

"It was a profound historical address," Thompson said. "I shall never forget it."

THE POWER OF EDUCATION

Education was extremely important to Freeman and his family. He sacrificed so his children could go to college. He long remembered how difficult it had been to pursue his own education.

In the late 1930s, Freeman desperately wanted to go to college. But his widowed father was struggling to support seven sons.

Freeman interviewed with the president of Clark College in Atlanta and begged to attend classes there. He succeeded, working his way through as a custodian, and eventually graduated with a degree in education.

After his arrival in Kansas City, Kan., he earned advanced degrees, including his doctorate in theology from Central Baptist Theological Seminary in 1953. At the time, the opportunity to earn such a degree was rare for a black minister.

Education remained important throughout his involvement in the National Baptist Convention, USA. Freeman became president of the organization's Congress of Christian Education (as it's now called) in 1968.

His influence was almost immediate. His dynamic leadership and speechmaking helped increase attendance at its annual meeting by the thousands over his 15-year tenure.

"It's his personality," said the Rev. Ellis Robinson, Freeman's successor at First Baptist. "He knew how to get things done."

In his work for the National Baptist Convention and other programs, Freeman traveled extensively—all around the world—often at a moment's notice.

But his first priority was always his church. He always made sure that things would get done in his absence.

"Ministers and clergymen play a lot of different roles," said Thompson. "The pastoral role is one of shepherding, caring for and protecting and watching over the flock. . . . Nobody I know of played that role as well as Rev. Freeman. He was just a rare individual. He could make you feel good when you felt bad; he was very inspirational and uplifting."

There's something else about Freeman that people talk about. He loved to tell jokes. Every time he spoke, people could expect to hear two or three jokes along the way.

Of course, he had two kinds of jokes: those he could use in sermons and those he couldn't.

One of his very popular jokes dated from the days of "streaking," when college kids would dash through public places in the buff. Freeman's joke had to do with some older women in a nursing home. The punch line: One fellow goes, "What was that?" And the other goes, "I don't know, but it sure did need ironing."

Even in his last days, that joke was still able to touch people in unexpected ways. One former church member was visiting just a couple of weeks ago. Sitting at his bedside, this person said, "Reverend Freeman, I'll always remember that old joke about the senior citizens."

And, as his daughter Connie Lindesay tells it: "He just beamed. His eyes just twinkled."

FASTA, THE "FAIR STEEL TRADE ACT"

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, our foreign competitors have been dumping steel in Amer-

ica below market value for well over a year. This practice, which has been allowed to continue unencumbered by the Clinton Administration, has had a devastating effect on the U.S. steel industry and U.S. steelworkers. I have taken numerous actions, alone and in conjunction with the Congressional Steel Caucus, to urge the Administration to change its backward trade policy and remedy the current crisis. These pleas have fallen on deaf ears. It is time for a clear and decisive action. Therefore, I am introducing FASTA, the "Fair Steel Trade Act" today to force the Administration to impose swift and severe penalties on those countries that have flagrantly and repeatedly violated our trade laws. Specifically, FASTA will impose a three-month ban on imports of steel and steel products from Japan, Russia, South Korea and Brazil.

Steel dumping in America has become a global event. In the first 11 months of 1998, steel imports are up 167 percent from Japan, 60 percent from Russia, up 112 percent from South Korea, up 68 percent from the Ukraine, up 150 percent from Australia, up 105 percent from South Africa, up 114 percent from Brazil and up a whopping 586 percent from Indonesia.

In January, it was reported that a Congressionally-mandated report on foreign steel dumping would finally be released from the Administration. It was rumored that the report would outline the Administration's plans for helping the U.S. steel industry cope with cheap steel imports, but would not include any new initiatives beyond the Administration's previous efforts. Those efforts have consisted mainly of expediting complaints from U.S. steel companies and negotiating with countries such as Russia and South Korea.

In response to this rumor, I wrote a letter to President Clinton urging him to reverse course and take drastic action to stem the tide of cheap steel imports: "During your two campaigns for the Presidency and throughout your Administration you spoke eloquently about using U.S. trade policy to build a bridge to the 21st century for American workers. That bridge is crumbling under the weight of millions of tons of illegally dumped foreign steel. If your Administration does not take extraordinary and decisive action, hundreds of American communities and thousands of American families will enter the 21st century in poverty." The fact is, the Administration has been reviewing the dumping of foreign steel below cost in our market. It is crystal clear that anti-dumping statutes have been repeatedly violated. It's time to stop reviewing and start acting. I made it clear to the President in my letter that maintaining his present course of action falls woefully short of the type of decisive action that is warranted by this emergency.

