

Medallion, Dr. Straeter is a national asset who is admired and respected by all who know him.

I know I speak for a grateful nation in wishing Dr. Terry Straeter the very best as he begins a new chapter in his long, distinguished career.

CHINA NEEDS TO JOIN THE  
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, many of us were hoping that progress could be made on a United States-China agreement for China's accession to the World Trade Organization [WTO] at the recent mini-summit meeting between President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang in Auckland, New Zealand. With the new WTO round beginning in Seattle, Washington, at the end of November, the time left to reach an agreement, and for China to join the WTO at the Seattle ministerial meeting, has almost run out. China needs to be in the WTO. And, China's accession to the WTO is in the short and long term interests of the United States and all the developed countries who are members of the WTO. Accordingly, this Member recommends the following editorial from the Wednesday, September 15, 1999, Journal of Commerce which comments on the Clinton-Jiang meeting and makes a strong case for China and Taiwan's accession to the WTO.

[From the Journal of Commerce, September 15, 1999]

CLINTON AND JIANG MEET

The rhetoric was typically overblown, but the idea that Sino-American relations are moving back to what passes for normal is a cause for some relief.

A minisummit between Presidents Clinton and Jiang "opened up a new chapter for Sino-U.S. relations," enthused one high-ranking U.S. official after their private session during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum gathering in New Zealand last weekend. "The summit is significant," proclaimed Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who had her own session with Chinese Vice Premier (and former foreign minister) Qian Qichen along with Samuel Berger, Clinton's national security adviser.

Relations between the United States and China are important, both for trade and economic reasons and for military and strategic ones. They go through regular if unhelpfully exaggerated turmoil over such things as Taiwan, intellectual property and market access and were badly bruised by the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade.

Chinese outrage was fully understandable and its inherent suspicion of "mistakes" fueled an age-old xenophobia. Nobody benefits from that kind of inward-focused China.

Many of the strains in Sino-American relations arise from the sort of everyday differences that a more mature and confident China would brush off (but keep around as a bargaining chip at some future time, as all powers do). For a country that claims the pioneering role in the art of diplomacy thou-

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sands of years ago, its mandarins often seem strangely given to flying off the handle.

In one of the more important unresolved issues—China's membership in the World Trade Organization—both sides are at fault. The Clinton administration muffed a great opportunity during the April visit to the United States of Premier Zhu Rongji, who brought a surprisingly lengthy list of concessions and agreements designed to break the logjam. He was justifiably affronted by the rebuff.

Similarly, China did itself no good by sulking for months after the Belgrade bombing and then playing coy, suggesting that while it would be nice to join the club China could muddle through perfectly well on the outside.

China patently needs the WTO, and the United States, European Union and the rest of the trading world need it as a member. The talks have dragged on for 13 years.

Foreign investment, the spur to China's remarkable economic growth in recent years, is declining. This is partly due to the economic typhoon that swept Asia the past two years, but also partly due to China's failure to cut red tape sufficiently and to corral provincial and even municipal bureaucracies fond of making their own rules. Investors have plenty of good places to go and will go where they feel most welcome.

China has cut its tariff levels more deeply and widely than any other big trading country, by as much as 50% in some areas; the terms it offered were more generous than those of many existing WTO members, such as India. Beijing still dawdles for spurious reasons on opening financial services fully—especially insurance—but must be given credit for what it has done.

The best way to get closer adherence to global rules is to invite China into the game. The EU, previously also firm in demanding more concessions before entry, long ago accepted that enough was in place that the nitpicking should stop.

Beyond the immediate issue lies that of Taiwan. By common if misguided agreement, the dynamic little island won't be allowed into the WTO until China gains entry. Never mind that Taiwan has gone well beyond China and many other countries in tidying up its trade behavior. Such is realpolitik, but Taiwan deservedly gets a lot of good press.

When Taiwan President Lee Ten-hui spoke of wanting relations between the island and the mainland on a state-to-state basis, he may have been injudicious and he must have known that Beijing would yelp. But the truth is that Taiwan is the world's 14th-largest trading nation, has its third-largest hard currency reserves and few people outside China swallow Beijing's fiction that Taiwan is a wayward province subject for eternity to the risk of Chinese armed intervention.

The think tanks and professors are free to debate the nuances of such things in their ivory towers for as long as it amuses them. The real world needs China and Taiwan in the WTO now. Clinton knows it, and he should make it happen.

September 27, 1999

HONORING JOHN BOLAND FOR HIS  
EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE  
QUINEBAUG AND SHETUCKET  
RIVERS VALLEY NATIONAL HER-  
ITAGE CORRIDOR

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Boland of Pomfret, Connecticut for his tireless and successful efforts to develop and grow the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor. As residents across eastern Connecticut mark the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Corridor, John Boland deserves much of the credit for the success we all celebrate.

John was one of the leaders of a small group of citizens from eastern Connecticut who came together in the late 1980s with an idea to preserve and promote the natural, cultural and historic resources of the region. The group also wanted to follow an approach that would center on the major rivers in the area—the Quinebaug in the east and the Shetucket in the west—because they are intertwined with that history, with a way of life. As an avid canoeist, John also appreciated the recreational potential the rivers offered as well as the many obstacles to public access and greater enjoyment of these resources. After much research and widespread public discussion, the group embraced an innovative and largely experimental concept—the National Heritage Corridor.

In 1988, John and others formed the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor Committee to expand public awareness about the concept and to work in support of formally designating the Corridor. I am proud to have worked with John, who served as Chairman of the Committee, and so many others across the region to develop and introduce legislation in the House to achieve this goal. In the fall of 1994, years of hard work and persistence paid off as Congress passed and the President signed the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act.

Following enactment of the bill, John continued to take a leadership role in transforming the Corridor from a concept into reality. He helped to develop the framework of the non-profit corporation—Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc.—which currently manages the Corridor. He served as first Chairman of its Board of Directors and continues to be actively involved in many Corridor projects.

Mr. Speaker, the success of the Quinebaug and Shetucket National Heritage Corridor is the result of the efforts of countless residents from across eastern Connecticut. However, like so many other successful initiatives, a few people play critical leadership roles. John Boland has been this type of leader. His vision and hard work have been crucial to making the Corridor a reality. I join citizens from across eastern Connecticut in saying—thank you John.