

under the leadership of its pastor Dr. Pace and his lovely wife. They continue to work diligently as they serve others. I commend them at this celebration of their over 14 years of service to Red Oak United Methodist Church, and I encourage congregation members and friends to join in their appreciation celebration as Dr. and Mrs. Pace continue in their mission.

REGARDING LEGISLATIVE WALK-OUT (TEXAS STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES) MAY 14, 2003

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker I rise to commend the Texas Legislators who staked their political careers on demanding the legislature cease work on a national Republican Party map that would override voters' choices in Congress, re-mapping the state by congressional district just one year after a federal court did the job for them.

Redistricting is a serious constitutional matter; it is not a childish "do-over" when it does not meet your partisan whims. I appreciate the leadership of Jim Solis (D-Brownsville), Rene Oliveira (D-Brownsville), Jaime Capelo (D-Corpus Christi), and Juan Escobar (D-Kingsville) and thank them for their unique patriotism. They are doing a very hard thing and the good people of South Texas appreciate their position.

In a democracy, voters should choose their representatives; representatives should never choose voters. Drawing congressional district lines is an exercise that is mandated once a decade by our constitution. We did this last year; a federal court drew new lines for Congressional districts, and each member of this body from Texas ran in those districts and won elections. To redistrict again, one year later, is unconscionable.

These members of the Texas State Legislature have done an incredibly courageous thing by leaving the state to force the House Republicans to abandon their plans to gerrymander the state of Texas' in Washington's Republican-driven redistricting effort. This effort is part of a national effort across the country, with Colorado also being a target of national meddling in the business of State Legislatures.

I commend these legislators, particularly my South Texas friends, who have the commitment and bravery to take the politically dangerous position of leaving the state Capitol in the midst of the session, a highly extraordinary move borne of a highly extraordinary national political grab. By denying the quorum, they are protecting the rights guaranteed to Texans in the Constitution.

These legislators are being criticized for their actions, yet it is the national Republican leadership that put these events in motion and they are the ones who can end it so Texans can get back to the urgent business of balancing our budget, reforming insurance rates, re-financing education reform, and economic development around the state.

Were it not for high-level, unapologetic tinkering in the state's business, the state legislators would now be working on the issues

upon which they were elected to pursue. As it is, the only members now hard at work on substantive budgetary matters are the Democrats working out of Oklahoma trying to persuade the national republican leadership to pull the redistricting bill so they can proceed.

The legislators are fighting for open participation in government and redistricting, which is precisely the vision our forefathers had when they founded this country.

I commend the political courage of the legislators who staked their careers on the principle of democratic process and one person-one vote.

CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

**HON. STEVE CHABOT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, C.J. (Chien-Jen) Chen, Taiwan's ambassador to the United States, in an address to the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia earlier this year, spoke on the important issue of "Cross-Strait Relations: Past, Present, Future." I know my colleagues will be interested in reading the ambassador's abridged remarks, which I include in the RECORD:

REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE C.J. (CHIEN-JEN) CHEN AT THE FOREIGN POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE—JANUARY 16, 2003

I know that the most pressing international issues at the moment involve Iraq and North Korea and that, in contrast, cross-strait relations appear to be quite tranquil. But, I am also sure that you know cross-strait relations are highly sensitive. Both now and for the foreseeable future, cross-strait relations directly affect not only Taiwan but also U.S. interests in the Western Pacific and peace and security in the entire region. So, this is a topic that merits further discussion.

Of course, to understand where cross-strait relations stand at present and to see where they might stand in the future, one must know something about the historical background of Taiwan's relationship vis-a-vis the Chinese mainland.

I. THE PAST

Over the course of the last four centuries, Taiwan has been transformed from a neglected backwater and unsettled frontier into a prosperous modern democracy of 23 million people. During this time, control over the island has passed through the hands of a succession of masters: indigenous tribes, Dutch colonizers, Han Chinese pioneers, Manchu officials, Japanese imperialists . . . In 1945, the island reverted to Chinese control under the Republic of China government. But just four years later, in a tragic twist of fate, China itself was divided by a Civil War into two parts: the free and capitalistic ROC on Taiwan and the tightly controlled and authoritarian People's Republic of China on the Chinese mainland. Throughout the Cold War, the two sides faced each other across the narrow Taiwan Strait in a tense confrontation marked by enmity, rancor, and distrust. For the past 16 years, my government has been working to break the impasse and facilitate reconciliation with the other side. In some respects, we have made much progress. In others, we have met with disappointment.

For the sake of brevity, I will not delve into all the twists and turns of Taiwan's fas-

cinating history. But, I do want to point out that several factors and historical truths continue to influence cross-strait relations today and will likely shape them in the future.

First, Taiwan is situated on China's strategic periphery at the very nexus of international trade routes that crisscross East Asia. The Taiwan Strait, which is as narrow as 90 nautical miles in some places, is the only geophysical feature separating Taiwan from the Chinese mainland.

Second, the vast majority of people on Taiwan are Han Chinese whose ancestors arrived in Taiwan at different times over the course of the last four centuries. They share many ancestral, historic, cultural and linguistic ties with the people across the strait.

Third, owing to their geographical proximity and cultural affinity, economic exchanges between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland have been nearly unavoidable and usually beneficial to both sides.

Fourth, owing to that fact that Taiwan and the Chinese mainland were united for less than five years in the 20th century and the fact that the PRC regime on the mainland has never ruled Taiwan even for a single day, distinct political, economic, and social systems have developed on each side.

Fifth, the long separation has also produced on either side of the Taiwan Strait different values, perspectives, visions, and even identities.

Sixth, cross-strait relations are dynamic, fluid, malleable. Taiwan's relationship to the Chinese mainland has changed a number of times in the past, is not static at present, and will likely evolve in the future. It is our hope that the relationship will change for the better.

II. THE PRESENT

That certainly was the motivation of our government, which, in 1987, sensed that the time had come to break the impasse between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait by allowing veterans on Taiwan to visit their relatives on the Chinese mainland. In the years following, private exchanges (i.e., travel, mail, phone calls) between the people on both sides have grown enormously as have indirect trade and investment. Along the way, our government unilaterally declared the end of hostilities against the Chinese mainland (1991) and amended ROC laws to recognize that, at present, our jurisdiction covers the Taiwan area only. Just as significantly, both sides of the Taiwan Strait set up liaison agencies to discuss practical issues arising from the various forms of interaction across the Taiwan Strait.

Now let us take a look at current developments—both positive and negative—in the relationship.

*Positive*

To give you a sense of the scope of that interaction, allow me to cite a few statistics. In addition to exchanging millions of phone calls and letters with people on the mainland, residents of Taiwan have, over the last 16 years, made nearly 27 million trips there, including more than 3 million trips in 2002. And during these trips to the mainland, they have spent roughly 30 billion U.S. dollars. At the same time, thanks to the gradual relaxation of our policy regarding visits from the people of the mainland, they have been able to make 817,000 short trips to Taiwan in the last few years.

Bilateral trade has surpassed 272 billion U.S. dollars since 1987. In just the first nine months of 2002, two-way trade between Taiwan and the mainland rose 26 percent over the same period the year before to 25 billion dollars.

The number of Taiwan-based businessmen investing in mainland China has also risen