

Korea and any promise for economic aid would mean extending support to a violent and inhumane regime which has no respect for human rights. If we are to avoid the inadvertent support for a dictatorial regime, we should be alert. Improvement of the human rights situation in North Korea has to be a prerequisite to the normalization of diplomatic relations. Such improvements must include freedom of religion and communication among the separated families.

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Ladies and gentlemen!

The North Korean leaders are manipulating the negotiation process to create a breach between South Korea and the United States. Cleverly taking advantage of Korean people's love for peace by threatening a "sea of fire", they are attempting to get what they want without any intention of improving relations between the two Koreas.

"The Korean peninsula is threatened by war" is not simply rhetoric but a reality. Especially if there is an unstable political situation in the Republic of Korea any sign of weakness in the Korea-U.S. security ties might encourage North Korea to launch a war.

Korea is a country with optimism and vision. Korea will overcome any adversities and suffering. Korea will not forget its debt to its friends and allies.

Our nation is greatly indebted to the United States in our march toward political freedom, economic development and peace on the Korean peninsula. The people of the United States fought the Korean War, shoulder to shoulder with us to deter communist aggression; they provided aid when we were

poor and hungry; they opened their market for Korean products.

The Korea-America Friendship Society was established in 1991 when anti-US sentiment was at its highest to remind Korean citizens of who are our enemies and who are our friends, and to help contribute to strengthening relations between the two countries.

The United States has made enormous contributions to the protection of freedom, the expansion of human rights, a free market, and open societies throughout the world. I believe these beautiful American traditions will be passed on to future generations.

Because I am well aware of the importance of this opportunity given to me, I have tried my best to make a presentation as objectively as I can.

I sincerely request you to be cautious observers of the real situation on the Korean peninsula, and offer your wise judgments on what the United States should do for peace, freedom justice and prosperity for the world as well as the Korean peninsula.

Thank you very much.

TRIBUTE TO HARDING N. BROWN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, since arriving in New York City during the African-American Renaissance period of the 1930's, Harding N. Bowman, a native of Bowman, SC, has dedi-

cated his life to uplifting and empowering his community.

Most notably, in the 1950's, Mr. Bowman founded the Barbershop Owners Association while owning and operating three barber-shops. In 1961, after moving to east New York, he was instrumental in organizing numerous community-based initiatives. Some of his key roles, to name a few, arising from such initiatives include: president, Council for a Better East New York; chairman, Community Redemption Foundation; treasurer, Citywide Council Against Poverty; director, United Negro and Puerto Rican Front; chairman, East New York Manpower; chairman, East New York Non-Profit Housing; executive director, East New York Community Corporation; and chairman, Jerome Street Block Association. In addition, for over 30 years, he has been an active participant in various New York City political organizations that have produced electoral success. While participating in these activities, Mr. Bowman has managed to earn certificates and degrees from Goddard College, Pratt Institute, Staten Island Community College, and the New York Training Institute.

Married to Phyllis Bowman for 44 years, he is a father of seven, a grandfather, and a great-grandfather. At age 75 Harding Bowman continues to help the community by staying active and admonishing elected officials not to forget where they came from. I am pleased to recognize his outstanding contributions and to introduce him to my colleagues.