

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 2620, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003, which would authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

In these modern times, it is hard for Americans to believe that the problem of human slavery still exists. Not only do these crimes against humanity still occur, they are increasing in frequency all across the globe.

To further investigate the topic of human slavery and trafficking in persons, I held a hearing before the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Human Rights & Wellness on October 29, 2003, entitled, "The Ongoing Tragedy of International Slavery and Human Trafficking: An Overview," to examine the worldwide effects of these illicit practices, and to discuss how United States policies and programs are beginning to have a positive effect in combating these crimes against humanity.

Our investigation found that over 27,000,000 people are currently enslaved in some form around the world, and it is estimated that up to 4,000,000 men, women, and children are forced or coerced into slavery every year, which represents the highest concentration of slaves alive at one time ever in world history.

Thankfully, the U.S. Government has been working tirelessly to eliminate the practices of slavery and trafficking in persons around the globe. This is mainly due to the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, authored by my dear friend and our esteemed colleague, Representative CHRIS SMITH. This law has assisted victims by authorizing grants to shelters and rehabilitation programs to help victims of trafficking, and by establishing programs to prevent trafficking through the enhancement of economic opportunities for potential victims. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act promotes public awareness of the dangers of human slavery, and provides stringent penalties for persons who facilitate these crimes.

H.R. 2620 not only reauthorizes, but builds upon the successes of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 by (1) requiring that U.S. Government contracts relating to international affairs contain clauses authorizing termination by the United States if the contractor engages in human trafficking, or procures commercial sexual services while the contract is in force; (2) promoting innovative trafficking prevention initiatives, such as border interdiction programs; and (3) requiring airlines to inform passengers about U.S. laws against sex tourism, among other enhanced protections for current victims of trafficking.

Before the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, victims had no hope that they would be rescued from the horrid conditions into which they had been forced to live. The enactment of this law has not only put forth initiatives to prevent further human abuses, but has also given victims of slavery a real chance for liberty, and we as Members

of Congress should do all that we can to promote their freedom.

Mr. Speaker, reauthorizing H.R. 2620 will continue to protect and liberate people who are currently enslaved against their will in these modern times, and I strongly urge my colleagues to continue to support this most important legislation.

HONORING WALKER MACHINERY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Walker Machinery of Belle, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, Walker Machinery has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, Walker Machinery has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud Walker Machinery for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Walker Machinery, and I offer them as an example to small and medium sized enterprises everywhere.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state for the record how I would have voted on the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act, H.R. 1720. Regrettably, I was unavoidably detained and absent from the House floor on October 29, 2003.

I take great pride in representing our military personnel and the veterans of our great nation. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards." The United States owes our veterans a debt which can never be fully repaid.

For these reasons, had I been present for rollcall No. 576, I would have voted "aye" for H.R. 1720.

THE KAY REPORT: RECOGNIZING AN EVER-PRESENT THREAT

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, in recent days, Dr. David Kay, head of the Iraq Survey Group, has visited Washington to provide an interim report detailing what he has thus far uncovered regarding Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. Dr. Kay's initial findings make it clear that Saddam Hussein maintained a large, undeclared WMD infrastructure, much of which has escaped the attention of UN arms inspectors. So far, Dr. Kay's teams have uncovered dozens of WMD-related activity programs, a series of clandestine chemical/biological weapons labs, huge amounts of laboratory equipment suitable for WMD research and productions, and secret UAV production lines tailored for WMD delivery. As a recent editorial in the Omaha World-Herald correctly noted, "the larger picture of these findings shows that Saddam Hussein was a threat to his neighbors, to his own people (just ask the Kurds) and potentially to anyone else on the planet whom he viewed as his enemies."

Mr. Speaker, this Member would ask to place into the RECORD an editorial entitled "An ever-present threat" from the October 11, 2003, edition of the Omaha World-Herald. This Member commends these insightful remarks to his colleagues.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Oct. 11, 2003]

AN EVER-PRESENT THREAT

WITH OR WITHOUT WMD, IRAQ UNDER SADDAM WAS VIOLATING U.N. SANCTIONS LEFT AND RIGHT

Much attention in recent days has been given—appropriately—to the fact that arms inspector David Kay and his Iraq Survey Group thus far have uncovered no weapons of mass destruction in that country. But that finding shouldn't be allowed to obscure the fact that the team found abundant evidence of obfuscation, concealment and destruction of evidence.

The Kay report (which, it should be remembered, is an interim document) strongly suggests a scenario that transcends the question of present-day existence of the weapons. Perhaps the Saddam Hussein regime didn't have WMD by the time liberation forces fought their way into the country. But there's ample evidence that it was poised and eager to buy or make such weapons, as soon as it felt the international spotlight had turned away.

Finding WMD, if they existed, was by no means the Kay team's sole mission.

It was equally tasked with determining whether the Saddam regime was in violation of U.N. limitations imposed after the Persian Gulf War and more particularly in violation of U.N. Resolution 1441, passed last November. (That was Saddam's supposed last chance to comply with inspection demands.)

Here, the answer is an emphatic "yes."

The report unambiguously shows that Iraq was trying to extend the range of its ballistic missiles beyond limits set by the United Nations; was trying to hide evidence of past and potential weapons programs (burned files, destroyed computer disk drives, meticulously scrubbed lab equipment); had organisms hidden in a scientist's home. And more: Kay's congressional statement about the report may be found on the Internet at www.cia.gov/.