

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN ON THEIR NATIONAL DAY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan will be celebrating its National Day on October 10, 2004. On this happy occasion, I join my constituents in wishing Taiwan the best in its endeavors.

This past September I had the opportunity to meet with Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian in Seattle. He was returning to Taiwan from a trip to Central America. I was impressed by his sincerity in seeking an early dialogue with China and maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Mr. Speaker, peace in the Taiwan Strait is vital to the political development and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

In past years, Taiwan and the United States have been friends and allies. In times of turmoil, both have come to each other's aid. I appreciate Taiwan's efforts and actions to protect U.S. citizens in Taiwan after 9/11 and Taiwan's cooperation with U.S. intelligence agencies in combating global terrorist activities. I am also aware of Taiwan's support for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan. Taiwan is our friend and deserves our support.

The future of Taiwan-U.S. relations is brighter than ever. With the appointment of Dr. David Lee as Taiwan's chief representative in the United States, I look forward to working closely with Dr. Lee on issues of mutual importance.

Congratulations to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan on their National Day.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520, THE AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great disappointment that I rise in opposition to this Conference Report. I opposed the House version of this bill in June and hoped that what would come out of the Conference Committee would be an improvement. Instead, what we see before us is much worse.

I wish I could support this legislation because it does contain some worthwhile reforms that will benefit the economy and eliminate harmful tariffs. Some of the provisions included in this legislation would greatly benefit businesses within my district. I strongly support the inclusion of incentives for corporations to repatriate their overseas profits which would stimulate the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars in our domestic economy and, in fact, worked hard to get this provision in the bill. I cannot support a \$140 billion grab-bag of special interest handouts to solve a \$4 billion problem.

We had a simple job to do: to repeal the current export subsidy that led the World

Trade Organization (WTO) to authorize tariffs against American goods. Rather than using this bill to bring the United States back into compliance with the WTO, it's become a Christmas tree for pet projects all over the country. Included in this legislation are handouts for tobacco growers, tackle box manufacturers, bow and arrow manufacturers, importers of ceiling fans, and even NASCAR race tracks.

What's worse is that this legislation does nothing to protect jobs here at home. Instead, it encourages them to be out-sourced. Despite the fact that we've lost 1.7 million jobs since this Administration took office, the Conference Report includes 24 separate provisions that actually encourage shipping more of our jobs overseas at a cost of \$42 billion. The Senate-passed version of this bill included a provision that would have closed offshore tax shelters established for the sole purpose of avoiding U.S. taxes. This Conference Report re-opens them, leaving the American taxpayer to foot the bill.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose this legislation. It is not the right prescription for what ails us.

CONGRATULATING TOBY GASS

HON. C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the academic achievement and great promise of graduate student Toby Gass, who is studying Forest Resources at the University of Idaho.

Toby is being honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as recipient of a prestigious Science To Achieve Results, or STAR fellowship, through the EPA's Greater Research Opportunities program.

She is only the second Idaho student ever to win such an award, and the first since 1999. Only 22 graduate students nationwide are receiving STAR-GRO fellowships for 2004, and I am extremely proud that one of them is from Idaho's 1st District.

The EPA's STAR graduate fellowship program is the only federal program exclusively for students pursuing advanced degrees in environmental sciences. It is highly competitive, with only 7 percent of applicants being awarded fellowships.

Toby and the other STAR fellowship recipients clearly are the best and brightest of America's future environmental scientists. These brilliant men and women will lead the way to unimaginable advances in more efficiently managing our natural resources and protecting human health and safety.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Toby Gass and all the STAR-GRO fellowship winners for their achievement, and thank them for their groundbreaking work, from which we all will benefit.

CRS SPECIALIST PAUL S. RUNDQUIST HONORED BY THE POLISH PARLIAMENT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to the invaluable service and support we receive every day from the knowledge, experience, and hard work of the Congressional Research Service—CRS. This dedicated team of policy analysts, administrators, and support staff provides us with information services and policy analysis that is accurate, timely, and impeccably balanced and nonpartisan.

