In terms of forcing changes in China, this is also a matter of national security. Once China is admitted into the WTO, they will be subject to the rule of law, which will be enforced by more than 130 countries. As we enter the 21st Century, China is on the verge of expanding its regional dominance. I believe it is apparent that this populous nation is simply too influential to ignore. Thus, I believe that our engagement, rather than disengagement, is essential. I think we have a better chance of encouraging reforms with more U.S. citizens bringing our culture, ideas, and freedoms to China rather than isolating them from the rest of the world.

With regard to China's cross straits relations, the Taiwan question continues to heighten tensions in the region. Passage of PNTR would allow our country to continue to play a constructive role in diffusing that potentially destabilizing situation. Even Taiwan's leaders recognize the importance of passing PNTR and China's accession to the WTO. Recently, the newly elected President of Taiwan, Chen Shui-bian, stated that, “We would welcome the notion of a China trade relations...we look forward to both the People's Republic of China's and Taiwan's accession to the WTO.”

We must respect and address many of the opposing arguments. Opponents argue that we as a nation must send a strong message to China and in many respects I agree. Let there be no mistake about it, forcing China to comply with their commitments will not be an easy task. China must know that we will be vigilant in our efforts to combat human rights abuses and other human acts of aggression towards its neighbors. That is why I commend my colleagues Sandy Levin and Doug Bereuter for all their hard work crafting legislation that will enable our country to closely monitor China's human rights record and compliance with its WTO commitments.

In addition, opponents of PNTR argue that only big business will benefit. I disagree. Today more than ever, U.S. businesses are functioning in a global economy, and thanks to the Information Age and the growth of e-commerce, more and more American citizens are engaging in and thriving from their interactions in international markets. In fact, a rapidly growing number of small and medium sized companies have already expanded their business to take advantage of the opportunities available in China's marketplace.

In 1997, 82 percent of all U.S. exporters to China were small and medium sized businesses. That same year, in my home state of Florida, companies with less than 100 employees accounted for 52 percent of all businesses exporting from Florida to China. Furthermore, small and medium sized companies combined accounted for 67 percent of all firms exporting from Florida to China. These figures continue.

China's business cannot begin to keep up with the rapidly growing demand of one-fifth of the world's population, leaving international companies with an amazing economic opportunity to simply should China open its trade gates. America's strong economy and its wealth of innovative and motivated small and medium sized businesses poise us to be a leader in meeting the product demand of the Chinese.

The two-way increased trade with China both for our nation and the State of Florida are tremendous. Unless we pass PNTR, our businesses and workers will be forced to sit on the sideline and watch our global competitors take advantage of the agreement we negotiated. The effect would be to exclude many of Florida's farmers, insurers, and manufacturers of microchips, chemicals, computers, and software who would benefit from this entirely new level of access. These industries employ thousands of workers and employ thousands more, but only if we can continue our strong export growth.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that increased global competition will put some industries at risk and that with the overwhelming number of winners there will be some losers. We will have to work hard to ensure every American worker can participate in our global economy.

A vote against PNTR will not create a single new job in America, clean up the environment in China, release a single prisoner, nor improve the standard of living for Chinese workers. It will only signal a retreat from the global economy and a surrendering of our nation's leadership in the international arena.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is critical for the United States. PNTR would put American workers at a disadvantage. Furthermore, this legislation represents our nation's commitment to remaining engaged, and a rededication to ensuring expanded economic opportunities for American workers.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on PNTR.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2001

SPEECH OF HON. JUANITA MILLER-MCDONALD OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4576) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Ms. MILLER-MCDONALD. Mr. Chairman, today I rise for women across the country as Co-Vice Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues and for the women of California and Los Angeles, in particular, to praise the work of Chairman LEWIS and Ranking Member MURTHA for their commitment to this issue.

Researchers estimate that the world of breast cancer research continues to grow and provide innovative ways of fighting this disease. On behalf of the women of California and women across the country, I thank Chairman Lewis and Ranking Member MURTHA for their commitment to this issue.

With the bipartisan leadership and dedication of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, the breast cancer research program continues to grow and provide innovative ways of fighting this disease. On behalf of the women of California and women across the country, I thank Chairman Lewis and Ranking Member MURTHA for their commitment to this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to report on a visit I made in April of this year to two of the U.S. Army's installations, one in California and the other in Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, the upper Mojave Desert is a long way from Morristown. Frankly, when you think of southern California and the desert, you conjure up thoughts of oppressive heat, scorching sun and scorpions underfoot.

During the Congressional Easter “recess,” I spent several days visiting Fort Irwin, home of the National Training Center and the U.S. Army's premier field combat training facility.

There is nothing like it anywhere in the world, according to what I heard and saw during my visit.

For almost two years now, I have had added to my assignment on the House Appropriations Committee, a seat on the Subcommittee on Defense, which includes budget jurisdiction over all of our nation's branches of the Armed Services and our national intelligence agencies.

