

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on personal family business on the evening of November 1, 1999, when the vote on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Land Conveyance Act, H.R. 2737, was cast. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this measure.

In addition, I was unavoidably detained on personal family business on the evening of November 1, 1999, when the vote on the FEMA and Civil Defense Monument Act, H.R. 348, was cast. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this measure.

In addition, I was unavoidably detained on personal family business on the evening of November 1, 1999, when the vote on the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, H.R. 1714, was cast. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this measure.

U.S. POLICY TOWARD NORTH KOREA

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern over some of the findings of the Republican task force formed to examine U.S. policy toward North Korea.

Most troubling to me is its assertion that there have been significant diversions of food aid we have donated in response to that country's famine. All evidence suggests that this is just not true. Moreover, it is clear—to me, to our military stationed in South Korea, to policymakers in Washington, Seoul and Tokyo, and to attentive observers—that U.S. food aid to North Koreans is thawing 50 years of icy hostility toward Americans. Our wheat and corn, and our aid workers, are putting the lie to decades of Pyongyang's propaganda about American intentions. We are proving by our presence to all who see us and our sacks of food that Americans are compassionate people who will not stand by while innocent Koreans starve and suffer.

As you know, I have visited North Korea five times—not out of any particular interest in the country, but because their people are suffering. It is a famine that, I believe, history will mark as one of this decade's worst.

In my trips, I always have brought my own translator as well as a member of our armed forces. Other members of my delegations have included a Marine who served in the Korean War—Congressional medal of honor winner General Ray Davis; a doctor from the Centers for Disease Control; reporters from USA Today and the Washington Post; an agriculture expert; and a Korean-American economist who specializes in humanitarian aid.

During every trip, I have met with Western aid workers working in North Korea. In all, I have spoken with scores of them over the past three years. These are people with expertise on hunger and the diseases that prey

on hungry people—and with experience working in challenging situations. None of them has any cause to lie to me, and every reason to raise concerns that I can use to press North Korea officials on. And yet, in five visits I have not found a single aid worker who said food aid is being diverted from hungry people.

The General Accounting Office report turns up no such diversion either; nor does any other U.S. Government agency. Even counting an incident in early 1998, where food sent to a county that later was closed to monitors, the record in North Korea is well within the two percent average loss rate that the United Nations World Food Programme maintains in its operations worldwide. Compared to other difficult situations—such as in Haiti, where more than 10 percent of food was lost in the last reporting period, or Honduras, where the rate was 6 percent—the 1.7 percent loss rate in North Korea is not bad. That incident should not be dismissed, because it was serious enough to provoke WFP to increase restrictions on its aid. But it should be kept in perspective.

It is not only my own experience, and the experiences of knowledgeable aid workers, that refute the allegation that there have been serious diversions of food. Common sense dictates that such a conclusion is off-base, because North Korea has its own harvest and the considerable gifts it receives from China to draw upon to feed its soldiers and government officials. There simply is no reason for North Korea to raid international aid shipments—and every incentive to see that this food reaches those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I don't doubt the conviction of Members of this task force. Since the United States first began to engage North Korea five years ago, there have been doubts by some in Congress about the wisdom of this initiative. But there is equal conviction by others in Congress and the Administration that engaging North Korea, an approach begun under President Reagan, is the wisest course available to us.

There is also broad support for it among U.S. military leaders, and our South Korean and Japanese allies. And there is support among Korean Americans; I am submitting for inclusion in the RECORD the statement of a group of notable Korean American citizens and organizations whose views have helped to inform our policy and should be respected as we continue to refine it.

The task force's findings on North Korea's involvement in narcotics trafficking, missile proliferation, possible nuclear development in violation of the Agreed Framework, and other activities are serious and deserve our attention. It is tempting to instead focus our attention on concerns about food aid, because that is easier to do something about. But cutting off food aid—whether we do it outright, or by tightening the monitoring requirements so much that the effect is to cut off food aid—would not solve these other problems. All it would do is prevent us from saving millions of lives, and prove to North Korea's people that its government was right about America all along.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe the task force's quarrel over U.S. policy toward North Korea does not center on our efforts to feed its suffering people. At a hearing last week, Chairman GILMAN said, "no one—I repeat no one—wants to cut off food aid to North

Korea." I share his concerns that our food aid be monitored to ensure it reaches those in need, and his read of public support for a humanitarian policy that refuses to use food as a weapon—even against North Koreans.

Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you and others who would like to see it that, after this crisis passes, North Korea's people will overthrow their government. History shows that people who survive a famine sometimes do that, and sometimes do not. But I can guarantee you that Koreans—in North Korea, in South Korea, and in our own country—will remember how we respond in this time of crisis. They will remember who helped those who were suffering; and they will never forget those who found excuses to do too little to save the many who died.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to focus on the serious concerns about North Korea that this task force has highlighted; but to remember as we debate our policy toward North Korea, that—in the words of President Reagan—"a hungry child knows no politics."

