

CELEBRATING PRESIDENT LEE'S
FIRST YEAR AS PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago this week the 2 million people of Taiwan went to the polls to participate in the first direct election of a President for the Republic of China. Voter turnout was high despite the attempts by the People's Republic of China to intimidate the electorate by conducting military exercises in the Taiwan Straits.

The voters of Taiwan overwhelmingly elected Lee Teng-Hui as President of the ROC. President Lee defeated three other candidates in a free and fair election. In doing so, President Lee became the first popular elected head of state in Chinese history. His election was the culmination of a 10-year period of democratization for the Republic of China. Today, the ROC is a full-fledged democracy with a strong, multiparty system. Government officials from the President to members of the local legislatures are all selected by the people of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, this week also marks the 1-year anniversary of the selection by President Lee of John Chang as the Republic of China's Foreign Minister. Under Mr. Chang's leadership, the already excellent relationship between the United States and Republic of China has grown even stronger. During the past year, many members of this body have traveled to Taiwan to see firsthand Taiwan's impressive economic growth. Furthermore, many senior ROC Government officials have visited the United States and have met with Members of Congress and other United States officials. All of this activity is a tribute to Foreign Minister Chang.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to note that nearly 1 year has passed since Jason Hu assumed the post of Taipei's Economic and Cultural Representative in Washington. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative's office serves as the unofficial embassy in the United States, and Ambassador Hu, who previously served as President Lee's spokesman and a member of the Legislative Yuan, has done a very good job promoting a dialog between Congress and the people of Taiwan. He has worked tirelessly to visit with Members of this body and to inform Members of the current activities in Taiwan. Representative Hu, like Foreign Minister Chang, is proof that President Lee has made many fine choices in filling the senior appointed positions of his government. I am certain with President Lee's leadership, our relationship with the ROC will continue to be on a steady and even keel in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OLDER
AMERICANS ACT AMENDMENTS
OF 1997

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, for more than three decades, the Older Americans Act has

been providing our Nation's seniors with the services that help them enjoy security, health, and independence. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I introduce the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1997, which will update this statute for the 21st century and beyond.

The majority of this legislation is based upon the administration's proposal for reauthorization of the Older Americans Act which I introduced during the 104th Congress. It includes provisions that grant flexibility to States, area agencies on aging, and providers which will foster new and creative ways to design and administer services for the elderly. This measure also allows for the expansion of cooperative partnerships for the identification of local needs and delivery of comprehensive services. Most importantly, all this is accomplished with a strong commitment to those protections that have and will continue to ensure seniors' health and well-being for years to come.

Despite my support for much of what is contained in the administration's proposal there are some areas which I feel warrant change and further negotiation. One area in particular concerns the future of the Senior Community Services Employment Program [SCSEP]. While the administration would transfer the SCSEP to the Administration on Aging, the legislation I introduce today retains the program within the Department of Labor. While in principle and practice I have previously supported various proposals to consolidate and coordinate related Federal programs and services, the fact that the SCSEP is fundamentally an employment program compels me to support maintaining the program within the Labor Department.

As take up the Older Americans Act reauthorization again this year, I look forward to working with the administration and my colleagues on both sides of this aisle to fashion bipartisan legislation that continues to protect our Nation's seniors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. ROBERT SMITH

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of President Lee Teng-hui's first anniversary in office, I wish to make a few remarks.

President Lee is the first democratically elected head of state in China's history. He is a man committed to preserving political freedom for his 23 million fellow citizens.

President Lee is also committed to economic growth. In the last year Taiwan has maintained its economic expansion and its position as a major trading partner of the United States. Many of our agricultural products find ready markets in Taiwan.

On behalf of my constituents, I send my best wishes and congratulations to President Lee Teng-hui, Dr. Jason Hu, Taiwan's top representative in Washington, and the people of Taiwan as they celebrate May 20, 1997, the first anniversary of President Lee's first term in office.

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF
JOHNSTON

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, the rich heritage of the town of Johnston, SC, began during the Colonial days with three families: The Lott family to the east, the Gomillion family to the south, and the Bush family on land that is in the present town center. Before the Revolutionary War, a gentleman by the name of Richard Bush accumulated land in the area. In the mid-19th century, his descendant, Isaac Bush, sold 1,200 acres of land to Dr. Edward J. Mims of the nearby town of Edgefield. Dr. Mims and his family moved onto this newly acquired land which is the original townsite of Johnston.

