

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT (NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT) TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4444.

Giving China permanent normal trade relations with the United States gives up a valuable tool for protecting the human rights in China. It assures China that it can take American jobs through low wages and forced labor.

In the auto industry GM has admitted that GM plans to increase its use of China-made parts in its Shanghai facility from 40 to 80 percent. Those parts will replace parts made in America. The manufacturing jobs will move from the U.S. to China.

REI announced this month that it is closing its Seattle clothing plant to open a plant in Mexico. REI credits NAFTA for the move. As a result of NAFTA 325 jobs have now moved to Mexico for a simple reason: The Mexican workers will be paid \$50 per week. This is a foretaste of what is to come with PNTR especially with Chinese workers earning 25 cents per hour.

Chinese workers have little in the way of rights. Chinese workers are prohibited from freely organizing labor unions and any signs of discontent are punished.

A demonstration last week in Liaoning by 5,000 workers and retirees over unpaid wages and pensions was met by 1,000 police who forcefully broke up the demonstration, beat 50 people and arrested the organizers. That is the usual Chinese government reaction to workers seeking justice.

The Chinese government operates 1,100 factories, farms and other facilities which use forced labor. U.S. law prohibits the importation of goods made by forced labor, but the goods are widely believed to enter this country. Harry Wu, who spent 19 years in the forced labor system, has brought 28 complaints about these imports. The State Department's Report on Human Rights for 1999 states that whenever the U.S. Customs has identified illegal goods, China simply ignores or denies the allegation. We cannot expect any U.S. firm to be able to compete against manufacturers using forced labor.

Increased trade has not helped improve human rights in China. According to the State Department's Human Rights Report for 1999 released in February, 2000, "A crackdown against a fledgling opposition party, which began in the fall of 1998, broadened and intensified"; "tens of thousands of members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement were detained. . . . several leaders . . . were sentenced to long prison terms . . . and hundreds of others were sentenced to reeducation through labor"; "child labor persists"; and "poor enforcement of occupational health and safety regulations continues to put workers' lives at risk." A single sentence in the Report sums up China's human rights record:

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

"Abuses included instances of extrajudicial killings, torture and mistreatment of prisoners, forced confessions, arbitrary arrest and detention, lengthy incommunicado detention, and denial of due process."

H.R. 4444 is indeed a trade bill. It trades American jobs and Chinese human rights for a chance for profits from China. That is a trade I am not willing to make, and urge Members to vote against the bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JEFFREY A. KELLOGG, OUTGOING LONG BEACH CITY COUNCILMAN AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ALAMEDA CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to pay tribute to the Honorable Jeffrey A. Kellogg, for his 12 years of distinguished public service as a Long Beach City Councilman and Chairman of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority.

On July 18th, Councilman Kellogg will leave public office and his position with the Alameda Corridor. He will be truly missed by his colleagues and the Long Beach community for his steady leadership, vision and calming influence.

Councilman Kellogg has represented the City of Long Beach on the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority Governing Board since it was formed in 1989 to oversee design and construction of the Alameda Corridor rail cargo expressway. He has served as Chairman three times, including during the project's critical early stages. Councilman Kellogg is the only member of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Governing Board to have served since its inception.

In 1995, Congress recognized the Alameda Corridor as "a project of national significance." The Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles comprise our nation's busiest port complex, and cargo volumes are projected to triple by 2020. The Alameda Corridor will link the ports to the transcontinental rail yards near downtown Los Angeles, creating a more efficient way to distribute cargo and allowing our ports—and our nation—to maintain their competitive edge.

It is a testament to Councilman Kellogg's exemplary service that the Alameda Corridor is now in full-scale construction, on budget, and on schedule for completion in 2002.

Councilman Kellogg has conducted himself with great honor and integrity during his years as a public servant, and should be commended for his outstanding service.

May 25, 2000

COMMENDING ISRAEL'S REDEPLOYMENT FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 331, a bill that commends Israel's redeployment from southern Lebanon. I commend and thank my colleagues, the sponsors of this resolution for giving all members an opportunity to formally support Israel's recent withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

We have all witnessed some tough times in Israel's journey toward the peace it desires. This unilateral and courageous step shows the world and especially those in the Middle East that Israel is committed to moving forward for peace.

This decisive action on Israel's part is one of many risks Israel's leaders have proven willing to take in order to make peace a reality. I commend Prime Minister Barak, the members of the Knesset, and the people of Israel for their courage and resolve. I also want to acknowledge the important work of so many in our country who have devoted time and energy to ensuring a bright future for Israel.

I am committed to supporting Israel and helping to guarantee her security so that the dream of peace in the Middle East may one day be a reality.

Along with my colleagues, I hope to see the United Nations bring about a more secure environment in southern Lebanon, including taking action to disband any terrorist organizations in that area.

I am so proud of Israel for taking this meaningful step toward peace. While Israel has shown great restraint in the face of violence, I want to reassert my belief that Israel has every right to protect itself against terrorists or attacks by other nations. Israel is the United States' closest ally in the Middle East and other nations would not be wise to test the strength of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Again, I applaud Israel for this bold move, and I urge all parties in the Middle East to re-enter serious negotiations for peace in the Middle East. I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of H. Con. Res. 331, so that this body can be on record in our support for Israel's efforts to bring peace to that nation and the region.

FIRE TRIBUTE TO BROWARD COUNTY'S RESCUE SERVICE

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Broward County's Fire Rescue service. Recently, they were named the number one emergency and medical service in the state of Florida.

Broward Fire Rescue has had many outstanding accomplishments this year. They received a grant of \$100,000 to put automatic