

Mr. Speaker, it is morally unacceptable for the richest nation in the history of the world to tolerate this continued housing crisis which blights the lives of so many American families simply because of a mis-allocation of resources. I applaud the National Housing Conference and its member organizations for this important statement and I hope that all of our colleagues will read and assimilate it so that we can act along the lines the Conference has recommended.

[From the United Voice for Housing]

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHORTAGE NEARS
CRISIS PROPORTIONS**

WASHINGTON, DC.—The following statement was released today by the National Housing Conference (NHC):

As we begin the new year, this nation continues to face a serious affordable housing situation of near crisis proportions. Based upon the most recent data, approximately one out of every seven (13 million) American families has a critical housing need, including some 4 million low- and moderate-income working families. In addition to homeless and very low-income families who experience the most severe affects of an inadequate supply of affordable housing, today many teachers, police officers, fire fighters, retail sales clerks and nurses are also finding it increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to find decent affordable housing for their families. According to a recent NHC study, janitors and retail sales clerks, for example, are all but shut out of the nation's largest housing markets.

While reports of the resilience of the housing industry during the current economic slow-down provide hope and support for the nation's economy as a whole, we should not be lulled into a false sense of accomplishment when it comes to the housing needs of low- and moderate-income families. Today, there is an affordable housing shortage which is not being addressed adequately. We have not budgeted the necessary resources to address the current shortage of affordable housing and there are barriers in far too many communities across the nation which inhibit the development of new affordable housing.

To make lasting and meaningful progress on this issue in the new year and beyond, there must be an immediate and demonstrated public commitment at all levels to address the full measure of the nation's affordable housing problem. At present, there are simply not enough resources to support affordable ongoing housing efforts. The lack of political will to increase funding to encourage and provide incentives to produce new affordable housing has and will continue to force families to make unacceptable choices in order to find adequate shelter.

Our goal in the new year should be simple and straightforward (to increase the overall supply of affordable housing). To accomplish this goal, there must be vigorous leadership at the federal level as well as concerted efforts at the state and local level to break down barriers which constrain efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing.

A significant increase in direct federal funding for affordable housing, coupled with a more responsive and progressive use of the nation's tax code, will be necessary in order to expand, and in some cases execute more effective affordable housing strategies at the state and local level. Increased federal resources must, however, be coupled with additional state and local resources, private sector incentives and local housing policies which are designed specifically to preserve existing and produce new affordable housing opportunities.

We have the tools, the know-how and the experience to meet our nation's affordable housing needs. Our housing needs are well documented and have been with us for many years. We know that good housing is essential to support the health and well-being of our families and our communities, and we also know that our continuing failure to address the full measure of our nation's affordable housing needs will have a direct impact on other national concerns including the environment, transportation, access to jobs and urban sprawl.

In the year ahead, much will be made of the need to make hard choices, the need to focus on larger national priorities and of tight budgetary constraints. For those who have fought for years to encourage necessary funding for responsible housing policies, this will be nothing new. What must be made clear, however, is that our collective failure to act to meet the nation's affordable housing needs in a comprehensive fashion over many years has only increased the need for new affordable housing to near crisis proportions. Our failure to address this situation again this year will hurt hard-working families and will continue to leave behind those who need our help the most.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) and the ongoing investigation of its policies and practices under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. The administration should aggressively pursue this investigation and work toward resolving the longstanding trade problem with Canada. This House should insist on fair trade from our neighbor to the north.

According to the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) report released on Dec. 21, 2001, the CWB is empowered with both monopsony and monopoly power in the marketing of Canadian wheat. Unlike the U.S., where there are many producer cooperatives and grain traders to buy wheat, the CWB is the sole buyer of Canadian wheat in Canada. The sheer volume of wheat available through the CWB allows it to dominate the Durum wheat market, where it has all but ended U.S. participation in the futures market of Durum wheat. No single U.S. company trading in Durum wheat can afford to take the risks that the behemoth CWB can take.

The ITC report also concludes that the CWB also enjoys Canadian government approval and backing of its borrowing and other financing, thus reducing the CWB's costs and insulating it from commercial risks faced by large and small U.S. grain traders. The Canadian government also provided CWB with a cap on proceeds railways can receive for shipping CWB grain; shipments to the eastern and western ports for overseas export are below comparable commercial rates. In the U.S., railways are deregulated and shippers of grain are charged the same commercial freight costs as anyone else. Furthermore, producers in Canada are forced to pay a flat location-based rate for shipment of their wheat regardless of whether it actually costs the CWB that amount or not. Any money made from these "phantom" charges by the CWB can then be

used as a bargaining chip in trading wheat with the U.S. or other countries.

Finally, the ITC report concludes that the Canadian trade policies and programs, particularly the varietal registration program and end-use certificates for U.S. wheat, have been reported by U.S. exporters as adversely affecting the level of U.S. wheat exports to Canada. In 2000/01 the U.S. imported \$212 million worth of wheat from Canada, while it exported only \$50,000 worth of wheat to Canada. The Wheat Access Facilitation Program, which was implemented by the U.S. and Canada as part of the Record of Understanding in 1998 to facilitate exports of U.S. wheat directly to Canadian elevators, is no longer in use.

The report makes clear that the CWB and the Canadian government continue to use trade-distorting practices. The CWB's monopoly is unfair to our nation's wheat farmers, and the administration should seek remedies under Section 301 and hold the CWB accountable for its unfair trade practices. This House should insist that Canada halt the secretive and harmful behavior of the CWB and act as a good neighbor by practicing fair trade.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRED BROWN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a retiring icon of the Colorado media community. For over forty years, Fred has dazzled and charmed Colorado readers with his witty intellect and supercharged rhetoric that has resulted in a large and loyal following of political minded readers around the state.

Fred began his life in journalism as an undergraduate at Colorado State University in the late 1950's. After graduation, he went on to receive his Masters in Journalism in 1963 from the prestigious Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. In June of that year, Fred went to work with the Denver Post, and began a career that would last almost four decades.

As a journalist, Fred covered many issues concerning Colorado, most notably politics and government, a topic he covered for The Post for over twenty-five years. He also wrote for the editorial page and his weekly columns were featured every Friday guaranteeing to inform Coloradans of breaking political events around the nation.

In addition to his duties, Fred also found time to serve his profession in the pursuit of journalistic excellence. His goal to ensure ethics in journalism was demonstrated in his service to the Society of Professional Journalists. He has served as society President, co-authored the Society's Code of Ethics, and served as Chairman and Co-Chair of the SBJ's National Ethics Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Fred Brown's accomplishments and dedication to excellence in journalism certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. Fred serves as a symbol for aspiring journalists and political patrons throughout Colorado and the nation. I would personally like to thank Fred for his commitment to ethics in journalism and his diligence in informing the public of our nation's governmental proceedings. Congratulations Fred, and good luck in your future endeavors.