

CHINA NEEDS TO JOIN THE  
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 1999*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, many of us were hoping that progress could be made on a United States-China agreement for China's accession to the World Trade Organization [WTO] at the recent mini-summit meeting between President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang in Auckland, New Zealand. With the new WTO round beginning in Seattle, Washington, at the end of November, the time left to reach an agreement, and for China to join the WTO at the Seattle ministerial meeting, has almost run out. China needs to be in the WTO. And, China's accession to the WTO is in the short and long term interests of the United States and all the developed countries who are members of the WTO. Accordingly, this Member recommends the following editorial from the Wednesday, September 15, 1999, Journal of Commerce which comments on the Clinton-Jiang meeting and makes a strong case for China and Taiwan's accession to the WTO.

[From the Journal of Commerce, September 15, 1999]

## CLINTON AND JIANG MEET

The rhetoric was typically overblown, but the idea that Sino-American relations are moving back to what passes for normal is a cause for some relief.

A minisummit between Presidents Clinton and Jiang "opened up a new chapter for Sino-U.S. relations," enthused one high-ranking U.S. official after their private session during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum gathering in New Zealand last weekend. "The summit is significant," proclaimed Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who had her own session with Chinese Vice Premier (and former foreign minister) Qian Qichen along with Samuel Berger, Clinton's national security adviser.

Relations between the United States and China are important, both for trade and economic reasons and for military and strategic ones. They go through regular if unhelpfully exaggerated turmoil over such things as Taiwan, intellectual property and market access and were badly bruised by the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade.

Chinese outrage was fully understandable and its inherent suspicion of "mistakes" fueled an age-old xenophobia. Nobody benefits from that kind of inward-focused China.

Many of the strains in Sino-American relations arise from the sort of everyday differences that a more mature and confident China would brush off (but keep around as a bargaining chip at some future time, as all powers do). For a country that claims the pioneering role in the art of diplomacy thousands of years ago, its mandarins often seem strangely given to flying off the handle.

In one of the more important unresolved issues—China's membership in the World Trade Organization—both sides are at fault. The Clinton administration muffed a great opportunity during the April visit to the United States of Premier Zhu Rongji, who brought a surprisingly lengthy list of concessions and agreements designed to break the logjam. He was justifiably affronted by the rebuff.

Similarly, China did itself no good by sulking for months after the Belgrade bombing

and then playing coy, suggesting that while it would be nice to join the club China could muddle through perfectly well on the outside.

China patently needs the WTO, and the United States, European Union and the rest of the trading world need it as a member. The talks have dragged on for 13 years.

Foreign investment, the spur to China's remarkable economic growth in recent years, is declining. This is partly due to the economic typhoon that swept Asia the past two years, but also partly due to China's failure to cut red tape sufficiently and to corral provincial and even municipal bureaucracies fond of making their own rules. Investors have plenty of good places to go and will go where they feel most welcome.

China has cut its tariff levels more deeply and widely than any other big trading country, by as much as 50% in some areas; the terms it offered were more generous than those of many existing WTO members, such as India. Beijing still dawdles for spurious reasons on opening financial services fully—especially insurance—but must be given credit for what it has done.

The best way to get closer adherence to global rules is to invite China into the game. The EU, previously also firm in demanding more concessions before entry, long ago accepted that enough was in place that the nitpicking should stop.

Beyond the immediate issue lies that of Taiwan. By common if misguided agreement, the dynamic little island won't be allowed into the WTO until China gains entry. Never mind that Taiwan has gone well beyond China and many other countries in tidying up its trade behavior. Such is realpolitik, but Taiwan deservedly gets a lot of good press.

When Taiwan President Lee Ten-hui spoke of wanting relations between the island and the mainland on a state-to-state basis, he may have been injudicious and he must have known that Beijing would yelp. But the truth is that Taiwan is the world's 14th-largest trading nation, has its third-largest hard currency reserves and few people outside China swallow Beijing's fiction that Taiwan is a wayward province subject for eternity to the risk of Chinese armed intervention.

The think tanks and professors are free to debate the nuances of such things in their ivory towers for as long as it amuses them. The real world needs China and Taiwan in the WTO now. Clinton knows it, and he should make it happen.

HONORING JOHN BOLAND FOR HIS  
EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE  
QUINEBAUG AND SHETUCKET  
RIVERS VALLEY NATIONAL HER-  
ITAGE CORRIDOR**HON. SAM GEJDENSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 1999*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Boland of Pomfret, Connecticut for his tireless and successful efforts to develop and grow the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor. As residents across eastern Connecticut mark the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Corridor, John Boland deserves much of the credit for the success we all celebrate.

