EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. ANNA G. ESCHOOF OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 26, 2001

Ms. ESCHOO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the Record a letter from B. Gould IV that appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Monday, July 23, 2001.

Mr. GOULD. My letter was written the day after I returned from a trip to China where I conducted a series of lectures at local universities. I share it with my colleagues in the hope that they will find it as instructive as I did.

WORKPLACE REFORMERS ARE STIRRING IN CHINA

HON. ANNA G. ESCHOOF OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the Record a column that appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Monday, July 23, 2001

Ms. ESCHOO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the Record an article that appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on July 23, 2001.

On an uncomfortably hot June afternoon in Shanghai, university students giggle as they complete their mandatory military exercises before departing for the summer. The coexistence of these out-of-uniform drills with the mirthful laughter of students mirrors much of the paradox of Chinese free market policies alongside Communist Party controls.

The free market has meant a labor market that has witnessed more than an incremental expansion of freedom to hire and fire—millions of dismissed Chinese public enterpise workers who have not found new employment in the newly expanding private sector can testify to the latter. The same environment affects rural migrant workers who have streamed to the job-filled urban centers with a resolve that sometimes borders on desperation. Their unemployment and second-class status mean worker protest and government retribution—quite literally. In South Africa and Poland in the '90s, China has the potential for a mobilized worker discontent that could cut across most of the sectors of political and economic life.

Last year, for instance, 20,000 miners in the northeast went on a violent rampage of burning and window smashing as they faced dismissal. Workers in a state-owned silk factory confronted with the same prospect, called for a new and independent union. Standing in the way of such spontaneity are not only the security apparatus but also the Communist Party government unions, which perform none of the representative functions normally present where there is freedom of association. Chinese government, though it signed last month a Decent Work agreement with the Geneva-based International Labour Office, constantly proclaims its continued hostility to the right of workers to choose their bargaining agents. Yet advocates of reform are stirring and American policy makers on Capitol Hill considering China's preferential trade status need to be aware of them.

As the military drills fade into the languid Shanghai air, labor law reform expert Dong Bao Hua tells me, "The essence of reform is to try to persuade policy makers that we want to have a government with open and societial features." The approach is to protect both rural enterprise workers and those dislocated public enterprise workers through a variety of workplace programs. One is to provide a "hotline" with legal advice for workers with labor complaints, pregnant female employees who are unfairly dismissed, and those who have suffered workplace accidents.

Ms. ESCHOO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the Record a letter from B. Gould IV that appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Monday, July 23, 2001.

Mr. GOULD. My letter was written the day after I returned from a trip to China where I conducted a series of lectures at local universities. I share it with my colleagues in the hope that they will find it as instructive as I did.

WORKPLACE REFORMERS ARE STIRRING IN CHINA

HON. ANNA G. ESCHOOF OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 26, 2001

Ms. ESCHOO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the Record a column that appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Monday, July 23, 2001.

On an uncomfortably hot June afternoon in Shanghai, university students giggle as they complete their mandatory military exercises before departing for the summer. The coexistence of these out-of-uniform drills with the mirthful laughter of students mirrors much of the paradox of Chinese free market policies alongside Communist Party controls.

The free market has meant a labor market that has witnessed more than an incremental expansion of freedom to hire and fire—millions of dismissed Chinese public enterpise workers who have not found new employment in the newly expanding private sector can testify to the latter. The same environment affects rural migrant workers who have streamed to the job-filled urban centers with a resolve that sometimes borders on desperation. Their unemployment and second-class status mean worker protest and government retribution—quite literally. In South Africa and Poland in the '90s, China has the potential for a mobilized worker discontent that could cut across most of the sectors of political and economic life.

Last year, for instance, 20,000 miners in the northeast went on a violent rampage of burning and window smashing as they faced dismissal. Workers in a state-owned silk factory confronted with the same prospect, called for a new and independent union. Standing in the way of such spontaneity are not only the security apparatus but also the Communist Party government unions, which perform none of the representative functions normally present where there is freedom of association. Chinese government, though it signed last month a Decent Work agreement with the Geneva-based International Labour Office, constantly proclaims its continued hostility to the right of workers to choose their bargaining agents. Yet advocates of reform are stirring and American policy makers on Capitol Hill considering China's preferential trade status need to be aware of them.

As the military drills fade into the languid Shanghai air, labor law reform expert Dong Bao Hua tells me, "The essence of reform is to try to persuade policy makers that we want to have a government with open and societial features." The approach is to protect both rural enterprise workers and those dislocated public enterprise workers through a variety of workplace programs. One is to provide a "hotline" with legal advice for workers with labor complaints, pregnant female employees who are unfairly dismissed, and those who have suffered workplace accidents.

Ms. ESCHOO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the Record a letter from B. Gould IV that appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Monday, July 23, 2001.

