

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia, Kosovo, and Montenegro.

Mr. Speaker, this is a timely piece of legislation, especially when considering the changes occurring right now in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). As you know, following the recent elections and yesterday's uprising in Belgrade, Vojislav Kostunica is the president-elect of Yugoslavia and international war criminal Slobodan Milosevic has apparently been ousted. This is terrific news for the region, and the world.

The SETPA would extend duty-free treatment to products that are currently not eligible under the GSP program, including certain iron and steel products, certain agricultural products, footwear, glassware, ceramics, automobiles, bicycles, clocks and watches. The only product that would not receive additional coverage is textiles, in order to protect that fragile industry here in the United States.

It is important to note that the bill contains common sense protections for U.S. industries such as a provision that prohibits the President from designating any country a beneficiary country of the bill if that country has seized ownership of any property owned by a U.S. citizen or corporation, or has taken steps to do so.

That important provision can be waived if the President reports to Congress that compensation has been or is being made to the owner, or good-faith negotiations to provide such compensation are in progress. If the country is otherwise taking steps to discharge its obligations under international law; or a dispute over compensation for such a seizure has been submitted to arbitration under the Convention for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, the provision may also be waived.

Other grounds which could disqualify a country for designation as a beneficiary include a failure to recognize or enforce arbitral awards in favor of U.S. owners, the preferential treatment to the products of a developed country other than the United States, with significant adverse effect on U.S. commerce, the broadcast of copyrighted material belonging to U.S. copyright owners by a government-owned entity without the owners' express consent, or the absence of a treaty or other agreement regarding the extradition of U.S. citizens. Failure to take steps to afford workers in the country certain internationally recognized worker rights will also disqualify a country, as does membership in the European Union.

The President is, of course, able to waive these prohibitions should he report reasons for doing so to Congress, except in the case of membership in the European Union.

Importantly, the bill sets specific conditions for the beneficiary designation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). With the sweeping changes now occurring in that nation, we want to be certain that the Administration is free to act accordingly should the FRY take the steps necessary for beneficiary designation.

A number of reports are necessary, and thus would be required after passage of the SETPA, to be sure that the bill does no harm to the United States. Section 8 of the bill requires the U.S. International Trade Commission to report to Congress and the President

on the economic impact of this Act on U.S. industries and consumers, and Section 9 directs the Secretary of Labor to review, analyze, and report to Congress on this Act's impact on U.S. labor, as well as developments in labor conditions in the beneficiary countries.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that this bill is good for the people of Southeast Europe, and good for the people of the United States. It will promote economic and political security in this important area of the world following the recent devastating conflicts of the area, and will enhance the economic and national security interests of the United States in Europe. I know that it's late in the session—really too late to consider the bill this year—but I would hope that we can take this bill up at the earliest possible opportunity in the 107th Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO RENAME THE MCKINNEY ACT,
THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOME-
LESS ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I have the honor to introduce legislation that would rename the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, in tribute to Congressman BRUCE VENTO's tireless commitment to the homeless. I hope we can speed the enactment of this bill into law prior to the adjournment of the 106th Congress.

BRUCE F. VENTO has been a passionate champion and effective advocate on behalf of homeless people throughout his career. Traces of his tireless commitment can be found on any forgotten street in urban America: in a shelter where families can go for a hot meal, or a vacant building that has been converted into a place where the homeless can find a bed, and a roof over their heads. BRUCE wrote many of the laws that bring compassion and comfort to our poor and destitute every single day. It is most appropriate that we honor what he has done on behalf of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

In 1982, BRUCE VENTO introduced legislation to create the Emergency Shelter Grant Program. He was the first Member to bring the plight of our nation's homeless people to the attention of the Banking Committee in Congress. An amendment he attached to a housing bill, to provide matching grants to repair vacant buildings to be used as temporary shelters, became the first national legislation to provide federal assistance for emergency homeless shelters.

Throughout the 80's, BRUCE worked time and time again with other Banking Committee Members to build the coalitions and the interest necessary to enact comprehensive legislation to help the nation's homeless. In early 1987, he worked to pass an aid package that included \$100 million for a program of emergency shelter grants to help charitable organizations and state and local governments renovate buildings for the homeless, and succeeded in enacting the legislation into law.

