

DMZ, neither seeks to absorb the North nor actively promote its collapse. Washington, 7,000 miles farther away, should do the same.

Kim's call for reconciliation was not a rash statement made for political effect. It was based on the reality that pursuing a policy of collapse is futile. Barring unforeseen events, neither Kim Jong IL, the North's reclusive leader, nor his regime is likely to disappear in the near future. Even if the situation in the North should change, neighboring China is likely to offer aid that ensures its survival.

Stating clearly that the U.S. does not actively seek the North's collapse (while also recognizing that there is no moral equivalency between the North and South) represents the most sensible approach toward promoting stability. Confronted with a positive statement of this nature, it would be more difficult for North Korea's military to assume an aggressive posture.

Greater engagement with the North. Issuing a statement that the U.S. does not seek the North's collapse will only bring meaningful change if it is followed with a series of initiatives that seek to promote greater engagement, particularly in the economic arena.

To this end, the U.S., on a case-by-case basis, should lift economic sanctions imposed on North Korea as a result of the Trading With the Enemy Act. Allowing investment will force the North to learn more about our economic system and its benefits. One requirement that could be placed on lifting sanctions is that investment in the North must be in the form of U.S.-South Korean joint ventures.

The case for lifting sanctions has some strong proponents. Since his election, Kim Dae Jung has boldly increased the amount and type of investments South Korean firms can make in the North and has suggested that Washington lift sanctions.

Support for existing initiatives. Policy toward North Korea in the pre-Kim Dae Jung era was not without success. Four-party peace talks to replace the truce that stopped the Korean War with a formal peace treaty began last year. The talks include North and South Korea, the U.S. and China, shortly after these talks began, Pyongyang and Seoul resumed direct, bilateral dialogue in Beijing.

Similarly, the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization has been a success. Founded by the U.S., South Korea and Japan to implement portions of the landmark 1994 U.S.-North Korean Agreed Framework (in which Pyongyang agreed to scrap its suspect nuclear program in exchange for two proliferation-resistant nuclear reactors), KEDO has formed a professional relationship with the North. Working on the ground in North Korea and across the table from in New York, KEDO and North Korea have signed scores of internationally binding agreements that have allowed hundreds of South Koreans to travel to the North for the nuclear project. KEDO's prime contractor for the nuclear project, KEDO's prime contractor for the project is a South Korean firm. This means that at the height of construction, thousands of South Koreans will work side by side with thousands of North Koreans, building not only safer nuclear reactors, but greater understanding and, it is hoped, mutual confidence.

These and other initiatives signal an acknowledgment of necessity, if not desire by the North to engage. As such, they deserve the continued political and, in the case of KEDO, financial support of the administration and Congress.

Managing North Korea is a very difficult task. The situation remains precarious and deterrence must remain the foundation of

the U.S.-South Korean approach to the North. That said, the combination of Pyongyang's increasing desperation and Kim Dae Jung's refreshing vision presents an opportunity that Washington and Seoul must not let pass.

H.R. 1151 AND CREDIT UNION CHARTER CONVERSIONS

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, this body acted swiftly and decisively to assure the availability of financial services for all Americans when it passed, by a 411-8 vote, H.R. 1151, the Credit Union Membership Access Act. This legislation preserves the right of millions of Americans to retain their membership in credit unions and to continue to benefit from credit union services. I am pleased to have been one of the authors of this important legislation.

In developing this bill, the Banking Committee went to great lengths to achieve consensus legislation that would protect consumers' choice of financial services, ensure proper regulatory supervision of credit unions and strengthen credit unions' long-standing commitment to serving all segments in their communities. As passed by the House, H.R. 1151 accomplishes all of these goals. However, the bill was recently amended during consideration by the Senate Banking Committee and now includes new provisions that are of great concern to me and demand the careful scrutiny of the House.

As passed by the House, Section 202 of H.R. 1151 requires the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) to review its rules and regulations that govern the conversion of federal credit unions to mutual thrift institution charters. The intent is to assure that these rules do not permit unfair conversions and require objective disclosure of all relevant facts about any possible conversion to credit union members. However, the Senate Banking version of H.R. 1151 would arbitrarily and drastically revise NCUA's conversion rules. If enacted, the Senate bill changes would permit credit union conversions under rules that are far less stringent than the conversion regulations for any other type of financial institution. That would be absolutely unacceptable.

