

that we see that the functions are appropriately assigned and then revised. That is exactly what you are proposing, not any destruction, not any unnecessary elimination, but an improvement, and you can do more with less, just a totally different approach.

So again, I commend you. I have enjoyed working with you. I have a proposal that we are trying to reach a consensus on because we know there are some good things in the Department of Commerce, particularly in trade, where so many people have said, let's save the trade functions. We have a joint proposal which we hope to introduce later this week that saves all of the elements. It actually will spend less money, and it will provide us with the mechanism so that the United States can compete in the decades ahead in a new arena where most of the jobs are created, where most of the opportunities are in exports and in trade, and provide us with the tools to do the jobs.

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So, we are working together and have, in fact, come up with a plan to salvage the most important elements. The other elements, as I understand it, will all be examined, looked at, by the appropriate committees.

So I cannot tell you from the bottom of my heart, from the bottom of the heart of everybody I talk to when I go home, around the country, how encouraged we are by what you are doing. Do not give up. Do not let them throw roadblocks in front of you. Continue, and continue on a responsible, reasonable course like you have, and you can make a change, and you can make changes that will be worthy of being remembered by future generations, just as that little edict up there commands each of us who have the honor and privilege of serving here.

So I thank both of you for your leadership for the other 71 freshmen. I thank the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] for his leadership, and the others on this issue and the others who have spoken here tonight.

Mr. TIAHRT. I suppose we get a little closer to the time. I want to allow the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CHRYSLER] to close up his convincing story on the elimination of the Department of Commerce.

Mr. CHRYSLER. Well, I will only say to my good friend, JOHN MICA from Florida, that in the words of Winston Churchill we will never, never, never, never, never give up and you know, if we had a Department of Commerce that was a true voice for businesses, what that Department of Commerce would be taking about is eliminating the \$550 billion worth of regulations that are put onto American businesses that make us uncompetitive in the rest of the world. We would also be dealing with this litigious society that we live in with some true, meaningful tort reform.

I mean in today's litigious society we would not even bring penicillin and/or

aspirin to market; that is how bad things have gotten, and of course, most importantly, as we are doing, working to balance the budget, to create capital for businesses, and I think, and you look at the 163 job-training programs in the Departments of Labor and Education, of which they only want to claim about 70 because the rest of them have never created a job, and in fact one of them are spending about a half-million dollars for each job that they create, and I mean I said just give a person the money, why are you wasting their time here if they are going to spend that much money?

But I would like to see that consolidated down to about three job-training programs. I would like to see one of those job-training programs specifically work toward helping and training entrepreneurs because for every entrepreneur we can train and make successful, we can create 5, 6, 10, or maybe even 100, or certainly in my own case 1,200 new jobs. That is the way to create jobs. That is what a Department of Commerce should be doing to help the business community. That is the kind of government we want to create.

Mr. TIAHRT. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH].

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I think my summation, Mr. Speaker, would be to the American people that, look, these are politicians down here. If the American people decide this is important, those of people that might be viewing this tonight, you know, call your Representatives in Congress, give them some encouragement, because we need the will of the American people to make sure we accomplish this giant task.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be here with this delegation, and I just hope the American people feel that it is important that we bring down the size of this overbloated Government, that we support this initial step of doing such things as closing one of the least useful departments at State government.

Mr. TIAHRT. I yield to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] for any closing remarks.

Mr. MICA. Again I salute you. This is just the beginning of the story. The rest of the story, as Paul Harvey would say, is that 19 agencies of Federal Government dealing in trade and export, spending \$3 billion, and in fact you are creating a nucleus for many, many more potential savings in government and, again, trying to make an inroad.

The hardest thing to do around here, I have always found, is to present a new idea, but you have a new idea, you have a new approach. I commend you, and I urge you to go forward, and we can do a lot better, not only with the Department of Commerce, but with the rest of this huge government bureaucracy.

Mr. TIAHRT. I just want to thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] for coming down and bringing this very important issue to the American pub-

lic, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH], also the other gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CHRYSLER], and I want to thank the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH].

You know the American public needs to know that this is an historical event. The elimination of a Cabinet-level agency has never occurred before in the United States. We are about to make history once again in the 104th Congress, so stay tuned.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BACHUS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today after 3:45 p.m., on account of family matters.

Mr. FORBES (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today after 3:30 p.m., on account of illness.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. TOWNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FALCOMA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MONTGOMERY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OBERSTAR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCINNIS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCINNIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOKE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LONGLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. SMITH of Washington, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CRAPO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOEKSTRA, for 5 minutes, today.

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii.

Mrs. MALONEY, in two instances.

Mr. MFUME.

Mr. CLYBURN.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. ANDREWS.

Mr. MILLER of California.

Ms. OBEY.

Mr. BARCIA.

Mr. FAZIO of California.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida.