

I believe this legislation, Mr. Speaker, helps to restore balance to America's defense program essential for managing the risks to U.S. national security in an uncertain world. I am especially pleased that certain amendments have been included within this bill not least of which is the veterans preference which was adopted earlier in a voice vote that I offered and as well the recognition, remembrance to the POW/MIA's from the Vietnam war, as well as the resolution and amendment from the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BUYER] and the gentleman from Rhode Island [Mr. KENNEDY] to improve the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs' investigation of Persian Gulf illnesses and the treatment of ill gulf war veterans. Specifically, the amendment will authorize \$4.5 million to establish a cooperative DOD-VA program of clinical trials to evaluate treatments which might relieve the symptoms of gulf war illnesses, require the Secretaries of both departments to develop a comprehensive plan for providing health care to all veterans, active duty members and reservists who suffer from the symptoms of the gulf war illnesses.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BACHUS] and I worked together on an amendment to deny military benefits to any person who has been convicted of a State or Federal crime where death is a possible punishment or sentenced to imprisonment without parole, and this of course is in the case of Timothy McVeigh, where you have seen someone who caused the tragic deaths of so many people in Oklahoma, over 168, and this is certainly not someone who is fitting to have a military funeral and a military burial befitting a hero, and this legislation will certainly address that particular oversight.

I submit to you this legislation to help our defense is appropriate, it will keep U.S. at the cutting edge of technology and will correctly and properly make sure that we care for and attend to the needs of our servicemen and women who are doing so much in the defense of this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. RANGEL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RANGEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### SUPPORT MFN FOR CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, in about 15 hours we will be casting one of the most important national security, trade, foreign policy votes of this year, and I am referring of course to the vote which will call for ending normal trade

relations with the People's Republic of China. It is very important this year because, as we sit here on the verge of the reversion of Hong Kong to China, the termination of a 99-year-old lease, it seems to me that we have a responsibility to recognize the plight of the people of Hong Kong.

It is very fascinating to observe the message which has emerged from Hong Kong. There is no more respected fighter for political pluralism, human rights and economic freedom than Martin Lee. Martin Lee has been an outspoken advocate, having fought diligently in Hong Kong for all of these things, and he has sent a very strong message on this vote which we are going to face tomorrow. He said, "The nonrenewal of MFN would hurt U.S. Badly. This is something we cannot afford when we are already undergoing a critical transition." No one, no one is fighting on the front line for human rights and those things which we as Americans feel so strongly about than Martin Lee.

The Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, has said, "I say to you on behalf of the whole community in Hong Kong that you will not help U.S. by damaging our economy and damaging confidence in our future. The best way to help U.S. is by renewing MFN and continuing the policy of engagement towards China."

Now these are two people who are right there on the scene. It is very easy for the U.S. to sit here in Washington, DC and do what makes the U.S. feel good rather than doing good. The fact of the matter is there are people there and there are people here in this House who fortunately understand how important it is.

Today in the Wall Street Journal there was a great piece written by some extraordinarily patriotic Americans. Ronald Reagan's Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick, our former colleague and former HUD Secretary Jack Kemp, former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, former presidential candidate and great business leader Steve Forbes, the former Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander; in today's Wall Street Journal they wrote:

China has undergone significant liberalization and reform that have resulted in greater freedom for the Chinese people, and we believe that China is well on the road to major development, modernization and fuller participation in the processes of the democratic and law-abiding nations of the world. We know it is not there yet. The U.S. debate should focus on what policies we should follow to enhance, and not hinder, these favorable trends, and on what policies are most effective in dealing with problem areas.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is why today the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX], my colleague, has joined along with the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], chairman of the Human Rights Caucus, the gentleman from California [Mr. MATSUI] from the other side of the aisle, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. SALMON], someone who came up with many of the great ideas,

the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. KOLBE], in putting together legislation that we will be introducing called the China Human Rights and Democracy Act, geared toward that last sentence that I mentioned in the Wall Street Journal piece that appeared today.

We should look at positive ways. We have been dealing with Members who have opposed MFN like the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH], and others. I am hoping that they will join as cosponsors of this legislation when we introduce it because all it is, is positive movement by increasing funding for the National Endowment for Democracy which has played a role in encouraging village elections, where 800 million Chinese have participated with secret ballots, with noncommunist candidates in generating and selecting their own leaders, and we also called for increasing that very important message which we have all fought for through Radio Free Asia and the Voice of America.

So I hope that many will join this legislation that the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and I and others are introducing, and let me close, Mr. Speaker, by addressing an issue which has gotten a great deal of attention.

There is a view that religious leaders in this country stand en masse opposing normal trade relations with China. Well, I was very pleased last week to have received a letter from the Great Reverend Billy Graham who does not want to get involved in the MFN debate and he made that very clear. But he did say the following in his letter to me.

I am in favor of doing all we can to strengthen our relationship with China and its people. China is rapidly becoming one of the dominant economic and political powers in the world, and I believe it is far better to keep China as a friend than to treat it as an adversary.

Mr. Speaker, I hope very much that my colleagues will join tomorrow by voting no on the resolution of disapproval.

#### THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE 9 OF THE EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 25th anniversary of Title 9 of the Education Act Amendments of 1972 which prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions receiving Federal funds. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of Title 9 the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR], the gentlewoman from New Jersey [Mrs. ROUKEMA] and I along with 61 other cosponsors have introduced a concurrent resolution which celebrates the accomplishments of Title 9 supporting efforts to continue pursuing the goals of educational opportunity for women and girls. I will