diamonds. Two years ago—before American human rights activists began their campaign against conflict diamonds, and even before the diamond industry moved to protect its self-interest—Mr. Royce and Mr. Payne began taking a hard look at this problem.

Then, six months ago, this House passed compromise legislation designed to begin severing the link between diamonds and war. During negotiation of that bill, H.R. 2722, the President's trade and diplomatic representatives assured us that, if Congress would use the Kimberley Process's definition of conflict diamonds, which are those sanctioned by the United Nations, the Administration would press the UN Security Council to extend its embargo to diamonds mined in other conflict zones, like the Congo.

Today, I urge our colleagues to call that commitment due. Please join me in pressing our government to continue to lead this work—by insisting that the United Nations act against a blood trade that is helping to fuel the world's most deadly war. Please support H. Con. Res. 410.

MICHAEL HENRY DEVLIN MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Patrick J. Devlin, Sr. of my staff and his wife Helen on the birth of their second child, Master Michael Henry Devlin. Michael was born early in the morning on Monday, May 20, 2002. He weighed 7 pounds and 6 ounces. Faye joins me in wishing Pat, Helen and their first son Patrick great happiness upon this new addition to their family. I know that the gentleman from Kentucky Mr. LEWIS joins me in celebrating Michael's birth as Helen serves on his staff.

As the father of three, I know the joy and pride that Pat and Helen feel at this special time. And I know that Patrick is excited to have a brother with whom he can play. Children remind us of the incredible miracle of life and they keep us young-at-heart. Everyday, they show us a new way to view the world. Indeed, they are one of the most important reasons why we serve in this body, Mr. Speaker.

I welcome Michael into the world, and wish Pat, Helen, and Patrick all the best as they bring Michael into their family.

SOVIET-STYLE ACTIONS IMPERIL FREE TRADE AND RUSSIA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, since the fall of communism and the Soviet Union, the Russian government has made significant strides in promoting free enterprise and free trade. Sometimes, however, old habits die hard.

Bureaucrats at the Russian Ministry of Agriculture seem to be living in the past. In a move reminiscent of the Soviet-era, they have ordered the nationalization of a private company with American trademarks, Stolichnaya Vodka.

These actions run counter to the efforts of Russian President Putin who has repeatedly demanded more property rights and freedom for the Russian people. Unfortunately, bureaucrats in the government have not gotten the message.

The actions against the rightful owner, SPI International, are not isolated incidents. As SPI's counsel, Richard Edlin stated in testimony before the House Committee on Ways and Means there is a "troubling pattern of regression by the Russian government to the tactics and policies of the Soviet era."

These abuses must stop if Russia is going to be considered a reliable trading partner of the United States. It is incumbent upon the Russian government and its trading partners to demand a correction of these abuses. These problems should not be swept under the rug. These actions threaten trade, reform and prosperity for the Russian people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the following editorial from the May 16, 2002 Investor's Business Daily be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Investor's Business Daily, May 16, 2002]

MOSCOW'S STICKY FINGERS RISK ECONOMIC FUTURE OF RUSSIA

(By Doug Bandow)

After years of economic chaos and declines, Russia is advancing. Despite serious challenges to civil liberties, press freedom and the democratic process, the Russian people are finally enjoying a growing economy.

And Moscow's success, including a surprising budget surplus, re-dounds to the benefit of America. A more prosperous Russia is less likely to slide back into its communist past. A more prosperous Russia will offer a better market for U.S. investment and trade.

Yet continued progress requires that Russia move more inefficient state enterprises into private hands. Moscow must also improve its international commercial reputation.

However, Russia unfortunately is moving in the opposite direction, at attempting to reverse previous privatizations.

For instance, vodka is big business, the nation's second largest. (The Russians do love to drink.) One of vodka's most celebrated brand name is Stolichnaya.

SPI International acquired the Stolichnaya name in 1992, and now sells 1.3 million cases in the U.S. alone. But Moscow is trying to strip away SPI's trademark. To enforce its claim, the Russian Ministry of Agriculture has impounded 180,000 cases of SPI's vodka, currently sitting on the dock in the post of Kaliningrad.

USSR CRUMBLES

SPI's state-owned predecessor first registered its vodka trademark in the U.S. in 1967. PepsiCo bought the right to import Stolichnaya into the U.S. and spent more than $100 million over the years to encourage demand (PepsiCo has since left the alcohol business.)