In that same year, BRUCE VENTO was an original author of a larger, more comprehensive measure that became known as the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. This legislation was the first and only coordinated federal initiative directed toward the problem of homelessness, and the only social program that was passed during the Reagan era. The McKinney Act seeks to meet some of the most immediate needs of the homeless: shelter, food, health care, education, job training services, and transitional housing through programs at HUD, FEMA, HHS, the Education and Labor Departments.

It is particularly fitting to honor BRUCE VENTO by joining his name with that of his friend and colleague, Stewart B. McKinney, on legislation they worked together on for so many years. In 1987, after Representative McKinney's passing, BRUCE took a leading role in seeking to name the program that would serve homeless persons the McKinney Act because of Stewart McKinney's "close association and concern and compassion that he espoused and reflected throughout his service" in Congress. These words which BRUCE used to describe Stewart McKinney are equally applicable to him. In fact, our former Banking Committee chairman, Henry B. Gonzalez, used to call BRUCE the "Father of the Homeless."

BRUCE VENTO didn't stop with the enactment of the landmark homeless assistance act. Throughout the remainder of the 1980's and 1990's, he introduced the McKinney reauthorization acts of 1988, 1990, 1992, and 1994, pushing the provisions through our Banking Committee and the other Committees with jurisdiction, while continually seeking additional appropriations and fighting attempts to lessen resources for homeless persons.

BRUCE was also the chief sponsor of the House version of the Rural Homelessness Assistance Act. In 1992 he was the first Member of Congress to join with over 50 organizations across the country to sign onto the report, "Beyond McKinney; Policies to End Homelessness." In February of 1993, the Speaker of the House announced the formation of the Speaker's Task Force on Homelessness organized at the request of President Bill Clinton. BRUCE VENTO was appointed as Chairman of the Task Force, which issued a comprehensive, nationally recognized report to the Speaker one year later.

During the past few years, BRUCE has continued to work hard on the McKinney Act, even as the majority party on the Banking Committee has taken the lead in introducing reauthorizing legislation. BRUCE has worked to strengthen, maintain and renew the funding and the requirement for permanent housing funds in McKinney Act programs. He also authorized language that improved prevention planning and activities so that people do not become homeless due to lack of foresight or planning. The Vento prevention language added discharge planning requirements for persons who are discharged from publicly funded institutions—that is, mental health facilities, youth facilities and correctional facilities—so that people are not merely discharged to the streets.

BRUCE also introduced the Stand Down Authorization Act. Created by several Vietnam

veterans, Stand Downs are designed to give homeless veterans a brief respite from life on the streets. The Stand Down bill would, in conjunction with the grassroots community, expand the VA's role in providing outreach assistance to homeless veterans. In this Congress, H.R. 566 gained the strong support of over 100 bi-partisan cosponsors, the VA, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Disabled American Vets (DAV).

As he worked with all of us in this Congress, BRUCE consistently strove to improve, and even save, the lives of homeless men, women and children around this nation. In the tradition of Minnesota's great leader, Hubert H. Humphrey, BRUCE has always believed that we are elected to formulate and enact policies which improve the quality of life of our citizens. I have had the pleasure of working with him for almost a quarter of a century, and have been continually inspired by the strength of this commitment and the energy with which he has pursued it.

I urge you to join me in cosponsoring, and advocating for speedy passage of, the McKinney-Vento Act bill so that we can duly honor a colleague who has worked long and hard for the most vulnerable Americans, people who are without a home to call their own.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion Republic of China's forthcoming National Day, I wish to offer President Chen Shui-bian and his people my best wishes.

Taiwan is a proud nation that has made extraordinary progress in many areas, economic and political. Economically, the people in Taiwan enjoy one of the highest standards in the world; politically, it has a vibrant democracy with free elections, respect for human rights and a free press. Best wishes to President Chen Shui-bian and his people. May they continue to enjoy economic and political successes.

CHELTHENHAM TOWNSHIP

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cheltenham Township in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania in welcoming dignitaries from their sister city of Cheltenham, England. The dignitaries have come to Cheltenham to celebrate 100 years as an Official First Class Township.