John was one of the leaders of a small group of citizens from eastern Connecticut who came together in the late 1980s with an

idea to preserve and promote the natural, cultural and historic resources of the region. The group also wanted to follow an approach that would center on the major rivers in the area—the Quinebaug in the east and the Shetucket in the west—because they are intertwined with that history, with a way of life. As an avid canoeist, John also appreciated the recreational potential the rivers offered as well as the many obstacles to public access and greater enjoyment of these resources. After much research and widespread public discussion, the group embraced an innovative and largely experimental concept—the National Heritage Corridor.

In 1988, John and others formed the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor Committee to expand public awareness about the concept and to work in support of formally designating the Corridor. I am proud to have worked with John, who served as Chairman of the Committee, and so many others across the region to develop and introduce legislation in the House to achieve this goal. In the fall of 1994, years of hard work and persistence paid off as Congress passed and the President signed the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act.

Following enactment of the bill, John continued to take a leadership role in transforming the Corridor from a concept into reality. He helped to develop the framework of the non-profit corporation—Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc.—which currently manages the Corridor. He served as first Chairman of its Board of Directors and continues to be actively involved in many Corridor projects.

Mr. Speaker, the success of the Quinebaug and Shetucket National Heritage Corridor is the result of the efforts of countless residents from across eastern Connecticut. However, like so many other successful initiatives, a few people play critical leadership roles. John Boland has been this type of leader. His vision and hard work have been crucial to making the Corridor a reality. I join citizens from across eastern Connecticut in saying—thank you John.

WILLIE MACK (1927-1999)—A LIFE  
WITH INTENT**HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 1999*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the death of and to celebrate the remarkable life of a personal friend and political ally, Willie Mack. For almost 40 years, "Whisper" as he was affectionately called, was by my side in the many struggles for political equity and a voice in the affairs of governance for the African-American community in St. Louis. In the early days, when I was leading the effort to build an effective political organization, Willie "Whisper" Mack was prominently present. He was my right hand, my trusted confidant in every hard fought, exciting political campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I met "Whisper" one year after my first election to the St. Louis Board of Aldermen in 1959. In 1960, I was campaign manager for Norman Seay who was seeking to be the Democratic committeeman in that

26th Ward. Seay had successfully run my campaign for Alderman the previous year. Seay's opponent had gone about the business of lining up the so-called corner boys, those who frequented the taverns, pool rooms and barber shops. One of his most effective recruits was Willie Mack. Mack owned a barber shop and had hundreds of hero worshipers who followed his lead. The story goes that the nickname was tagged on him when, as a young gang participant, he was thrown into a pool of cold water in the middle of the winter by an opposite gang faction. As a result, he temporarily lost his voice for several months.

But as those election returns bear out, speaking in subdued tones, "Whisper" knew how to work a precinct. Seay's opponent won his precinct by a margin of 2 to 1 (only one of two precincts won by him).

Much credit for "Whisper" political acumen goes to his wife, Jackie. They made the perfect political combination. He influenced the street people. She was loved by the home owners in the neighborhood.

After the election—which Seay won by 600 votes—I sought out "Whisper" and persuaded him to join our organization. From that day forward our friendship developed and expanded.

Mr. Speaker, few people lived life with the enthusiasm, determination and gusto as Willie Mack. He lived every day with the intent to do something for someone else. He lived every day with the intent to give something back to family, friends and community. He will be remembered as a giver. He gave the fullest to his fellow man. His intent was to establish, through political activism, a more perfect union between society and those citizens denied the benefits of first-class citizenship. The many people whose lives he touched and they in turn enhanced his—is a testament to his endearing respect for humanity.

Carol and I were deeply saddened by Whisper's passing. He was indeed an uncommon man with a phenomenal affect on those who graced his presence. To us, Whisper was something dear, something special, something beautiful, something precious. There were no tears for Carol and me when we heard of his departure because we were not agonizing his death but rather celebrating the privilege of having looked upon this towering, incredible individual, if only for a fleeting moment.

#### REPORT FROM PENNSYLVANIA

### HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 1999*

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share my Report from Pennsylvania for my colleagues and the American people.

All across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District there are some amazing people who do good things to make our communities a better place. These are individuals of all ages who truly make a difference and help others.

I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes for their good deeds and efforts.

Today I would like to recognize Mr. Harold Seibert, a retired fireman who's respect and dedication to his job led him to compile a 175-year anniversary book for the Allentown Fire Department, an invaluable document for future firemen of the community.

Harold Seibert is a commendable member of our community—not only for his documentary, but also for his heroism—having been decorated five times for saving lives during his 24 years as a firefighter.