When the USSR disintegrated at the end of 1991, the successor states, led by Russia, began selling off many state enterprises, SPI became a private company. In October 1992 the Russian government confirmed its right to export vodka under several trademarks.

Two years ago Allied Domecq acquired U.S. distributions rights. In reliance on SPI's property rights, Allied has undertaken a new advertising campaign and launched a new product to compete with Smirnoff. SPI has been shipping Stolichnaya for a decade without complaint from the Russian government, SPI has invested about $20 million to promote the brand and another $50 million to settle the debts of its state-run predecessor.

Yet the government recently decided that it wants to renationalize Stolichnaya. It went to court to claim ownership earlier this year, and a Moscow court sided with the government.

MOSCOW SHORT-SIGHTED

Despite the vulnerability of Russian courts to state manipulation, SPI won two subsequent decisions. These judges barred the agriculture ministry from trying to exercise the trademark and from seizing SPI's vodka.

Yet the government has ignored the courts. It has established a federal enterprise to monopolize vodka sales. Officials have even threatened SPI's employees with criminal prosecution.

Moscow's campaign is curiously short-sighted. Even if the government succeeds in stripping SPI's rights in Russia, it will have no right to export to the U.S. Allied is the registered trademark holder, and SPI is Allied' exclusive supplier.

Unfortunately, Stolichnaya is not the only target of Moscow's commercial aggression. Greenberg Traurig attorney Richard Edlin complained of "a troubling pattern of regression by the Russian government to the tactics and policies of the Soviet era" at a House Ways and Means Committee hearing.

For instance, the U.S. firm Films by Jove purchased Russian copy-rights. It's spend $4 million in making animated films. Now the Russian government has set up its own company by the same name as the firm that licenses films to Films by Jove and claims it's the true owner. A U.S. District Court upheld the U.S. company's copyright, opining that the Russian court's contrary decision, perhaps made under government pressure, was "incoherent," "irrelevant" and "shocking."

No wonder Russian Duma member Boris Nemtsov, head of the Union of Right forces, called on President Vladimir Putin to reverse the "dangerous" threat to property rights, one of the "pillars of true progress for Russia." Nemtsov worries that other reforms—Putin has flatten the income tax and legalized the sale of nonagricultural land—"will be for naught if the fundamental weaknesses of the Russian state that undermine property and minority shareholder rights are not addressed."

RULE OF LAW

Individual companies, which have invested in reliance upon property rights granted by Moscow obviously have much to fear from the surreptitious rollback of privatization.

If Russia is to continue to show economic growth, it must establish a stable investment climate to encourage demands and foreign investment. Commercial certainty is particularly important if the nation is to enter the World Trade Organization.

Putin deserves credit for having halted Russian's slide toward chaos. But real property requires establishment of the rule of law and respect for property rights.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 186, H. Res. 427, Waiving Points of Order Against the Conference Report on H.R. 3448, Public Health

Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.'' I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 187, H.R. 1877, on Approving the Journal. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 188, H. Res. 426, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 3129, Customs Border Security Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 189, H.R. 3448, Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 190, H.R. 3717, the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 191, Paying Tribute to the Workers at Ground Zero in New York. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

TRIBUTE TO DR. VIRGINIA CAROL DEMCHIK

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and congratulating Dr. Virginia Carol Demchik of Shepherdstown, West Virginia who has been honored by the West Virginia Academy of Science as Science Teacher of the Year.

The West Virginia Academy of Science is an organization meeting and working with professional associates in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Mathematics, Mining, Physics, Psychology and Education, History and Philosophy of Science and Social Science. It is a corporation chartered by the authority of the West Virginia legislature for the advancement of scientific knowledge and the promotion of scientific work in West Virginia. In receiving the coveted Science Teacher of the Year Award, Dr. Demchik has accomplished no small feat.

Dr. Demchik received her BA from Fairmont State College and her MA and Ed.D from West Virginia University. Based on summer grants she has received, Dr. Demchik has attended the College of Graduate Studies at the University of Maryland, American University, East Carolina University, University of Iowa and Shepherd College.

