

such as Union Station in Washington, D.C.; the Fox Paper Mills, a mixed-used project that was once a derelict in Appleton, WI; and the Rosa True School, an eight-unit low/moderate income rental project in a historic building in Portland, Maine. In my own State of Florida, since 1974, the existing Historic Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit has resulted in over 325 rehabilitation projects, leveraging more than \$238 million in private investment. These projects range from the restoration of art deco hotels in historic Miami Beach, bringing economic rebirth to this once decaying area, to the development of multifamily housing in the Springfield Historic District in Jacksonville.

The legislation that I am introducing today builds on the familiar structure of the existing tax credit but with a different focus. It is designed to empower the one major constituency that has been barred from using the existing credit—homeowners. Only those persons who rehabilitate or purchase a newly rehabilitated home and occupy it as their principal residence would be entitled to the credit that this legislation would create. There would be no passive losses, no tax shelters, and no syndications under this bill.

Like the existing investment credit, the bill would provide a credit to homeowners equal to 20 percent of the qualified rehabilitation expenditures made on an eligible building that is used as a principal residence by the owner. Eligible buildings would be those that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are contributing buildings in National Register Historic Districts or in nationally certified state or local historic districts or are individually listed on a nationally certified state or local register. As is the case with the existing credit, the rehabilitation work would have to be performed in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation, although the bill would clarify the directive that the standards be interpreted in a manner that takes into consideration economic and technical feasibility.

The bill also makes provision for lower-income home buyers who may not have sufficient federal income tax liability to use a tax credit. It would permit such persons to receive a historic rehabilitation mortgage credit certificate which they can use with their bank to obtain a lower interest rate on their mortgage. The legislation also permits home buyers in distressed areas to use the certificate to lower their down payment.

The credit would be available for condominiums and co-ops, as well as single-family buildings. If a building were to be rehabilitated by a developer for sale to a homeowner, the credit would pass through to the homeowner. Since one purpose of the bill is to provide incentives for middle-income and more affluent families to return to older towns and cities, the bill does not discriminate among taxpayers on the basis of income. It does, however, impose a cap of \$40,000 on the amount of credit which may be taken for a principal residence.

The Historic Homeownership Assistance Act will make ownership of a rehabilitated older home more affordable for homeowners of modest incomes. It will encourage more affluent families to claim a stake in older towns and neighborhoods. It affords fiscally stressed cities and towns a way to put abandoned buildings back on the tax roles, while strengthening their income and sales tax bases. It offers developers, realtors, and homebuilders a

new realm of economic opportunity in revitalizing decaying buildings.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is no panacea. Although its goals are great, its reach will be modest. But it can make a difference, and an important difference. In communities large and small all across this nation, the American dream of owning one's home is a powerful force. This bill can help it come true for those who are prepared to make a personal commitment to join in the rescue of our priceless heritage. By their actions they can help to revitalize decaying resources of historic importance, create jobs and stimulate economic development, and restore to our older towns and cities a lost sense of purpose and community.

I urge all Members of the House to review and support this important legislation, and I look forward to working with the Ways and Means Committee to enact this bill.

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN
KOSOVO RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 42) regarding the use of United States Armed Forces as part of a NATO peacekeeping operation implementing a Kosovo peace agreement:

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I came to the House floor today ready to use my vote to help Congress play a constructive role in the public debate over authorizing U.S. ground forces to take part in a NATO peacekeeping operation in Kosovo. I want to thank you for scheduling this debate today because I believe it is time for this body to reclaim its rightful role in the formulation of our nation's foreign policy and military affairs.

I certainly did not come to the House floor with a closed mind regarding an active role for the United States in securing a real, lasting peace in this region of the world. I wanted to vote for a responsible resolution that, without micromanaging the actions of our commander-in-chief, established several clear parameters and goals—not only for the deployment of U.S. troops, but also for future U.S. policy in the area.

Let me also say that I am not an isolationist, and recognize that as the world's sole remaining superpower, unique demands may be placed upon our military resources. The type of conflict that is the subject of today's debate is the very type that NATO must be prepared to deal with in modern times. As Serb atrocities and retaliation by Kosovar Albanians escalates, Kosovo's civilian population continues to suffer and the region inches ever closer to a larger conflict that threatens to engulf other sections of southeastern Europe.

