

PROTECTING AMERICAN STEEL

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, America's steel industry has been hit by an unprecedented flood of low-priced, imported steel. As a member of the bipartisan Congressional Steel Caucus, I have become increasingly frustrated as I have watched this flood of low-priced imports force our steel producers to either slow production or close up shop. That is why I was pleased by the Administration's recent decision to heed the advice of the Congressional Steel Caucus and the pleas of the steel industry by initiating an investigation under Section 201 of the Fair Trade Act of 1974. On Friday, June 22, 2001, U.S. Trade Representative, Robert Zoellick requested the International Trade Commission (ITC) to begin that investigation.

Pursuing a Section 201 means that we will now investigate the illegal dumping of foreign steel into our marketplace. If the investigation finds that unfair trade practices were used by foreign countries in the United States, we will be entitled to seek relief from imported steel—including imposing punitive tariffs and trade restrictions. This investigation is a step in the right direction. It puts foreign steel producers on notice that we will not simply stand by while unfairly subsidized steel imports leave our steel plants idle and our steelworkers without work. But we need to do more.

Over 15,000 steelworkers nationwide have lost their jobs due to the current industry crisis. Since 1997, at least 18 steel companies have filed for bankruptcy. The health insurance of 70,000 steel-company retirees is now in jeopardy—that's 70,000 Americans faced with losing health care coverage precisely at the time in their life when they can afford it the least. Although a Section 201 investigation must report its findings within 120 days, the ITC can take up to a year to figure out how to respond to unfair trade practices. America's steel industry needs relief now. Simply put, Congress needs to enact the Steel Revitalization Act of 200, H.R. 808. And the President needs to sign it.

This bill directs the President to impose quotas, tariff surcharges, or other measures on imports. Among other things, it requires the President to negotiate enforceable, voluntary export restraint agreements. And the Steel Revitalization Act takes care of those who have suffered most from the current situation—the steelworkers who have lost their jobs. The bill establishes programs, such as the Steelworker Retiree Health Care Fund, to help these workers take care of their families. This fund would be accessible by all steel companies to provide health insurance to qualified retirees. The measures included in the Steel Revitalization Act would help families throughout Kentucky's Fourth Congressional District, from Shelby to Boyd Counties, who depend on our domestic steel industry for their livelihood.

Our steelworkers work hard to ensure that quality American steel girds our growing communities. That's why I, along with 220 other members of Congress, have cosponsored the Steel Revitalization Act. I am determined to keep our domestic producers in this important industry from falling victim to unfair trade with

foreign nations. Along with the Section 201 investigation, the Steel Revitalization Act would go a long way toward ensuring that steel remains a vital industry in Kentucky and the nation.

PASSAGE OF ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank our Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Member for the hard work they put into this bill, which includes a number of programs that are very important to Southern Ohio. I would like to take this opportunity to comment on these Department of Energy programs that directly affect the workers and communities supporting the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant located in Piketon, Ohio.

First, I would like to express my support for the \$110,784,000 included in the Fiscal Year 2002 Energy and Water Appropriations bill for costs associated with winterization of the Portsmouth, Ohio Gaseous Diffusion Plant and maintaining the plant on cold standby. It was just over a year ago today that the United States Enrichment Corporation, Inc. (USEC) announced that it would close the only U.S. uranium enrichment plant capable of meeting industry's nuclear fuel specifications. While I cannot overstate my disagreement, disappointment and disgust with that decision, I am pleased that funding will be available in Fiscal Year 2002 to ensure that the Portsmouth facility remains in a cold standby condition so that it could be restarted if needed in the future. I have been assured by the Department of Energy that the funding levels in this year's appropriations bill will allow the Department to meet its goals as announced in Columbus, Ohio on March 1, 2001 and as stated by the Governor Bush last October.

I am aware of report language accompanying the bill which discusses the non-proliferation programs with Russia and, specifically, the Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) Agreement. I support this incredibly important foreign policy initiative and I agree with the language calling for the Russian HEU to "be reduced as quickly as possible." I am also aware that the purchase of the 500 metric tons of Russian HEU has not always stayed on schedule, and I support exploring ways to accelerate the purchase of the downblended weapons grade material from Russia. However, I would hope that we can accelerate this program without adversely affecting the domestic uranium enrichment industry. Today, we are dependent upon this downblended Russian HEU for approximately 50 percent of our domestic nuclear fuel supply. Increasing that dependence makes no sense to me, particularly at a time when we are debating a national energy strategy calling for greater energy security in order to avoid price volatility and supply uncertainty. We must act in a manner that strikes a reasonable balance between this significant foreign policy objective and the need to maintain a reliable and economic source of domestic nuclear fuel.