Our food aid is making the difference between life and death for hundreds of thousands of children and other vulnerable people in North Korea. The private organization's aid workers, and the staff and leaders of the World Food Programme and other U.N. agencies, are doing everything they can to ensure that our food gets to those in need. We should support their work, and seize the historic opportunity that our humanitarian aid has put within our reach: to end the Cold War in this last, desperate outpost, and to secure a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

KOREAN AMERICANS WEIGH IN ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD NORTH KOREA

WASHINGTON.—Korean Americans are important stakeholders in U.S. policy toward North Korea because many in our community still have families, relatives, friends and other interests in the Korean peninsula.

We believe that our voices must be considered in the formulating policy toward North Korea, and set forth positions that we believe must be an integral part of the U.S. policy.

U.S. POLICY MUST FURTHER THE PROSPECT OF LASTING PEACE WHILE AVOIDING THE POSSIBILITY OF ARMED CONFLICT

Korean Americans recognize and appreciate the long history of leadership demonstrated by the United States in tackling difficult foreign policy issues with firm commitment to peace. We first and foremost believe that any U.S. policy on North Korea must be formulated so as to encourage peace and reduce the chance of armed conflicts on the Korean peninsula. Koreans have already experienced decades of devastating losses as a result of military actions on the peninsula. We therefore cannot stand any stronger in opposition to the consideration of military action, no matter how limited in scope, as one of the viable U.S. policy options.

U.S. POLICY SHOULD SUPPORT MONITORED HUMANITARIAN AID TO NORTH KOREA FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE FAMINE VICTIMS

As we all know, monitoring the distribution of food and medical aid in North Korea is less than satisfactory, due to the unwillingness of North Korean authority to let monitors travel freely. The lack of freedom of travel there, however, is not limited to the monitors but to all people in the country. While it is practically impossible to prove that food aid are not diverted, most documents by U.N. organization and PVOs which provide humanitarian aid report that

there is not much evidence that they are diverted. In this regard, we are concerned that the recent report by GAO exaggerates the diversion and their conclusion was based on flimsy and narrowly selected surveys and reports. No policy should be built on a study that is not comprehensive.

U.S. POLICY ON NORTH KOREA SHOULD REFLECT THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY DR. WILLIAM PERRY

Korean Americans believe that Dr. Perry's policy review and evaluation process was comprehensive, produced many beneficial results and his recommendation is fair and well balanced. Throughout the review, Dr. Perry consulted with experts, both in and out of the U.S. Government. He also exchanged views with officials from many countries with interest on the issues. As a result, the review process itself pushed the issues of North Korea as one of the high priority policy agenda of the U.S. and North East Asia. It also developed a close work relationship between the U.S. and key interested parties, particularly our important allies, South Korea and Japan.

Korean Americans believe that Dr. Perry's recommended alternative is a comprehensive and integrated approach to U.S. negotiation with the North Korea. We also believe that his recommendation provides the best choice for the U.S. Government and is consistent with the policies of other interested countries, including South Korea. We therefore recommend his recommendation for the United States to move step-by-step on a path to a comprehensive normalization of relations, including the establishment of a permanent peace in the Korean Peninsula, be given serious consideration.

"Korean American Voice on North Korea Policy" is a coalition formed by concerned Korean American individuals and organizations throughout the United States. Its members are listed on the attached page.

MEMBERS OF KAV (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, 10/26/99)

Mrs. Joyce Naomi Ahn; Chairman, Korean Americans for Global Action.

Ms. Mimi Hong Allen; President, Korean Cultural Foundation of Greater Miami.

Ms. Jenniffer Arndt; President, Rainbow World Inc.

Mr. Young-Soo Bahk; Board of Directors, The Peace Corn Foundation.

Mr. Young D. Cha, President, League of Korean Americans.

Mr. Young Chang Chae, Vice President, Korean Literary Association of Washington Metropolitan Area.

Dr. Keum Seop Chin, Board Director, Korean American Sharing Movement-Washington Baltimore; Elder, The Korean Central Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Byung Il Cho, President, The Federation of Korean Dry-Cleaners Associations, USA.

Dr. Man Cho, Director, Korean American Sharing Movement-Washington Baltimore.

Master Soo Se Cho, President, Korean American Association of S. Florida.

Rev. Young Jin Cho, Senior Pastor, Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington.

Dr. Scott Cha-Choe, Chairman, Honolulu Korean Junior Chamber.

Mr. Daniel Choi, Senior Vice President, The Federation of Korean Associations, USA.

Dr. Seung Hoon Choi; Executive Director, Korean American Sharing Movement-Boston.

Dr. Dong Yui Chough; Chairman, Korean American Education Foundation.

Rev. Simon Kang H. Chung; Pastor, The Korean Central Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Myong Y. Jueh, Chairman, Korean American Political Action Committee.

Mr. Abraham Kang, Chairman, Korean American Automobile Association.