Under current NCUA regulations, if a credit union—as a member-owned financial cooperative—wishes to convert to a thrift charter, it must first obtain the approval of a majority of the credit union's members. This majority vote requirement is necessary to protect the interests of credit union members, but it is not so difficult as to pose a barrier to conversions. It is noteworthy that practically every credit union that has sought to convert to a mutual thrift charter—with one exception—has met this majority vote requirement and has successfully converted. The regulations now in place have worked well.

However, the Senate Banking Committee version of Section 202 would significantly rewrite these conversion regulations, making the process substantially easier and greatly scaling back necessary regulatory oversight. If enacted into law this provision would authorize the conversion of insured credit unions to mu-

tual savings institutions without the prior approval of any regulator, either the National Credit Union Administration or the Office of Thrift Supervision.

In addition, the Senate proposal would permit conversions with only an affirmative vote of a simple majority of the members of the credit union who are voting in an election. Let me emphasize that this is not a majority of the people or families who use and depend upon the credit union, only a simple majority of those who actually vote. This could permit a small minority of credit union officers and members to change the charter of a credit union with minimal knowledge and participation of the majority of members whose financial security would be drastically affected. This may or may not be likely. But under these eased conversion standards, it certainly is very possible, and wrong.

An example of how stronger conversion criteria can work both to protect the interests of members while permitting change to meet market conditions can be found right outside my Congressional district in Western New York. Eastman Savings and Loan Association of Rochester, New York, was a New York chartered mutual savings and loan association that desired to convert to a credit union. ESL's own by-laws and the New York State banking laws impose a number of strict conversion requirements, both in terms of the number of eligible votes that had to be cast and the size of the majority required for approval. As a result, ESL had to meet one of two possible tests for conversion: 66.7% of the total possible votes had to be favorable or 75% of all votes cast had to be favorable. ESL successfully made the conversion with an affirmative vote of 98.7% of votes cast. ESL's directors attribute the huge success of this conversion vote to the added preparation and articulation of the purpose and plan for conversion that was required to meet this higher approval standard.

If the House concurs in the Senate proposals to ease current conversion requirements for credit unions I believe we will be inviting abuse. Credit unions are non-profit institutions that are chartered to serve a public purpose. This purpose and ownership structures should not be changed without significant involvement of both federal regulators and the majority of affected members. Any standard for a credit union's conversion to another type of financial institution must continue to require, at a minimum, that a majority of the credit union's membership participate in a conversion vote and a majority of those voting approve the conversion and that the credit union regulator, NCUA, must continue to have authority over the conversion process. The public's interest and the interests of members and their families necessitate this minimal level of involvement by both regulators and credit union members.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF STEVE
MAGARIAN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fresno County Sheriff Steve Magarian. Sheriff Magarian has been an

inspirational role model to the law enforcement here in the 19th Congressional District.

As Chief Executive Officer for the County of Fresno Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Magarian leads, directs and manages a highly sophisticated, diversified and complex organization. Operating throughout a 6,000-square mile area, he holds responsibility for meeting the needs of residents throughout Fresno County, with an annual Department budget in excess of 560 million dollars and personnel of approximately 1,000.

In his vital role, Sheriff Magarian has earned the public's trust, confidence, and support. Through his hard work, he established the department's primary mission. It is a mission that upholds fairness, justice and responsiveness to public needs and feelings while enforcing the law and protecting life and property.

Sheriff Magarian's leadership has guided the efforts and demeanor of the Department to conform with the high standards expected by the public. In administering the Patrol, Detective, Jail and Administrative divisions, his underlying commitment is to maintain the integrity of the constitutional rights as established by the framers of our Constitution.

Sheriff Magarian graduated from California State University, Fresno in 1972. In 1974 he received his Masters Degree in Criminology with distinction.

Sheriff Magarian has worked hard in the law enforcement arena. He created and implemented a county-wide narcotic suppression program through acquisition of a \$500,000 state grant. This grant has been increased to \$900,000 and approved for its eight consecutive year. He also developed a highly successful Tactical Unit within the Patrol Division which targeted property crimes and arrested dozens of criminals. At a cost of only \$35,000, this Unit successfully recovered several hundred thousand dollars in stolen property and returned property to its legal owners. As noted above these are just some of the contributions Mr. Magarian has accomplished.

