EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN AUGURAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the May 20, 2000, Inaugural Address of President Chen Shui-Bian of Taiwan. President Chen has laid out a solid vision of Taiwan’s future and his speech deserves wide dissemination.

The United States is pleased with the flourishing on Taiwan of a fully-fledged, multi-party democracy which respects human rights and civil liberties. It is hoped that Taiwan will serve as an example to the PRC and others in the region in this regard and will encourage progress in the furthering of democratic principles and practices, respect for human rights, and the enhancement of the rule of law.

The Congress looks forward to a broadening and deepening of friendship and cooperation with Taiwan in the years ahead for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the United States and Taiwan.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to wish President Chen, Vice President Lu, and the people of Taiwan the very best in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I submit President Chen’s Inaugural Address for insertion in the RECORD.

IN AUGURAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN, MAY 20, 2000

Leaders of our friendly nations, honored guests and compatriots from Taiwan and abroad. This is a glorious moment; it is also a moment of dignity and hope.

I thank our honored guests, who have come here from afar, as well as those friends from around the world who love democracy and care about Taiwan, for sharing this glorious moment with us.

We are here today, not just to celebrate an inauguration, but to witness the hard-won democratic values, and to witness the beginning of a new era.

On the eve of the 21st Century, the people of Taiwan have completed a historic alteration of political parties in the power of the people.

This is not only the first of its kind in the history of the Republic of China, but also an epochal landmark for Chinese communities around the world. Taiwan has not only set a new model for the Asian experience of democracy, but has also added a moving example to the third wave of democracy the world over.

The election for the 10th-term President of the Republic of China has clearly shown the world that the fruits of freedom and democracy are irresistible, that three million people with an unwavering will have allied enmity with love, overcome intimidation with hope, and countered fear with faith.

With our sacred votes, we have proven to the world that freedom and democracy are indispensable, which our epoch, and that peace is humanity’s highest goal.

The outcome of Taiwan’s Year 2000 presidential election is not the victory of an individual or a political party. It is a victory of the people, a victory for democracy, because we have, while at the focus of global attention, transcended fear, threats and oppression and bravely risen to our feet together.

Taiwan stands up, demonstrating a firmness of purpose and faith in democracy. Taiwan stands up, representing the self-confidence of the majority of the country. Taiwan stands up, symbolizing the quest for hope and the realization of dreams.

Dear compatriots, let’s always remember this moment. I will always hold in value and feel gratitude for it, because the fruits of democracy did not come out of the blue. It was realized by going through many perils and dangers, and experiencing countless hardships. If not for the fearless sacrifice of our democratic forebears, if not for the unswerving faith of the tens of millions of Taiwan people in freedom and democracy, we could not possibly be standing on our beloved land today and celebrating a glorious occasion that belongs to all the people.

Today, it is as if we are standing before a fresh new gate in history. In the process of democratization, the Taiwanese people have created a brand-new key to our shared destiny. The new century’s gates of hope are soon to open. We are humble but not submissive. We are full of self-confidence but not the slightest bit of self-satisfaction.

Since the election, we have met with the sea during the election period. It is a new era with a new beginning. The government will not do what the local governments were used to doing. The government will not break up the Mandate on the Basis of the Mandate of All Taiwan People. The government will not allow the government to exist for the benefit of the government but for the benefit of all Taiwan people. The government will not implement policies that divide the Taiwan people but policies that unite the Taiwan people.

In the area of government reforms, we need to establish a government that is clean, efficient, foresighted, dynamic, highly flexible and responsive, in order to ensure Taiwan’s competitiveness in the face of increasingly fierce global competition. The age of “large and inefficient” governments has now passed, replaced by “small and effective” governments, which have established partnership relations with the people. We should accelerate the streamlining of government functions and organization and actively expand the role of public participation.

This will not only allow the public to fully utilize their energy and strength to significantly reduce the government’s burden. Similar partnership relations should also be set up between the central and local governments. We should break the authoritarian attitudes that have been fostered by the system of centralized, money-controlled power. We want to realize the spirit of local autonomy, where the local and central governments share the same responsibilities, where “the central government will not do what the local governments
can do." Whether in the east, west, north or south, the off-shore islands, all will get balanced, pluralistic development, and the gap between urban and rural areas will decrease.

Of course, we should understand that the government is only a facilitator, not the final answer for all problems. The driving force for economic development and societal progress comes from the people. Over the past half-century, the Taiwanese people have toiled hard to create an economic miracle that has won global applause, and to lay the foundation for the survival and development of Taiwan. Today, facing the impact of the fast-changing information technologies and trade liberalization, Taiwan’s industrial development must move toward a knowledge-based economy. High-tech industries need to be constantly innovative, while traditional industries need to undergo transformation and upgrading.

The future government should not necessarily play the role of a “leader” or “manager.” On the contrary, it should be the “supporter and provider” that is expected by private enterprises. The responsibility of a modern government is to raise administrative efficiency, improve the domestic investment environment, and maintain financial order and stock market stability, so as to allow economic development to move toward full liberalization and international competitiveness. For observing these principles, the vitality of the public will naturally bloom and create a new phase in Taiwan’s economic miracle.

Apart from consolidating our democratic achievements, promoting government reforms, and raising economic competitiveness, the new government’s foremost objective should be to publicize its policies and implement reforms, so that the people on this land can live in more dignity, more self-confidence and better quality.

Let our society be not only safe, harmonious and prosperous, but also meet the principles of fairness and justice. As we cultivate the ever-growing abilities of our citizens, we will let the people live and work in peace and without fear. Finding a balance ecological preservation and economic development, we will develop Taiwan into a sustainable green island. The integrity of the judiciary is a staunch line of defense for democratic politics and social justice. An impartial, independent judicial system is a safeguard for social order and a defender of the people’s rights. At present, we still have a long way to go in our judicial reforms. Our compatriots should continue to give the judiciary the understanding and the understanding and the responsibility they deserve. At the same time, we should also restrain our administrative authority and give the judiciary room to operate independently and transparently.

Human resources are Taiwan’s most important resources. Talent is the foundation of the country’s competitiveness, while education and human rights are the foundation on which the people will stand. We will seek a consensus among the ruling and opposition parties, academia and the public to carry on with educational reforms and build a healthy, proactive, lively and innovative society, which will allow Taiwan to cultivate first-class, outstanding talents amid the fierce international competition. We will let Taiwan move gradually toward a “learning organization” and a “knowledge-based society.” We will also encourage people to take up lifelong learning to fully develop their potential and creativity.

Grassroots community organizations have now been developing around the country, working to explore and preserve the history, culture, geography and ecology of their localities. These are all part of Taiwan culture, whether they are local cultures, mass cultures or high cultures. Due to special historical and geographical factors, Taiwan possesses a wealth of diversified cultural elements. But cultural development is not something that can be achieved overnight. Rather, it has to be accumulated bit by bit. We must open our hearts with tolerance and respect, so that our diverse ethnic groups can learn from and communicate with each other, so that Taiwan’s local cultures connect with the cultures of Chinese-speaking communities and other world cultures, and create a new version of “a cultural Taiwan in a modern century.”

The September 21 earthquake that occurred last year brought to our land and our compatriots an unprecedented catastrophe, the pain of which is yet to heal. The new government will brook no delay in the reconstruction of disaster areas, including industries, work to help the construction of schools, and ensure that care is extended to every victim and rebuild every destroyed place. Here, we would also like to express our highest respect and sympathy for all individuals and non-governmental organizations that have selflessly contributed to the rescue and reconstruction work after disaster. Amid the fierce power of Nature, we all know that beautiful compassion, strongest faith and greatest trust. Our compatriots have been injured and wounded during the September 21 earthquake. “Dear compatriots, 400 years ago, Taiwan was called “Formosa”—the beautiful island—for its lustrous landscape. Today, Taiwan is manifesting the elegance of a democratic island, once again attracting global attention, as the people on this land create a new page in our history.

We believe that the Republic of China, with its democratic achievements and technological and economic progress, can certainly continue to play an indispensable role in the international community. In addition to strengthening the existing relations with friendly nations, we want to actively participate in all types of international non-governmental organizations. Through humanitarian care, economic cooperation, cultural cooperation and other channels, we will actively participate in international affairs, expand Taiwan’s room for survival in the international arena, and contribute to the welfare of the whole mankind. Besides, we are also willing to promise a more active contribution in safeguarding international human rights. The Republic of China is willing to establish, outside the UN, an international human rights system. We will abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention for Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and Program of Action. We will bring the Republic of China back into the international human rights system.

