

INTRODUCTION OF THE STRATEGIC MATERIALS ACT OF 2003

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Strategic Materials Act of 2003, legislation that would ensure that we retain the ability and capacity to produce strategic metals, so important to our defense and many other vital industries in the United States.

I am a big supporter of free trade, but I also understand that the United States must take care that it does not become completely and totally dependent on another country for materials that could be vital to our defense. One such class of materials for which I believe we need to take care to maintain the capacity to produce is the raw material used to make titanium, and other nickel-based alloys, that are absolutely vital to maintaining our military, as well as important to our aerospace industry and other areas of our economy as well. Let me be clear, as a supporter of free trade, I do not suggest the U.S. erect barriers to the trade of these materials, I just suggest that we should not unilaterally dismantle and offer preferences to the importation of these specific materials. My bill will ensure that these specific import-sensitive strategic materials are not eligible for Generalized System of Preferences or GSP designation.

The GSP designation is designed to promote economic growth and development in designated developing countries, and I support using trade as a means to stimulate a developing country's exports and economy. Trade can be a better way to provide assistance, because it helps to develop a country rather than just providing direct aid. That said, I have concerns that GSP is not appropriate for certain strategic materials, especially given that other countries already have significant market share in some of these materials. Extending GSP to these strategic materials could very well mean the United States loses the capacity to produce these materials domestically, as well as lose jobs. The reason for GSP, to provide assistance to develop an export industry in a developing country, does not appear appropriate when a foreign country or countries already control a significant share of the U.S. market.

The legislation I am introducing today sends a clear message that, given the importance of maintaining a strong military and the importance to other sectors of the economy, we should not hasten to offer preferences, for that risks complete dependence on foreign countries for strategic materials like titanium sponge—the basis for titanium. We must take care we do not use a program designed to assist developing countries' trade to inadvertently assist the demise of our domestic capacity to produce these materials that help make our military the strongest in the world.

MACV

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Minnesota Assistance

Council for Veterans (MACV), and in honor of their receiving the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans 2003 Outstanding Member Award.

The Outstanding Member Award is presented annually to the coalition member that demonstrates "exemplary commitment and service to American's homeless veterans." Through a strong, collaborative partnership with medical and veterans' centers across Minnesota and an unmatched commitment to the state's homeless veterans population, the MACV has met and exceeded these qualifications. As a result, this award recognizes the tremendous achievements the MACV has provided for all Minnesota citizens.

Since 1992, when it opened its first office in my Congressional District, the MACV has grown significantly. Today, the MACV operates eight transitional housing facilities throughout the state. By providing food, housing, employment and school opportunities in a structured, affordable program, the MACV represents a model organization for other states to replicate.

As we celebrate the achievements of the MACV and all our nation's homeless assistance programs, I urge my colleagues to remember the thousands of homeless veterans across the United States that go without help each and every day. On any given night, 275,000 veterans of the United States armed forces—including thousands in Minnesota—are homeless, and many struggle with alcohol, drug and mental challenges. It is critical that we continue to support the efforts of those who seek to provide these honorable veterans with a better way-of-life.

I commend the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans and their staff for this award, and thank the thousands of people across the United States committed to helping our nation's homeless veterans each and every day.

CONGRATULATING THE CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM ON ITS NEW CINCINNATI WING

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Cincinnati Art Museum on the occasion of the opening of its new Cincinnati Wing.

The Cincinnati Wing showcases 400 works of art with connections to Cincinnati, the Queen City, in 15 renovated galleries encompassing 18,000 square feet of space. The galleries are decorated with recreations of period wallpaper depicting the 200 year story of our great American city's history. This award-winning project also features panoramic views of beautiful Eden Park and downtown Cincinnati.

The elegant new space will allow rarely viewed Cincinnati art to be displayed. The collection includes paintings, sculptures and decorative art from the late 19th century to the 1980s. From the great ceramics of Rookwood Pottery and the superb carved furniture of Aesthetic Movement craftsmen such as Benn Pitman, to the sculpture of Hiram Powers and the paintings of Frank Duveneck and John Twachtman, Cincinnati's artists produced works of international renown and made the Queen City a center for art.

