

Hank Williams III is now carrying on an already stellar family name and working to further enhance the country music industry that rests on the foundation built by his grandfather and father.

The rich tradition of the Williams family and their positive contribution to our American culture is truly an inspiration to us all.

BEIJING'S BRINKMANSHIP IS
DANGEROUS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, in April, during Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji's visit to Washington, and after thirteen years of off-and-on again negotiations, China finally agreed to the kind of comprehensive trade concessions necessary to gain U.S. support for Beijing's entry into the World Trade Organization. For what this Member believes were political reasons, President Clinton did not accept Premier Zhu's offer despite the offer appearing to meet the commercially-viable standard we set for acceptance. That was a mistake. China's accession to the WTO in the context of a commercially-viable agreement is in the short, medium and long-term national interest of the United States.

Since Premier Zhu returned home to Beijing, Sino-American relations have worsened, particularly following our accidental bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade. China should be careful, though, and temper its growing overreaction to this unfortunate incident as overplaying its hand could jeopardize China's WTO accession and China's relations with the foreign investors it needs to attract for further economic growth. Such developments would certainly not be in the national interests of either China or the United States. Mr. Speaker, it is in this context that this Member recommends to his colleagues the following editorial from the May 24, 1999, edition of *Business Week*.

BEIJING IS PLAYING A PERILOUS GAME

China's anti-U.S. rage over the accidental bombing of its embassy in Belgrade should be a sobering moment for the American business community. Despite decades of economic and social change, China is still governed by an authoritarian regime fully capable of wielding all the tools of a dictatorship. The markets may be more open and people may be freer to travel, but Beijing is still able to control the media and cynically manipulate the truth to whip people into a nationalistic anti-American frenzy. By treating the U.S. as an enemy, China's leaders run the risk of turning America into just that.

This kind of brinkmanship was last seen when China lobbed missiles over Taiwan to protest its president's visit to the U.S. A pattern of repeated quick-to-anger behavior could begin to raise the political risk factor for foreign corporations investing in China. It may already have put China's entry into the World Trade Organization in jeopardy.

Washington's own blunders haven't helped. After years of boasting about smart bombs, the U.S. must now explain how it accidentally bombed China's clearly marked embassy. This disaster follows hard on the heels of President Clinton's humiliation of reform-minded Premier Zhu Rongji. Clinton made a huge mistake when he rejected a generous

offer to U.S. business in exchange for Beijing's entry into the WTO. Zhu went over the heads of conservatives in state companies, the bureaucracy, and the military to make the deal. But Clinton sent him home empty-handed. The organized demonstrations are part of an effort by these conservatives to roll back Zhu's economic concessions. They might also reflect Zhu's own anger at Clinton.

Unfortunately, the intense wave of anti-Americanism may change China's investment climate for years to come. U.S. and European corporations must now include in their financial calculations the possibility of Beijing lashing out against foreigners whenever international disputes arise. This higher political risk compounds a basic business problem: Most investments in China have yet to turn a profit.

For Americans who believe that China was quickly moving toward a market-driven democracy, recent events should signal a new caution. Clearly, the seeds of a civil society run according to law have been planted in China. The country is far more open today than 20 years ago. But it took Taiwan and Korea nearly 50 years to evolve into democracies. It may take China that long as well. Or China could become a far more threatening country. The point is, no one knows.

The long-term goal of U.S. policy should continue to be the peaceful integration of China into the global economy. If Zhu can still deliver on the WTO deal, Washington should sign it. And certainly, Washington owes China a full and detailed explanation of the bombing error. It is also incumbent upon the U.S. to clarify its policy of humanitarian interventionism. Is the U.S. the defender of last resort for every minority anywhere in the world? Is it willing to sacrifice good relations with Russia and China, both of whom have restive minorities, for a foreign policy of unfettered global moralism?

China, for its part, should realize that virulent nationalism can only lead down a historic dead end of isolation and international conflict. Its willingness to go to the brink time and again with the U.S. rules out the very kind of normal relations with other nations that it claims to seek.

DEA ADMINISTRATOR TOM
CONSTANTINE RETIRES

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we regrettably learned that our nation's leading drug fighter, our distinguished DEA Administrator Thomas Constantine, has announced his retirement after five years of public service in Washington. Prior to coming to Washington, Mr. Constantine had long served with distinction in New York State as a state police officer. He became the first state trooper to rise to Superintendent of the N.Y. State Police after more than 30 years as a state trooper.

Considered a "cop's cop" by our nation's law enforcement community and an expert on organized crime, he courageously called it as he saw it, particularly the laxness and corruption, drug trafficking and organized crime in Mexico. His candor, his integrity and honesty were always welcome, and significantly helped us to develop our drug control policy and thinking on this difficult, challenging subject.

Director Constantine leaves just after opening a new DEA training academy at Quantico,

Virginia that will serve as a leading international training center for fighting drugs in our hemisphere. He also led the way to opening of a second International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in the world established with Thai Police in Bangkok, Thailand. That ILEA will help develop vital "cop to cop" links in Asia against the spread of illicit narcotics and transnational crime.

During Director Constantine's tenure as Superintendent of the New York State Police, the 4,800 member department received numerous awards, including the Governor's Excelsior Award given to the best quality agency in state government. In 1994, Mr. Constantine was selected as the Governor's Law Enforcement Executive of the Year. He was also awarded the 1997 National Executive Institute's Penrith Award for outstanding law enforcement leadership.

My colleagues, our nation, and especially our young people, have lost an outstanding and invaluable public servant. We all join in wishing Tom and his family good health and happiness in his retirement years.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S HARBOR
SERVICES FUND ACT OF 1999

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce by request the Administration's Harbor Services Fund Act of 1999 which provides a source of funding for the development, operation and maintenance of our Nation's harbors. This legislation establishes a fee that would be charged to commercial vessels for the services provided at ports within the United States. Generally, these services are those provided by the Army Corps of Engineers in their maintenance dredging program and in their construction of new navigation channels.

This bill also repeals the Harbor Maintenance Tax that has served as a source of funding for maintenance activities since 1986. It also transfers the surplus in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to a new fund where it could be spent for intended services. Last year the Supreme Court ruled that this tax, as it applies to exports, is unconstitutional. The intent of the Administration's bill is to structure a revenue mechanism to meet the constitutional test for a user fee and to prevent a large surplus from developing in the fund.

The Administration's bill raises a number of significant questions and issues. Predictably, this controversial proposal has raised concerns among those who would pay—either directly or indirectly—the new fee. One common principle shared by both proponents and opponents of the bill, however, is the need to find a replacement to finance port infrastructure needs.

Our Nation's ports are a vital link in our intermodal transportation network that is the foundation of our competitiveness in international trade and our economic well-being. Our deep draft ports move over 95% of US trade by weight, and 75% by value. International trade accounts for \$2.3 trillion, or 30% of our Gross Domestic Product. Addressing the question of how to fund the Federal cost