I am disappointed that the Department of Energy's Worker and Community Transition

Office funding falls short of the President's request. I am deeply concerned that the allocated funding is inadequate to address the needs of the Department of Energy workers and communities across the DOE complex who depend on these funds to help minimize the social and economic impacts resulting from the changes in the Department of Energy's mission.

Finally, but not least of all, I am concerned about the slight reduction in the funding for the Department of Energy's Environment, Safety and Health Office. I am hopeful that this reduction will not impact the extremely important medical monitoring program at the Portsmouth plant, which also serves to screen past and present workers at other sites throughout the DOE complex. I am hopeful that these funds will be restored as the bill moves through the conference committee. We now know that many workers at DOE sites, including the one in Piketon, Ohio, handled hazardous and radioactive materials with little knowledge and, oftentimes, with inadequate safety practices. In fact, a May 2000 report issued by the Department's Office of Oversight on the Piketon Gaseous Diffusion Plant states, "Due to weaknesses in monitoring programs, such as the lack of extremity monitoring, exposure limits may have unknowingly been exceeded. In addition, communication of hazards, the rationale for and use of protective measures, accurate information about radiation exposure, and the enforcement of protective equipment use were inadequate. Further, workers were exposed to various chemical hazards for which adverse health effects had not yet been identified." Scaling back the medical monitoring program now would be unconscionable knowing what we know today. Furthermore, the compensation program established last fall by passage of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA), designed to compensate employees made ill by the work they performed for the government, would be weakened if workers are then denied access to medical screening. Although the EEOICPA is not a perfect bill, it would be a shame to hobble a long overdue program before it is even out of the gate.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ED SMITH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask today to honor Ed Smith, a true hero, on behalf of Congress. Ed served as the Centennial football coach, as school district administrator, and he served as a model for how to win, how to lose graciously, and how never to give in. He was also a man devoted to his family up until his recent death just months before his 100th birthday.

Professionally, Ed was revered by his colleagues. Central coach, principal and teacher John Rivas told Loretta Sword of The Pueblo Chieftain, "He was the godfather of it all, you might say, and he was always there to help me if I had a problem or a situation I didn't have a handle on." Ms initiative helped ensure that the Dutch Clark Stadium had the financial and community support necessary to be built. Also, he made certain that the annual All-Star

games were properly organized when they were in Pueblo, and that everything went smoothly and safely. For his success, he was even named honorary meet director and was honored for the work he did in the athletic arena for the community. Ed was a gifted athlete himself, and he never lost his love for competition, or his skill at it. When he was 91 years old, he shot a hole-in-one with thirty-year-old golf clubs he received as a retirement gift.

During his life, Ed received many honors and awards, including having his name on the rolls of the Greater Pueblo Sports Association Hall of Fame and the Centennial Hall of Fame, but his greatest reward was that, as former coach Sollie Raso attested, "I honestly think . . . [he] and his wife, they were at peace with one another, their family, and their God." Indeed, Ed was a dedicated husband up until his wife, Margaret Boyer Smith's, death. He also devoted himself to his two sons, Dr. Dean B. Smith, who preceded him in death, Dr. E. Jim Smith, and to his sixteen grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, Ed Smith was an inspiration to his students, colleagues, family and friends throughout his life. I am proud to have this opportunity to pay tribute to such an amazing man.

HONORING AL FOWLER

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, few times each week, we open our newspapers and read about someone who is making important contributions in a particular field. It is these individuals who continue to make America a great place to live, and we should never fail to recognize their contributions. However, it is with much less frequency that we hear about people who have spent a lifetime contributing to our society in numerous different areas, always rising to the top level in each endeavor.

One such individual is Al Fowler, a native of Douglasville, Georgia. After graduating from Douglas County High School and the University of Georgia, where he earned high honors and was active in Student Government and the Future Farmers of America, Al answered his country's call and left to fight in World War II.

During the war, Al served in the 483rd Bomber Group in Italy, where his group of B-17s suffered a casualty rate of 107%, including replacements. Although he had the option to leave after surviving 30 missions, Al Fowler stayed on the front, and stopped flying only when the war ended on the morning before his 34th mission. During his tenure, he was promoted to Brigadier General and earned a Distinguished Flying Cross for bringing his crippled aircraft back to the ground after a particularly dangerous mission.

