

headlines, you can see the possibility for a restoration of the confident, outward-looking U.S. consensus that our history teaches is a requirement for global peace and prosperity.

The cornerstone of this renewed embrace of America's global role is the deal reached early Monday in Beijing for China to join the World Trade Organization. President Clinton let this agreement slip away last April, because of fears about the anti-international know-nothingism that seemed to have infected Congress. That was one of the biggest mistakes of his presidency, and he has commendably been trying ever since to walk it back.

The deal Clinton got Monday isn't quite as good as the one he backed away from before, but it's good enough. What's better is the new confidence among free traders that they can win the political argument, on Capitol Hill and around the country.

Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers puts the case for the WTO deal simply and starkly: Twice in this century, changes in the economic balance of power have led to wars—first with the rise of Germany before World War I and later with the rise of Japan. Now the world economic order is changing once again, with the emergence of Beijing as an economic superpower. It is overwhelmingly in America's interest to draw this modernizing China into the global economic system.

Americans who are confident about the world-changing power of our capitalism and democracy will welcome the agreement. China will now have to live by the free-market rules of the WTO. It will have to accept international investments in its major industries, including banking and telecommunications; it will have to abide by international arbitration of its trade disputes; it will have to accept the Internet and its instantaneous access to information. If you can devise a better strategy for subverting Communist rule in China, I'd like to hear it.

What makes the anti-WTO camp so nervous? It must be the fact that we're living in a time of economic upheaval. As the global economy becomes more competitive, the rewards for success become greater, and so do the penalties for failure. Optimists embrace this future, while pessimists seek protection from it.

Fear of the future: That's the shared characteristic of the new anti-internationalists—from Pat Buchanan on the right to AFL-CIO president John Sweeney on the left. They seem to believe that every new job in China will mean one less in America. Thank goodness economics doesn't work that way. The evidence is overwhelming that global prosperity creates new markets, new demand—and more prosperity for all of us.

That doesn't mean that there won't be losers—there will be and the U.S. textile industry and some blue-collar traders will undoubtedly be among them. But in macro terms, this is a pie that gets bigger, a game where two sides can win.

The administration's most articulate champion for this kind of internationalism is Summers. And it must be said that the new Treasury Secretary is cleaning up some of the unfinished business left by his predecessor, Robert Rubin.

Summers helped rescue the WTO agreement with a trip last month to Beijing, where he met with Zhu Rongji, the Chinese prime minister. Summers told him that "we wanted a deal, but it would have to be on commercial terms. . . . We would both have to make concessions on percentage points." Thanks to hard bargaining by U.S. trade negotiator Charlene Barshefsky, that's essentially what happened.

This week brought other signs of renewed political support for a pragmatic internationalism. The administration cut a deal with House Republicans that will allow the United States to pay nearly \$1 billion in back dues to the United Nations, in exchange for a ban on funding any international organization that promotes abortion.

Summers has worked hard to include debt relief for the world's poorest nations as part of the U.N. funding deal, and his mostly succeeded. Wealthy lenders will take a hit under this agreement, while poverty-stricken nations will get a break. That sounds like the right kind of bargain.

Another step in the internationalist revival could come next month when Summers pitches European nations to accept some new rules for the International Monetary Fund. He'll urge that the IMF support either tough fixed exchange-rate plans or genuinely free floating rates—but not the muddled in-between schemes that have gotten so many countries in trouble. He'll also urge a new IMF assessment system to detect when countries' short-term liabilities are rising toward the danger point. And in light of the recent Russian fiasco, he may argue that countries should accept outside audits as a condition of receiving IMF funds.

Some Americans still believe that "IMF," "free trade" and "WTO" are dirty words—symbols of an elitist conspiracy that will harm ordinary Americans. This view is dangerously wrong, and it was good to see it losing ground this week.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. LAURIE CARLSON

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and commend the life of Mr. Laurie Carlson and to extend my personal sympathies to his family and friends in his passing. Mr. Laurie Carlson worked to enhance the lives of many citizens of Wisconsin over the years. He was the founder of the Wisconsin Progressive Party in 1934 and was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1936, where he served for three terms. He then continued his life of dedication to public service as the Clerk of Courts for Dane County for another four terms.

Mr. Carlson's simple message and instructions on, "How to get the Voters Involved" is one that I deeply respect and identify with. In this message he spoke of town meetings and always maintaining a strong personal connection to constituents. Upon reflection on his time in public service Mr. Carlson was quoted as saying, "Shoe leather is cheap. We would go out and meet people. We would get ideas from them." He also believed that a strong focus on the issues, as well as on true bipartisanship would help Wisconsin and the Nation move forward.

