

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3338) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Chairman, as our Nation feels the effects of our current recession, and Congress discusses economic stimulus package, we must insure we do all we can for the motor which drives our economy, the American Worker.

For much of the twentieth century, our great steel companies churned and poured out the material used to build our nation creating the skeletons of our battleships and skyscrapers. But since the 1990s, many of these once great companies have fallen victim to foreign competitors who dump cheap steel on the American market. This year domestic steel producers have been further affected by rising energy prices and a rising dollar exchange rate which favors foreign-based companies. More than two dozen U.S. steel producers have gone into bankruptcy, these include once giant companies such as Bethlehem, LTV, Republic and Wheeling Pittsburgh. Some mills have been forced to shut down entirely.

The Strickland, Stupak, LaTourette Amendment to the Defense Appropriations bill will help an American industry ailing from the effects of globalization. Steel is a vital part of the economy of my State of Ohio and our nation as a whole. It ensures that none of the funds made available in the Defense Appropriations bill can purchase equipment, products or systems which contain steel not manufactured in the United States. As a Congress we must make sure the dollars we spend to protect the security of America protect the job security and livelihood of the American Steel worker.

FIGHTING THE SCOURGE OF TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to highlight our nation's efforts to fight, and hopefully end, the scourge of trafficking in women and children. Earlier today, International Relations Committee held an important hearing on the implementation of anti-trafficking legislation I authored, and which was signed into law last Congress.

As the Prime Sponsor of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, H.R. 3244, I was pleased that our legislation attracted unanimous bipartisan support in both Houses of Congress, and was signed into law just over one year ago. We succeeded not only because this legislation is pro-woman, pro-child, pro-human rights, pro-family values, and anti-crime, but also be-

cause it addresses a horrendous problem that cries out for a comprehensive solution.

Each year as many as two million innocent victims—of whom the overwhelming majority are women and children—are brought by force and/or fraud into the international commercial sex industry and other forms of modern-day slavery. The Act was necessary because previous efforts by the United States government, international organizations, and others to stop this brutal practice had proved unsuccessful. Indeed, all the evidence suggests that the most severe forms of trafficking in persons are far more widespread than they were just a few years ago.

My legislation was designed to give our government the tools we believed it needed to eliminate slavery, and particularly sex slavery. The central principle behind the Trafficking Victims Protection Act is that criminals who knowingly operate enterprises that profit from sex acts involving persons who have been brought across international boundaries for such purposes by force or fraud, or who force human beings into slavery, should receive punishment commensurate with the penalties for kidnapping and forcible rape. This would be not only a just punishment, but also a powerful deterrent. And the logical corollary of this principle is that we need to treat victims of these terrible crimes as victims, who desperately need our help, compassion, and protection.

As the implementation of this important legislation moves forward, success will depend, in large part, on the development of a large coalition of citizen organizations that are out there on the streets helping these victims day in and day out. The problem is simply too big for any one, or even several, governments to tackle alone.

That is why I am so pleased to learn that outside advocacy and relief organizations are continuing to join the fight against human trafficking. Father Stan DeBoe, with the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, CSM, is one such civic leader who deserves special recognition of his efforts, and the efforts of the CSM. The CSM, for those who are unfamiliar with their work, serves as the leadership of the Catholic orders and congregation of the 20,000 vowed religious priests and brothers of the United States. The CSM is the voice of these Catholic priests and brothers in the U.S., and also collaborates with the U.S. bishops and other Catholic organizations which serve the Church, and our society.

I have included, as part of the RECORD, a recent resolution jointly adopted by the CSM and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, LCWR, on August 26 during a conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Like all laws, however, this law is only as good as its implementation. And, frankly, I have been deeply concerned at the slow pace of implementation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. A year after enactment of this legislation, the State Department office—which is designed to be the nerve center of our diplomatic efforts to engage foreign governments in the war against trafficking—has only recently begun to get up and running. No regulations have yet been issued which will allow victims to apply for the visas provided by the Act. And many other important tasks remain undone.

I do not say this to complain or criticize—I know that many things move too slowly in the first year of a new Administration, and that

since September 11 our attention and resources have been diverted elsewhere—but to emphasize that from now on, we do not have a minute to spare.

