

crisis. In March, the House passed the Bipartisan Steel Recovery Act, which imposes quotas on steel imports above a certain level, for three years. Short-term solutions, however, are not a panacea. In order to rebuild the confidences of American industry and the American worker in the international trading system—and particularly in U.S. trade policy—Congress should reform three major trade law regimes: (1) enforcement of international trade agreements, (2) remedies against disruptive import surges, and (3) remedies against foreign unfair trade practices.

There is an urgent need to strengthen Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, which was enacted to enable the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to open foreign markets closed to imported products and services by unreasonable trade barriers. The effectiveness of Section 301 has been significantly undermined by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) and the emergence of new, harder-to-reach forms of foreign trade barriers. Section 301 now serves almost exclusively as a mechanism by which complaints are funneled through the USTR en route to the WTO. The bilateral component of U.S. trade diplomacy has been allowed to decay. The WTO has been ineffectual in dealing with modern, complex trade issues such as the closure of foreign markets by governments working with private monopolies and cartels (e.g. *Kodak v. Fuji*). Title I of the Trade Policy Reform Act would reinstate this bilateral component of U.S. trade diplomacy and require new reporting requirements by the Office of U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to Congress. These new reporting requirements: (1) make the USTR more accountable to Congress, and (2) provide for direct information dissemination to Congress, in order to improve Congressional oversight, and (3) address both market access barriers and foreign compliance with international accords. The "Trade Policy Reform Act" also mandates appropriate action by the Commerce Department when market access barriers or non-compliance with trade accords is found.

Specifically, Title I requires monitoring of and reports on foreign market access for U.S. goods and services, negotiations to gain market access, progress reports on negotiations, monitoring of compliance with trade agreements, and 301 actions should negotiations fail or should countries refuse to negotiate or in the case of noncompliance with agreements. The Trade Policy Reform Act would also bring the National Trade Estimates (NTE) report closer to Congress' original goals and address current illegal trade practices such as prison labor, etc. The NTE is further amended to include input by affected U.S. industries and their employees. Congress devised the NTE in the 1980s to inventory, on an annual basis, foreign trade barriers affecting U.S. exports of goods and services. The purpose was to bring about negotiations to eliminate such barriers. The list today does not serve its intended function.

With respect to relief from unfair trade practices, Title II of the Trade Policy Reform Act mandates action by the USTR, for the first time, against collaborations between foreign governments and private enterprises to restrict market access for U.S. goods and services by making such collaborations actionable. Moreover, the legislation would allow any interested party, defined as one who has been economi-

cally adversely affected, to request a review of country compliance with any trade agreement. Non-compliance is actionable.

In addition, Title II would prohibit the Secretary of Commerce from using any funds appropriated by Congress to implement existing agreements and negotiate any new ones for those categories of steel included in H.R. 975, the Bipartisan Steel Recovery Act. Section 2106 also directs the Secretary to withdraw from the current agreements and notify the other signatories of that action.

Title III of the Trade Policy Reform Act would abolish the International Trade Commission and transfer its authority and responsibilities to the Department of Commerce. The ITC's continued independence and existence outside of any institution accountable to the people of the United States undermines America's industry and hurts America's workers. The ITC's independence is precisely what makes it the least appropriate body to determine whether U.S. industries are being injured by imports and what relief those industries should be given. America's workers deserve to have an agency on their side, protecting their interests, with their security and success its primary goal. Although the ITC Commissioners are confirmed by the Senate, Congress has no other role whatsoever in its oversight (other than appropriating its operating funds).

When the ITC purports to not be a policy-making body, it really means that it does not follow American policy, just its own. The ITC's policy clearly places the concerns of foreign industries on the same plateau as our own industries, and American workers suffer. Furthermore, the ITC contradicts itself. On one hand it claims to be an independent agency that conducts objective studies on international trade. On the other hand the ITC is required to assist the President, making recommendations on how to relieve industries injured by increasing exports, and advising him on whether agriculture imports interfere with governmental price support programs. In filling these dual roles, the ITC is the equivalent of a referee that makes calls in a game while coaching his team from the sidelines. The Commissioners of the ITC are supposed to serve the American people. The American worker does not need a coach that is also required to fill the role of "objective" referee. An agency like the ITC cannot entirely fulfill its duties. Title III will abolish this problematic agency, transfer its authority to the Department of Commerce, and in doing so fill the much-needed role of a trade agency that successfully champions the causes of the American workers.

For an agency charged with the awesome responsibility of being the last line of defense of American industry against foreign attack, objectivity and unaccountability are unacceptable. Moving its functions to the Secretary of Commerce would subject those roles to tougher scrutiny by Congressional committees of jurisdiction and, consequently, to the American people. The Secretary would be responsible for all decisions made on behalf of America's workers and would have to answer to the elected representatives of the American people for those determinations.

Finally, Title IV of the Trade Policy Reform Act creates a WTO Review Commission to strengthen the dispute resolution process. Section 301 provisions require the U.S. to bring Section 301 cases involving trade agreements to the dispute settlement procedures

established under the agreements. Therefore, U.S. membership in the WTO does not diminish or restrict the ability of the United States to initiate Section 301 cases, but does require it to submit cases involving WTO trade agreements to the WTO for dispute settlement. If the U.S. wins, the loser must comply with the WTO ruling or face retaliation measures.

What happens when the U.S. loses a case in the WTO? Technically, the United States could issue Section 301 trade sanctions, despite any decision made under the WTO dispute resolution process. However, if the United States imposed an unauthorized sanction on a WTO-covered item (e.g. raised the tariff beyond a negotiated rate), the sanctioned country might issue a complaint to the WTO, which might rule against the U.S. The WTO has no real authority to force any nation to change its laws or abide by its rulings. If the U.S. chose to ignore WTO rulings, it would run the risk that other nations would too. In order for the DSU mechanism to work, WTO members, including the U.S. must be willing to "play by the rules."

Specifically, the WTO Review Commission would review the WTO dispute settlement cases adverse to the United States to determine if the WTO had exceeded its authority, which could lead the President to seek changes in WTO dispute settlement rules. For example, should the Commission determine that the WTO's ruling in favor of Japan in the Kodak-Fuji case was due to lack of authority in anti-competitive practices, the Commission could then direct the President to negotiate an anti-competitive trade agreement to expand WTO authority. The creation of a WTO Dispute Settlement Review Commission is both a mechanism for protecting U.S. trade interests as well as an "official" means for the U.S. to initiate improvements in the Dispute Settlement system, as problems arise. The United States could base future trade negotiations on the Commissions findings.

It is incumbent upon Congress to restore to confidence of U.S. industry and American workers in our international trading system. To accomplish this objective, Congress must ensure a fair and equitable international trading system: illegal trade practices must not be tolerated, foreign markets that restrict American goods and services must be liberalized, international panels must be scrutinized for any bias, conflict of interest, or overstepping or authority, and ineffective government agencies must be reinvented to serve U.S. business and labor. The "Trade Policy Reform Act" provides common sense solutions to some of the key problems with America's trade policies. I urge all Members to cosponsor this legislation.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 514TH AIR MOBILITY WING

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the men and women of the 514th Air Mobility Wing on the commemoration of your 50th anniversary! The citizens of the United States, and especially of New Jersey, recognize and

appreciate your impressive contributions to our great nation.

Over the past 50 years you have endured changes in your name, command, mission, aircraft, and location. You've been activated and deactivated, stretched far beyond your resources and had your budgets slashed to frightening levels. Through it all, you stayed the course, steadfast in your commitment to serve, professional and dependable, always meeting the demands placed upon you.

You continue to enjoy unparalleled success as the premier associate wing in the Air Force Reserve Command. The nation has watched the members of the 514th AMW leave your families and home for the Korean war, the Cuban missile crisis, the Vietnam war and the evacuation of South Vietnamese refugees. Alongside your active duty brethren, you were among the first forces into the Vietnam conflict. In fact, it was a reserve crew from the now-deactivated 335th Military Airlift Squadron that flew the last mission of Operation Babylift from Saigon. You continue to support Operation Southern Watch and humanitarian missions too numerous to count.

Please accept this tribute of a nation grateful for the tremendous sacrifices you have made and continue to make in defense of the many freedoms we enjoy. We are proud of you. We support you. We thank you.

MAYS FAMILY IN ROBSTOWN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a family that has been a large part of the history of my hometown, Robstown, Texas, for the better part of the 20th Century. Next week, the Mays Family will hold a family reunion in the Omni Bayfront Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas.

I am honored to know this fine family, and I want to let my colleagues in the House of Representatives know about these pioneers. Riley and Ella Mays moved to Robstown from Kosse, Texas, in 1912; they were the first black family to live in Robstown, which is a largely Hispanic enclave west of Corpus Christi in Nueces County in the Coastal Bend of Texas.

The Mays family is a distinguished and respected family in the community and in the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, which was founded by Riley Mays. Both Riley and Ella saw the need for a Baptist church in the area, so they acquired a building which doubled as a church and as the first black public school in the area.