Mr. Carlson's political achievements were numerous and great, but there was also much more to this wonderful man. He was a devoted husband and proud father of four children. His commitment to his wife Helen and his children—Mary, Jay, Laurene, and Geraldine, was first and foremost in his life. Mr. Carlson was also a dedicated friend and community member. He tirelessly worked to share his knowledge and leadership in order to as-

sist others to become successful. He empowered many people to prosper in business and countless other ventures while always maintaining his commitment to those less fortunate in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to honor this fine gentleman for his life commitment to public service.

RECOGNITION OF THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE OF 1932

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the Ukrainian famine of 1932–33 stands as one of the most tragic events of this century. Millions of Ukrainian men, women and children starved to death in one of the cruelest acts of inhumanity ever recorded.

The rich and productive soil of Ukraine once fed the world. Ukraine was known then as the breadbasket of Europe. It was inconceivable that in 1932 peasants would be forced to scavenge in harvested fields for food and that their diets would be reduced to nothing but potatoes, beets and pumpkins. Instead of planting seeds for the next crop, peasant were reduced to feeding those seeds to their children. As a result, little grain was harvested for the next crop, and the situation grew worse.

Peasants began leaving Ukraine, trying to search for food in Russia and other neighboring territories, but they were turned back.

Soon, millions began to starve to death.

As many as ten million people may have died in this famine. That's fully one-quarter of the people in rural Ukraine. The Kremlin was starving the people of Ukraine to death because Josef Stalin and the Soviet dictators wanted to avoid mass resistance to collectivization. So they killed the peasants—slowly, deliberately and diabolically through mass starvation.

The West did little at the time to put an end to the man-made famine. They continued to buy grain at cheap prices from Russia, taking more food away from the Ukrainian people.

We should never forget this tragedy. Today we honor the memory of the millions of victims. And we support the efforts of the people of Ukraine, who were subjected to the famine and to decades of oppressive Soviet rule, as they continue on their path to democracy, respect for human rights, and economic progress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution and stand together with the people of Ukraine.

H.R. 3446, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD REFORM ACT OF 1999

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today H.R. 3446, the Surface Transportation Board Reform Act of 1999.

The Surface Transportation Board has been a troubled agency since its creation at the end of 1995.

First, the Board approved a huge merger between the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific railroads. Shippers were promised dramatically improved service. Instead, a year later, they got the biggest rail service meltdown in history. Two years later, the service crisis is over, but there are precious few signs that shippers are getting better service. Clearly, however, they are getting fewer choices and less competition.

Last year, the Board approved another huge restructuring of the industry when it allowed Conrail to be divided between Norfolk Southern and CSX. After spending a year planning the transaction so as to minimize adverse consequences, the transaction became effective on June 1st, and service almost instantly collapsed. While service in some areas has recovered, many shippers still cannot move their goods and are losing business to their competitors because they had the bad luck to be served by Norfolk Southern and CSX.

Clearly, the Board has failed to analyze rail transactions adequately to avoid these service disasters. Because of the reduced competition that has resulted from these mergers, the Board needs to provide more aggressive support to shippers who come to the Board for relief from high rates and poor service. This bill directs the Board to move in that direction. Shippers also need more competitive options without having to go to the Board. The bill's provisions on bottlenecks, terminal access, and reciprocal switching would allow shippers to avoid the adverse effects of mergers by getting more competitive service without seeking rate relief from the Board.

Second, the Board has continued the established policy of its predecessor in allowing railroads to abrogate their collective bargaining agreements as a "reward" for undergoing a merger. For 63 years, from 1920 to 1983, the Interstate Commerce Commission held to the sensible view that the rather vague language in its statute did not entitle railroads to walk away from their signed contracts. In 1983, the Reagan-era ICC voted to ignore its precedents and adopt a new interpretation that was totally at variance with Congressional intent and sound policy. The Board appointed by the current Administration, rather than return to the sensible precedents of the past, has followed the misguided policy adopted by its immediate predecessors. Instead of using the discretion that the statute gives them, the Board has written to the Congress and invited us to change the statute to save us from themselves, and prevent them from continuing to pursue this regressive policy.

This bill is a first step in that direction.

Title I of this bill proposes a series of measures to enhance rail competition. It clarifies the Rail Transportation Policy to make clear that competition is the "primary objective" to be pursued by the Board. It corrects the Board's "bottleneck" decision, which says that, even if a railroad monopolizes only part of the route along which a shipper wishes to transport a shipment, it can effectively monopolize the whole route, because the railroad can refuse to offer to ship along only part of the route.

The bill also makes it easier to secure competing rail service in terminal areas, and by reciprocal switching.

