

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT (NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT) TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China. I have come to this conclusion after intensely listening to arguments for some period of time from many supporters and opponents of the PNTR, and weighing the pros and cons of this extremely important trade bill.

I want to thank Chairman ARCHER and Ranking Member RANGEL for their important work on this legislation. They should be commended for their hard work.

It is my hope that everyone's views on this bill will be respected on this vote, and that we will find a constructive way to unify after this vote for the good of all Americans. This is truly a vote of conscience that each and every member has wrestled with.

For several years, I have recognized that trade with China has value for Americans and the people of China, yet I have reservations. My record on trade measures since coming to Congress demonstrates my willingness to evaluate each vote on its own merits. Each year that I have voted for most-favored-nation status for China, I have likewise raised my voice against the "undemocratic" ways of that nation.

It is imperative that we recognize that American companies must reinvest in rural and urban America as a result of PNTR. Unlike during the Cold War, we have unparalleled opportunities to bring the people of China and America much closer together. America has a responsibility to invest and to establish a rapid response for companies that are affected as a result of job loss.

I have been working very closely with the Administration to secure a commitment to designate the Department of Labor to study job losses and to provide added relief to American workers adversely affected by the PNTR agreement.

I have also worked to establish a Task Force on small businesses from a range of agencies within the United States government to facilitate and negotiate doing business in China. This Task Force would be responsible for specifically encouraging trade between United States small businesses and these newly established small businesses in China.

We are not here to discuss whether China will gain access to the WTO. We recognize it will do so and that the unconditional most-favored nation (MFN) principle requires that trade concessions be granted "immediately and unconditionally" to all 135 WTO Members. More importantly, the World Trade Organization is not nor should it be a human rights policy toward China. Nothing about this vote should reflect our nation's views about current or past human rights practices in China. This is about how to bring about change over the long-term.

The World Trade Organization would strengthen against surges in imports from

China and open Chinese markets to more U.S. exports. The November 1999 Agreement between the United States and China contains a product-specific safeguard, which will be included in China's protocol of accession to the WTO. A provision was recently added to this legislation that spells out procedures for effectively invoking that safeguard.

H.R. 4444 presently before the House enables the United States to grant PNTR to China once it has completed its accession, provided that it is on terms at least as good as those in our 1999 bilateral agreement. By granting permanent trade relations to China, it will open its markets to an unprecedented degree, while in return the United States simply maintains its current market access policies. The enhanced trade and services for American and Chinese companies could be dramatic for Texans and Americans as a whole.

Texas alone has export sales to China of more than \$580 million in 1998—nearly 50 percent above its sales in 1993. Shipments through the Port of Houston with China including Hong Kong totaled \$444 million in 1998. In 1999, air cargo trade between Houston and China including Hong Kong totaled 1.5 million kilograms and was valued at \$56 million. In short, China has come a long way since we established relations in 1971, and develop further relations through PNTR.

Through the PNTR deal, we gain even more significant concessions regarding PNTR. U.S. companies would be able to take advantage of several provisions of the U.S.-China Trade deal after China accedes to the WTO, but only if Congress permanently normalizes China's trade status. For example, tariffs on industrial products on coming into China would fall to an average of 9.4 percent by 2005 from 24 percent. Agricultural tariffs will fall to 17.5 percent from 31 percent.

In addition, the technology industry in my district would benefit from PNTR. For example, foreign companies would be able to own up to 49 percent of Chinese telecommunications ventures upon China's entry into the WTO, and up to 50 percent in the second year. And China will import some 40 foreign films in the first year of the agreement, up from 10, and allow foreign films and musical companies to share in distribution revenues on 20 of these films. The benefits are clearly advantageous to our industries as we support democratization in China.

PNTR is more than a matter of economics for so many of us—including those that have worked on the promotion of democracy and the rule of law around the world. I happen to have been one who with great trepidation voted for the MFN status, based upon the many strong arguments that have been made that if you continue to expose a nation to opportunity, to democracy, to the respect of human rights, would see gradually those parts of the world. I am hoping and would hope most of us would like to believe that we have that kind of trend moving forward in China.

I have had discussions with Former President Jimmy Carter, who strongly voiced his support for granting PNTR to China. Clearly, religious oppression is a continuous concern as a general matter in China. Nevertheless, President Carter eloquently emphasized that villages outside large cities in China are having free elections and that the freedom to practice one's religion has been growing. This is a very positive development. The Chinese

people must be counted on to relish these rights and to fight for opportunities at the table of democracy.