I should also say that I am profoundly encouraged by the fact that the Administration has been able to recruit Dr. Laura Lederer to bring her expertise and commitment to the State Department's anti-trafficking effort. Dr. Lederer is generally regarded as the world's leading expert on the pathology of human trafficking, and the Protection Project which she headed has provided the factual and analytical basis for most of the work that has been done so far to combat human trafficking. Throughout the long process of consideration and enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, Laura was our mentor and our comrade-in-arms. I commend Under Secretary Dobriansky, for this important choice.

Finally, I want to emphasize the principles behind the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. I take second place to none in my commitment to workers' rights, but this is not a labor law and it is not an immigration law—it is a comprehensive attack on human slavery, and especially sex slavery. It emphatically rejects the principle that commercial sex should be regarded as legitimate form of "work."

I know that a number of officials in the previous Administration disagreed with the approach we took in this bill—and that many of these officials are career employees who still work in the government—but the Trafficking Victims Protection Act is the law of the land, and we now have a President who has made clear that he agrees with us on this fundamental question. So I hope and trust that in implementing the law—in making grants, in staffing offices and working groups, in seeking partners and advisors in this important effort—this Administration will rely on people who fully support the law they are implementing, rather than on those who never liked it and who may seek to evade or ignore some of its most important provisions.

What we need to make this law work are "true believers" who will spare no effort to mobilize the resources and the prestige of the United States government to implement this important Act and shut down this terrible industry, which routinely and grossly violates the most fundamental human rights of the world's most vulnerable people.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

STATEMENT OF RESOLUTION

LCWR and CSM stand in support of human rights by opposing trafficking of women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor, and will educate others regarding the magnitude, causes, and consequences of this abuse.

RATIONALE

1. At their May 2001 plenary session in Rome, the International Union of Superiors General, leaders of more than 780 congregations of women religious having a total membership of one million, endorsed a resolution opposing the abuse of women and children, with particular sensitivity to the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women. UISG resolved that this issue be addressed from a contemplative stance as an expression of a fully incarnated feminine spirituality in solidarity with women all over the world.

2. An LCWR goal is to work for a just world order by using our corporate voice and influence in solidarity with people who experience

poverty, racism, powerlessness or any other form of violence or oppression. A CMSM goal is to provide a corporate influence in church and society.

3. The Platform for Action of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, 1995, included the strategic objective to eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking.

4. Each year between 700,000 and 2 million women and children are trafficked across international borders, with more than 50,000 women trafficked into the U.S. (UISG papers)

CALL FOR SPECIFIC ACTION

1. Deepen our understanding of the realities of trafficking and its integral relationship with poverty, male dominance, and the globalization of trade.

2. Join with UISG as they call for specific days of international prayer, contemplation, and fasting to unite religious in prayer throughout the world.

3. Encourage education about trafficking, prostitution, and workplace slavery in sponsored schools, colleges, and universities and in adult educational ministries.

4. If feasible, collaborate in applying for federal funds from the Department of Health and Human Services in implementation of HR 3244 to provide services to victims of trafficking.

The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) serves the leadership of the Catholic orders and congregations of the 20,000 vowed religious priests and brothers of the United States, ten percent of whom are foreign missionaries. CMSM provides a voice for these communities in the U.S. church and society. CMSM also collaborates with the U.S. bishops and other key groups and organizations that serve church and society.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) has approximately 1,000 members who are the elected leaders of their religious orders, representing 81,000 Catholic sisters in the United States. The Conference develops leadership, promotes collaboration within church and society, and serves as a voice for systemic change.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN HENDERSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of John Henderson who recently passed away in Grand Junction, Colorado on November 17, 2001. John will always be remembered as a dedicated volunteer to the community. His passing is a great loss for a town that has relied on John for his strength and good nature in times of hardship and prosperity.

John was a dedicated member of the Plateau Valley High School family. He began his service as Assistant Head Coach for the football team. He then served as Athletic Director for the school, coordinating sports programs, games and events. This year John was promoted to Head Coach and just completed his first season. John loved football, not just for the sport, but because of the individuals he

coached and inspired. He pushed the players to excel, but always ensured the enjoyment of the game was paramount.

