

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CAPITAL INVESTMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to officially introduce an important piece of legislation, The Technology Education Capital Investment Act of 1999. In the 105th Congress, The Technology Education Capital Investment Act of 1997, H.R. 2994, which I introduced, received a great deal of support from colleagues. I hope that my fellow Members will be as supportive of this important piece of legislation in the 106th Congress.

I am introducing this bill because I am more concerned than ever about the shortage of well-trained high-tech workers in our work force today. The Information Technology Association of America released a report in March that documents the shortage of information technology workers across the nation. The report concluded that there are about 190,000 unfilled information-technology (computer and software development) jobs in the United States. Similar shortfalls have emerged in other technology industries as well.

As one of the fastest growing export sectors in the economy, the continued expansion of the high-tech industries is critical to the strength of our nation's financial well being. However, if we do not address the significant shortages of qualified technology workers, including engineers, the growth of this sector will inevitably slow.

Responding to this serious problem, I have drafted legislation that would stimulate technology education and increase the output of engineers and technology workers from United States Colleges and Universities. My bill would increase the authorized spending on some existing programs, provide funding to encourage more students to seek a math and science education, and extend a tax break for companies to help pay for expenses related to the continued education of employees.

Specifically, the legislation creates a scholarship for students, entering math, science, and engineering degree programs. The bill establishes a one-time, start-up grant for university programs that offer "hands-on" internships with high-technology firms to higher-education students, giving priority to those programs that are primarily industry-financed. It also permanently extends the "Section 127" tax exemption for employer-provided educational assistance, and applies the exemption to graduate-level coursework.

Furthermore, this bill increases federal support for National Science Foundation informal science programs that encourage math and science education at the K-12 levels and it augments community-college based programs

that promote improvement in technician education, placing emphasis on programs for worker retraining programs. Finally, this legislation establishes a Congressional commission to examine the workforce shortages in technology industries.

I have listened to many people in Oregon and around the country who are adversely affected by the shortage of qualified high-tech workers. I have worked hard to develop this legislation and I believe that, if passed, it could improve our national workforce and products help as we move forward into the 21st century. I hope my colleagues will join with me today in supporting the Technology Education Capital Investment Act of 1999.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD KAZON

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my congratulations to Bernard Kazon of Portland, Maine, on the occasion of his 75th birthday on February 27th, and to share with my colleagues Mr. Kazon's recent generosity to the people of Maine.

"Bernie" Kazon and his wife Shirley have resided in Portland, Maine, for the last 33 years, where they raised their two children, Paula and Peter. Mr. Kazon is Executive Vice President of Eastland Shoe Corporation headquartered in Freeport, Maine. Eastland's shoe manufacturing facility has been an important component of the local economy, employing more than 300 people.

While Bernie and Shirley have long been involved in local community affairs, I want to take the opportunity today to share with my colleagues Bernie's long-time interest in history and politics. About ten years ago, he began to collect political biographies, election pamphlets, letters and other materials that reflect the history of political campaigns in the United States dating back to the 18th century. The collection, which began when Shirley gave him several old political biographies, has now grown to more than 700 items and offers a unique perspective on the history of American politics.

Last year, Bernie generously acted to share this wonderful collection with a new generation of students of American history. Bernie has made arrangements to donate his collection to the University of Maine, where it will be housed in a new library that is being built in Portland. The collection will provide an invaluable resource to the students at the University who, like him, share a strong intellectual curiosity in the history of our American political system. The Kazons have generously augmented the collection by endowing a fund that will assist in maintaining the collection for the

University, as well as provide for an annual prize for scholarly works based on its material.

Among the materials the Kazons have donated was a bound 1791 edition of Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense*. As Paine himself wrote, "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must . . . undergo the fatigue of supporting it." We are fortunate in Maine to have men like Bernie Kazon who recognize that they have reaped the blessings of our free society, and are generous in their efforts to support it and the generations who follow them.

Please join me in extending the best wishes of the people of Maine to this generous and thoughtful man, as his family comes together in celebration of his 75th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 17, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

A TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The NAACP, more than any other single organization, reflects the history and aspirations of African Americans in twentieth century American society. As it celebrates its 90th anniversary it is important to reflect on its critical importance, not only to African Americans but to the whole of the nation.

Since its founding in 1909 by a multiracial group of progressive thinkers, the NAACP has waged a continuous fight against racial discrimination and segregation. Its goals have and continue to be to help create a truly democratic society by integrating African Americans into the mainstream of American life, by eliminating racial injustice and intolerance, and by making equality of opportunity for African Americans a reality.

From the ballot box to the classroom, the dedicated workers, organizers, and leaders who forged this vital organization and maintain its status as a champion of social justice, fought long and hard to ensure that the voices of African Americans would be heard. The legacy of pioneers such as W.E.B. DuBois,

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