In honor of Dr. Demchik's hard work, dedication and commitment to her students and community, I ask my friends in Shepherdstown, and my colleagues here in the nation's capital to join me in recognizing May 23, 2002 as a day of celebration and recognition for Dr. Virginia Carol Demchik.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to cast my votes on rollcall vote Nos. 171, 172, and 173 on May 20, 2002. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on rollcall Nos. 171, 172, and 173.

MEDICARE PROVISIONS OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer an amendment to strike Section 1404 from this bill. This provision would assist a mere handful of hospitals in Pennsylvania and New York, at the expense of every other hospital in the country. Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to drain funding from any of our nation's hospitals, especially as we debate a bill that is meant to strengthen our ability to respond to medical emergencies that could strike anywhere across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, hospitals in my State of Maine cannot afford any further reimbursement cuts, no matter how small. My state already has the 5th–lowest Medicare reimbursement rate in the country. Our hospitals are operating on razor-thin margins. In a state as geographically large as Maine, we already struggle with access to medical services. Further cuts will only exacerbate the problem.

This provision is a clear case of robbing Peter to pay Paul. In fact, it's even worse because there are just a few select Pauls, and a nation full of Peters. Why should the vast majority of Members tell their seniors that their access to care may be jeopardized by a gift to a few select hospitals somewhere else? How can we effectively fight AIDS and infectious diseases through increased spending in this bill, when at the same time we weaken our hospitals? What sense does it make to give money to speed our first response to attacks, while at the same time taking funds from the hospitals who would be on the front line?

If the Pennsylvania and New York counties that are helped by Section 1404 actually met the criteria for geographic reclassification, they would have been approved by the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board. Instead, these counties will be boosting their Medicare reimbursement rates by going around the rules—the rules that the rest of us have to live by.

Mr. Speaker, I know all too well that the geographic adjustment system for Medicare payment rates needs reform. My State of Maine is among the most egregiously affected by the current system, and I would be happy to work with any of my colleagues who wish to seek reform to make reimbursement rates more equitable. I strongly support improved reimbursement for all our nation's hospitals. However, this provision in this bill only serves to benefit a select number of facilities, and will detract from the ability of all others to meet their obligations to Medicare beneficiaries.

Section 1404 is unfair, it's unjust, and it's just plain bad policy. It certainly does not belong in an Emergency Supplemental, and therefore I move that we strike this provision from the bill. If we cannot remove this provision today, then I am hopeful that we can fix the problem in conference. This bill funds vital areas like defense, security and health, and the final bill should not be marred by this destructive measure.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF WEST ALLIS ON ITS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on June 2, 2002, the city of West Allis, Wisconsin will host the centennial celebration of its incorporation as a village. Happy 100th birthday, West Allis.

Native American mounds, likely left by ancestors of the Ho-Chunk or Potawatomi tribes in the ground near what today is Wisconsin's State Fair Park, provide evidence of some of the earliest residents in the area. But it was not until the 1830s that native tribes began to see New Englanders arrive in the region to farm its fertile lands and establish the area's first settlement, called Honey Creek. It may have remained a farming community for many years to come, had it not been for a rapid growth of heavy industry in the city of Milwaukee in the late 1800s and the extension of a street railway line to the area.

Milwaukee was running out of room for large manufacturing plants, and the Honey Creek area had become a highly desirable location for industry. Companies like Kearney and Trecker and the Rosenthal Comhusker Company began to make their home in the area that was now called North Greenfield, and soon Edward P. Allis decided that his company also needed room to grow.

In 1900, Allis moved his company, which had become an industry leader in machinery, to the area that would soon bear his name. Workers soon followed, and the population grew so quickly that the area was chartered as the Village of West Allis in 1902, and as a city only 4 years later.

The city of West Allis expanded to become the second largest city in Milwaukee County and seventh largest in the state. Although the region's decline in heavy manufacturing in the past several decades has brought challenges to the community, the city of West Allis and its mayor, Jeannette Bell, have worked tirelessly to bring in new businesses and revitalize West Allis neighborhoods.

West Allis remains a city that is proud of its industrial past and enthusiastic about its future. To the city of West Allis and its citizens, my heartiest congratulations, and my best wishes for a prosperous second century.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 3375—EMBASSY EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION ACT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3375, the Embassy Employee Compensation Act. Passage of this bill only makes common sense to me. After the tragic events of September 11, 2002, the United States Government vowed to make