Dr. Jun Hee Kang, MD, Korean Central Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Paul (Synn Kwon) Kang; President, Cohen University, CA.

Ms. Grace Kim; Executive Secretary, Korean Americans for Global Action New York, NY.

Mr. Hong Kim; Vice President, League of Korean Americans, USA.

Mr. Pyohng Choon Kim; Chief Financial Officer, Central Missionary Fellowship, International; Elder, The Korean Central Presbyterian Church.

Wayne Kim; Elder, Korean Central Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Jong Yui Lee; President, Korean Association of Northern Virginia.

Rev. Oh Yeon Lee; Executive Director, Korean American Sharing Movement—Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.

Mr. Sang Hoon Lee; Chairman-elect, Korean American Sharing Movement—USA; Chairman, KASM; Washington-Baltimore.

Mrs. Sook Won Lee; President, Korean American Association of State of Maryland.

Dr. Stephen H. Lee; President, The Society for Korean Root.

Rev. Won Sang Lee; Senior Pastor, The Korean Central Presbyterian Church.

Mr. John Lim, Senator, State of Oregon.

Mrs. Kim Miller, President, League of Korean Americans, USA.

Mr. Myung Kun Moon, President, Miami Korean Chamber of Commerce.

Rev. Do Hyun Paik, President, Korean Pastors Association of South Florida.

Rev. Hee Min Park, Chairman, Korean American Sharing Movement, USA, Los Angeles, CA.

Dr. Jong Ahn Park; Senior Director for Policy and Planning, Korean American Sharing Movement—USA.

Mr. Sang Kuen Park; Attorney at Law, Advocates for the Rights of Korean Americans.

Dr. Chang Mook Sohn, Executive Director, Office of the Forecasting Council, State of Washington.

Rev. Kyung Sup Shin; President, WDCT Radio, Virginia.

Mr. Paul Shin; Senator, State of Washington.

Mr. Peter Hyun Shin, Chairman, League of Korean Americans, USA.

Rev. Sung John Shin; Chairman, Korean American Sharing Movement—Los Angeles.

Mr. Jie Kyung Song, President, Korean American Association of Washington Metropolitan Area.

Mr. Shin Hern Song, Vice Chairman, Korean American Education Foundation.

Mr. Sang Y. Whang, Chairman, Korean American Community Relations Council.

Ms. Ilyon Woo; Korean Americans for Global Action, New York, NY.

Mr. Ki Ho Yi; President, Royal Food Inc.

Mr. Hee Soon Yim; Hana News; Mr. Howard Pokhyong Yu; President, Yu Farm, Earlimart, California.

SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD RECOMMEND ACTIONS FOR RELIEVING VICTIMS OF HURRICANE FLOYD

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the gentleman

from North Carolina, Mr. TAYLOR, and commend all the Members from the 11 States, which continue to suffer the affects of Hurricane Floyd, who have come together to bring H. Res. 349 to the floor. This measure represents the tragedy that many of us have experienced in our congressional districts; and reflects the dismay of the thousands of suffering individuals, families, businesses and communities, who have been working to rebuild their communities for the past 6 weeks without sufficient Federal aid.

Throughout my home State of New York, the devastating affects of Hurricane Floyd are continuing to be felt. Homes have been flooded, businesses shut down, and the agricultural community, which has been devastated by high winds and drought over three of the past 4 years, is once again struggling to rebound. Numerous municipalities throughout Orange, Rockland and Westchester counties have sustained significant infrastructure damage and are looking to the Federal Government to provide them with assistance.

Accordingly, we have introduced H. Res. 349, to express the sense of the House that the President should immediately recommend to Congress actions, including appropriations offsets, to provide relief and assistance to victims of Hurricane Floyd.

The citizens, who have come together to rebuild their broken communities, deserve our aid. Hurricane Floyd was one of the worst natural disasters in American history. However, we have placed the burden of recovery on those who have suffered the most.

Accordingly, we stand today to send a message to the President and the people that we must address this tragedy and provide adequately for our injured homes.

TRIBUTE TO KEN BECK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's most dedicated civic leaders, Ken Beck. In doing so, I would like to honor an individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. Soon he will retire from the Bayfield School District Board of Education and it is clear that his leadership on the School Board will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

While on the board, Ken has had a solid focus on the basics of education: reading, writing, and arithmetic. He felt these were the fundamental aspects of education. The financial status of the school district also improved greatly as the result of his leadership. Also, he has seen to the well being of the faculty. No one has lost their job due to a reduction in force or mismanagement.

Beyond his work on the school board, Ken has put in countless hours in an array of other community activities, including the Boy Scouts of America, Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and the La Plata 4-H.

While his personal accomplishments are many, none are more weighty than the remarkable legacy he has in his family. Together with his wife, Wendy, who is equally distinguished in her reputation, they have five children: Kali, Beau, Sara, Lacy, and Shay. These