Former President Jimmy Carter has worked relentlessly since leaving the oval office to press for open, free, and fair elections all over the world. He has been advocating a powerful human rights agenda within our foreign policy and I salute him for his efforts.

PNTR could help many of these villagers find ways to improve their economic and social well being. For example, some companies are simply showing the Chinese how to improve fertilizers to improve agricultural growth. The people of China certainly should be empowered with the ability to feed their people. That should be a basic right.

At the same time, Americans should understand that granting PNTR should not remove the responsibility from Congress, this Administration, or any future Administration in assessing and responding to any drastic negative impact on Americans as a result of this legislation. For this reason, I expect to develop specific proposals with the Administration that will help small businesses under PNTR. This is vital to small businesses, especially minority and women-owned entities.

In the 18th Congressional District in Houston, Texas, which has a per capita income of \$11,091, many of the constituents have not prospered as much as others throughout the Nation. PNTR will spur capital investments, and investment opportunities that would come from international trade.

There will be more appropriate opportunities for expressing dissatisfaction with China's human rights record. I strongly share the view that we must keep pressure on China. A congressional-executive commission within this legislation would help monitor human rights and labor rights while placing safeguards against import surges could play a pivotal role regarding our concerns in China. By addressing human rights matters when they arise, the United States can continue to play a crucial role in demanding that the Chinese leadership live up to WTO commitments.

We must also recognize that the United States has held a vote on renewal of PNTR status for China every year since 1990, never once actually withdrawing NTR status. Unfortunately, the annual NTR vote has been less than effective in promoting the protection of human rights standards in China.

Some argue that granting PNTR means the United States loses leverage over China by surrendering annual reviews. I have considered the gravity of this question for some time. In my work in Congress on numerous human rights matters, whether domestic or internationally oriented, I have focused much of my attention, as a Representative of the 18th Congressional District, on the promotion of economic, civil, and political rights. I have never hesitated to expressly address basic human rights violations wherever they may occur and specifically in the context of the annual review process for normal trade relations (NTR) with China.

Under the proposed legislation, U.S. industries or workers claiming injury due to import surges from China would have legal recourse to the International Trade Commission and in other venues. This would protect our workers or U.S. industries that suffer job losses as a result of the agreement with China.

The vote on PNTR provides a unique opportunity to support the democratization of China.

We should be honest that it will not happen overnight. It will only happen over time.

Mr. Speaker, a "no" vote would damage our Sino-American relations—both economic and strategic—for years to come. By denying permanent normal trade relations status, we would irreparably damage our relationship with China, a country of 1.2 billion. I do not think we can afford to follow such a perilous course.

As I review our options today, I am simply unconvinced that constraining China in our trade relations within the WTO will help advance human rights in China. To the contrary, I have become increasingly convinced that changes resulting from the deal, including greater foreign investment and trade, will benefit ordinary Chinese workers and businessmen with the outside world.

Finally, I have deliberated very carefully about the magnitude of this decision. I recognize that trade with China and trade generally is good for our economy and the American people. At the same time, I look forward to opportunities through the WTO to enhance the protection of human rights as I and other lawmakers have advocated.

Mr. Speaker, a vote for PNTR will not leave any American worker behind. We must export democracy to China and not ignore this momentous opportunity. For these reasons, I will vote to give opportunities to the American worker, I will vote to give opportunities to American businesses, and I will vote to give opportunities to the people of China. We must seize the opportunity to export American values of peace, security, democracy, and a better way of life.

MEMORIAL DAY AND THE KOREAN WAR

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, America could have rejected the role of world leadership thrust upon her after the destruction and loss of human lives in World War II.

But she accepted that role, and in so doing gave Americans an even stronger motive to celebrate Memorial Day this year.

The special significance of this Memorial Day is its proximity to the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War on June 25th. More than a million Americans have died defending their country. Memorial Day is the day we honor them. This particular year, on this particular Memorial Day, with memories of those million dead heroes in formation before us, we might justly order "front and center" to the 55,000 Americans who died in the Korean War.

I've never understood why such a long and brutal war should be known as the "Forgotten War." Perhaps it's the timing. It fell between World War II, a war that mobilized a nation, and the Vietnam War, a war that divided a nation and ended tragically. Perhaps it was the mood of a nation anxious to return to the peacetime pursuits of families and careers after World War II. But whatever the reason, Korea never loomed as large in our historical

consciousness as World War II and Vietnam. What better time than the 50th anniversary to give that war and its veterans the recognition due them?