Today, I would like to recognize Mr. Seibert, of Allentown, PA, for his hard work and dedication. He is creating a legacy for the Allentown community and I commend him on his efforts.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE SHARK CONSERVATION AND FINNING PROHIBITION RESOLUTION

### HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 1999*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, it is time for the United States to ban the wasteful, unsportsmanlike and destructive practice of shark finning.

Shark finning is the removal of a shark's fins, which represent just one to five percent of its body weight, and discarding its carcass into the sea. The waste associated with this practice is horrific. The public outcry to halt it was an important factor in the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) decision to ban shark finning in federal waters of the U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. I had thought that NMFS had prohibited this practice in all waters of the United States.

To my surprise and dismay, it was recently brought to my attention that shark finning is occurring in the U.S. Pacific, and increasing at an alarming rate. Between 1991 and 1998, there was a 20-fold increase in shark finning by U.S. longline vessels in the Central and Western Pacific. There are no regulations in place to stem further growth of this terrible practice.

According to NMFS, in the Central and Western Pacific fishery, the number of sharks finned rose from 2,289 in 1991 to 60,857 in 1998. The most troubling fact about this increase in the number of sharks killed is that 98.7%, or 60,085 of the 60,857, of the sharks taken in 1998 were killed just for their fins.

The NMFS has gone on record with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WestPac) expressing its view that finning is wasteful and must be stopped. Unfortunately, WestPac has balked and NMFS has failed to step forward and stop this terrible practice. It is my belief, and those of any responsible outdoorsman, that the waste associated with discarding 95 to 99% of 60,000 animals annually is intolerable.

With the support of my colleague, Fisheries Subcommittee Chairman JIM SAXTON, and the conservation and sportfishing communities, I am introducing two pieces of legislation to remedy this situation.

Today, I am sponsoring a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that we disagree with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's and NMFS failure to halt shark finning, while urging that Council to prohibit the practice immediately.

Later this year, I will be introducing legislation to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Act by adding the practice of shark finning to the list of actions prohibited in all waters of the United States.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me by cosponsoring this important resolution. For the record, I have attached a letter of support from the Ocean Wildlife Campaign, a coalition that includes the Center for Marine Conservation, National Audubon Society, National Coalition for Marine Conservation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Wildlife Conservation Society, and the World Wildlife Fund. In addition, I have attached separate letters of support from the American Sportfishing Association and the Center for Marine Conservation. Our prompt action is critical to ensure that we will halt the rampant waste resulting from shark finning.

AMERICAN SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION,

*Alexandria, VA, September 23, 1999.*

Hon. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM,

*U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CUNNINGHAM: On behalf of the nearly 500 members of the American Sportfishing Association, I wish to express my strong support for your resolution to ban the wasteful practice of shark finning. I commend your initiative in tackling this important, yet easily dismissed issue.

For far too long, we have neglected to take action to stop this most unsportsmanlike fishing activity. We now know that the best shark is not a dead shark; that these oft maligned fish play critical roles in preserving balance in the marine ecosystem. Healthy shark populations help maintain robust fisheries. Your effort to ban finning will not only benefit depressed shark populations, but many other species of commercially and recreationally important fish.

Thank you for your leadership in this area.

Sincerely,

MIKE HAYDEN,

*President/CEO.*

OCEAN WILDLIFE CAMPAIGN,

*Washington, DC, September 22, 1999.*

Hon. RANDY CUNNINGHAM,

*U.S. House of Representatives,*

*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE CUNNINGHAM: We are writing to express serious concern regarding the management and health of shark populations in U.S. Pacific waters, specifically in areas under the jurisdiction of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WESPAC). Driven by the international demand for shark fin soup, the practice of shark finning—cutting of a shark's fins and discarding its carcass back into the ocean—is a rapidly growing problem that is directly responsible for huge increases in the number of sharks killed annually and appalling waste of this nation's living marine resources. The National Marine Fisheries Service has prohibited shark finning in the U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean. It is time to ban finning in the Pacific.

Between 1991 and 1998, the number of sharks "retained" by the Hawaii-based swordfish and tuna longline fleet jumped from 2,289 to 60,857 annually. In 1998, over 98 percent of these sharks were killed for their fins to meet the demand for shark fin soup. Because shark fins typically comprise only one to five percent of a shark's bodyweight, 95 to 99 percent of the shark is going to waste: Sharks are particularly vulnerable to overfishing because of their "life history characteristics"—slow growth, late sexual maturity, and the production of few young. Once depleted, a population may take decades to recover.

The National Marine Fisheries Service, conservationists, fishermen, scientists, and the public have pressured WESPAC to end the practice of shark finning. Nevertheless,