The name of the town was not established until its inhabitants saw the rapid expansion of the railroad throughout the South. Dr. Mims was determined to include his community in the booming opportunity the railroad provided. He successfully petitioned William Johnston, president of the Charlotte, Columbia, and Augusta Railroad, to route the railway through the land on the Mims plantation. In return, Dr. Mims agreed to name the town for Mr. Johnston. Earlier the village was called Johnston Station, then Johnston's Turn Out, and finally, on May 25, 1897, it was chartered as its present name, Johnston.

Today, Johnston, known as the Peach Capital of the World celebrates the centennial of its charter. The Johnston Historic District, a collection of 146 houses, businesses, and churches dating from the 1870's to the 1920's is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. From the 1870's Johnston had a renowned educational institution, first called the Johnston Academy, then the Johnston Institute, and later Johnston High School. The town of Johnston remains proud of its history and maintains its early emphasis on agriculture and education. However, the town also has a strong present and future with state-of-the-art manufacturing technology in its many textile mills. With firm roots and forward progress, Johnston will continue to prosper well into the 21st century.

KEEP THE PROMISE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, we all remember the promise President Clinton made to end welfare as we know it.

But when given a chance to do so, in the form of a sound program by Texas Governor Bush, the President did everything possible to scuttle the plan. The plan would have meant a savings in welfare administration costs of 20 to 35 percent for the people of Texas.

This is not the first promise this administration has broken. I suggest members read the Wall Street Journal editorial in today's RECORD as a reminder:

[From the Wall Street Journal]

CLINTON PROMISES

Trying to provide better health care coverage for some 150,000 needy children, Texas

Governor George W. Bush wants to generate some savings by spending less on welfare administration. After nine months of stalling, the Clinton White House has just turned him down.

This is the same Bill Clinton who famously promised "to end welfare as we know it." This is the same Bill Clinton who has been pressing to expand health coverage for poor children, insisting that the budget agreement with Congress earmark \$18 billion for that purpose. This is the same Bill Clinton who during last year's election campaign signed a welfare reform bill supposedly giving wide discretion to the states. In the end, though, this same Bill Clinton overruled his own Cabinet to side with his reactionary union allies.

The story is worth recounting simply to show what it's like to negotiate with our present President, but also because it has huge potential implications for welfare reform nationwide. The administrative costs that Governor Bush wants to pare in Texas cost federal and state governments a whopping \$28 billion a year—to deliver \$250 billion a year in welfare benefits. Several governors are convinced these administrative functions could be privatized, with likely administrative savings of 20% to 35%.

Many states are already experimenting with contracting out parts of their welfare apparatus. Thirty states use Lockheed Martin to collect child Support payments, for example, and the company also runs the federal computer to find deadbeat dads. Maximus Corp. of McLean, Va., which helps run local welfare offices for states, has doubled in size in the past year. Wisconsin is allowing both private companies and non-profits such as Goodwill Industries to bid on screening, training and placing welfare recipients in jobs. California and Arizona have plans similar to that just vetoed in Texas.

Paring state bureaucracies, of course, is anathema to public employee unions: to them the loss of state jobs spells smaller union dues and less political clout. When Governor Bush and Texas legislators decided to contract with private firms to set up one-stop assistance bureaus that would allow recipients to apply for all their benefits at once, the unions went ballistic. Their radio ads featured the sound of exploding bombs; "Texas is under attack. They're coming after us," an announcer intoned. "The guys who brought us the \$3,000 toilet seat are trying to take over public services for families, children and seniors."

Worried that Governor Bush's plan would create a bandwagon effect in other states, the unions helped convince the White House to sit for nine months on his request for a federal waiver. On March 28, President Clinton met at the White House to discuss the Texas welfare plan with four union leaders, including AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

In April, a memo to the President warned that "we must give Texas an answer immediately." The memo—signed by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and White House domestic policy adviser Bruce Reed—observed that "the state has engaged in good faith discussions with various agencies for more than nine months, and state officials are now publicly criticizing the administration." It suggested the White House approve a compromise plan, giving Texas leeway on administration of income supports while barring private workers from the food stamp and Medicaid programs, on which the welfare reform bill provided tighter federal regulation.

As you know, labor leaders would like us to refuse the Texas request entirely," the memo read. "They see even limited privatization as a dangerous precedent and have

made clear they view this decision as critically important to public employee unions." On May 5, Governor Bush fired off an angry letter to Secretary Shalala complaining about "double talk and runarounds." And last Friday, Governor Bush finally got his answer: No.

Mr. Clinton rejected not only the Texas waiver, but also the compromise proposed by his own Cabinet officials. At a news briefing Ms. Shalala explained that only state employees could determine eligibility for federal programs. Governor Bush's office criticized the White House for "letting its waiver policy be determined by the AFL-CIO."

