

offices of UNICEF and UNDP, and less well represented at, for example, UNHCR in Geneva, and FAO in Rome.

As a result of U.S. Government and the UN agencies' own vacancy dissemination and recruitment efforts, we know that large numbers of U.S. citizens receive timely information about UN employment opportunities and that many apply for these positions. UN agencies have confirmed that for most positions, they receive ample numbers of applications from highly qualified U.S. citizens.

2. Is a registry kept of U.S. citizens interested in and qualified for UN posts which are advertised?

Our Bureau for International Organization Affairs (IO) maintains a roster (registry) of U.S. citizens qualified for senior (D-level and above) positions in UN agencies and other international organizations. We also disseminate vacancy announcement information on all professional posts.

3. What office within the Department is responsible for assisting U.S. citizens seeking employment at the United Nations, and how many personnel does that office have?

Within IO, the UN Employment Information and Assistance Unit (IO/S/EA) is responsible for assisting U.S. citizens seeking information about international employment opportunities and for holding UN agencies accountable for hiring a fair share of Americans. This office consists of three staff members.

In addition, Ambassador Albright, the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations at our Mission in New York, and our Permanent Representatives at our other missions overseas are fully committed to assisting U.S. citizens regarding employment opportunities within the UN system, and to holding UN agencies accountable for reaching established U.S. representation levels.

4. What steps has the Department taken, both with the Secretariat and other UN agencies, to address the under-representation of U.S. citizens?

The Department regularly consults with UN agencies (and other international organizations) to review their hiring of Americans. IO/S/EA assists these agencies by collecting and disseminating vacancy information. The office prepares a bi-weekly list of vacancies and distributes the list to hundreds of sources: Federal agencies, public and private organizations, academic institutions, associations, and individuals. The office assists interested Americans in working their way through the UN employment and application procedures and encourages qualified candidates to apply directly to the organizations for professional (P-level) positions. The office also is the focal point for information regarding the detail and transfer of Federal employees to international organizations.

IO/S/EA works closely with other Federal agencies and encourages them to draw on their own professional networks to recruit and submit qualified candidates to UN agencies. Working with other Federal officials, it is the Department's policy to submit a slate of three or more highly qualified candidates for each announced senior-level vacancy. In the past few years, the office has increased its efforts to identify and recruit women for these senior positions, with some success.

We continually advise the UN agencies that while the U.S. Government is prepared to offer assistance, it remains their responsibility to take whatever steps are necessary to hire and maintain adequate numbers of U.S. citizens on their professional and senior staffs.

I hope this information addresses the questions you asked. We certainly appreciate your continued interest in UN activities and

willingness to work with us to improve U.S. representation in the UN system.

Sincerely,

WENDY R. SHERMAN,
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENT
KIM YOUNG SAM'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN OFFICE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, Republic of Korea President Kim Young Sam's state visit to the United States on July 25–28 is especially noteworthy because South Korea is one of America's most important and trusted allies in East Asia. Today, Korea shares many of the basic ideals and institutions that America cherishes. Most importantly, it shares America's commitment to democracy and a free market economy. However, many Americans are not fully aware of the great strides that South Korea has made regarding the institutionalization of democracy and the opening of its markets to foreign investment. The Republic of Korea's leader, President Kim Young Sam, who is the first civilian Chief Executive in 32 years, has played a crucial role in the country's democratic political development and economic liberalization.

During his first 2 years in office, Republic of Korea President Kim Young Sam has implemented a bold reform agenda that places a high priority on continuing Korea's democratization, establishing high ethical standards for political officials, renewing economic growth, and internationalizing all aspects of Korean society.

To successfully address the challenges of the post-cold-war era, President Kim has made *Segyehwa*—(globalization)—Korea's foremost national goal. The globalization initiative calls for significant reforms in six broad areas. These areas include: improving the efficiency of the government; implementing full-fledged local autonomy; sharpening Korea's competitive edge; improving the quality of life for the Korean people, especially the underprivileged; achieving progress toward reconciliation and cooperation with North Korea; and finally, globalizing Korea's diplomacy.

Early in his term, President Kim pledged to create a corruption-free political environment by instituting a strong moral code of conduct for the members of his administration and political party. Leading by example, just 2 days after his inauguration, President Kim disclosed all of his property and financial assets to the public and encouraged all his senior cabinet and ruling party figures to do the same. In order to institutionalize high moral standards for public officials, President Kim backed an ethics bill passed by Korea's national legislature in May 1993. The legislation requires thousands of senior civil servants to make regular and full financial disclosures to the public. Last year, the President also supported a sweeping election reform bill that limits campaign spending.

