school students attending Mount Vernon and West Potomac High Schools in the Eighth District of Virginia.

These two high school bands represent the very best of our youth. They overcame big odds, and working together, they performed at their very best. These students practiced during the weekends and winter vacation in sub-freezing temperatures. We, in the Eighth District, are very proud of them.

Of course, the performance of these students is also due to the efforts of their dedicated and caring band directors, Mr. Steve Rice of West Potomac and Jack Elgin of Mount Vernon. Both of these gentlemen also took their vacation time and weekends to help these students achieve the performance level they needed for the inaugural parade.

Finally, I would like to commend the students' families, the school's administrators, and the entire community for their part in helping these young people. Thank you for all you have done.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERGEN-PASSAIC ARC

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Association for Retarded Citizens of Bergen-Passaic Counties Inc., on its 50th anniversary. The event will be marked with a

gala celebration April 13 in Woodcliff Lake, NJ.

I have always believed one of the noblest undertakings is to care for those less fortunate than ourselves. In northern New Jersey, we have an outstanding group that has been involved in such an effort for half a century.

This year, the Bergen-Passaic chapter of ARC celebrates 50 years of service to people who suffer from mental retardation. For half a century, ARC has brought help and hope to retarded children and adults and their families. It has given retarded children the early help they needed. It has given retarded adults the vocational and self-help skills they need to function as independent citizens in society.

Before 50 years ago, there was no national advocacy group to advance the rights and needs of the retarded. State institutions existed to provide care for the mentally retarded, but there were no community programs except the few conducted by religious and charitable groups. These were few in number and depended upon good will rather than legal rights.

In State institutions, the physical needs of the residents were generally provided at a reasonable level. But there was little in the way of meaningful daily programs that would improve the psychological well-being of the residents. In short, State institutions were designed primarily to offer custodial care.

Parents with retarded children at home were in a difficult situation. They had the burden of providing daily care of their children but were offered little or no support from the community. By law, these children could be excluded from the right to a free public education. Recreation programs, vocational training, and support counseling as we know them did not exist. There was little public awareness or public sympathy for the retarded. In most instances, they were invisible in the community, existing only behind the doors of their family homes.

On October 12, 1946, however, a letter to the editor appeared in the Bergen Record—the newspaper in Hackensack, NJ—suggesting formation of a group for the parents of retarded children. The writer, Laura Sparks Blossfeld, suggested that the group might be the first chapter of a national organization.

On June 10, 1947, 41 parents from across the region gathered at the Paterson YMCA and voted to form an organization.

From the beginning, the goal of the organization was to assist all parents of retarded children, regardless of the degree of retardation or where the child was located—at home or in an institution. In addition to helping the parents, the work of the group was, of course, intended to benefit the children.

In rapid succession, chapters were formed in Essex, Union, Monmouth, Hudson, Mercer, Camden, Gloucester, and Burlington Counties. Eventually, National Association for Retarded Children was formed in October 1950. Some 400 chapters were chartered across the United States within 6 years.

In the past 50 years, there have been vast improvements in the lives and fortunes of the mentally retarded. Where they once were scorned and rejected, they are now afforded human rights and fundamental freedoms. Where once they were hidden away in State schools or parents' homes, they have now been granted the right to live in the commu-

nity. Where once they were looked upon with fear and aversion by a society ignorant of the facts, they have gained acceptance.

But none of this happened overnight or without effort. The work of thousands of volunteers and professionals contributed to the advancement of the mentally retarded. These efforts, at considerable sacrifice of time, personal convenience, and financial security, have resulted in the expansion of services we see today. And the fact that new volunteers and new professionals join in the effort each year gives confidence that this progress will continue.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and the rest of my colleagues to join me in saluting the ARC for its outstanding service and loving care of the mentally retarded. These people of vision and humanitarian drive have not only given hope and life to generations of retarded children and their families but they have enriched and enlightened our State and our Nation as well. God bless the memory of Laura Sparks Blossfeld and all who followed her inspired advocacy.

THE LEGACY OF ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to pay special tribute to the more than 30 million Americans for whom it has become a tradition to pause during the month of February to celebrate black history in the United States.

I want to thank my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus who each year set aside a time during February for a special order to which all of my colleagues are invited to reflect on the significance of black America's contribution to our history. My special commendation goes out to my colleagues, Representative LOUIS STOKES of Ohio and Representative MAXINE WATERS of California, the new chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, for convening this special order.

Thirty years ago this month, the House of Representatives was preparing to take one of its most infamous actions. On March 1, 1967, the House voted to exclude from the 90th Congress Representative Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., my predecessor as the Congressman from Upper Manhattan and Harlem, and one of this body's greatest Members.

Two years later, that action was overturned by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional, and Representative Powell returned to his seat, stripped of 22 years seniority.

I recall this incident not only as a commemoration of an injustice committed against one of the greatest figures in black history. During this period in which President Clinton has designated education as a national security issue, it is again fitting to recall the career of Adam Clayton Powell. Much of Powell's greatness is attributable to his support of education as well as his urgings to our Government to pay greater attention to Africa and the developing world.

During Powell's first term as chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, which he assumed in 1961, the committee passed not only the minimum wage bill, but legislation creating training programs for practical nurses, student loans, and manpower and training development programs. All of these were enacted into law.

Years earlier, in the 1950's, Powell was a lonely crusader for increased U.S. involvement with Africa and the developing world, going against the grain of U.S. policy, which was obsessed with the rise of communism around the world.

Powell was a man of many dimensions, in ways, ahead of his time. A vocal warrior on the forefront of our struggles for racial and economic justice, and education at home, he at the same time preached a gospel of international involvement. Even before our Government recognized that our destiny in trade and commerce was moving away from Europe, he understood that we continued to ignore Asia and Africa at our own peril.

Today, as we prepare for the challenges of the 21st century while reappraising the gains of the civil rights movement, we find that we are riding the shoulders of those great leaders, such as Powell, who came before us. Through their efforts, we have overcome the legal segregation and discrimination that dehumanized us as a people. Through their efforts, a viable black middle-class of successful professionals, homeowners, and college graduates has emerged.

But many challenges remain, some in the very areas in which Adam Clayton Powell made a mark decades ago, working toward the eradication of poverty, joblessness, drug addiction, crime, and sickness.

If we are serious about addressing those challenges, and maintaining our competitive edge in the global economy, we must refocus our attention on the goal of providing the best education possible for all Americans of every race. In the environment of budget balancing and tax cuts in which we exist, that challenge cannot be met by Government alone.

The private sector, which has the most to gain from an educated work force, must join in partnerships with Government, the schools, and the communities to see to it that our young people are qualified to compete in the high-technology marketplace, that they are trained to take their place in the 21st century economy.

As a nation, we must admit that our future as a worldwide economic leader is no longer tied to Europe, but increasingly to the economics of the Pacific rim, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa.

And even as we recognize the importance of people of color around the world, we must also recognize the folly of failing to utilize the talents of America's black and brown people who have contributions to make in international business, in foreign affairs, and diplomacy.

More than anything, America must continue the work of our past leaders, including Adam Clayton Powell, all of whom recognized that education was the key to social, economic, and racial justice.