We congratulate Cincinnati Art Museum Director Timothy Rub, his very capable staff and the many supporters of the Art Museum in the Greater Cincinnati community for their vision and commitment. This new wing commemorates the rich tradition of the fine arts in Cincinnati and will be a magnificent to one of the great art museums in America.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF KOREAN IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration as they celebrate 100 years of Korean immigration to the United States.

A century ago, 102 Koreans immigrated to Hawaii as sugar plantation workers, the leaders of a new wave of Korean immigration to the U.S. Today, the Korean-American community has grown to 2 million, making it the fifth largest Asian community in the U.S. Korean-Americans have overcome many challenges along the way; however, the success the Korean-American community currently enjoys is largely due to the perseverance and hard work of those first immigrants to Hawaii 100 years ago.

The United States has benefited greatly from the participation of the Korean-American community in business, medicine, the arts and many other fields. Moreover, the Korean-American community has flourished here. The 11th District of Virginia exemplifies this symbiotic relationship, with a large and vibrant Korean-American community making lasting contributions to Northern Virginia. As the Representative of a district that has greatly benefited from the participation of its Korean-American citizens, I was an original co-sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 297, which recognizes the contributions of Korean-Americans during the past 100 years in business, science, the arts and other fields. This resolution passed in the House of Representatives by a 417-0 vote on September 23, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I applaud the leadership of the Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration in commemorating the achievements and contributions of Korean-Americans in the United States. Efforts like theirs are what make our representative democracy work: they have helped not only to educate the American public about the values and accomplishments of the Korean-American community, but also to secure a more effective representation of those communities throughout the United States.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HARVEY AND ANIS KELLEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate two outstanding cattle ranchers from Plateau Valley,

Colorado whose hard work and dedication exemplifies the spirit of the West. Harvey and Anis Kelley are no less pioneers than their grandparents who first came to Colorado in early part of the last century. They have carried on that proud tradition for the last fifty years, and I am proud to pay tribute to their accomplishments before this body of Congress today.

No one can deny cattle ranching is a hard profession. There are no days off and no escape from inclement weather. Ranchers work from sunrise to sunset, and few today carry on this proud work and its traditions. Harvey and Anis are fine representatives of the heartland and their work is the life-blood of this nation. Therefore, it is with pride that I congratulate them upon receiving a lifetime recognition award from the Plateau Valley Cattlewomen at their Stockgrower's Banquet and Ball.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to recognize Harvey and Anis Kelley before this body of Congress and this Nation for their contributions to Plateau Valley and our country. I trust that the years ahead will continue to find Harvey and Anis side by side making a difference in the history of Colorado and our country. Thank you Harvey and Anis for making Colorado a place where hard work and tradition still thrive.

THE DEATHS OF GUILLERMO GAVIRIA CORREA AND GILBERTO ECHEVERRI MEJIA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to express my grief for the deaths of Guillermo Gaviria Correa and Gilberto Echeverri Mejia. For their deaths, and the loss of eight other hostages that died with them, I wish to give my sincerest condolences to their families, to the people of Antioquia whom they served, and to the whole of Colombia.

Dr. Gaviria Correa, the governor of the Department of Antioquia, and his Peace Commissioner, Gilberto Echeverri Mejia, were killed by the guerilla group known as the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) on May 5, 2003. They had been held captive by the FARC since April 21, 2003, the day their group was kidnapped while marching for peace to the town of Caicedo.

Guillermo Gaviria was a leader in the non-violent movement in Colombia. At a time when Colombia is being ripped apart by violence, when many Colombians are motivated by rough justice and revenge, he proposed a different approach—non-violence. Inspired by basic Christian teachings, Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., Guillermo Gaviria set out to change the way Colombians address the problems that face them.

He did not just seek to change the nature of the debate, he put his ideas into action. As governor of Antioquia he established the "Peace Congruent Plan", a plan which would: Face the causes of the armed conflict and the social violence through solutions reached among representatives from different communities ideologies and beliefs, and build social culture and a government based on participation.