But to involve U.S. troops in this operation without laying out clear guidelines and objectives—both for the peacekeeping forces and for future U.S. policy—would serve little purpose other than to place American fighting men and women adrift in harm's way. That is why it is with mixed emotion I must report to my colleagues that I cannot vote for this proposal as it stands today.

For our troops and for our nation, I believe we as policymakers must have the following before we can responsibly deploy ground forces:

1. A guarantee that NATO alone will supervise any Kosovo deployment—without involvement of the United Nations or other organizations that have demonstrated their incapacity to effectively handle similar situations;

2. A guarantee that U.S. troops will serve under U.S. command—not under the command of any foreign power;

3. A report outlining the amount and type of U.S. military personnel and equipment required for the operation, as well as the cost of those resources and the deployment's overall effect on military readiness;

4. A clear mission for our ground forces, explicit rules of engagement, and a realistic military timeline and exit strategy; and

5. Most important, an overall U.S. policy that recognizes Slobodan Milosevic's role as a violent and destabilizing influence for all of southeastern Europe—a policy aimed squarely and firmly at removing Milosevic from power.

The administration, unfortunately, has failed to make its case before Congress—a Congress that wants to help build a lasting peace, a real peace. There is still time for the Administration to craft a responsible policy. The crisis in Kosovo is not of recent origin. There has been plenty of time to help the American people to understand why America's sons and daughters should travel to this troubled land, to understand what it is they will do, to understand when it is that they will come home to their loved ones.

Thanks to today's robust debate, we have before us a resolution that requires many of the provisions I've previously discussed. In my opinion, however, without addressing the other conditions I've raised, the resolution remains inadequate. Without any indication from the administration that each of these conditions will be met before the deployment of ground troops to Kosovo, I have no choice but to vote "nay" on H. Con. Res. 42.

FREE TRADE ISN'T FREE

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 975, the Bipartisan Steel Recovery Act, and an avid supporter of our American steel industry and its workers I am submitting an opinion piece which I sent to newspapers in my district at the end of January as it relates to current global trade practices and the struggles of the American steel industry.

Today cheap steel imports are flooding the U.S. market, decimating the U.S. steel industry. America's steel workers are being laid off in droves, causing tremendous personal hardship for these workers and their families. Is this just an unfortunate but acceptable consequence of our global economy, or is this a serious problem which illustrates the need for a new socioeconomic paradigm?

I went to Congress a free trader, embracing Ricardo's Theory of Comparative Advantage—a very valid economic theory which states essentially that the industries of each nation should produce that which they produce most

efficiently and trade those products with other nations that produce other goods more efficiently. His theory still makes economic sense—if all you care about is economic theory. But as the current steel crisis demonstrates his theory has two fundamental flaws.

First, governments don't let pure economic competition decide what products their industries will produce, export or import. Nations decide to subsidize certain products because they deem it in their national interest for a variety of reasons: to protect vital industries, create jobs, and achieve national pride, to name just a few. Other nations decide to throw up barriers, direct and indirect, to achieve a national interest by selling their products overseas below cost or by keeping foreign products out.

Second, nations may well decide that importing goods at the lowest price is not the only or most important consideration in determining how open their markets should be. Unemployment carries enormous costs, direct and indirect. Welfare, unemployment compensation, retirement contributions, and the agonizing destruction of families which are torn asunder from the ravages of the inability to support their families, are societal costs that go far beyond economic measure.

So it is time for a new socioeconomic paradigm. To work, Ricardo's Theory of Comparative Advantage needs to be modified to include both the relative costs of production in different countries and the national interests relating to international trade. Can the United States retain its preeminence in the world if its steel industry is weakened by artificially low-cost foreign competition? Can we remain strong if our aviation or ocean shipping industry is dependent upon foreign planes and ships in times of national emergency? On a more personal level, do the benefits of lower-priced shirts and shoes from third world countries outweigh the costs of welfare, unemployment compensation, and the family pain caused by chronic employment? Simplistic 19th century free trade solutions no longer serve our country well. Nor would a blind protectionist policy that blocks most foreign trade. It's time for a more complex balancing of economic benefits realized through foreign trade and the legitimate national interest in preserving a strong domestic economy.

Balanced international trade with reciprocal open markets is a worthy economic policy so long as our vital national interests are preserved. But that calls for a much more complex socioeconomic policy than either Democratic or Republican administrations have embraced to date.

NATIONAL PARKS CHECK-OFF ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the National Parks Check-off Act because of my concern about the condition of our national parks.

This same legislation was reported out of the Resources Committee during the 105th Congress with bipartisan support having 80 cosponsors.

The National Parks Check-off Act will amend the Internal Revenue Code and require that Federal income tax forms contain a line

which will allow taxpayers to donate one or more dollars to the National Park Service. This legislation will provide more money for the care of our national parks and there will be no cost to the federal government.

A study released by the National Parks and Conservation Association found that 8 out of 10 people surveyed would be willing to increase their tax contribution by \$1 to benefit the National Park System.

During a House Resources Committee hearing during the 105th Congress Allan Howe, from the National Park Hospitality Association, testified that:

Over the last three years the Presidential Check-Off has raised over \$200 million. While there is considerable interest in presidential elections every four years, there is a continued and sustained interest in our National Parks, which should yield even more support.

I agree, and I believe if this bill is passed millions of dollars could be raised to address the \$4-\$6 billion backlog that our parks current face.

During the 105th Congress, this legislation was supported by organizations such as the National Park and Conservation Association, America Outdoors, the American Hiking Society, the Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains, the National Tour Association and many others.

I hope my colleagues will join me by co-sponsoring this most important legislation which will help preserve our national treasures for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO BEN OLSEN

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man who, at the age of just 21, has begun to make a strong mark in his field of endeavor. Ben Olsen, from Middletown, PA, has, within one year of becoming a professional soccer player, accomplished things that many older players must surely envy.

On February 21, in just his second game for the United States National Team, Ben scored his first international goal against Chile in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He played the full 90 minutes as a wing midfielder, a position which requires not only great skill, but a remarkable work ethic, since he is required to play both offense and defense. This great responsibility means that at the international level, he is likely to run between 6-9 miles per game. He is a true "two-way" player who demonstrates great skill in addition to defensive tenacity. He is, at different times in a game, a quarterback, wide receiver, running back, linebacker, and defensive back.

In just a year of professional play, Ben has proven that he has the right mix of intelligence, speed, skill, and aggression that is the hallmark of an international-caliber player. Each time he takes the field in an American uniform, it is obvious when you watch him play that he truly recognizes the honor of representing his country. He exemplifies the finest American traditions of hard work, teamwork, and desire to succeed.

Indeed, he has been successful. In his first year with DC United in Major League Soccer, Ben played every game and won Rookie of

the Year honors. Additionally, he was instrumental in helping his team accomplish something an American team has never done: win the CONCACAF Cup, the tournament which determines the best team in North America. This win gave United the right to challenge the winner of the Copa Libertadores, the champion of South America. In what is considered to be one of the great upsets in 1998, DC United defeated Vasco da Gama, the South American champion which hails from Brazil. That Vasco, a world-renowned club, has existed for over 100 years and United for just three made the win even more amazing. The fact that Ben Olsen, a veritable youngster in the game, played such an integral part in the victory was even more astounding.

Ben has accomplished much already, but the true mark of this young man is that he is hungry for more success, and that he understands the importance of being a professional athlete in today's society. After each game, he stands with his teammates and performs the traditional yet noble gesture of applauding the fans for their support. This simple demonstration, unique to soccer, reminds us all of the good in sports. And for fans of Ben Olsen, of Middletown, PA, it provides a reminder that here is an athlete to whom American youth can look for a role model.

SHADY LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a great day, on which I was fortunate to learn from some of our wisest teachers: kindergarten students. On March 1, 1999, I had the opportunity to read to kindergarteners at the Shady Lane Elementary School in Deptford, New Jersey.

Ms. Martha Wilson's Kindergarten class is an outstanding group of young people. I was delighted to help promote reading to young children, and I greatly enjoyed the chance to meet the students in Ms. Wilson's class.

I wish the best of luck to the following kindergarteners who shared this special day with me at the Shady Lane School: Courtney Callahan, Nicholas Battee, Jaemie Beekler, Destiny Bingham, Brian Buck, John Childress, Robert Kilcourse, Kody McMichael, Marisa Peters, Matthew Raively, Deborah Robinson, Karen Sabater, Donald Smith, Richard Smith, Marcus Smith, Ayana Thomas, Jessica Welch, George Williams, and Nyland Wolcott.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRODUCE CONSUMERS' RIGHTS-TO-KNOW ACT

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Produce Consumers'