President Kim believes that the decentralization of political power through the promotion of local autonomy is critical to the institutionalization of democratic political reform. To that end, on June 27, local government of-

ficials, including provincial governors, metropolitan mayors, and councilmen, were chosen by popular vote for the first time in more than three decades.

Another important component of the President Kim's anticorruption campaign was the introduction last year of a real-name financial and real estate transactions system. Under this reform, every transaction with a financial institution must be made under an individual's real name, thereby eliminating tax evasion, real estate speculation, and government-business collusion.

The deregulation and liberalization of Korea's economy has also been a major priority of President Kim. To facilitate foreign access to the Korean market and help attract foreign technology, the President has introduced a number of measures that over the next few years will eliminate virtually all restrictions on foreign investment in Korea. For example, under President Kim's liberalization program, 91 percent of business lines are open to foreigners, and that figure will increase to 95 percent within 3 years. Moreover, the streamlining of the foreign investment approval process has reduced the time required for the final approval on projects from 50 to 5 days. To further demonstrate its commitment to free trade, the Kim administration supported legislation passed by the National Assembly last year that approved Korea's entry into the World Trade Organization.

As a result of these efforts, direct foreign investment in Korea last year totaled \$1.3 billion, up more than 25 percent from 1993. In addition, American firms have benefited from these liberalization initiatives as Korea has grown to be the United States' sixth largest export market, and fourth largest market for agricultural goods. Our countries' two-way trade now surpasses \$42 billion. Furthermore, Korea is one of only a handful of countries having a deficit with the United States. Last year alone, Korean imports of American products grew 22 percent. During the first 4 months of this year, America's trade surplus with Korea was \$2.4 billion. This contrasts with the substantial deficits the United States is running with several of our East Asian trading partners. It also illustrates Korea's strong commitment to trade liberalization and deregulation.

In addition to these domestic accomplishments, President Kim has also implemented a new foreign policy agenda that emphasizes the principles of democracy, liberty, human rights and free market economy. The Korean leader believes that the institutionalization of these core values is crucial to long-term political stability and economic prosperity in the Asian region and throughout the world.

President Kim has promoted these ideals through summit talks with the leaders of major world powers, including the United States, China, Japan, Russia, Germany, France, and Great Britain, as well as through discussions with the new leadership of many of the former socialist nations of Eastern Europe and the newly industrialized countries in Latin America and Asia. President Kim has also worked hard to transform the Korea-United States bilateral relationship into a broader political, economic, and security partnership.

While maintaining close ties with traditional friends, the Korean leader has also focused on expanding regional economic cooperation

and liberalization with Korea's Asian neighbors. To expedite this process, President Kim met with his counterparts from the region at the first two meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] Leaders' Conference. In a major address at last year's gathering of the group in Indonesia, he outlined his proposal for new regional initiatives in the areas of trade and investment liberalization, manpower development, and telecommunications infrastructure. President Kim emphasized that it was imperative for APEC to take a leading role in liberalizing world trade and that the highest priority should be given to dismantling all barriers to trade and investment.

President Kim's foreign policy agenda has also included efforts to increase Korea's manpower and financial contributions to such pressing international issues as arms control, the abolition of poverty, and environmental protection through membership in various U.N. organizations and other multinational bodies.

One of President Kim's major policy goals has also been the improvement of relations with North Korea. Through close consultations with the United States and other major allies, and the United Nations, the ROK Government has pressed the North to comply with its obligation as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1992 to accept external scrutiny of its nuclear weapons program.

The success of this effort was highlighted on October 21, 1994, in Geneva when the United States and North Korea signed the agreed framework. It requires North Korea to dismantle its nuclear program over the next 10 years and accept full-scope international inspections of all its nuclear facilities in exchange for two 1,000 megawatt light-water nuclear reactors [LWR's]. To promote inter-Korean cooperation, the Republic of Korea will play a central role in the \$4.5 billion LWR project.

In an effort to promote improved South-North relations, on June 21, the ROK Government announced that South and North Korea had reached an agreement in which the South will supply the North with 150,000 tons of rice for free. The food aid will be provided to the North in order to help alleviate the critical food shortage in North Korea. President Kim hopes that this measure, along with his previous efforts to gradually lift restrictions on South Korean business investment and trade with the North, will serve as an impetus for improved South-North political relations and thereby help lay a foundation for the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that all Members of Congress will find this record of achievement impressive, and will want to welcome President Kim when he arrives to address a joint meeting of Congress on July 26.

MEDICARE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare Program is a critical safety net for millions of seniors and disabled Americans. And as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Medicare Program this week, there is an im-

portant statistic to keep in mind: 99.1% of Americans over age 65 have health insurance coverage.