Riley Mays was the first Deacon there and a Sunday School teacher until his death. Ella Mays was a nurse and the first president of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church's missionary society. They both directed the school there.

To commemorate the first black family to settle in Robstown and to honor the family patriarch, the city named a street in Riley Mays' honor. Shortly, a historical marker will be established at the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church to pay tribute to the Mays family as well. The great and lasting legacy left to their family by Riley and Ella Mays is that the

strength of the United States is found in the family unit.

This is the tradition that their descendants celebrate each day and it is the tradition that they will celebrate en masse August 6–8, when they hold their family reunion. Riley and Ella Mays had 14 children, and today have over 450 descendants who are active in their communities, schools and churches all over Texas and the United States.

I ask my colleague to join me in wishing them well as they gather to commemorate their families' tradition of service to community and country.

HONORING RONALD E. TEATER

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I would like to take a minute to tell my fellow colleagues and the American people about Ronald E. Teater. Mr. Teater is a great, faithful and hardworking Mississippian. He is the kind of person who should serve as a role model for all of us.

I am telling you about Mr. Teater today because he is being honored this weekend by the Mendenhall, Mississippi Fire Department. Can you imagine being part of one organization for fifty years? Mr. Teater can because that is how long he has been faithfully serving the citizens of Mendenhall in their fire department. This dedication to the people of his community speaks loudly and clearly as to the good character of Mr. Teater.

Ronald E. Teater is an American who fought for his nation during World War II in the United States Navy. Mr. Teater has also served the people of Mendenhall as a town alderman. He has been a man for all seasons. He has given his time in making all of our lives safer and better.

And, I understand that Mr. Teater has no intentions of slowing down.

Just think about being a fireman for 50 years. Think about the countless people he has protected. Think about the folks he has helped and consoled. We can never be thankful enough to our nation's firefighters. And, Mr. Teater goes at the top of the list.

Ronald E. Teater is a person to admire, look up to and respect. He is a man that deserves our praise. To Mr. Teater I would like to say thank you. Thank you for serving, thank you for caring and thank you for giving your time, energy and efforts to make Mendenhall, Mississippi and America what they are today.

RECOGNIZING JACK QUINN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts and hard work of Mr. Jack Quinn. Because of his leadership, work ethic, and selection to participate in the Washington, DC Fannie Mae Partnership Summit, I now honor this remarkable man.

Mr. Quinn received a bachelor of science degree from Fairfield University and later earned a master of arts in public administration from the University of Northern Colorado. After finishing his education, he went on to serve the people of Colorado, specifically Pueblo, CO, in various capacities.

Jack Quinn has been an active participant in many housing organizations including Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, Colorado Housing Finance Authority, and Pueblo Neighborhood Housing Services. He was instrumental in founding the Mountain/Plains Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials in 1973. Recently, he completed a 2-year term as National President of this association.

Mr. Quinn also takes an active role in his community, serving as the chairman of the board of St. Mary Corwin Regional Medical Center and chairman of the Finance Committee for Pueblo Community College Foundation. At one time, he also dedicated his time and energy to serving as Chairman of United Way. Presently, Mr. Jack Quinn works with the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, the Latino Chamber of Commerce, and the State Fair.

Mr. Jack Quinn is a unique and valuable individual. Working for the Pueblo Housing Authority for over 30 years, he has served as Executive Director for 27 of those years. I greatly appreciate his role in leadership, his involvement and dedication to the Pueblo community, and the example he sets.

FINANCIAL FREEDOM ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to express his qualified support for H.R. 2488, the Financial Freedom Act. At the outset, this Member thinks that a tax cut is very good for the American people and for the economy, but he wants to make sure that it is the right size and that it focuses on middle income Americans.

In particular, this Member also wants to see some of the future surplus funds used to reduce the national debt. By locking away some of the additional money for Social Security and Medicare, and by reasonable limits on the tax cut, we can devote more of any real surplus to retiring more of the national debt. At this Member's town hall meetings, he has found Nebraskans resoundingly in favor of reducing the national debt and many of his colleagues have told him that they have had the same experience. This Member is pleased to know that the manager's amendment to H.R. 2488 expresses the sense of Congress on its commitment to debt reduction and a national debt increase trigger which would annually block the across-the-board Federal income tax reduction if the amount of that debt interest outlay increases for total U.S. Federal Government debt from the amount of the previous year. This means there will be an iron-clad method to assure that there is a payment toward reducing the national debt.

This Member is confident that the size of the tax cut will be reduced in conference. He thinks that the proposed reduction in taxes