EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

18861

Participants typically spend one to two weeks each year at the George Meany Center and work independently the rest of the time, completing reading assignments, writing research papers and communicating with instructors by phone, mail and e-mail. Alex Bell, 78, a former Maryland state delegate, is the oldest graduate. An active member of the Local 5 in the District, Mr. Bell is on the executive board and financial board of his union and also serves as a business agent. “That college is the greatest place in the world,” he said.

Yesterday’s graduates, ranging in age from 29 to 78, represented 25 states and 33 unions. Most of them are the first in their families to earn a degree.

About 400 union members and leaders from throughout the country are participating in the college degree program, which has recently expanded to offer a master’s degree.

Kevin F. O’Sullivan, yesterday’s student speaker, predicts that the Meany Center will continue to edge ever closer to a suspension of its NTR status with the United States. “I strongly believe the United States should preserve the annual option of suspending NTR open as a potential instrument for diplomatic pressure on China,” he said.

His example of solidarity while supporting a Teamsters strike for three months despite the pressures of providing for his wife and seven children will be with me longer than my disdain for oatmeal that I gained during the strike.”

DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT TO PRODUCTS OF PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF
HON. MARK GREEN
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am reluctantly voting today to affirm the Administration’s renewal of Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status with the People’s Republic of China (PRC) for the coming year. At the same time, I also want to reaffirm my current opposition to the extension of permanent NTR status to China. I strongly believe the United States should preserve the annual option of suspending NTR open as a potential instrument of policy, and trust China is aware that it continues to edge ever closer to a suspension of its NTR status with the United States.

I hold grave reservations over current U.S.-China relations. Among other things, the PRC’s theft of U.S. nuclear and computer technology secrets, its continued opposition to U.S. policies abroad, and its long-term history of human rights violations all raise serious concerns. I have already taken public steps to toughen U.S. policy on the PRC by speaking out against religious persecution in China on the House floor, voting to limit satellite exports to China, voting to prohibit military-to-military exchanges with the People’s Liberation Army, and implementing the recommendations of the Cox Report.

Nevertheless, as someone who represents a state where the agricultural sector is vitally important to both our culture and our economy, I believe the expansion of markets within China for agricultural products is crucial. Our farmers face a crisis today. Commodity prices are at extraordinarily low levels as demand continues to lag behind supply worldwide. At the same time, Congress is encouraging our farmers to rely more and more on market forces, and less and less on old-style bureaucratic programs. A huge part of these market forces is dependent upon growth in our farm exports.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects that 37 percent of the growth in our nation’s farm exports could go to China by 2003. In other words, to restrict trade by suspending China’s NTR status would take a key market away from our struggling farmers at an unfortunate time, likely driving agriculture prices even lower.

In recent months, the U.S. Trade Representative has negotiated conditional agreements with China that would, among other things, dramatically reduce Chinese tariffs on U.S. cheese and ice cream exports. If NTR fails, these agreements are finished—giving Wisconsin farmers bad news at a time when bad news seems to be the order of the day. This has been a tough decision, one I have weighed for some time. There are valid and persuasive arguments on both sides of the NTR debate, and I can truly say this has been one of the most difficult issues I have faced since taking office. In the end, however, the issue’s potential impact on agriculture tipped the scales in favor of renewing China’s NTR status for another year.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF
HON. DAVID VITTER
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. Speaker, the House Committee on Appropriations, which I chair, has passed a national defense bill that supports our troops, invests in our military and promotes fiscal responsibility. The legislation is a responsible investment in our national defense and the American people. I am proud to be part of this effort and I thank my colleagues for their hard work.

The bill includes $308 billion for the Department of Defense, a $10 billion increase over fiscal year 1999. This provides funding for programs across the military, including the procurement of advanced weapons systems, improvements in base support and the defense of our country.

Additionally, the bill includes $139 billion for new initiatives to support our troops overseas. This includes $35 billion for troops in the Middle East and $16.7 billion for our troops in the Balkans. The bill also provides $68 billion for the operation and maintenance of the military, which funds everything from food to fuel to medical care for our troops.

Furthermore, the bill includes $2 billion for the modernization of our military’s information technology infrastructure, which is critical to our national security. It also includes $3.9 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs to support our veterans and their families.

The bill also includes a number of provisions to improve the quality of life for our military families, including $2 billion for military housing and $3 billion for family housing. It also includes $3.2 billion for education and training for military families, including $840 million for the military dependents school system.

The bill also includes $1.8 billion for the Department of Energy’s national nuclear security programs, which are essential to our national security.

Finally, the bill includes $6.6 billion for non-defense programs, including $5 billion for the Department of Homeland Security and $650 million for the Department of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be part of this effort to support our troops, invest in our military and promote fiscal responsibility. I thank my colleagues for their hard work and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF PAUL J. HANAK ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY, POLICE FORCE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief Paul J. Hanak on twenty-nine years of dedicated service to the citizens of Union City, New Jersey, and to congratulate him on his retirement from the force.

In August 1970, Mr. Hanak joined the Union City Police Force as a Patrol Officer where his hard work and dedication was quickly recognized and rewarded. By 1974, Mr. Hanak started his rise through the ranks when he was promoted to Sergeant. In the following years, he rose to Lieutenant in 1979, Captain in 1983, Chief in 1987, and finally Chief of the Union City Police Force in 1997.

Through the years, Chief Hanak was revered by his fellow officers as being responsive to their needs and compassionate about their daily stressors. He always set time aside to give advice and counsel. In fact, it was his mission statement which set the stage for the entire force: "Compassion, Proficiency and Respect." It is this type of work ethic, of motivation, that epitomized Chief Hanak’s career.

Always committed to his sense of civic responsibility, Chief Hanak continued to flourish and grow in the criminal justice field outside the bounds of the police force. Receiving a Law Degree from Seton Hall University, Chief Hanak passed the New Jersey State Bar in 1971. In addition, he has served as an Adjunct Professor at the Jersey City State College, teaching courses on the Criminal Justice System.

I am happy to congratulate Chief Paul Hanak for his long and distinguished career; for his dedication and service to the Union City Police Force; and for his compassion for and understanding of his fellow officers and all the people of Union City. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in wishing this exceptional man a happy and healthy retirement.