

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CAPITAL INVESTMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to officially introduce an important piece of legislation, The Technology Education Capital Investment Act of 1999. In the 105th Congress, The Technology Education Capital Investment Act of 1997, H.R. 2994, which I introduced, received a great deal of support from colleagues. I hope that my fellow Members will be as supportive of this important piece of legislation in the 106th Congress.

I am introducing this bill because I am more concerned than ever about the shortage of well-trained high-tech workers in our workforce today. The Information Technology Association of America released a report in March that documents the shortage of information technology workers across the nation. The report concluded that there are about 190,000 unfilled information-technology (computer and software development) jobs in the United States. Similar shortfalls have emerged in other technology industries as well.

As one of the fastest growing export sectors in the economy, the continued expansion of the high-tech industries is critical to the strength of our nation's financial well being. However, if we do not address the significant shortages of qualified technology workers, including engineers, the growth of this sector will inevitably slow.

Responding to this serious problem, I have drafted legislation that would stimulate technology education and increase the output of engineers and technology workers from United States Colleges and Universities. My bill would increase the authorized spending on some existing programs, provide funding to encourage more students to seek a math and science education, and extend a tax break for companies to help pay for expenses related to the continued education of employees.

Specifically, the legislation creates a scholarship for students, entering math, science, and engineering degree programs. The bill establishes a one-time, start-up grant for university programs that offer "hands-on" internships with high-technology firms to higher-education students, giving priority to those programs that are primarily industry-financed. It also permanently extends the "Section 127" tax exemption for employer-provided educational assistance, and applies the exemption to graduate-level coursework.

Furthermore, this bill increases federal support for National Science Foundation informal science programs that encourage math and science education at the K-12 levels and it augments community-college based programs that promote improvement in technician education, placing emphasis on programs for worker retraining programs. Finally, this legis-

lation establishes a Congressional commission to examine the workforce shortages in technology industries.

I have listened to many people in Oregon and around the country who are adversely affected by the shortage of qualified high-tech workers. I have worked hard to develop this legislation and I believe that, if passed, it could improve our national workforce and products help as we move forward into the 21st century. I hope my colleagues will join with me today in supporting the Technology Education Capital Investment Act of 1999.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD KAZON

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my congratulations to Bernard Kazon of Portland, Maine, on the occasion of his 75th birthday on February 27th, and to share with my colleagues Mr. Kazon's recent generosity to the people of Maine.

"Bernie" Kazon and his wife Shirley have resided in Portland, Maine, for the last 33 years, where they raised their two children, Paula and Peter. Mr. Kazon is Executive Vice President of Eastland Shoe Corporation headquartered in Freeport, Maine. Eastland's shoe manufacturing facility has been an important component of the local economy, employing more than 300 people.

While Bernie and Shirley have long been involved in local community affairs, I want to take the opportunity today to share with my colleagues Bernie's long-time interest in history and politics. About ten years ago, he began to collect political biographies, election pamphlets, letters and other materials that reflect the history of political campaigns in the United States dating back to the 18th century. The collection, which began when Shirley gave him several old political biographies, has now grown to more than 700 items and offers a unique perspective on the history of American politics.

Last year, Bernie generously acted to share this wonderful collection with a new generation of students of American history. Bernie has made arrangements to donate his collection to the University of Maine, where it will be housed in a new library that is being built in Portland. The collection will provide an invaluable resource to the students at the University who, like him, share a strong intellectual curiosity in the history of our American political system. The Kazons have generously augmented the collection by endowing a fund that will assist in maintaining the collection for the University, as well as provide for an annual prize for scholarly works based on its material.

Among the materials the Kazons have donated was a bound 1791 edition of Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense*. As Paine himself wrote, "Those who expect to reap the

blessings of freedom must . . . undergo the fatigue of supporting it." We are fortunate in Maine to have men like Bernie Kazon who recognize that they have reaped the blessings of our free society, and are generous in their efforts to support it and the generations who follow them.

Please join me in extending the best wishes of the people of Maine to this generous and thoughtful man, as his family comes together in celebration of his 75th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 17, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

A TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The NAACP, more than any other single organization, reflects the history and aspirations of African Americans in twentieth century American society. As it celebrates its 90th anniversary it is important to reflect on its critical importance, not only to African Americans but to the whole of the nation.

Since its founding in 1909 by a multiracial group of progressive thinkers, the NAACP has waged a continuous fight against racial discrimination and segregation. Its goals have and continue to be to help create a truly democratic society by integrating African Americans into the mainstream of American life, by eliminating racial injustice and intolerance, and by making equality of opportunity for African Americans a reality.

From the ballot box to the classroom, the dedicated workers, organizers, and leaders who forged this vital organization and maintain its status as a champion of social justice, fought long and hard to ensure that the voices of African Americans would be heard. The legacy of pioneers such as W.E.B. DuBois, Thurgood Marshall and Roy Wilkins and the hundreds of people, including past Philadelphia leaders such as: City Councilman Cecil B. Moore; Pennsylvania State Representative Alphonso Deal and Thornbill Cosby, who worked tirelessly cannot and must not be forgotten.

Born in response to racial violence, the NAACP's first major campaign was to have

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

anti-lynching laws enacted. As the organization grew it investigated mob brutality, staged protests against mass murders, segregation and discrimination and testified before congressional committees on the vicious tactics used to bar African Americans from the ballot box. In the courtroom, pulpit, and lecture hall, the men and women who represent the NAACP have been in the forefront of the fight for justice. In spite of lynchings, church burnings, legal setbacks, congressional filibuster and presidential indifference, the NAACP would not be deterred from its mission.

