and participate in my state’s primary election. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes Nos. 234, 235, 236, and 237.

EDUCATION IN MINNESOTA

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation of the House Education and the Workforce Committee conducted an oversight field hearing last Monday in the State of Minnesota.

Among the most informative presentations making Fascist Germany. for the freedom for Americans to pursue liberty. This offers us a unique perspective on this monumental issue of educational change. We're poised at the beginning of the 21st century, and while the rest of the world is abandoning central labor planning, Minnesota is driving through School-to-Work programs for central control of its economy and to the will of the people.

Consider that in just over 200 years, this country became the Greatest Nation on Earth. We've had more Nobel Prize recipients than any other industrialized nation. We've sent men into outer space and brought them back alive; we've pioneered open-heart surgery, and our science and technologies are copied worldwide. Those who accomplished these incredible feats were the product of an education system that emphasized innovation.

We've sent men into outer space and brought them back alive; we've pioneered open-heart surgery, and our science and technologies are copied worldwide. Those who accomplished these incredible feats were the product of an education system that emphasized innovation.

However, we have a 225-year proven method for discovering and correcting these errors called Capitalism. Entrepreneurs search out instances where resources are being under-utilized and we direct them to those that produce profits . . . nothing else approaches its power to stimulate discovery. The application of this principal in education should be obvious. Sixty years ago what we may learn tomorrow about educational methods and knowledge, we need entrepreneurship in education. Government is not equipped for this.

History has proven, time and time again, that where competition does not exist, mediocrity ensues. Nowhere is this truer than in many American public schools. If you must have government-funded education, at least leave the private schools and home schools alone to compete for ideas and innovation.

BUSINESSES HAVE BEEN DUPED

Businessmen and women are being told that they can and should become partners in the education of our children. With tax funded incentives, subsidies, reimbursements, and free training . . . how can these businesses resist?

According to the Minnesota School to Work publication called Making Connections, private business instructs students to go into business to “look outside your company and change your view of your responsibilities for human resource development. Your old responsibilities were to select the best available applicants and to retain those you hired. Your new responsibilities must be to improve the way you organize work and to develop the human resources in your community, your firm, and your nation.”

The Minnesota STW program seeks 100% employer compliance and further provides a 50% paid-in-kind incentive. I construe business to “look outside your company and change your view of your responsibilities for human resource development.”

We're gathered here this morning at a very interesting time . . . 56 years ago today, D-Day, 2,500 Allied soldiers died in Normandy fighting Fascist Germany. for the freedom for Americans to pursue liberty. This offers us a unique perspective on this monumental issue of educational change. We're poised at the beginning of the 21st century, and while the rest of the world is abandoning central labor planning, Minnesota is driving through School-to-Work programs for central control of its economy and to the will of the people.

Consider that in just over 200 years, this country became the Greatest Nation on Earth. We've had more Nobel Prize recipients than any other industrialized nation. We've sent men into outer space and brought them back alive; we've pioneered open-heart surgery, and our science and technologies are copied worldwide. Those who accomplished these incredible feats were the product of an education system that emphasized innovation.

We've sent men into outer space and brought them back alive; we've pioneered open-heart surgery, and our science and technologies are copied worldwide. Those who accomplished these incredible feats were the product of an education system that emphasized innovation.

My company needs entrepreneurial minds and intellectual property, and we need people who can think, read, write, and add. I interview many young people who are products of Minnesota schools and they are not very simple, version equations. Who is training students for what I need? What is wrong with teaching math, or a year of geography, or years of academic knowledge to simply training children for specific jobs. And most tragically, the job which it will train will have little or nothing to do with that child's dreams, goals, or ambitions.

Parents, however, in this three way partnership with business, may be troubled knowing that their children are the pawns that the educational system trains to meet the needs of industry.

The economic goals of education should never be promoted over the importance of knowledge itself. School to work transition issues would disappear if schools focused on strengthening core curricula, set- tural vacuum to make way for the new federal Goals 2000 system already in the works. This left Minnesota without tried and true state standards.

There are no longer any course requirements for any child in Minnesota. No 4 years of English, no 4 years of history, no 3 years of math, or a year of geography, or years of other academic knowledge. I have a copy of the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution and few even mention them in class.