Unfortunately, the rumors about the report proved true. In essence, the report demands that Japan curb its steel shipments to America through "voluntary export restraints." Idle threats and voluntary self-policing restraints do not a trade policy make. What's worse, the report makes no mention of the other six countries that continue to dump steel in our market.

The report also provides for tax relief for steel companies. According to the report, the steel industry will have greater ability than other industries to receive tax refunds to offset its losses. Under current law, companies can receive tax refunds on their losses for the previous two years of taxes paid. The steel indus-

try is now able to obtain refunds for the previous five years. This news, however, was not enough to save Bethlehem Steel. After the report was made public, Bethlehem Steel announced that it will close two stainless steel and strip-metal plants, thereby adding 540 American workers to the unemployment roll.

The tax relief provision is estimated to cost \$300 million over five years. While I support relief for the steel industry, I am livid that the President expects the American taxpayer and the steelworkers who have lost their jobs to pay for the illegal actions of our foreign competitors. Perhaps if the Administration enforced our trade laws for a change, and penalized dumping, we would collect enough revenue to pay for tax relief for our domestic steel industry.

It has become obvious to me that this Administration is unwilling to take the type of definitive action necessary to deal with this serious crisis. Voluntary self-policing is like putting a kid in a candy store and asking him not to eat. No disincentives, no repercussions—it's strictly voluntary. Promises won't help the 10,000 steelworkers who have lost well-paying jobs and promises won't stop industry giant Bethlehem Steel from closing the doors on two of its plants.

Despite repeated calls from steelworkers and Members of Congress such as myself, the Administration has elected to pursue a course of limited and meek actions. The time for negotiating, monitoring and litigating are long past. Tax breaks and more retraining programs will not put a single steelworker back to work.

It is now incumbent upon my colleagues in Congress—Democrats and Republicans—to take up the banner and fight to ensure that the steel industry, an industry vital to America's economy and national security, is not decimated by illegal competition. Cosponsor and pass FASTA today.

TRIBUTE TO DICK VOLPERT

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. SHERMAN, and I rise today to pay tribute to our dear friend Dick Volpert, who this year is receiving the Learned Hand Award from the American Jewish Committee. Certainly we can think of nobody more deserving of an award that honors both superior intellect and humanitarianism. Dick is that all-too-rare person who cannot remain aloof when he sees a person or group in need of help. He has a widespread and richly-deserved reputation for getting passionately involved in a range of causes.

Dick and his wife, Marcia, were without question among the most forceful and tireless advocates anywhere in the world on behalf of Soviet Jews in the 1970s and 80s. There is no doubt that their efforts enabled many Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union at a time when the freedom to practice their religion had been

eliminated and in a very real sense their lives were in peril. The Volperts educated the Jewish community of Southern California and beyond about the dire circumstances of Soviet Jews and the absolute necessity of doing whatever all of us could to bring about their release. As far as we're concerned, Dick and Marcia merit at least a chapter in any history of the Soviet Jewry movement in the United States.

While this was going on, Dick also spent countless hours engaged in pursuits relative to the Jewish community of Southern California. And though the cause of Soviet Jewry waned with the fall of the Soviet Union, Dick today remains extraordinarily active in local Jewish affairs. Since 1996, he has been a board member of the Brandeis-Bardin Institute, and he continues as both a member of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation Council of Los Angeles and the Executive Board of the American Jewish Committee. Dick has also been active with the University of Judaism and Valley Beth Shalom, a large synagogue in the San Fernando Valley.

Dick has other causes that occupy his time, not to mention a thriving practice in real estate law. For example, he is president of the Board of Governors of the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, a position that allows him to help determine the future of cultural life in Southern California. The Museum is in fact one of the most important places to experience art and culture in the entire region.

We ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Dick Volpert, a man whose dedication to making ours a better world is an inspiration to us all. We are in awe of his accomplishments and proud to be his friend.

HONORING THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this month our nation commemorates the 56th anniversary of one of the most tragic, and at the same time inspirational, incidents in our nation's history.

As an avid stamp collector, as well as a Member of Congress who served for many years on the Post Office and Civil Service Committee and who now serves on the Subcommittee on the Postal Service, I have long been aware that federal law prohibits any American being honored on a postage stamp prior to 10 years after his or her death. The only exception made is for Presidents of the United States, who may appear on stamps one year after their death.

However, once and only once in this century was an exception made.

And that was in 1948, fifty-one years ago, when Congress passed special legislation allowing the four chaplains to be honored on a stamp only five years after they sacrificed their lives. It was the night of February 3, 1943, fifty-six years ago this week, when four brave chaplains—George I. Fox and Clark V. Poling, Protestant ministers; Alexander D. Goode, a Rabbi; and John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest—laid down their lives aboard the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester* so that others might live on.

The *Dorchester*, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen, and civilian workers, was

traveling across the North Atlantic, toward a U.S. Army base on the coast of Greenland, when it was attacked without provocation by a German submarine. The Germans fired torpedoes toward the *Dorchester* which struck the transport ship below the water line, beyond all hope of repair. As water began to flood through the ship's hull, chaos set in aboard the *Dorchester*, and it was into the ensuing scene of utter hopelessness and despair that the chaplains' legacy was woven.

When it was discovered that the supply of life jackets aboard the *Dorchester* was insufficient, the chaplains—without hesitation—removed their own life jackets and offered them to four frightened young men. The chaplains remained with those injured by the initial blast as the ship slanted down toward the icy water. The four chaplains were last seen clutching hands together, offering prayers to heaven for those around them.

The qualities which those chaplains embodied—self-sacrifice, unity, and faith—are the qualities upon which our nation rests, and it is for this reason that they are rightfully honored as true American heroes.

As we pay homage to the four chaplains today and throughout this month, let us call on all our fellow Americans to reflect for a moment upon the attributes which defined their actions.

Mr. Speaker, today more than ever, it is important that we recall the sacrifice and selflessness which won for us the liberty and freedom which all of us Americans enjoy today.

Today, we sometimes seem to be living in an era when selflessness and sacrifice for others is considered "passe". Today, it sometimes seems that some people are more concerned with coming up with excuses for their actions, and casting themselves as the "victim", no matter what.

Today, more than ever, it is appropriate to remember the four chaplains and their self sacrifice. It is important to recall also the sacrifice of countless other men and women who gave their lives in the name of our country.

Nathaniel Hawthorne once wrote: "A hero cannot be a hero unless in a heroic world."

Mr. Speaker, in memory of the 4 chaplains, let us dedicate ourselves to reconstruct that historic world, a world where ideals and principals reign supreme.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH EQUITY ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would fix an inequity in the current reimbursement rates for low-income Native Americans who receive health care through the Indian Health Service (IHS).

Under current law, a 100 percent federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) applies for the cost of services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries by a hospital clinic, or other IHS facility, as long as they are run by the IHS, tribe, or tribal organization. While IHS facilities (usually in rural areas) are eligible to receive the 100 percent FMAP, similar services provided through IHS programs (usually

in urban areas) receive only 50–80 percent reimbursement depending on the service.

My legislation would fix this inequity by raising the IHS program FMAP to 100 percent as well.

Equalizing the FMAP for health care received through IHS programs is especially important given that roughly half of the nation's Native Americans now live in urban areas. Furthermore, many urban IHS programs are run through Federally Qualified Health Centers whose state funding have been threatened by repeal of the Boren Amendment.

Passing this legislation would benefit IHS programs in over 35 cities throughout the country and would have little impact on the federal budget. Informal estimates illustrate that equalizing the FMAP for IHS programs would cost \$17 million over the next 5 years.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Indian Health Equity Act.

IN MEMORY OF HEDY SOMMERFELT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Hedy Sommerfelt, a prominent figure in the Cleveland Polish Community.

Hedy was a lifelong Slavic Village resident. While in elementary school she began to go to Polish school on Saturdays. There she learned to speak, write, and read the Polish language. Throughout her life she was an advocate of Polish culture. In 1946 Hedy married John F. Sommerfelt. This prompted her to join the Union of Poles in America (UPA), a fraternal insurance organization founded more than 100 years ago. In 1978, Mrs. Sommerfelt began working for the UPA as the financial secretary. Following that, she worked under longtime UPA president Richard Jablonski as the executive vice president. When Jablonski died in 1995, Mrs. Sommerfelt assumed the presidency of the Union of Poles. She was the first woman president of the organization. She also volunteered for many Catholic and Polish causes and was the president of the Immaculate Heart Parent Teachers Unit (PTU) in the 1960's.

Those who worked with Hedy will forever remember the pens given to them which were topped with a tiny gold "guardian angel." One of these pens, her trademark, was even given to President Clinton in 1996. She was a pillar of strength in the community. She had great energy which she used to help the Polish community in every way to further the cultural and spiritual growth of the community. Her influence was felt at every level of government. She was committed to the cause of Poland as well as the Polish Community in Greater Cleveland. She and her husband have been lifelong friends and I consider her passing a personal loss.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in honoring the memory of this remarkable woman, Hedy Sommerfelt.