The new government will request the Legislative Yuan to pass and ratify the International Bill of Rights as a domestic law of Taiwan Bill of Rights.” We hope to set up an independent national human rights commission in Taiwan, thereby realizing an action long advocated by the United Nations. We will invite two or more international organizations, the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International, to assist us in our measures to protect human rights and make the Republic of China into a new indicator for human rights in the 21st Century.

We firmly believe that in any time or any corner of the world, the meaning and values of freedom, democracy and human rights cannot be ignored or changed. The history of the 20th century left us with a major lesson—war is a failure of humanity. Waged for whatever purpose or whatever imperious reasons, war is the greatest harm to mankind and human rights. Over the past one hundred plus years, China has suffered imperialist aggression and colonialist regimes, and developed two identical cultures. Taiwan’s destiny has been even more arduous, tormented by brute force and the rule of colonialist regimes. These similar historical experiences should bring about understanding between the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, setting a solid foundation for pursuing freedom, democracy and human rights together. However, due to long periods of separation, the two sides have developed vastly different political systems and lifestyles, obstructing empathy and understanding between the people on both sides, and even creating a wall of divisiveness and confrontation.

Today, as the Cold War has ended, it is time for the two sides to cast aside the hostilities left from the old era. We do not need to wait for further because now is a new opportunity for the two sides to create an era of reconciliation together.

The people across the Taiwan Strait share the same ancestral, cultural, and historical backgrounds. While upholding the principles of democracy and parity, building upon the existing foundation, and constructing conditions for cooperation through goodwill, we believe that the leap in the presence of enough wisdom and creativity to jointly deal with the question of a future “one China.” I fully understand that as the popularly elected 10th-term President of the Republic of China, I must abide by the Constitution, maintain the sovereignty, dignity and security of our country, and ensure the well-being of all citizens. Therefore, as long as the CCP regime has no intention to use military force against Taiwan, I pledge that during my term of office, I will not declare Independence. I will not change the national title, I will not push forth the inclusion of the so-called “state-to-state” description in the Constitution, and I will not promote a referendum to change the status quo in regards to the question of independence or unification. Furthermore, the National Unification Council or the Guidelines for National Unification will not be an issue.

History has illustrated that war will only create hatred and enmity, with absolutely no benefit to the development of mutual relations. Chinese people emphasize the difference between state and society, believing in the philosophy that a government which employs benevolence “will
please those near and appeal to those from afar;” and when those afar will not submit, then one must practice kindness and virtue to attract them.” Such Chinese wisdom will remain universal words of value.

Under the leadership of Mr. Deng Xiaoping and Mr. Jiang Zemin, the mainland has created a miracle of economic openness. In Taiwan, over a half century, not only have we created a miracle economy, we have also created the political marvel of democracy. On such a basis, as long as the governments and people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait can interact and cooperate on the principle of “goodwill reconciliation, active cooperation, and permanent peace,” while at the same time respecting the free choice of the people and excluding unnecessary obstacles, both sides of the Strait can make great contributions to the prosperity and stability of the Asia Pacific Region. Both sides will also create a glorious civilization for the world’s humanity.

Dear compatriots, we hope so much to share the history scene of this moment with all Chinese-speaking people around the world. The wide Ketagelan Boulevard before us was bustling with security guards only a few years ago. The building behind me used to be the Governor General’s Mansion during the colonial era. Today, we gather here to extol the glory and joy of democracy with songs of the earth and the voice of the people. With a little reflection, our compatriots should be able to appreciate the deep and far-reaching meaning of this moment:

Authoritarianism and force can only bring surrender for one time, while democracy and freedom are values that will endure forever. Only by adhering to the will of the people can we plan the future of history and build enduring architecture.

Today, as a son of a tenant farmer and with a poor family background, I have struggled and grown on this land and, after experiencing defeat and tribulation, I have finally won the trust of the people to take up the great responsibility leading the country. My individual achievements are minor, but the message is valuable because each citizen of Formosa is a “child of Taiwan” just like me. In which more difficult environment Taiwan will be like a selfless, loving mother, who never stops giving us opportunities and who helps us achieve our beautiful dreams.

The split of Taiwan’s society is due to us that even though Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu are tiny islands on the rim of the Pacific, the map of our dreams knows no limits. It extends all the way to the end of the horizon, as long as our 23 million compatriots fear no hardship and move forward hand in hand.

Dear compatriots, this magnificent moment belongs to all the people. All grace and glory belongs to Taiwan—our eternal Mother. Together, let’s extend our gratitude to the earth and respect to the people. Long live the earth and respect to the people. Long live the Republic of China, and for the health of our compatriots. Long live freedom and democracy! Long live the people of Taiwan! We pray for the prosperity of the Republic of China, and for the health and happiness of all compatriots and all honored guests!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM ROEMER
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, due to a family commitment I was unable to cast the following House Rollcall votes on June 15, 2000: No. 285, a quorum call; No. 286, on the amendment offered by Representative SANDERS; and No. 287, a motion that the committee rise.

Had I been present, I would have voted “present” on rollcall No. 285, “aye” on rollcall No. 286, and “aye” on rollcall No. 287.

NEW JERSEY SENATE OBJECTS TO SCHOOL-TO-WORK

HON. BOB SCHAFFER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a resolution recently approved by the New Jersey Senate. Approved on May 10, 1999, Senate Resolution #73 expresses the objection to the State Senate to the School-to-Work provisions being developed by the New Jersey Department of Education.

State Senators Joseph Kyrillos, William Gormley, Scott Garrett, and Guy Talarico achieved a significant victory for quality local education by putting the New Jersey Senate on record opposing the federal School-to-Work curriculum and its goals.

The concerns expressed in this resolution cut to the heart of education reform today: Basic academics, local control, unlimited student opportunity and sufficient, quality instructional time are at the forefront of local education efforts and threatened by School-to-Work. New Jersey is clearly concerned about a radical restructuring of its education system around federal workforce development, “applied learning” and limited student choice. Other states and the Congress should take note of New Jersey’s courageous stand.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for the RECORD New Jersey Senate Resolution #73 and commend it to our colleagues.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 73
STATE OF NEW JERSEY—39TH LEGISLATURE, INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 1999
(Sponsored by: Senator Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr., District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth); Senator William L. Gormley, District 2 (Atlantic); Co-Sponsored by: Senators Cardinale and Inverso)

(Synopsis: Expresses the objection of the Senate to the school-to-work provisions being developed by the DOE)

A Senate Resolution expressing this House’s objections to the school-to-work program being developed by the Department of Education.

Whereas, The Department of Education is developing a new chapter of administrative code to implement the core curriculum content standards and the Statewide assessment system which will fundamentally reform public education in New Jersey and

Whereas, A number of the proposals incorporated in the code represent new graduation requirements for public schools students and since the current requirements for graduation were initially established by the Legislative Council under chapter 7C of the New Jersey Statutes, a revision of those standards of the magnitude incorporated within the proposed code and which represent a fundamental change in the educational requirements for secondary school students should undergo legislative review;

Whereas, The new code provisions will not be formally proposed, according to the timetable set forth by the Department of Education, until August 1999; and

Whereas, The new code provisions emphasize career education and include three phases in this area: career awareness in kindergarten through grade 4; career exploration grades 5 through 8, with the development of individual career plans during this phase; and career preparation in grades 9 through 12, with students being required to identify a career major, from a list of fourteen majors, prior to the start of the eleventh grade; and

Whereas, The new code provisions require that eleventh and twelfth grade students, for a minimum of one day per week or the equivalent thereof, participate in a structured learning experience which is linked to the student’s career plan and which could include volunteer activities, community service, paid or unpaid employment opportunities, school-based enterprises, or participation in an apprenticeship program; and

Whereas, The new code provisions will make school-to-work a requirement for all students in the State, and will result in the loss of 20% of academic instructional time, putting students at a competitive disadvantage in collegiate academic programs; and

Whereas, The school-board majority of the new code provisions will result in limiting students’ choices far too early in their lives and imposing job specific skills training on the educational system at the expense of instructional time in academic subjects; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House objects to the school-to-work provisions incorporated into the new chapter of administrative code being developed by the Department of Education to implement the core curriculum content standards and the Statewide assessment system. This House urges that school-to-work provisions be eliminated and that the Department of Education be allowed to determine the necessity and nature of any career program for their own school district.

2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a duly authenticated copy of this resolution to the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education.

STATEMENT

This resolution expresses the objection of the Senate to the school-to-work provisions incorporated into the new chapter of administrative code being developed by the Department of Education to implement the core curriculum content standards and the Statewide assessment system. The resolution also

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, due to prior commitment in my District, I was forced to re-