John will always be remembered as a kind, compassionate man who was willing to give people a chance in life. This resonated on the football field where John was always willing to give his players the opportunity to shine. He was a successful leader on the gridiron, and in the face of insurmountable odds encouraged his players to their best.

Mr. Speaker, John will be missed by many in this community. It has always been known that his greatest passion was his love and dedication to his family. It is with a solemn heart that we pay our respects to his family and friends, and to all those who were touched by John during his life. John Henderson dedicated many years to this community, and he will be greatly missed.

**HAITI STATEMENT BY REP.
MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Yet the U.S. government is blocking aid to Haiti in order to expand the influence of a single Haitian political party. This party, known as the Democratic Convergence, is supported by less than four percent of the Haitian electorate.

Meanwhile, Haiti's population is facing a serious humanitarian crisis. Haiti's per capita income is only \$460 per year. Four percent of the population is infected with the AIDS virus, and 163,000 children have been orphaned by AIDS. Every year, there are 30,000 new AIDS cases. The infant mortality rate is over seven percent. For every 1000 infants born in Haiti, five women die in childbirth. Furthermore, there are only 1.2 doctors for every 10,000 people in this desperately poor country.

Not only has the United States suspended development assistance to Haiti, the United States is also blocking loans from international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Inter-American Development Bank. U.S. policy has effectively prevented Haiti from receiving \$146 million in loans from the Inter-American Development Bank that were already approved by that institution's Board of Directors. These loans are desperately needed by the people of Haiti.

It is time for the United States to end this political impasse and restore bilateral and multilateral assistance to this impoverished democracy.

WTO NEGOTIATIONS AND TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, as Congress continues to debate the Farm Bill, U.S. trade negotiations at the WTO Ministerial in Doha

agreed that future trade talks would seek to limit domestic farm programs, including phasing out of forms of export subsidies and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support. The decisions in Doha line up U.S. trade negotiators to eliminate U.S. farm programs as a chit in exchange for better overseas market access for U.S. banks and other service providers.

The negotiating goal of significantly reducing "trade-distorting" farm programs presents a real problem for Congressionally mandated farm programs. While U.S. negotiators have agreed to work towards phasing out all forms of export subsidies and substantially reducing trade-distorting domestic support, the House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 2646, the Farm Security Act. H.R. 2646 provides \$409.7 billion in market price support programs, loan deficiency programs and marketing loan assistance to struggling farmers for the next 10 years—farmers who are struggling in large part due to cheap, subsidized foreign imports and restrictive trade laws abroad.

If this hit on U.S. agriculture policy were not damaging enough, U.S. trade negotiators reopened our country's longstanding position against putting U.S. anti-dumping laws on the WTO negotiating table. These trade laws are farmers' last defense when countries dump below-cost commodities on the U.S. market. Yet, USTR agreed to immediate negotiations in this area, even though a long list of WTO countries including Brazil, Japan and Australia have stated clearly that their only purpose for seeking such talks is to weaken existing U.S. trade law.

While the Administration has opened the door for reducing domestic assistance to U.S. farmers and weakening anti-dumping laws, it is also pushing for Trade Promotion Authority from Congress. If TPA is granted, Congress loses its ability to influence the substance of agriculture negotiations. Under TPA, Congress cannot remove or amend offensive agricultural provisions, it can only reject the entire WTO negotiated pact. Under these conditions, American agriculture is at risk when negotiators are willing to compromise U.S. producers' interests in exchange for new market access for U.S. telecommunications firms, banks and other service providers in other nations.

While I fully appreciate the opportunities of a global marketplace for our farmers, it is irresponsible to oversell the benefits of free trade that is not fair. Agriculture remains in a precarious position for further WTO discussions. Congress must not relax its vigilance over trade deals that compromise American agriculture.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GORDON HARBERT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual from Grand Junction, Colorado. Over the years, Gordon Harbert has distinguished himself as a business, community, and industry leader for Grand Junction. Gordon's dedication is impressive and it is my