This system is really nothing new. Tyranny has always waited in the wings, ready to step to center stage at the first hint of apathy towards freedom.

For over 230 years we’ve enjoyed the finest freedom and prosperity the world has ever known. Yet we were warned by Edmund Burke that, “The eternal price of liberty is vigilance.” As a people we’ve been asleep at the switch, and now our entire nation, not just Minnesota, has signed on to this crazy new system of totalitarianism, where everyone is under government’s control, from cradle to grave.

This system has been tried around the world, across the centuries. But it is radically new for those of us used to freedom. This new system has more to do with fascism than freedom.

Now we need to work to eliminate the entire STW & Goals 2000 system, while there is time. As Sir Winston Churchill wrote to convince the British to join in the fight against Nazi Germany: “If you will not fight for the right—when you can easily win without bloodshed, if you will not fight when your
victory will be sure—and not too costly, you may come to the moment when you will have to fight—with all the odds against you—and only a precarious chance of survival. There may be even a worse case. You may have to fight—when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves."

CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN TAIWAN: INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIEN

HON. TOM LANTOS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the peaceful and democratic transition of executive power in the Republic of China on Taiwan. On May 20, 2000, the presidential inauguration of Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) leader Chen Shui-Bien marked the culmination of decades of political, social, and economic reform. Chen’s ascent to power—the first President not a member of the long dominant Kuomintang (KMT) party—is only the latest illustration of the democratic culture that characterizes Taiwan in the twenty-first century.

Today, Mr. Speaker, Taiwan reflects the principles envisioned by Dr. Sun Yat-sen when he led the successful movement to overthrow the Chinese emperor and the undemocratic imperial system nearly nine decades ago. While the times after Dr. Sun’s victory initially were tumultuous—civil wars, World War II, the establishment of the People’s Republic of China, and the establishment of the Republic of China on Taiwan—they strengthened the Taiwanese people and forced them to overcome obstacles that stood in the way of their freedom and prosperity. By the 1970’s, Taiwan had become a thriving marketplace of industry, ideas, and culture. It exported products to all corners of the globe and won the respect of the largest and most vibrant free market economies.

In recent years, economic justice has been mirrored by the flourishing of social justice, human rights, and democracy. During the 1980’s Taiwan’s leaders lifted restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of the press. As these constraints were eased, the openness of political debate grew exponentially. Competitive local and regional elections were first held in 1980, followed by the development of opposition parties and Taiwan’s first competitive presidential election in 1996. The victory of that candidate, President Lee Teng-hui, received a mandate to continue his principled efforts to liberalize Taiwanese society.

Mr. Speaker, these progressive reforms seem likely to thrive under the leadership of President Chen Shui-Bien. The son of a farm laborer, he excelled in his studies and became a prominent defense attorney. During the early 1980’s, Chen began providing legal assistance to opposition leaders, and this eventually led him to enter politics in a more active capacity. This was not a simple climb during the pre-reform years. Chen, the editor of a dissident magazine, was imprisoned for two years in jail on trumped up libel charges brought by a government politician. He persisted, however, and he eventually served as a DPP member in the Legislative Yuan and later as the mayor of the capital city of Taipei. His success in the latter role prompted Time Magazine to name him as one of the 100 most promising young leaders of the 21st century.

President Chen’s inaugural address offered a clear vision of his commitment to freedom and political reform. He professed his devotion to human rights with a passion that demands respect: “We are also willing to promisemore active contribution in safeguarding international human rights. The Republic of China cannot and will not remain outside global human rights concerns. We will abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention for Civil and Political Rights, and the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. We will bring the Republic of China back into the international human rights system. We hope to set up an independent national human rights commission in Taiwan, thereby realizing an action long advocated by the United Nations. We will also invite two outstanding non-governmental organizations, the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International, to assist us in our measures to protect human rights and make the Republic of China into a new indicator for human rights in the 21st Century.”

Mr. Speaker, as the founder and co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I applaud President Chen’s determination to stand up for justice and civil liberties.