Whenever possible, I try to visit military installations, bases and especially our young troops in the field. After all, these young men and women need to know that Members of Congress appreciate what they do and that we are committed to their safety, proper training, and the acquisition of the best equipment and technology available.

I saw firsthand the battlefield realism that the National Training Center provides. That location in the desert combines the scope, scale, and intensity of effort that past and future wars have provided.

Take for example, the Persian Gulf War. On the morning of February 24, 1991, combat-ready U.S. military forces launched the land phase of the Persian Gulf War with the objective of removing Iraqi forces from the Republic of Kuwait. One hundred hours later, they accomplished their objective.

The majority of U.S. soldiers contributing to this victory received their combat training at Fort Irwin. Their success on the battlefields of Iraq and Kuwait confirmed that authentic, real-time combat training leads to decisive victory.
It is also at Fort Irwin that our New Jersey National Guard units, as well as active duty Army battalions from all across the world, train to be soldiers, improving their fighting skills without actual loss of life or loss of equipment. As fate would have it, I did meet with some members of the New Jersey National Guard's 1-144th Infantry Battalion as they got ready to fight in a mock battle with the regular stationed force. It was very cold out there and I even got caught in a blinding sandstorm as the temperatures dropped down below freezing.

About 5500 U.S. soldiers are deployed to the National Training Center to engage in a strenuous 28-day training event called a “rotation” twice a year—you really have to admire these young men and women.

From the sands of the Mojave and the arduous training at Ft. Irwin, I visited the Yuma Proving Grounds in Yuma, Arizona. At this facility, the Army tests weapons and munitions. Much of the technology tested at Yuma, near the Mexican border, is researched and developed in our own backyard at Picatinny Arsenal in Rockaway Township.

I had the good fortune of witnessing a test of the Crusader, an advanced tank artillery system that, as I mentioned, is designated at Picatinny Arsenal. In fact, the Crusader is one of Picatinny’s major projects.

The Crusader is the Army’s future heavy artillery system and it will provide more reliable, more lethal firepower on the battlefield. The Crusader can fire faster, and more accurately than any existing tank or fighting vehicle in the Army’s inventory. During tests at Yuma, the Crusader showed its stuff by successfully firing a round nearly 40 km!

Crusader showed its stuff by successfully firing in another test. The Crusader is one of Picatinny’s major projects.

Reverend Clergy, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends of our City, Friends of the Detroit Tigers, Good Morning.

Today marks for me a little more than five years since I first came to you, unknown, uncredentialed, clad only in the good will of the little family and your own charity to ask for your help for the Detroit Tigers. Who knows what you must have thought and how many ‘Win’ projects that came to little had been put to you before. I look back then on my own impudence with humility and the improbability of our success. Now it seems to me that the success of this adventure was possible only if built upon the rock which is the spirit of the people of the City of Detroit. However naively or imperfectly I tried to express this, you already knew if better than I. (In my middle years, I came upon a wood. . . .) You welcomed us. You guided us. From validating our agreement and financial partnership with the City, to providing us with public fora, to assisting us in reaching the voters of the City and then Wayne County, this project was nurtured in the temples, mosques and churches of our community. And, as with a parent, you gently and firmly gave us to understand how we should do justice to the people of our community who helped us give life to this dream. I want to pause to remember my friend Morris Hood and to speak his name here with gratitude. With me, Morris was not so much a parent but a mentor and a counselor. I want to publicly thank the Ilitch family and your own charity to ask for your help for the Detroit Tigers. The new ballpark in the City of Detroit was a magnificent playground ever built. In another sense, Comerica Park is literally the most noble, majestic, most sacramental to our City, brick, steel and concrete, it is tempting to grasp, stretching, running, hoisting, the constantly repeated acts that for millennia have meant work and to bound them in time or by rules or boundaries in a green enclosure surrounded by an amphitheater or at least a gallery (thus combining garden and city, a place removed from care but in the real world) is to replicate the arena of communal recreation and celebration (subject to the occasional vagaries of on-field performance).

What do we wish men and women to say of our efforts a hundred years from today? I think they will say that there are three things about the people who built this building.

First, that they loved their children. All ballparks are, by definition, places for communal recreation and celebration (subject to the occasional vagaries of on-field performance).

Bart Gimatti told us that the gods are breaking heads when the people gather. . . . The acts of physical toil—lifting, throwing, bending, jumping, pushing, grasping, hitting, running, hoisting, the constantly repeated acts that for millennia have meant work and to bound them in time or by rules or boundaries in a green enclosure surrounded by an amphitheater or at least a gallery (thus combining garden and city, a place removed from care but in the real world) is to replicate the arena of communal recreation and celebration (subject to the occasional vagaries of on-field performance).

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