Fortunately, Al Fowler's time in Italy was marked by more than just war and bloodshed. It was during this time that he met his wife, who was serving with the Red Cross in Italy. They went on to be married on the Isle of Capri. At that wedding, they exchanged rings made of gold confiscated from dead German

soldiers by a friendly Italian jeweler, the bride wore a dress sewn from German parachute silk, and the couple departed from their wedding in a B-17 Flying Fortress flown by the groom.

After returning to Douglasville, Al won election to the Georgia General Assembly, where he served with pride and distinction for 16 years. Next, he won election to the Georgia Public Service Commission. During his political years, he truly helped develop the state of Georgia, and was instrumental in building its communications and transportation infrastructure. Later, Al went on to become Georgia's Adjutant General, where he started the National Guard program we rely on today, and once again contributed immensely to our nation's defense.

After leaving politics in the 1970s, Al must have still felt he had not done enough to improve his community, because he took a job as President of Douglas County Federal Savings and Loan. During his tenure of over 30 years in banking, Al helped countless families achieve their dream of owning a home or starting their own business. He also helped reform the savings and loan industry after many of his competitors overextended themselves. His work to reform these institutions has made many of them stronger today than they ever were before.

Al Fowler has already been honored by his community and the State of Georgia for his service. He was recently named the 2nd recipient ever of the Chairman's Award at our Aviation Hall of Fame in Warner Robins, Georgia. An exhibit there will honor his contributions to freedom and prosperity in America.

As Al reaches his 81st birthday, and finally begins a well-deserved retirement, I hope that other members of this body will join me in thanking him for his service to our nation and our community in Georgia.

IN MEMORY OF BROTHER NIVARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great man who has dedicated his entire life to spreading Christian values and beliefs, Brother Nivard, for his life-time of dedicated service.

Born Joseph Martin Stanton in 1945, Brother Nivard has served his community in countless capacities from a very young age. At age 17 he boarded a train in the Old Union Terminal of Cleveland bound for Kentucky to commit his life to Christianity. His quest for true happiness eventually led him to the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, Kentucky, where he became a monk.

His love and devotion to Christian values and beliefs earned him the respect and admiration of all his peers. His friends and family describe him as a man that has inspired many. Brother Nivard is truly a man that has given back to his community in numerous ways and that has touched an incredible number of people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of a man that has reached out into his community to improve mankind, Brother Nivard. His kind spirit, gentle demeanor, and warm smile will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR PHILIP A. SHARP MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Butler, Kentucky's Phillip A. Sharp Middle School. At a time when our nation is faced with a troubling energy crisis, the students of Phillip A. Sharp Middle School serve as a fine example for our youth. Their school was recently selected as the Middle School of the Year by the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project, and they will attend the National Youth Awards Program for Energy Achievement here in Washington, D.C.

I am pleased to see young people take an interest in energy issues. They are learning early in life the importance of energy production and conservation. What I find even more impressive is the fact that they are taking what they have learned and, through the NEED Project's "Kids Teaching Kids" approach, passing it on to other interested students. This kind of leadership from our middle schoolers means great things for Kentucky's future.

I congratulate Phillip A. Sharp Middle School on their recent award, and I thank them for their hard work and for setting a fine example for students across the United States. They are on the right track, and I wish them continued success.

HONORING JIM SAMUELSON FOR HIS LIFELONG DEDICATION TO HELPING OTHERS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I ask to honor a great man whose contributions not only to this country, but to our world, should be looked upon as an inspiration to all. James Samuelson, longtime Glenwood Springs, Colorado resident recently passed away. He served in World War II, flourished as co-editor and publisher of The Glenwood Post, volunteered in his community, and gave his time and money to help those in countries less fortunate than our own.

Even before he began his successful career working with newspapers, Jim went into the Army Medical Corps during World War II, where he served in campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. Afterward, he married Marilyn, a marriage that would last 55 years until his recent death. Together, he and Marilyn raised a daughter and five sons, and were the proud grandparents to fourteen and great-grandparents to three.

After the war, Jim pursued his journalism and management talent. Donna Daniels of the Glenwood Springs Post-Independent writes of Marilyn's memory about how much more difficult it was to communicate, and how the biggest contact to the outside world was the daily paper. Jim used his skills working as co-editor and publisher of The Glenwood Post with his brother, John until 1966, after which he earned his masters of education from the University of Wyoming.