Shortly after becoming governor, Guillermo Gaviria initiated a series of popular marches and demonstrations against the war. Each carried a motto, such as "Break the silence, the mothers, wives and daughters of the kidnapped are doing it". He organized "solidarity caravans" and peace demonstrations in every corner of the Department.

He challenged the FARC to stop attacking civilians. He challenged the paramilitaries to stop looting. He challenged both to leave civilians out of the conflict—"we won't be part of the war, but part of the peace." At every point, he remained faithful to his non-violent and religious creed: "Let us hate the sin but not the sinner". Governor Gaviria was a light to his people.

It is a tragedy for all of us that this light was extinguished. He was a unique figure in Colombia, a figure of hope, a figure of a brighter future. Colombia desperately needs people with great vision and great courage. Guillermo Gaviria was one of these people. How many more like him are there? How many have been killed in the incessant violence that plagues this beautiful country?

It pains me in particular to see the passing of Guillermo Gaviria and Gilberto Echeverri, two great hopes of the Colombian people. Antioquia is my second home. I lived and worked there as a Peace Corps Volunteer. The course my life has taken is closely tied to my time in and around the barrios of Medellin. I saw first-hand the extent of the challenges that the people of Medellin have to face. I also saw how industrious and dedicated they are. Guillermo Gaviria was a tribute to this "paisa" spirit. Antioquia has lost a dear native son.

In the wake of this tragedy, all Colombians must dedicate themselves to honoring the memory and vision of Guillermo Gaviria and Gilberto Echeverri. President Uribe, himself a "paisa" and former governor of Antioquia, can take the lead by continuing support for Governor Gaviria's vision of a non-violent Colombia.

I look forward to working with the President in promoting this vision, one that Colombians, after so many years of violence, desperately deserve. Promoting and advancing non-violence is the best way to honor the memory of Governor Gaviria, and the best way to bring peace to a terribly troubled nation.

EUROPE DAY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to note that today, May 9, is Europe Day.

Fifty-three years ago, then French Foreign Minister Robert Shuman announced a plan that proposed the pooling of European coal and steel production under a common authority as a way to bring some sense of order to the economic recovery of post-World War II Europe.

The Shuman Declaration, which was formalized in a treaty the following year, was regarded as the first step toward achieving a united Europe. Since that time, we have witnessed an extraordinary evolution within Europe toward what has now become the Euro-

pean Union—a treaty-based institutional framework which defines and manages economic and political cooperation among its current 15—soon to be—25 member countries.

Mr. Speaker, although the difficult debate over Iraq presented yet another challenge to the relationship between the United States and a few countries in Europe, it remains clear to this Member a strong, developed transatlantic relationship is critical to the long-term political, economic and security interests of both the United States and Europe. It is also clear that one of the central ingredients to a successful partnership with Europe is a stable, integrated and dynamic Europe—and the European Union has evolved to become, along with NATO, one of the two critical international organizations for achieving those objectives.

We in this country may not fully understand or appreciate all that has, and is, evolving within the European Union. But it remains clear that as we have worked so well with Europe within the NATO Alliance over the years, we must strive to develop a better working knowledge of, and relationship with, the European Union that will be both a transatlantic partner and an economic competitor for America.

Mr. Speaker, as we prepare for the forthcoming U.S.—EU summit in June, today, Europe Day, is as good a time as ever to begin to renew our enduring and critical alliance with the countries of Europe and with the European Union.

WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND ADULT EDUCATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1261) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1261, the reauthorizing legislation for the Workforce Investment Act. This bill will not benefit people with disabilities and other Americans who are seeking to secure jobs that increase self-sufficiency and integration into the mainstream of community life.

For years, state vocational rehabilitation programs have provided optimal service with minimal funding. In 2001, 233,000 individuals with disabilities entered the workforce with the help of VR. Those individuals earned \$3.4 billion in wages and paid nearly \$1 billion in State and Federal taxes. The success rate for VR programs nationally is 69 percent—higher than most other government programs providing services to adults. And after 3 years of job placement, 76 percent of those individuals continue to be gainfully employed.

H.R. 1261 grants governors unrestricted access to funds specifically intended for VR and other essential programs to use for one-stop