As Chairman Julian Bond has stated, the NAACP "has made progress throughout this century. No more do signs read 'white' and 'colored'. The voter's booths and the schoolhouse door now swing open for everyone, no longer closed to those whose skin is 'dark'".

As we prepare to step into the new millennium, the new NAACP will also step boldly into the 21st century to face the formidable challenges that are ahead. Under the national leadership of Chairman Bond and President/CEO Kweisi Mfume, and the local leadership of J.W. Mondesire in the First Congressional District, and armed with a strong network of seasoned members and a growing contingent of young leaders, the organization is united to awaken the conscience of a people, and a nation, with renewed vigor and hope.

MAYODAN, NORTH CAROLINA'S
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the town of Mayodan, NC for celebrating its centennial next Tuesday. The town's charter was granted on February 16, 1899 with a population of 225 residents. Mayodan received its name (unique from any town in the world) because of its location near the junction of the Mayo and Dan Rivers in North-central North Carolina in Rockingham County.

The town's history is tied to the growth of the textile industry and the railroad. In order to provide more traffic for the new rail line between Roanoke, VA and my hometown of Winston-Salem, NC, several companies constructed textile mills at different points along the route. One of those mills (Mayo Mills) provided the impetus for the town of Mayodan and was responsible for much of its early growth. It built the houses, provided utilities and health care, and employed the majority of the people. Since these early times, Mayodan has outgrown its complete dependence on the textile industry and now provides its own services and government. Textiles, however, will always be closely linked to the town's history, people, and economic development.

One hundred years later, Mayodan has grown into a town of 2,400 residents. Its recreational, residential, and commercial sectors are alive with activity. With the economic stability provided by the introduction of new textile companies and other industries and the close sense of community that has developed in the town over the past century through the many churches and civic organizations, Mayodan has thrived despite the Great De-

pression, wars, and, most recently, a disastrous tornado.

Mr. Speaker, after one hundred years, Mayodan exemplifies the best attributes of a small town. It has worked hard to develop its economy and community—all while preserving its heritage and culture. It is a friendly place where people still stroll the sidewalks in the evening and greet friends and strangers with a smile. I am proud to have a town like Mayodan in my district, and I wish them success and happiness for the next hundred years.

THE ACADEMY OF
OSSEOINTEGRATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Academy of Osseointegration, the world's leading dental implant organization, as they bring together dentists, general practitioners, laboratory technicians, and research scientists in Palm Springs for their 14th Annual Meeting on March 4-6. The Academy of Osseointegration operates exclusively for scientific, charitable and educational purposes to advance the art and science of osseointegration, placing titanium cylinders into the jawbone to support replacement teeth.

As a strong supporter of medical research and my own district's work at Johns Hopkins University, I commend this organization and its members, some of whom reside in my district, for their dedication and commitment to finding new medical breakthroughs.

Osseointegration is beneficial in replacing lost teeth, restoring hearing, enhancing reconstructive and cosmetic surgery, and correcting craniofacial problems. Dental implants are an answer to many problems associated with missing teeth and offer a high-tech alternative to other forms of traditional dentistry such as bridges, removable partials and dentures that are difficult for some patients.

Formed in 1982 by a group of dental clinicians, the Academy of Osseointegration has grown to include more than 4200 professionals in almost 70 countries. Professionals from all specialties have united in a learning experience that provides a refreshing opportunity for an interrelated, interdisciplinary approach to move the field of osseointegrated implants forward.

I commend this organization for its dedication to the highest standards in patient care, research and education as professionals ally themselves with the Academy of Osseointegration in approaching the challenges and advances of dental implantation in the 21st century.

VISION 2020

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the founding members of the Vision

2020 Initiative and their efforts to eliminate avoidable blindness around the world. These members include Christian Blind Mission International, Inc., located in my Congressional District in South Carolina, Helen Keller International, the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, ORBIS International, Sight-Savers International and the World Health Organization.

On February 18, 1999, these founding members, along with other like-minded organizations, will launch Vision 2020 to eradicate avoidable blindness throughout the world by the year 2020. The Initiative will bring together government leaders, charitable organizations, business leaders and volunteers around the world to form a coalition united in a global fight against preventable blindness. Vision 2020 will focus on controlling disease, developing human resources and producing the infrastructure and technology necessary to eliminate avoidable blindness.

The combined effort of every Vision 2020 organization is essential to this unprecedented endeavor. For this reason, I want to also pay tribute to the supporting members of the Vision 2020 Initiative: Al Noor Foundation, Asian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness, Foundation Dark & Light, The International Eye Foundation, Lighthouse International, Nadi Al Bassar: North African Center for Sight and Visual Science, Operation Eyesight Universal, Organization Pour La Prevention De La Cecite, Perkins School for the Blind, SEVA Foundation, SIMAVI, World Blind Union and The American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Vision 2020 and the impact it will have on the lives of millions of blind, visually impaired, and disabled people, and I congratulate the Vision 2020 members for the monumental nature of their charitable work.

NATIONAL PARKS AIR TOUR
MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the National Parks Air Tour Act of 1999.

This bill is identical to provisions which passed the House by a voice vote during the 105th Congress. It was supported by the Friends of the Smokies, United Air Tour Association, Grand Canyon Airlines, National Air Transportation Association, and the National Parks and Conservation Association.

The legislation represents an agreement which strikes a balance between air tour and environmental concerns, native American interests and jurisdictional areas between the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Park Service.

It seeks to promote safety and quiet in national parks by establishing a process for developing air tour flight management in and around our national parks.

It also ensures that the FAA has sole authority to control airspace over the United States and that the National Park Service has the responsibility to manage park resources.

These two agencies would work cooperatively in developing air tour management plans