It codifies the one recent decision by the Board that has benefited shippers, namely the December 1998 decision on "product" and "geographic" competition.

It ends the ludicrous annual charade in which the Board examines the books of railroads that are raising billions of dollars in the capital markets and concludes that they are earning inadequate revenues.

It provides relief for small captive grain shippers by reducing the fees they must pay to protest rate and simplifying the process of determining a rate to be unreasonable. It also provides them with some assurance that they will be able to get enough cars to move out their grain each year.

The bill also requires submission of monthly service quality performance reports by the railroads, so the Board can do a better job of monitoring the industry's performance.

The bill's labor provisions in Title II end any authority of the Board to abrogate collective bargaining agreements, or to authorize a railroad or anyone else to do so. The bill strictly limits the preemption of other laws that is allowed in connection with railroad mergers, restricting this preemption to State and local laws that regulate mergers, and restricting this preemption in time to one year after the railroad takes possession of the acquired property.

The bill also clarifies the status of labor protection for railroad employers. The current statute confusingly defines labor protection in terms of the labor protection once received by Amtrak employees, whose statutory labor protection was taken away by the 1997 Amtrak reauthorization bill. Today's bill makes clear that railroad employees receive six years of labor protection if they are laid off as the result of a merger. While employees in other industries are not given labor protection like this, employees in other industries are entitled to strike if they cannot reach agreement with their employer on a contract. Since World War II, railroad employees have been denied the right to strike by repeated congressional interventions every time a strike is threatened. It is only fair, if employees are not entitled to strike, that they at least be compensated if they lose their jobs as the result of a merger.

Title III of the bill has several other significant provisions. The bill corrects an historical oversight by giving commuter railroads the same access to freight railroad rights-of-way that Amtrak has. When Amtrak was created in 1971, the Nation's private railroads were relieved of their common carrier obligation to provide passenger service—both intercity and commuter service. In return for being relieved of this common carrier obligation, the railroads were required to provide Amtrak with guaranteed access to their rights-of-way, but, in an oversight, the Nation's commuter railroads—which provide equally essential passenger service—were not given the same guaranteed access. This bill corrects that oversight by giving commuter railroads the same guaranteed access that Amtrak has.

The bill also gives special consideration to local communities and to passenger railroads in the Board's merger decisions. The Board has often given short shrift to the legitimate concerns of these parties in approving mergers, and has not imposed conditions that are necessary to protect their legitimate interests.

The bill also corrects an anomaly that was inserted in the statute by the 1995 ICC Termination Act. That bill preempted the authority of states to regulate the construction or abandonment of "spur, industrial, team, switching, or side tracks," but it did not give corresponding

authority to the Surface Transportation Board. The result was a regulatory black hole, where such facilities could be built or abandoned without regulation either by local zoning regulations or by Federal environmental regulations. If these facilities were only minor railroad spurs, this would perhaps be acceptable, but the term "switching tracks" has been interpreted by the Board to include railroad yards occupying hundreds of acres. Not only can the railroads built these yards without any regulatory interference, they can also use their eminent domain authority to force landowners to sell them the land. This provision should never have been in the statute, and this bill repeals it, giving regulatory jurisdiction to the STB.

The bill also eliminates tariff filing for water carriers in the domestic offshore trades serving Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Guam. These carriers are directed to make their tariffs available electronically, just as water carriers in the U.S. foreign trades were in the Ocean Shipping Reform Act.

Finally, the bill reauthorizes the STB for three years, from fiscal year 2000 to fiscal year 2002, with authorized appropriations rising from \$17 million in FY 2000 to \$25 million in FY 2002. In view of its inability to respond promptly to shipper rate protests (documented in a GAO report earlier this year) and its inability to oversee the results of its merger decisions, the Board clearly needs additional resources. We can only hope that this bill will be enacted and that the Board will use these resources effectively.

COMMEMORATING THE WORK OF GENERATION EARTH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to come to the floor of the House to recognize the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works for its Generation Earth Program.

Generation Earth is an environmental program of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and presented by TreePeople. The program educates and empowers secondary school students in Los Angeles county to be an active part of the solution to minimize use of landfill space and understand their role in reducing pollutants from entering our waterways by proper disposal methods. Through a hands-on approach, students learn that the local environment is part of their everyday life, and that everyday decisions, choices and actions make a difference to the health of our environment.

TreePeople, is one of Los Angeles' oldest and most successful locally based nonprofit environmental education group. Since 1996, it has worked under the direction of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Environmental Programs Division to create Generation Earth, the state's most effective secondary school environmental education program.

Generation Earth is a highly successful program with measurable milestones backed by research reviewed by educational experts. The classroom curriculum was designed to fit any