The visit is another exchange in the long-standing relationship between the two communities, which actually began with the founding of Cheltenham, Pennsylvania. Two of our founding fathers brought the name with them from their former home near Cheltenham,

England, when they settled in America in the 1600s. The visiting dignitaries include Mayor Daphne Pennell and her daughter, Lorraine, Councillors Brian and Alexis Cassin, Councillor William Todman, and Twinning Officer Annette Wight.

For many years, representatives from both communities have visited their counterparts on official or pleasure trips, forging a bond of friendship and exchanging insights on municipal operations. This year's visit coincides with Cheltenham Township's Community Harvest Festival which attracts families from around the region with activities like haunted hayrides, a craft sale, live music, kids' games and a grand fireworks finale. The dignitaries will also have the opportunity to meet with township and school board officials, tour historic Philadelphia and be honored at a dinner with Centennial Celebration Committee members and other local, county and state officials.

I am pleased to recognize our visitors from Cheltenham, England to Montgomery County and it is my hope that their visit is an educational and rewarding experience in the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES LEWIS CRAIG III

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to commend and congratulate a fellow educator and former colleague at the University of Guam on the occasion of his retirement. Dr. James Lewis Craig III has had a distinguished career which has taken him to many different parts of this country and the world in a span of almost five decades.

A seasoned veteran in the field of education, Jim Craig worked on a wide range of areas. Having great interest in the field of education early in life, he took undergraduate courses at Oregon State College from 1954 until 1956. He later joined the military and served until 1960. True to his calling, he spent two and a half years of his enlistment working as a military instructor. Upon his discharge from the military, he opted to spend part of 1960 and 1961 in Europe. While in Munich, Germany, he took courses with the University of Maryland extension program. He later resumed his undergraduate work at Oklahoma State University where he was awarded a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1963.

Upon graduation, Jim worked as an elementary school teacher for the Albuquerque Public School System in Albuquerque, New Mexico and he taught grade school children from 1963 until 1971. During this period, he was also working towards a master's degree. In 1967, the University of New Mexico awarded him an M.A. in Educational Administration.

Between 1971 and 1974, Jim worked as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of New Mexico. He additionally did consulting work for several state agencies and was awarded grants to develop and implement

Early Childhood Education programs. Around the same time, he earned a Ph.D. in Educational Foundations (Educational Sociology) from the University of New Mexico. Jim later served as an Assistant Professor of Education at the Southwest Missouri State University. Between 1974 and 1975, he taught graduate and undergraduate courses in Education and directed institutional research towards accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). In 1975, Jim moved to Australia where he worked for the Churchlands College of Advanced Education in Perth Australia. He served as vice-chair of faculty at the Australian College of Education and later was elected divisional Councillor of the Western Australia Teacher Education Staff Association. He was also a member of the adjunct faculty of Murdoch University in Perth, where he taught a graduate course in Educational Research.

Jim's ties with the island of Guam go back to 1977 when he started work with the University of Guam. He initially served as an associate professor and Chair of the University's Department of Early Childhood Education. In 1983, Jim was awarded tenure and promoted to Professor of Education. After serving as Vice President for Administrative Affairs, Jim returned to the College of Education faculty in 1989. Upon his return, he authored and received funding for a number of grants and was elected various posts such as Vice-Chair of the University Faculty Council, Chair of the College of Education Academic Affairs Committee, Chair of the College of Education Graduate Program, and served as a member of the University Program Review, Promotion, and Tenure Committees.

In 1992, Jim was appointed Dean of the College of Education, the position that he held until his retirement. As the dean, he chaired several departments within the university namely, the Guam Teacher Corps Council, the University Administrative Council, the University Administrative Salary Task Force, the University Employee Development Council, the Institutional Audit Committee, and the University General Education Task Force. Jim is also credited for the concept of establishing University of Guam Branch Campuses in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Jim has made great contributions to the field of Education especially through his work on early childhood education. Most noteworthy is his great contributions in the development and expansion of the College of Education and the University of Guam. He is a role model, he is a leader, and a distinguished colleague. He has been a great personal friend who rendered great assistance to me in my own professional development. On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate Jim Craig. I hope that he enjoys his well-earned retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Si Yu'os Ma'ase' Jim.