We must remember that it has not always been this way. The period that preceded the implementation of the Medicare Program is a tragic chapter in our Nation's history—elderly citizens unable to receive or pay for medical care—choosing between medicine and food—people fearing to reach what should be their golden years.

During this week of reflection on the Medicare Program, let us not forget that it was the tireless advocacy of the Democratic Party that transferred the Medicare Program from theory to reality.

The historical record is unmistakably clear: if it had been up to the Republican Party, the Medicare Program would never have been enacted. For example, in 1965, the year Medicare was created, 93 percent of House Republicans voted to replace the proposed Medicare Program with a Republican substitute—which was a voluntary plan, with no guaranteed financing and no guaranteed benefits.

Thirty years later, the Medicare Program is still facing Republican assaults. Now, they want to cut the program by \$270 billion to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues are not in tune with the desires of the American people.

Polling conducted in early June by NBC/Wall Street Journal show a public concerned with Republican priorities. When asked to identify their top goals for Congress, most voters chose protecting Medicare and making sure the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes as top issues.

Instead, the GOP has chosen a variety of ways to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy by increasing medical costs for seniors. The Republican budget task force outlined several options for cutting Medicare. The following are a sample of these options:

Increase premium for new beneficiaries who use Medicare fee-for-service. Beginning in 1999, all new enrollees choosing Medicare fee-for-service would pay a \$20 increase to their part B premium.

Increase Medicare deductible. The part B Medicare deductible for senior citizens is \$100. Republicans want to increase it to \$150 by 1996.

Start charging a co-payment for clinical laboratory and home health services. Senior citizens are covered by Medicare for these services, but Republicans propose to require senior citizens to pay a 20 percent co-payment for lab and home health services, by 1999.

Increase part B premium \$5 per month for 1996–99 and \$7 per month beginning in 2000. In 1995, senior citizens pay \$46.10 per month. By the year 2002, the Republicans will force seniors to pay an increase of up to \$87.10 per month. This is equal to a \$492 increase per year to senior citizens by the year 2002. In the year 1996, seniors will see their premium increase by \$60.

All of these cost increases to senior citizens do not even affect the part A funding that the Republicans claim will go insolvent. Instead, the Republicans are going to hit seniors, who are living on small fixed incomes, with all of these increases so that the wealthy can have their tax cuts.

If the Republicans are legitimately concerned about the solvency of the Medicare Program, why are their budget proposals not addressing these questions?

In calendar year 1994, hospital insurance [HI], or part A, covered about 32 million seniors and 4 million disabled enrollees at a cost of \$104.5 billion. The payroll taxes of 141 million workers used to support these costs amounted to \$95.3 billion.

Obviously, these numbers do not match up. And as the number of beneficiaries increases, these numbers will continue to move further and further apart—which is exactly the reason why the Medicare trustees report showed that the hospital insurance program fails the test of short-range financial adequacy.

Do these problems need to be addressed? Absolutely. Are the Republicans addressing such problems? Absolutely not. If anything, their budgetary proposals only worsen the situation and are nothing more than smoke and mirror gimmicks to justify tax breaks for the wealthy.

My chief concern today is the moral bankruptcy of those who would do the bidding of the powerful while cutting Medicare and turning their backs on the interests of the weak. If we launch this assault on benefits to the elderly, where will it stop?

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
OWENS FAMILY OF FREDERIC, WI

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Owens Family of Frederic, WI, operators of Owens Farms, Inc., one of five Wisconsin families selected as regional winners in the 1995 Dairy Farm Family of the Year Program.

The Owens Farm involves 10 family members: Wilfred and Linda Owens, Walter and Joyce Owens, and Roger and Kim Owens; the brothers' parents, Harold and Agnes Owens; and grandsons, Stevens and Douglas Owens. Together they milk 312 Jersey cows on their farm which is located in Polk and Burnett Counties in northwestern Wisconsin.

Despite dairy prices that have remained around \$12 per hundredweight for more than 10 years, the Owens farm has found ways to remain profitable through the adoption of more efficient machinery and better management.

In addition to their hard work on the farm, the family has been active off the farm, with the local 4-H Club, local churches, dairy organizations, and other community organizations.

The Owens family has been recognized by the University of Wisconsin Centers for Dairy Profitability based on their farm business performance, dairy industry and community leadership, management systems, and business innovations. The Owens farm has proven itself a well-managed, progressive, and profitable business.

The Owens family, along with the other regional winners from Wisconsin, will be recognized at a banquet in Madison, WI, on July 27. To all the winning families, and especially to the Owens family, I want to extend my congratulations.