

WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL ON
HONG KONG COURT DECISION**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would ask to submit for the RECORD an important editorial that appeared in the February 10, 1999 Washington Post concerning China's negative reaction to a recent high court decision in Hong Kong. The Members of the Task Force on Hong Kong, created at your request of former Speaker Gingrich to observe and report on conditions in Hong Kong following its reversion to China, are closely monitoring these developments. Indeed, the Task Force submitted its most recent report to be printed in the February 9, 1999 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

It is important to note that the decision by the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeals rightly asserts that body's right to interpret Hong Kong law for the people of Hong Kong. However, very sensitive issues must still be resolved, including how to limit the number of individuals seeking permanent entry into Hong Kong and whether it is Hong Kong or Beijing that makes the final determination on that number. Most importantly, however, this Member hopes that the Beijing authorities and the Government of the People's Republic of China will be cognizant of the importance of preserving the principles of autonomy and the rule of law that underlie the prosperity and liberty of Hong Kong and its people.

Mr. Speaker, this Member asks to insert this excellent editorial in the RECORD.

"MAKE OR BREAK" IN HONG KONG

In the 19 months since Hong Kong reverted to China, the worst fears have not come true. Beijing has for the most part kept its hands off the former British colony as promised, allowing Hong Kong to manage its own affairs. Now the two entities may be approaching a crisis that determines whether Hong Kong can maintain substantive independence. It is "make-or-break time," the chairman of Hong Kong's bar association, Ronny Teng, said yesterday.

A decision by Hong Kong's highest court triggered the confrontation. The decision ostensibly concerned the rights of children born in China to at least one Hong Kong parent to settle in Hong Kong. The court said they could, even if born out of wedlock. But the significance of the decision lay elsewhere, in its legal reasoning. For the first time, the court claimed for itself the authority to interpret Hong Kong law for Hong Kong. On most matters, in other words, the final word should not rest with Beijing. And more than that: Hong Kong laws should be interpreted above all with a deference to Hong Kong autonomy and an understanding that rights and freedoms are "the essence of Hong Kong's civil society." The contrast to China's arbitrary one-party dictatorship could not have been sharper.

The decision has not sat well in Beijing. Four "legal experts" were the first to express dismay. Then Zhao Qizheng, a senior cabinet official, called the decision a mistake. Yesterday a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman in Beijing chimed in, saying the government was "closely following" the ruling.

The idea of "one country, two systems" was an experiment from the start. Trying to

maintain an island of free enterprise and relative democracy within a Communist state was never going to be easy. But its success is crucial, not only to residents of Hong Kong but to China's credibility in the world and to those nations—such as the United States—that pledged to stand up for Hong Kong's freedom.

Now Beijing officials are threatening that success. Not only Hong Kong's liberty but its prosperity as well is at stake, since local and foreign companies alike will be reluctant to invest in Hong Kong if its rule of law can be compromised and superseded by party apparatchiks in Beijing. The Clinton administration should make clear that it, too, is "closely following" developments.

**HONORING JOHN M. ALEXANDER,
JR., FOR PUBLIC SERVICE IN
THE AREA OF LEADERSHIP****HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call the attention of the Congress to the work of John M. Alexander, Jr. of Cardinal International Trucks, Inc. in Raleigh, North Carolina, recipient of the ATD/Heavy Duty Trucking Dealer of the Year Award honoring his outstanding leadership within the truck industry and the community. Mr. Alexander's accomplishment is particularly exceptional because his father, John Alexander, Sr., won the NADA/Time Magazine Dealer of the Year Award in 1968.

John Alexander started working sorting parts in his father's dealership when he was twelve years old. During ensuing years, he worked in various departments of the family business, climbing up the company ladder. In 1981, he became the new President and General Manager of Cardinal International Trucks. In addition to running his dealership, he also holds the position of secretary/treasurer of the UD National Dealer Council and serves as a "grassroots lobbyist" for the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association.

John Alexander, Jr. is not only active in the truck industry, but he is also very active in his community. When Mr. Alexander is not at work he can be found raising funds for schools and local charities. His efforts helped supply Lacy Elementary School with their first computer lab. He has also shown his dedication to maintaining a strong relationship between fathers and schools by co-founding a program called the "Dad's Lunch Bunch," which also allows him time to spend with his daughters, Mary Carroll who is sixteen and Catherine McKnitt who is fourteen.

I commend Mr. Alexander for his hard work in both the Raleigh community and the truck industry. I encourage my colleagues to read the following article announcing his important work and achievement:

**1998 DEALER OF THE YEAR JOHN ALEXANDER,
JR.**

Alexander's first job in his father's dealership was counting parts at age 12. From there he worked his way through virtually every department—service, parts, administration and sales—until becoming president and general manager in 1981.

He has been an active participant in numerous industry activities. He is secretary/treasurer of the UD National Dealer Council, a "grass roots lobbyist" for the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Assn. and serves on the technical training committee of North Carolina Industries for Technical Education.

In his community he's a tireless fund-raiser for charitable organizations and the local schools. Largely due to his efforts, one local elementary school was the first in the county to get a computer lab and computers in each classroom. He co-founded the "Dad's Lunch Bunch," a program aimed at getting fathers more involved in the schools, and is spearheading a drive to update computer technology in a local school.

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
ROBERT JONES****HON. GARY A. CONDIT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and exemplary career of local industrial giant from my district in California's great Central Valley.

Robert Jones recently announced his retirement after an extraordinary career of 47 years with N.I. Industries, Inc. With the exception of only 7 months, Bob's entire career, which began in 1952, has been in manufacturing ammunition metal products. The last 25 years of his career have been in a managerial capacity. Without question, Bob's career significantly contributed to our ability to win the cold war.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to take a moment to reflect on Bob's career. He has proven that a young man with a willingness to work who takes responsibility for his actions can succeed and achieve the American dream. His is a story of hard work and success.

Bob ends his career at the highest level of management in his company. During his most recent position as general manager of the Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant, since 1988 he has implemented an ambitious, yet highly successful, environmental program which was recognized last year by the Department of Defense as the Nation's leader in industrial environmental remediation.

He also implemented a highly successful Armament Retooling and Manufacturing program to transform an idle manufacturing facility into inspired reuse—providing for more than a 300-percent increase in the local work force. His efforts have resulted in annual reductions in the operating budget by more than 50 percent.

Finally, Bob was instrumental in the development of the West Coast Deep Drawn Cartridge Case Facility at Riverbank to help continue to meet our Nation's munitions needs. His management skills have proven that we are indeed losing a true industrial giant.

Mr. Speaker, Bob reflects great credit on the dedication to the many men and women at the Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant and the entire 18th Congressional District.

I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to Bob and his wife, Pat. I wish him