The Congress, and this people's House, are not the only beneficiaries of CRS's expertise. At times over the years, we have authorized CRS to provide temporary support for the parliaments of several nations as they worked to join the ranks of the world's democracies. In the 1960s and 70s, Congress authorized exchange programs between CRS and the Japanese and German national legislatures that helped them establish professional parliamentary research departments that are the envy of their neighbors. More recently, in the early 1990s, as the dawn of freedom broke over the nations of Eastern Europe, the Speaker's Task Force on Parliamentary Reform in Eastern Europe provided invaluable expertise and perspective to the newly emerging free parliaments of these nations.

Mr. Speaker, the seed was sown, and today we see the inspiring results, as Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, and other countries have joined the family of democratic nations. CRS provided vital assistance in this effort, and today, I am pleased to note that one of our own, CRS Specialist Paul S. Rundquist, has been honored by the Republic of Poland for his work with the Sejm ("SAYM"), the Polish Parliament: he has been awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

Mr. Speaker, when I was first appointed to the position of Ranking Minority Member of the House Administration Committee by Democratic Leader Pelosi, I called CRS for information about internal House operations and organization. Dr. Rundquist was the first person to respond, and he demonstrated why CRS is held in such high regard—he was prompt, thorough, and professional. Later, when I needed information on congressional continuity, Dr. Rundquist was again there with the needed research and information. I'm certainly glad Dr. Rundquist has remained a Congressional asset all these years, and I hope he stays on for many years to come.

Dr. Rundquist is a son of Illinois; born in Chicago, he holds a Bachelor's degree from Loyola University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Appointed to the staff of CRS in 1974, he is a nationally renowned expert on legislative procedure, the structure, organization, and functions of the United States Congress, and congressional history. One of several CRS analysts assigned to assist the Speaker's Task Force from 1990 to 1994, Dr. Rundquist has continued to provide invaluable assistance to the members and staff of the Polish Parliament, while maintaining the full schedule of his duties at CRS.

He gave generously of his knowledge and perspective, providing information and analysis to the Sejm as it developed the institutions, policies, and procedures so necessary to a vital, democratic national legislature. During several missions to Poland, he advised on the establishment of parliamentary rules and procedures, committee structure and function, and support services to members, committees, and party organizations.

In 1996, Dr. Rundquist was appointed a Fulbright Professor of Politics at Warsaw University, and also served as a visiting professor at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. During the following two years, he lectured widely and continued to provide support and analysis for the Polish Parliament and its members, providing informal assistance to the Sejm as it drafted a new constitution, and even advice on the official translation of the new constitution into English.

His service to the United States Congress has continued uninterrupted throughout this period. His recent projects and publications have included authoritative studies on guaranteeing the continuity of Congress, especially the House of Representatives, in the event of terrorist attacks, and ground-breaking analysis of the Senate power sharing agreement of 2001–2002.

Accompanied by his wife, Ellen, and CRS colleagues and friends of many years, Dr. Rundquist was awarded the Order of Merit at a ceremony held at the Polish Embassy on September 29. I extend my sincere congratulations to this dedicated servant of Congress and the American people for his many distinguished accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF GILDA'S CLUB OF
NEW YORK CITY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gilda's Club of New York City, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. In 1995, Gilda's Club opened its doors in honor of the late Gilda Radner. While most well-known for her work as a comedienne, Radner's legacy carries on in the Club because of her wish that people living with cancer, as she did so bravely, would find a community with which to talk and seek comfort while fighting the disease. A festive gala, "Celebrating Gilda," will be held on November 4th to mark the success and progress of Gilda's Club over the past ten years.

Gilda's Club, a non-profit organization with both of its branches located in my Congressional district, was founded upon the premise that "when cancer happens, it happens to the entire family," a message so eloquently conveyed by Radner herself. Gilda's Club is premised on the belief that while doctors can treat the physical effects of cancer, the emotional effects of the disease must also be treated. The Club provides a comprehensive emotional and social support community for anyone whose life has been touched by cancer in any way, free of charge. Its Basic III Plus membership provides programs ranging from Support and Networking Groups, to education in Lectures and Workshops, to a playful

yet supportive atmosphere for children in Noogieland, all designed to channel strength, hope and solidarity to all participants.

The current membership of the Club is 3,615, and the Club has now passed the milestone of 100,000 member visits. An organization with a resolute mission, a compassionate heart, and an intrinsic sense of humor, Gilda's Club is a valued asset to the New York community. Testimonials, such as that of one member who said that "this club has shined light and hope into some of the darkest corners of my life," coupled with the growing membership numbers are a clear indication of the Club's magnificent achievements. I am delighted to wish Gilda's Club a joyous and memorable 10th anniversary celebration, and to convey my sincere wishes for a thriving and prosperous second decade.

CONGRATULATING DR. LINDA
BUCK

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we marvel at the wonders the Hubble Space Telescope has brought us. We gaze in amazement at the images beamed back from a rover on Mars. As astonishing and inspiring as these discoveries are, sometimes you don't have to go very far for a major discovery.

In fact, sometimes the wonder is as close as the nose on your face. We learned that earlier this week with the announcement that Dr. Linda Buck from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center had won a Nobel Prize in Medicine. Dr. Buck and Dr. Richard Axel of Columbia University will share a Nobel for their pioneering research on the sense of smell.

The more we learn about the human body, the more amazing we know the human body is.

On behalf of the people in the 7th Congressional District, I want to congratulate Dr. Buck.

This is the third time that the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center has been home to a Nobel laureate. That is an extraordinary achievement in and of itself.

This is a proud moment for Seattle, Fred Hutch and our distinguished research scientist.

Thank you Dr. Buck for an individual achievement that we can all share.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL SPINA
BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans—and their family members—who are currently affected by Spina Bifida—the nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect. The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for over 30 years,

works every day to prevent and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect.

The SBAA was founded in 1973 to address the needs of the individuals and families affected by this disease and is currently the only national organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. As part of its service through almost 60 chapters in more than 125 communities across the country, the SBAA puts expecting parents in touch with families who have a child with Spina Bifida. These families answer questions and concerns and help guide expecting parents. The SBAA then works to provide lifelong support and assistance for affected children and their families.

Together the SBAA and the West Michigan Spina Bifida Association, the Spina Bifida Association of Southeastern Michigan, the Spina Bifida Association of Upper Michigan, and the Southwest Michigan Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association work tirelessly to help families meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their child. I would like to acknowledge and thank SBAA and these local Spina Bifida organizations in Michigan for all that they have done for the families affected by this birth defect, especially those living in my state.

Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect that occurs when the central nervous system does not properly close during the early stages of pregnancy. Over 1,500 babies are born with Spina Bifida each year. There are three different forms of Spina Bifida with the most severe being Myelomeningocele Spina Bifida, which causes nerve damage and severe disabilities. This severe form of Spina Bifida is diagnosed in 96 percent of children born with this condition. Between 70 to 90 percent of the children born with Spina Bifida are at risk of mental retardation when spinal fluid collects around the brain.

The exact cause of Spina Bifida is not known, but researchers have concluded that women of childbearing age who take daily folic acid supplements reduce their chances of having a Spina Bifida pregnancy by up to 75 percent. Progress has been made in educating women on the importance of consuming folic acid supplements and maintaining diets rich in folic acid. Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control shows an increase in consumption of vitamins with folic acid by 8 percent over 2003. Since the Food and Drug Administration decision to fortify enriched grains with folic acid, CDC has documented a 26 percent decline in these birth defects.

Although this is good news, we will still have babies born with Spina Bifida who need intensive care and families that need guidance and support in caring for and raising these children. The result of this neural tube defect is that most babies suffer from a host of physical, psychological, and educational challenges, including paralysis, developmental delay, numerous surgeries, and living with a shunt in their skulls in an attempt to ease their condition. Today, approximately 90 percent of all babies diagnosed with Spina Bifida live into adulthood, approximately 80 percent have normal IQs, and approximately 75 percent participate in sports and other recreational activities. With proper medical care, people who suffer from Spina Bifida can lead full and productive lives. However, they must learn how to move around using braces, crutches or wheelchairs, and how to function independently. They also