I am also confident, Mr. Speaker, that Taiwan under the leadership of President Chen Shui-Bien will continue to work for peace with the Mainland in the years to come. Chen has pledged to continue negotiations with China that would increase economic and social cooperation across the Taiwan Straits. He realizes that understanding—not violence and conflict—offers the promise of ending the tension between Taiwan and the People’s Republic of China. As Chen explained to an Asian Wall Street Journal reporter last April, “Pursuing lasting peace in the region is not only our highest goal, it is also the moral responsibility of the leadership.”

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in offering wholehearted congratulations to President Chen and the people of Taiwan for their commitment to peace, democracy, and human rights.

FAREWELL TO PAGES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to all of the pages who have served so diligently in the House of Representatives during the 106th Congress.

All recognize the important role that congressional pages play in helping the House of Representatives operate. This group of young people, who come from all across our Nation, represent what is good about our country. To become a page, these young people have undertaken a most demanding commitment. They have ventured away from the security of their homes and families to spend time in an unfamiliar city. Through this experience, they have witnessed a new culture, made new friends, and learned the details of how our Government operates.

As we all know, the job of a congressional page is not an easy one. Along with being away from home, the pages must possess the balance necessary to meet compelling demands for their time and energy. In addition, they must have the dedication to work long hours and the ability to interact with people at a personal level. At the same time, they face challenging academic schedule of classes in the House Page School. I am sure they will consider their time spent in Washington, D.C. to be one of the most valuable and exciting experiences of their lives, and that with this experience they will all move ahead to lead successful and productive lives.

Mr. Speaker, as the Democratic Member on the House Page Board, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this group of distinguished young Americans. They certainly will be missed:

2000 SPRING SEMESTER PAGES ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER/E-MAIL ADDRESS
Max Abbott, 464 Heritage Drive, Lewistown, NC 27033, (309) 945-9645
Dominic Adams, 3905 Maryland, Gry, IN 46408, (219) 884-2095
Sarrah Baca, 103 Colonial Avenue, Evans- ton, WY 82930, (307) 789-7256, sarahbee@hotmail.com
Sarah Bazan, 241 Elemeda, Holland, MI 49424, (616) 307-7003, zeut@macatawa.org
Christopher Bower, 44 Bardslee Hill Drive, Ogensburg, NY 10749, (973) 827-9125, bowser55@hotmail.com
Michael Buck, 11720 Meadowbrook Drive, Elmhurst, IL 60126, (708) 732-9037, octavian@yahoo.com
Sarah Brindu, 2024 Coast Guard Drive, Stafford, VA 22554, (540) 720-7507, michael_buck@yahoo.com
Michael Boyle, 14905 Charles I. Boyle Rd., Lomira, WY 82930, (307) 789-7256, apd82@hotmail.com
Adam Cheatham, 9304 Haliston Court, Fairfax Station, VA 22039, (703) 560-9753, AQChen1963@aol.com
Christopher Clark, R.R. #1, Box 137, Kirkwood, IL 62647, (309) 627-2108, clarkc003@aol.com
David Cook, 31300 Sunnyside Road, California, MO 65038, (573) 796-4555, bidave70@yahoo.com
Andrew D’Anna, 180 Woodspoint Cove, Jonesboro, AR 72401, (870) 935-4449, apd82@hotmail.com
Ashley Daugherty, P.O. Box 806, Coloma, MI 49038, (616) 469-9638, sunflower436@hotmail.com
Katherine B. Fortune, 4649 North Wilson Avenue, Fresno, CA 93704, (559) 227-4024, Ashley Foster, 303 Iroquois, Waxachie, TX 75165, (972) 938-8154, ASHGuru101@aol.com
Kara Frank, 53 Seneca Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522, (914) 693-6332, Dominic Adams, 1895 Montana Way, Green River, WY 82935, (307) 875-6096, Adam Gillman, 1810 Nobel Drive, Golden Valley, MN 55422, (612) 522-7827, Adam92@aol.com
Dana Hall, 11442 Vale Spring Drive, Odessa, VA 22104, (703) 620-4065, danamarie24@hotmail.com
Kristopher Hart, 1210 Malinda Road, Oreland, PA 19075, (215) 886-6832, KDHart.com
Laura Heaton, 1162 SE Main Street, Roseburg, OR 97470, (541) 673-3720, ladybuglaurah@hotmail.com
Michael Henry, 148 Boltwood Drive NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505, (616) 365-1855, major_henry@hotmail.com