In so doing, we take away nothing from America's other heroes or from the families who still grieve for them. This Memorial Day will still remind us of every sacrifice ever made on every battlefield, and not just to secure our own freedom.

Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago international communism seemed to be the irresistible force of the future. It was a system geared for war and conquest. While the West greeted the end of World War II with relief and dreams of peace, the Soviet and Chinese masters saw it as the signal for the next wave of expansion. Who in the peace-loving West could stop them? In theory, only the United Nations. In reality, that meant the United States.

When North Korean divisions poured across the 38th parallel into South Korea, America was not prepared. We responded anyhow. The first American units thrown into battle hung or until reinforcements arrived and the enemy eventually was forced to negotiate. South Korea is now free because 50 years ago America kept faith with an ally. Let us now keep faith with the guardians of Korea's freedom and our own.

At first glance, America had no stake whatsoever in the freedom of Korea, so different from us culturally and halfway around the world. But a second, longer glance reminds us of our commitment to freedom around the world. That commitment is no mere theory, but a reality backed up by the blood of our citizen soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines.

Mr. Speaker, many of us knew someone who shed that blood and never came home. It will be a somber day for us, because we can remember that person on our hometown streets or playgrounds, sitting next to us in class, delivering our newspaper or groceries, or pushing a lawn mower on his front lawn. We might remember his laughter, his voice over a telephone, and perhaps even our own shock at reading the news of his death in battle. We may even have tried to comfort a grieving family.

But he isn't really dead. It can be said that no one is truly dead until the last person who remembers him is dead. We can honor our dead heroes by remembering them, every day but especially on Memorial Day.

Again this year the President or someone representing him will place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. But the most heart-felt Memorial Day celebrations will take place at cities, towns and villages all over America. There will be parades, speeches, and decorated grave-stones. For some Americans, Memorial Day will inspire them to write such heart-felt poetry as the following:

"WAR'S GLOW"

(By Steven R. Schutt, Prescott, Arizona)

The old ones; they know
the pain of war's glow.
While the youthful dead strive,
to keep illusions alive.
Those who survived learned,
how truth has been burned,
with a history of heroes
and reality spurned.

All who came back, mellowed and aged.
Time made from forget just how they had
raged.

But the old ones; they know,
the pain of war's glow.

Mr. Speaker, as long as such sentiments are alive in the hearts of private citizens, America will remain a great country and Memorial Day will remain an annual monument to our greatest heroes. This particular Memorial Day, I ask you and all Members to join me in a special salute to the casualties of the Korean War. Let us make the Korean War, the first challenge to communist expansion, a forgotten war no longer.

HONORING JOSEPH THOMAS BRADY, JR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise before you today on behalf of Petty Officer Joseph Thomas Brady, Jr., who on May 31, will receive an Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy after 20 years of service to our country.

Joseph Brady attended St. Matthews Catholic School and Flint Powers Catholic High School, graduating in 1976. While in school, he was an altar boy, a member of Junior Achievement, and several community service committees. He was also a standout athlete, excelling in basketball and football. After graduation, Joseph attended the University of Michigan-Flint, and Jackson State University. After two years at Jackson State, Joseph decided on a different adventure, and joined the United States Navy. He attended the Great Lakes Academy, and graduated in 1980. He was assigned to various vessels, including the U.S.S. *Schofield*, U.S.S. *Jack Williams*, and U.S.S. *Arleigh Burke*, among others. Since May 1997, Petty Officer Brady has served as Transportation Petty Officer and Collateral Duty Supply, as well as Petty Officer for Customer Service.

Petty Officer Brady has been recognized many times for his hard work and dedication. He has been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three Gold Stars, the "E" Good Conduct Medal with six Bronze Stars, an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, and many ribbons and commendations.

I would also like to acknowledge perhaps Petty Officer Brady's wonderful family, including his wife, Lyvonne, and their children, Joey and Jovanna. I am sure they are very proud.

Mr. Speaker, as the father of two sons who have served in our Armed Forces, I have much respect and admiration for the commitment of these fine men and women. We are all very grateful for their decision to work to protect our nation's borders, and to protect and defend human dignity. I congratulate Petty Officer Joseph Thomas Brady, Jr. on completing his tour of duty, and I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in wishing him the best in his future endeavors.