Mr. GOULD. My letter was written the day after I returned from a trip to China where I conducted a series of lectures at local universities. I share it with my colleagues in the hope that they will find it as instructive as I did.

WORKPLACE REFORMERS ARE STIRRING IN CHINA

HON. ANNA G. ESCHOOF OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 26, 2001

Ms. ESCHOO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the Record a column that appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Monday, July 23, 2001.

On an uncomfortably hot June afternoon in Shanghai, university students giggle as they complete their mandatory military exercises before departing for the summer. The coexistence of these out-of-uniform drills with the mirthful laughter of students mirrors much of the paradox of Chinese free market policies alongside Communist Party controls.

The free market has meant a labor market that has witnessed more than an incremental expansion of freedom to hire and fire—millions of dismissed Chinese public enterpise workers who have not found new employment in the newly expanding private sector can testify to the latter. The same environment affects rural migrant workers who have streamed to the job-filled urban centers with a resolve that sometimes borders on desperation. Their unemployment and second-class status mean worker protest and government retribution—quite literally. In South Africa and Poland in the '90s, China has the potential for a mobilized worker discontent that could cut across most of the sectors of political and economic life.

Last year, for instance, 20,000 miners in the northeast went on a violent rampage of burning and window smashing as they faced dismissal. Workers in a state-owned silk factory confronted with the same prospect, called for a new and independent union. Standing in the way of such spontaneity are not only the security apparatus but also the Communist Party government unions, which perform none of the representative functions normally present where there is freedom of association. Chinese government, though it signed last month a Decent Work agreement with the Geneva-based International Labour Office, constantly proclaims its continued hostility to the right of workers to choose their bargaining agents. Yet advocates of reform are stirring and American policy makers on Capitol Hill considering China’s preferential trade status need to be aware of them.

As the military drills fade into the languid Shanghai air, labor law reform expert Dong Bao Hua tells me, “The essence of reform is to try to persuade policy makers that we want to have a government with open and societial features.” The approach is to protect both rural enterprise workers and those dislocated public enterprise workers through a variety of workplace programs. One is to provide a “hotline” with legal advice for workers with labor complaints, pregnant female employees who are unfairly dismissed, and those who have suffered workplace accidents.

Ms. ESCHOO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the Record a letter from B. Gould IV that appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Monday, July 23, 2001.

Mr. GOULD. My letter was written the day after I returned from a trip to China where I conducted a series of lectures at local universities. I share it with my colleagues in the hope that they will find it as instructive as I did.

WORKPLACE REFORMERS ARE STIRRING IN CHINA

HON. ANNA G. ESCHOOF OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 26, 2001

Ms. ESCHOO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the Record a column that appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Monday, July 23, 2001.

On an uncomfortably hot June afternoon in Shanghai, university students giggle as they complete their mandatory military exercises before departing for the summer. The coexistence of these out-of-uniform drills with the mirthful laughter of students mirrors much of the paradox of Chinese free market policies alongside Communist Party controls.

The free market has meant a labor market that has witnessed more than an incremental expansion of freedom to hire and fire—millions of dismissed Chinese public enterpise workers who have not found new employment in the newly expanding private sector can testify to the latter. The same environment affects rural migrant workers who have streamed to the job-filled urban centers with a resolve that sometimes borders on desperation. Their unemployment and second-class status mean worker protest and government retribution—quite literally. In South Africa and Poland in the ‘90s, China has the potential for a mobilized worker discontent that could cut across most of the sectors of political and economic life.

Last year, for instance, 20,000 miners in the northeast went on a violent rampage of burning and window smashing as they faced dismissal. Workers in a state-owned silk factory confronted with the same prospect, called for a new and independent union. Standing in the way of such spontaneity are not only the security apparatus but also the Communist Party government unions, which perform none of the representative functions normally present where there is freedom of association. Chinese government, though it signed last month a Decent Work agreement with the Geneva-based International Labour Office, constantly proclaims its continued hostility to the right of workers to choose their bargaining agents. Yet advocates of reform are stirring and American policy makers on Capitol Hill considering China’s preferential trade status need to be aware of them.

As the military drills fade into the languid Shanghai air, labor law reform expert Dong Bao Hua tells me, “The essence of reform is to try to persuade policy makers that we want to have a government with open and societial features.” The approach is to protect both rural enterprise workers and those dislocated public enterprise workers through a variety of workplace programs. One is to provide a “hotline” with legal advice for workers with labor complaints, pregnant female employees who are unfairly dismissed, and those who have suffered workplace accidents.

Ms. ESCHOO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the Record a letter from B. Gould IV that appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Monday, July 23, 2001.

Mr. GOULD. My letter was written the day after I returned from a trip to China where I conducted a series of lectures at local universities. I share it with my colleagues in the hope that they will find it as instructive as I did.