

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOOVER DAM MISCELLANEOUS SALES ACT

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my distinguished colleague from Nevada, Mr. GIBBONS, I am pleased to introduce the Hoover Dam Miscellaneous Sales Act.

Mr. Speaker, each year more than one million tourists travel to the Hoover Dam on the Arizona/Nevada border. Of the one million tourists who yearly visit this man-made treasure, a third venture from foreign countries. The demand for maps, publications, memorabilia, photographs and videos on the Hoover Dam, its history, and the Colorado River has significantly increased over the years. Most of these products can be produced by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Bureau, however, has not been given the authority to sell Hoover Dam products.

Mr. Speaker, this proposed legislation provides the authority to the Secretary of the Interior to produce and sell products relating to the Hoover Dam. The bill allows the funds derived from the sale of these products to be used towards the repayment of the Hoover Dam Visitor Center. Currently, purchasers of Hoover Dam power in Arizona, California and Nevada are paying for the construction of the Hoover Dam Visitor Center. Funds will also be applied to the payment of operation and maintenance costs, as well as costs associated with the delivery of guided tours at the Hoover Dam and its power plant.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will not only enhance a visitor's experience at the Hoover Dam, but it will provide a new funding source for the many costs associated with the Hoover Dam and the Hoover Dam Visitor Center.

PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR THE FUTURE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Mechanicstown School, an elementary school in my congressional district. I especially congratulate School Principal Antoinette M. Belfiglio. Mechanicstown is a micro-society magnet school. With the help of local businesses, the students and faculty of the school are working together to form a working community that is run by students under faculty supervision. This community within the school will use the skills learned in their classrooms and apply them to workplace and real world settings.

I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring these outstanding members of our community.

This example of local businesses taking an interest in the welfare of their children is exemplary. The dedication of our faculty and staff is meritorious.

Approximately 50 businesses in the local community have joined together in support of this program in the Mechanicstown Elementary School. There is a careful screening of each venture by a planning board, which evaluates the possibility of the business's survival in the school. This is done with the aid of Sim Town, a computer program.

After a permit is issued by the planning board, the business moves in and employees are placed by the school's employment agency. The children interested in a position are required to go through an application process much like the procedure that they would encounter in the average workplace.

Faculty members work with the students to run the business. The students take the classroom into the "real" world, using the skills taught to them in school and applying them in business situations. Programs such as the stationary stores, post offices, and the school supply store enhance the children's English, Math, and public relations skills. The children working in the environmental center, the pet store, and the science laboratory apply their knowledge from science and Math classes. There are video and computer based businesses in the school as well. These are extremely important for a child's survival in today's technology based workplace. Children become comfortable with computers and video equipment when they are young. This will give them an advantage when they emerge into the workforce.

This program is advantageous for our children. The skills learned from hands-on experiences will exhibit to children how to apply their classroom lessons. There is a definite benefit in having the children working with the faculty. They learn how to interact not only with their peers, but with their elders as well.

Another program that has been implemented in the Mechanicstown Middle School is the Morning Program that enables the entire school to meet together before the classes begin every day. During this time the students share various skills in the areas of music, dancing, and literature. Occasionally guests are asked to make presentations to the students. This is also an opportunity for the students to be recognized for their achievements both academically and also in the local community outside of school.

Out of the entire country, Mechanicstown has recently been chosen to be featured in a Japanese educational documentary. The Japanese company is honoring one school per country for their amazing feats in the educational curriculum, programs, activities, and classes. This is a great honor that has been bestowed upon our district's school.

Mechanicstown School should be highly commended for its innovative learning programs. Their dedication to our youth's future is invaluable. Mechanicstown is a stellar example of our schools working to meet the edu-

cational needs of our children. I thank our local businesses, the faculty, and the children of Mechanicstown Elementary School for their innovative programs, their persistence and hard work. I am confident that they will continue in their outstanding efforts.

ALFRED AND AGNES LAWRENCE CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alfred and Agnes Lawrence from Rockville Centre, Long Island as they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on May 1, 1999. Their life's journey began in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn where they were both born and raised. They met as teenagers and soon became each other's sweetheart.

During World War II, Alfred proudly wore his country's uniform and served in the United States Navy as a SEABEE in the South Pacific on Okinawa island. And since Agnes was stateside, she contributed her part to help the war effort. A year after the war, on May 1, 1949, Alfred and Agnes exchanged wedding vows.

The Lawrences joined millions of other post-World War II couples by starting a family—seven children. The family Lawrence first lived in Brooklyn but soon moved to Rockville Centre, Long Island to raise their children. Throughout the years, the Lawrences experienced the joys of work, play, education, graduation, and marriage of their children.

