

THE GENERAL CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.
NEW YORK, NY, NOVEMBER 7, 1995.

TERRY G. BUMPERS,
Director, National Alliance for Fair Contracting, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. BUMPERS: I enjoyed your letter to Brian Lockett. If the occasion arises, you can distribute this letter to anyone who questions the commitment of heavy construction contractors to union contracting. The General Contractors Association of New York, Inc. represents the heavy construction industry active New York City. We have over 700 contractors using the collective bargaining agreements, that have negotiated with fourteen different locals of the building and construction trades. Our members are firmly committed to union contracting because it is the only sure way to obtain a steady supply of trained and capable workers in New York City over the long term. The support of prevailing wage legislation and union contracting is our protection for the future for all of our members.

The prevailing wages in the heavy construction industry of New York City, at over \$35.00 an hour in wages and fringe benefits, would seem high to many. But the annual take home pay of most of our workforce still leave them eligible for most subsidized housing programs in New York City. We know that we pay a fair wage that allows our workers to support their families and to contribute to their communities in their non-working hours. But we're not paying them enough to live on Park Avenue.

We also know what happens in New York City when there is no prevailing wage legislation like Davis-Bacon protecting the wage levels of construction workers. We have seen in the unregulated building sector in New York City that wages can be driven down to under \$10.00 an hour by preying on the desperation or illegal status of workers. At that level workers earn barely enough to survive. We know that the unregulated industry has no steady workforce, appalling safety records, and little stake in the continuing health of the communities in which its workforce must reside.

Our heavy construction contractors survive and thrive on the effectiveness of their workforce, not on the shine on the equipment. The best assets leave each day at the end of the shift. Those assets are most productive when they are paid enough to work without family worries and to contribute to their communities. We know that decent wages are the key to attracting competent people to enter and stay in the heavy construction workforce.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of a death in the family.

Mrs. LINCOLN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of medical reasons.

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 Member (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CLEMENT, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, 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. PALLONE) and to include extraneous matter:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

Mr. RICHARDSON.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. PALLONE.

Mr. SISISKY.

Mr. EDWARDS.

Mr. COYNE.

Mr. NADLER.

Ms. RIVERS.

Mrs. MALONEY.

Mr. FILNER.

Mr. CLEMENT.

Mr. HINCHEY.

Mr. BONIOR.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey.

Mr. WARD.

Mr. BARCIA.

Ms. SLAUGHTER.

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

Mr. CAMP in three instances.

Mr. WALKER.

Mr. MARTINI in two instances.

Mr. DAVIS in two instances.

Mr. CHRYSLER.

Mrs. ROUKEMA in two instances.

Mr. LAZIO of New York.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH.

Mr. TORKILDSEN.

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

Ms. HARMAN.

Mr. FORBES.

Mr. DOOLEY of California.

Mr. HEINEMAN.

Mr. MEEHAN.

Ms. WOOLSEY.

Mr. MENENDEZ in two instances.

Mr. GORDON.

Mr. KLECZKA in two instances.

Mr. MCHUGH.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

Mr. SHAW.

Mr. DOYLE.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

Mr. EMERSON.

Mr. SOLOMON in two instances.

Mr. LANTOS.

Mr. POMEROY.

Mr. GOODLING in three instances.

Mr. GILMAN.

Mr. WELDON of Florida.

Ms. LOFGREN.

Mr. BENTSEN.

Mr. FAZIO of California.

Mr. COBLE.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

A bill and concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1406. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Army to convey to the city of Eufaula, Oklahoma, a parcel of land located at the Eufaula Lake project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and

S. Con. Res. 63. Concurrent resolution to express the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture should dispose of all remaining commodities in a disaster reserve maintained under the Agricultural Act of 1970 to relieve the distress of livestock producers whose ability to maintain livestock is adversely affected by disaster conditions existing in certain areas of the United States, such as prolonged drought or flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, June 7, 1996, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of June 5, 1996]

3430. A letter from the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, transmitting notification that on April 6, 1993, the Board notified each House of Congress that the reserves of the hospital insurance [HI] trust fund were expected to be exhausted in 1999, on April 11, 1994, the Board affirmed the 1993 notification with a change in the expected date of exhaustion to 2001, and on April 3, 1995, the Board reported that the expected exhaustion date was 2002; as shown in the 1996 trustees report, the HI trust fund is estimated to be exhausted in 2001, the status of the HI trust fund still does not meet the Board's test of short-range financial adequacy, pursuant to section 709 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

[Submitted June 6, 1996]

3431. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order—Increase in Importer Assessments (Docket No. LS-96-001 FR) received May 30, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3432. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve: Miscellaneous (RIN: 2900-A104) received June 5, 1996, pursuant to U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

3433. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Educational Assistance for Members of the Selected Reserve (RIN: