

“AN S.O.S. FROM TAIWAN”

**HON. TOM DELAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 1999*

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a very important piece of legislation together with Representatives ANDREWS, GILMAN, DEUTSCH, ROHRBACHER, WU, COX, JEFFERSON, DIAZ-BALART, LOWEY, CHRIS SMITH, HUNTER, BURTON, COOK, and DAVE WELDON.

This bill gives Taiwan a fighting chance to defend itself from a potential Chinese invasion. The Taiwan Security Enhancement Act we are introducing today also stabilizes Taiwan by strengthening U.S.-Taiwanese cooperation.

The Far East is no less pressing than the Middle East or Eastern Europe, where we are heavily involved now. Stability of the entire Asian region is predicated on a balance of power that keeps China in check.

The May 24, 1999, issue of Defense News reports that China could be planning a new round of military exercises and missile tests across the Taiwan Strait in response to American bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade.

Typically, no U.S. action has been undertaken in the past to discourage these movements because the Administration's Taiwan policy has been missing-in-action for years. Habitual appeasement of China has grown into an addiction that now seriously threatens global security.

Despite President Clinton's claim a few weeks ago that the People's Republic is not a threat, Chinese intentions to the contrary are clear. They have been saber rattling for years.

A clear message was sent when China fired missile tests off the coast of Taiwan in 1995 and 1996. Since then, a massive Chinese missile and military logistical buildup across the Taiwan Straits has served as a constant threat. Waiting for the next shoe to fall before acting would be a costly mistake.

The image of Red Army tanks rolling into Hong Kong should not be forgotten. Neither should the threat by a high-ranking Chinese general to nuke Los Angeles if we interfere in Taiwan.

Adding legitimacy to these loose lips, the Chinese military held practice missile attack exercises against mock U.S. troops just six months ago.

Ever since the annexation of Hong Kong and Macau, consuming Taiwan has become a pressing goal for the expansionist communist government in Beijing. An ounce of prevention now will save a ton of band-aid cures after-the-fact. There will be no way to oust the Chinese should they ever take Taiwan.

The Taiwanese are not asking us to send troops.

They are not asking us to bomb other sovereign nations.

They simply need strategic military advice, technological expertise and access to purchase appropriate American defense systems so they can defend themselves. United States policy must bolster the independence of this little nation.

A few reasonable measures of cooperation would go a long way for the island's defense.

For example, the United States should sell diesel submarines to Taiwan, which is outnumbered in the seas 65 to 4 by the mainland's forces.

Likewise, there is a dire need for air defense that could be rectified by the sale of American-made AIM 120 missiles, long-range radar and satellite warning data.

Enhanced military exchanges would forge a cohesive defense plan between our nations.

But, acquiescing to pressure from Beijing, the Clinton Administration refuses to sell these systems and take these steps despite a massive Chinese military buildup.

The Defense Intelligence Agency reports that the People's Liberation Army is currently deploying approximately 650 new short-range missile systems directly across the straits. There are 150 such missiles aimed at Taiwan already in addition to fevered construction of new fighter planes, warships and subs.

Under the Taiwan Relations Act, the United States committed to providing a defense capability to Taiwan based upon their defense needs. The need is pressing—the time to act on this promise is now.

Appealing to the chivalrous instincts of Americans, the Clinton Administration plants troops all over the world under the guise of defending the proverbial little guy from aggressive bully nations.

Supposedly, that is what we are doing in the Balkans—but bombs flying on Belgrade do not erase American responsibility elsewhere. The Taiwan Security Enhancement Act honors our commitment to stability in Taiwan by increasing cooperation between U.S. and Taiwanese militaries, and increasing sales of defensive technology and weaponry while prohibiting reductions in arms sales.

Mr. Speaker, American prestige is not only on the line in the Balkans. We must honor our commitments in the Taiwan Strait. I urge all of my colleagues to support the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act.

THANKS TO WILLIAM “BILL”  
KENNOY

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 1999*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today, the Tennessee Valley Authority is losing a great leader. After a successful eight-year term on the TVA Board, William “Bill” Kennoy is stepping down.

Bill Kennoy was appointed to the TVA Board by President George Bush and was sworn in on May 31, 1991. Over the past eight years, William Kennoy has contributed a great deal to the citizens of the Tennessee Valley. His competent leadership helped to secure the refinancing of TVA's \$3.2 billion debt. Additionally, he was instrumental in preserving the Land Between the Lakes Recreational Area.

All who know Bill Kennoy agree that he is a compassionate leader who has served the public well over his term as a TVA Director. He is the longest-serving member of TVA's current Board of Directors. Bill Kennoy even led TVA during transition period between the previous and current Boards.

Before coming to TVA, Bill Kennoy led Kennoy Engineers, Inc., an environmental firm in Lexington, Kentucky. He brought over 25 years of experience to the Board as a professional engineer and business executive. In fact, he will now return to private life and again be involved in the engineering business.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Kennoy has contributed a great deal to this Nation, but I would like to highlight one of his accomplishments that I am especially proud of. William Kennoy founded the “Weekend Academy” for inner-city youth in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Memphis, and Nashville, Tennessee. The Weekend Academy is a mentoring program that encourages youth to pursue careers in business districts near their homes. I believe this says a tremendous amount about Bill Kennoy.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I join with all Americans in thanking William Kennoy for his service to our Nation over the past eight years. I have included a copy of an editorial written in the Knoxville News-Sentinel honoring William Kennoy that I would like to call to the attention of my fellow members and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Knoxville News-Sentinel, May 18, 1999]

SERVICE RENDERED

The Tennessee Valley Authority will say good-bye to one of its three board members today, and all in the valley should pause for a salute to William Kennoy.

A Republican nominated to the TVA board by President Bush, Kennoy ends his eight-year term and will return to private life and his chosen profession of engineering.

His departure will leave the board with only one member until two replacements are appointed. That was a situation in which Kennoy found himself in 1993, the year current chairman Craven Crowell and recently departed member Johnny Hayes were appointed to the board.

Kennoy's relationship with the federal utility he later would help manage began long before his appointment to the board. Kennoy's father was a TVA engineer working on the Guntersville Dam in north Alabama. Kennoy said his appointment was “an opportunity to pay TVA back for what it has done for me.”

It speaks well for Kennoy that he regards as his signal accomplishment at TVA the launching of “Weekend Academy,” a mentoring program for children living near downtown in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville and Memphis. The program attempts to help inner-city children achieve success and encourage them to pursue careers in business districts near their homes.

Kennoy also cites among his accomplishments the refinancing of TVA's \$3.2 billion debt, improving agency contracts and preserving the Land Between the Lakes Recreation Area.

Kennoy's deliberate, calm style that led him to work out disagreements behind the scenes instead of allowing meetings to degenerate into unnecessary bickering might well be another accomplishment. This trait drew praise from a former board member, U.S. Rep. Bob Clement, a Nashville Democrat: “You don't see him raise his voice. Bill is very smart, deliberate and compassionate.”

Clearly TVA is better for Kennoy's leadership. As Kennoy steps down today, we thank him for his service on TVA's board and wish him the best for the future.