For all the Clinton welfare promises, and all the ballyhoo about the welfare reform bill, the Clinton White House is now fighting a rear-guard action to save welfare as we know it. We have to wonder what this says about whether the White House will make a good-faith effort to honor the federal budget agreement now being ballyhooed as welfare reform was a year ago.

PRINCIPLED WRITINGS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer into the RECORD two record examples of the fine writing often found in one of district newspapers, *The Brazosport Facts*. While many find it easy to deride the press as liberal and closed to the notions of liberty, free markets, and constitutional principles, I am pleased to report that *The Brazosport Facts* in general, and these two authors in specific, seek to bring a fair, even balance to the coverage of news and ideas.

Today I enter into the RECORD an editorial written by Glenn Heath, a former executive editor of *The Brazosport Facts* and now a retired member of the community active yet active on the paper's editorial board. Also, I enter into the RECORD a column written by Bill Sturdevant, a frequent contributor to the *Facts*.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my fellow Members of Congress to read these principled writings. I offer my congratulations and thanks to these two men for supporting the ideas of liberty; and to the entire staff of *The Brazosport Facts* for their ongoing dedication to presenting fair coverage of events and ideas.

FREEDOM & SAFETY

A larger principle than the bill itself is involved. The principle applies to many human circumstances where a mandated gain entails a substantial loss.

For decades, a safety measure has been before the Legislature, either asking the state to require motorcycle riders to wear a protective helmet, or asking the state to repeal such a law. Riders have been in the gallery in force to oppose one or support the other.

This time it's repeal. Sen. Jerry Patterson's bill would relieve all motorcycle riders aged 21 or over of wearing the helmet. Legislators deleted a provision that they must carry added insurance if they did so.

The Senate is expected to vote on Patterson's bill Thursday or Friday.

From a purely practical standpoint, the arguments for the original bill had merit. In case of an accident, the helmet would help protect against head injuries.

Even most riders would admit that motorcycles can be dangerous. In the best of road

conditions, their speed capability is often abused; and on slick surfaces or loose surfacings they can be treacherous. In a crash with a four-wheel vehicle, the motorcycles always lose.

But motorcycles are designed as much for fun as for practical transportation. Even those who accept the helmet for its safety would agree that using one diminishes the pleasure of motorcycling.

More important, the helmet protects no one but the one wearing it. So the effect of the law is to force a person to do something entirely for personal safety.

That should be that person's choice. No government should regulate an individual's right to accept risks, and in doing so deprive that person of the freedom to enjoy a pleasure.

That doesn't mean there should be no rules of highway safety. Faulty brakes threaten not just the driver of an auto, but every other vehicle on the road. Slick tires, malfunctioning lights endanger others. These are concerns of government.

But not air bags. These don't prevent crashes and they don't protect others on the road; they only tend to reduce the injuries to a driver and possibly a passenger after a crash.

When air bags were a prospective federal mandate, the estimated cost for each was about \$300. Once they were in place, they were said to have saved 1,600 lives. For this to happen, tens of millions of motorists must pay the high cost of the devices.

And in a few cases, the air bags have actually killed people. New proposals would soften the impact, and would allow a motorist to have the air bag disabled. Then why shouldn't the motorist be allowed to avoid the expense altogether?

These are only two examples. We need protection from the negligence of others, but there should be limits on how much government limits our freedom and pleasure in protecting us from ourselves.

Benjamin Franklin had words for it: "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

WHEN POLITICIANS SAY ENTITLEMENTS, THINK ROBBERY

(By Bill Sturdevant)

Rights are counterbalanced with responsibility; juxtaposed and eternally linked. In the United States of America, we have a government created by a group of individuals collectively called "the people," who are not only "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights," those being "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," but also have the "equal right to the use of our own faculties, to the acquisitions of our own industry," and "to honor and confidence from our fellow-citizens, resulting not from birth, but from our actions and their sense of them." (Thomas Jefferson).

In short, we have the right to choose what is best for us. We have the right to pursue happiness as we define it, we have the right to keep the fruits of our labor that we earn in that pursuit, and we have the right to decide how to dispose of those rewards. At the same time, we must reconcile these rights with the responsibility of respecting the rights of others, and living with the consequences of our decisions and actions. If our country's founding fathers had written a golden rule for our citizens, it would have read "Respect the God-given rights of others, while at the same time protecting your own rights."

What bothers me is that there seem to be fewer and fewer people who understand and live by this golden rule. More and more