Sheriff Magarian's 30-year career with Fresno County Sheriff's Department has been marked by significant law enforcement and management experience.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have Sheriff Magarian as a law enforcement in the 19th Congressional District. I congratulate him on his lifetime of accomplishments and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him every success on his future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF O.D. WYATT
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS STATE
TRACK TEAM

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the remarkable efforts and acclamations of the track team from the Chaparrals of O.D. Wyatt High School in Fort Worth, Texas. These fine young men not only won the University Interscholastic League state championships, but left all their fellow competitors behind. Headlining the team is senior sprinter Demario Wesley, who was individually honored by the Fort Worth Star Telegram as the male track athlete of the year. Mr.

Wesley placed first in all three events he entered. Just one year after trying to run on an ankle with bone spurs, Wesley won the 100 meter dash in a time of 10.23 seconds, the 200 meter run in a time of 20.74 as well as anchoring the 4x100 meter relay. With Wesley taking the leading position, Wyatt won the state competition by a 26 point margin. Wyatt's most impressive accomplishment came in the 4x100 meter relay victory when Milton Wesley, Monte Clopton, Michael Franklin and Demario Wesley broke their own national record. I would like to recognize the extraordinary efforts of this exemplary team as well as their coach Lee Williams whose hard work has inspired his team to victory. These young men have not only set a standard for future Wyatt boys track teams, they have proven that next years stars are currently in our schools and in our homes. Mr. Speaker, let us join in congratulating O.D. Wyatt High School on their accomplishments at the state track championships.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall no. 243, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, due to a necessary visit to the doctor's office Thursday morning, I was absent from the chamber during rollcall votes 226, 227, and 228. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 226, "yes" on rollcall 227 and "no" on rollcall 228.

A BILL TO AMEND THE INDIAN
EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND
RELATED SERVICES DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 1992

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992. My legislation will provide for the transfer of services and personnel from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Office of Self-Governance and to emphasize the need for job creation in Alaska native communities and on Indian reservations.

Since its enactment in 1992, the "477" program of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act, has become one of the few successful economic development programs in Indian country. This

program was implemented to help tribes address severe problems in employment and poverty faced in their communities. It allows tribal governments to consolidate formula funded employment, training and related programs into one streamlined, efficient program, which enable tribes to reduce administrative time and costs, and increase services to their members. Alaska tribes have informed me that they have reported great savings in administering employment and training programs through consolidation of application and reporting requirements.

On October 9, 1997, Senator CAMPBELL introduced S. 1279 and on this same date, Senator MURKOWSKI introduced S. 1281, which proposed amendments to the "477" program, and included Alaska-specific provisions. On May 14, 1998, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a committee oversight hearing to discuss the program of the program. S. 1279, as amended, incorporates several provisions of S. 1281, and makes other technical corrections. The Senate Indian Affairs Committee held a mark-up of their two bills and favorably reported S. 1279 out of Committee.

My legislation is identical to S. 1279, as reported out of committee, and would at long last address the extreme unemployment in Alaska native communities and to provide young Alaska natives with both educational and job skills so they can fully participate and contribute to Alaska's economy. The bill I am introducing today will lead to further economic growth and more efficient use of Indian job training dollars. I urge my colleagues to support my bill

RECOGNIZING WHEELING AND
ROLLING MEADOWS HIGH
SCHOOLS' PARTICIPATION IN
THE CAPITOL HILL ROBOTICS INVITATIONAL

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to recognize the students and teachers from Wheeling and Rolling Meadows High Schools in Illinois who have been selected to participate here today on Capitol Hill in the "Robotics Invitational." These students and teachers are part of a national robotics program that is supported by the FIRST Foundation—For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. This creative program engages young people in science and engineering through fun activities that have practical applications. Earlier this year, over 9,000 students, representing 200 teams participated in regional contests that led to finals at the Disney Epcot Center in Florida. Working with identical boxes of raw materials and credit for the purchase of additional supplies, these teams set out to design a robot that could play ball like Sammy Sosa. I am proud to say that the robot designed by the Wheeling and Rolling Meadow could play in the Majors and I am sure that they will do very well in today's competition.

Science and engineering is an extremely important component of a high school education. Excellence in these fields has helped to propel the U.S. to its leadership role in the world