The happy couple celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at a retirement home in Spring Hill, Florida where Alfred is an active SEABEE veteran and Agnes is a HoneyBee. They are now blessed with twenty-one grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A long and fruitful journey life has given them.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Alfred and Agnes Lawrence on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE CAPTAIN VINCENT G. FOWLER

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of New York's bravest, a valiant and a true hero, Captain Vincent G. Fowler, a 21-year veteran of the New York City Fire Department who was recently killed in the line of duty at the age of 47.

Ask any member of the Community and I am sure they will agree that firefighters are

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

truly courageous individuals. But there are those within the profession whose level of commitment challenges even that standard. Captain Fowler was one of these individuals.

Today, and every day, firefighters risk injury and death for the welfare of the community. It takes the tireless efforts of valiant men like Vincent Fowler to avert tragedy. Like many firefighters in our communities, Fowler understood the power of teamwork and its capability to save lives. His fearless leadership is a shining example to all of us.

During the course of his career, Vincent Fowler received three commendations for bravery, and had recently been appointed to the position of captain.

Fowler was a Holbrook, Long Island, Native, Captain Vincent Fowler was surrounded by loved ones who know all too well the dangers lurking at fire scenes. His father, also named Vincent, is a retired battalion chief, and his two brothers are also city firefighters. His family has dedicated itself to serving New York in one of the most dangerous jobs one can imagine. Consequently, the notion of a career in firefighting seemed natural for Vincent.

Mr. Speaker, Fowler embodies the type of role model who, as a leader, did not hesitate to put the safety of his team members above his own. He was in the basement of a burning house trying to determine where the blaze started when part of the first floor collapsed. He was severely injured, but orders his team to get out, knowing his fate had been sealed.

Colleagues, Captain Fowler is a courageous leader who will be sorely missed.

CRISIS IN KOSOVO (ITEM NO. 13)
REMARKS BY BENJAMIN SLAY
OF PLANECON, INC.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on June 24, 1999, I joined with Representative CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY, Representative BARBARA LEE, and Representative JOHN CONYERS in hosting the sixth in a series of Congressional Teach-In sessions on the Crisis in Kosovo. If a lasting peace is to be achieved in the region, it is essential that we cultivate a consciousness of peace and actively search for creative solutions. We must construct a foundation for peace through negotiation, mediation, and diplomacy.

Part of the dynamic of peace is a willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue, to listen to one another openly and to share our views in a constructive manner. I hope that these Teach-In sessions will contribute to this process by providing a forum for Members of Congress and the public to explore options for a peaceful resolution. We will hear from a variety of speakers on different sides of the Kosovo situation. I will be introducing into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD transcripts of their remarks and essays that shed light on the many dimensions of the crisis.

This presentation is by Benjamin Slay, a senior economist at PlanEcon, Inc., a Washington-based economics consulting firm specializing in Russia, Eastern Europe and the Balkans. His work on the Balkans includes developing PlanEcon's macroeconomics model

for the economy of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and serving as a consultant to a 1995 Aspen Institute project on economic development after the Dayton accord. Dr. Slay received his Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1989. He has held faculty positions at Middlebury College, Bates College, George Mason University, and the State Department's National Foreign Affairs Training Center.

THE BALKAN ECONOMIES: THE IMPACT ON
KOSOVO¹

(Dr. Ben Slay²)

HOW BAD IS THE DAMAGE?

Economic developments in the Balkans since late March have been dominated by the Kosovo conflict. Yugoslavia's already fragile economy has been devastated by the NATO bombing. The exodus from Kosovo has burdened neighboring economies with hundreds of thousands of refugees. Transit routes have been closed, tourism and trade have fallen off, and investment projects have been put on hold or cancelled.

Footnotes appear at end of article

Estimates of the Kosovo war's economic costs vary widely, with figures ranging from \$20 billion to \$100 billion. The latter figure is nonsensical as aggregate GDP in region does not come close to this sum. Moreover, the region's economic problems can not be blamed solely, or even largely on the war. The fighting has instead provided a convenient excuse for politicians and seeking to divert attention from the deeper structural and policy problems that have constrained growth throughout the region. Only Hungary, Albania, and Bosnia continue to grow strongly; the other Balkan economies are either in or headed toward sharp slowdowns caused by weak export demand or the failure to pursue ambitious domestic reforms. For this latter group, the war only added to pre-existing difficulties.

In assessing the damage directly attributable to the war, the region's economies can be placed into five categories:

The direct hit: Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav economy is in catastrophic shape. Infrastructure, particularly bridges, railroads, and the telecommunications network were all damaged or destroyed by the bombing. NATO also inflicted serious damage on the decrepit, albeit functioning, Serb industrial base, with oil refineries, heavy machinery plants, and tobacco factories especially hard hit. Kosovo is completely devastated; a major reconstruction effort will be necessary just to house returning refugees. This is the second economic disaster to hit Yugoslavia in this decade: the economic sanctions and hyperinflation of the early 1990s had already practically halved economic output.

The Milosevic regime has done almost nothing to help. The economy is a largely unstructured kleptocracy, where leading economic actors engage in rent-seeking activities made possible by regulations drawn up for their benefit by the Milosevic regime. After a recovery phase lasting until 1997, economic growth had already tapered off substantially in 1998 before the outbreak of the Kosovo conflict. By early 1999 the economy was clearly headed for a sharp correction. With large-scale Western aid tied to Milosevic's fate, Yugoslavia's second crack at recovery looks just as unpromising as the first. Serbs will be digging themselves out

¹This text is adapted from Chris Kushlis and Ben Slay, "Overview", in PlanEcon Review and Outlook for Eastern Europe, June 1999, PlanEcon Inc., Washington D.C.

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from under the rubble of the Milosevic ear for years, if not decades, to come.

The front-line states: Albania and Macedonia. These two states absorbed the full shock of the refugee influx. While Albania took in almost twice as many refugees as Macedonia (450,000 compared to 250,000), Macedonia suffered greater economic dislocation. Whereas Albania exported almost nothing to Yugoslavia, half of Macedonia's exports went to or through Belgrade. Macedonia is also more concerned over lost tourism and foreign investment this year. By contrast, since over 60 percent of its GDP originates in the agricultural sector (which has a large subsistence component), Albania tends to be more insulated against external shocks than the rest of the region. We therefore estimate that the conflict will only reduce Albania's GDP growth by 2-3 percent this year. It will, however, knock 7-8 percentage points off Macedonia's GDP growth, thereby pushing Macedonia into recession.

Collateral damage: Bosnia-Herzegovina. Bosnia's Serb half is closely integrated with the Yugoslav economy and as a result suffered heavily from the war: exports from the Republika Srpska went almost entirely to Yugoslavia and have since March dropped to almost nothing. Bosnia also accepted 70,000 refugees (both Albanian and Serb), further swelling the numbers of refugees in the country. While we see Bosnian growth slowing this year from 21 percent, this must be viewed in the context of Bosnia's post-war recovery process. Annual growth rates above 20 percent are unsustainable as Bosnia's recovery matures; and problems like falling Croat demand for Bosnian exports are also driving growth down. A new tariff regime with Yugoslavia, and Yugoslav payment difficulties, were already cutting into first-quarter Bosnian exports and growth. For these reasons only half of the 7-percentage point slowdown can be directly attributable to the war. The main engine for Bosnia's growth continues to be the massive international assistance program.

Shell-shocked: Bulgaria and Croatia. Bulgaria and Croatia bore almost none of the refugee burden (each took in about 5,000 refugees), and both countries conduct only a small share of their trade with Yugoslavia (about 2 percent of total exports for Bulgaria, 0.4 percent for Croatia). Bulgaria and Croatia nonetheless find themselves in a precarious position in the aftermath of the crisis. The war cut into exports from both; for Bulgaria this involved the extra costs of re-routing transit trade; for Croatia it affected trade with Bosnia and destinations further south. Reductions in tourist revenues and foreign investment are a greater concern, as these inflows reduce current account deficits and boost tax revenues. Still, both economies were already suffering from their own difficulties before the bombing began: Bulgaria's exports and growth were down sharply due to slow industrial restructuring; while Croatia's economy slowed in the last quarter of 1998 and remained weak up to the outbreak of the war. In both countries the war will cost about 1-2 percent of GDP growth this year, as the growth slowdown is attributable primarily to domestic factors.

The near misses: Hungary, Romania, and Slovenia. Of the Balkan countries crying wolf, Romania is crying the loudest. Romania suffered only marginally from the Kosovo war; and even these losses may have been more than covered by IMF assistance. Romanian losses were largely confined to the 1.3 percent of exports heading to Yugoslavia, and to Danube shipping. Most of Romania's economic problems are domestic in nature. Slovenia is not even trying use the Kosovo crisis as cover for its slowdown in growth. With two-thirds of its exports heading to the