

Human Dignity Act," which would require that the Americans living in the US/CNMI live under the same laws as all of our constituents in our home districts. This legislation would extend U.S. immigration and minimum wage laws to the US/CNMI. This legislation also includes a provision to preserve the integrity of the "Made in USA" label by requiring that this benefit only be allowed for garments made in compliance with U.S. immigration and labor practices. It also conditions duty-free and quota-free imports from the US/CNMI upon compliance with U.S. laws. In addition, the legislation creates a one-time grandfather provision that allows non-resident individuals who have been long-term employees in the US/CNMI on the date of enactment to apply for permanent residence. Lastly, this legislation would assure that U.S. Customs agents have the authority to board and inspect ships in US/CNMI waters to address the numerous allegations of illegal transshipment of fully completed garments from Asia.

No member of the House of Representatives would tolerate sub-minimum wages and other severe forms of labor exploitation in his or her home district, and we should not tolerate those conditions in the American territories either. I urge you to join me in supporting the CNMI Human Dignity Act.

U.S. FUNDING FOR UKRAINE

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the provision in the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for 2002 that reduces U.S. foreign assistance to the country of Ukraine to \$125 million, which is \$45 million below both last year's funding level and what the President requested.

With its geo-strategic location between Russia and our NATO allies, Ukraine has an inherent importance to our national security. It houses a major naval fleet with access to the Mediterranean and can be a major communication and oil conduit between Europe and Asia. As the 6th most populous nation in Europe, Ukraine is filled with resources and promise, and we can't afford to turn our backs on it.

Over the past 16 months, the Ukrainian economy has grown immensely. In fact since January of this year, Ukraine's GDP has risen by over 9%. The privatization of land and businesses has proceeded at an unprecedented rate and the National Bank of Ukraine has undergone a series of reforms to promote transparency and stability. These are tremendous accomplishments for a country that was part of the Soviet Union until 1991.

This year also marks the 15th Anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and the impact of this tragedy continues to haunt the Ukrainian people. Children still suffer from illness caused by exposure to radiation. Much of the farmland, which is vital to the survival of the people, remains contaminated. The recent closing of the remaining Chernobyl reactors has added to the already severe power

shortage in Ukraine. The disastrous effects of this tragedy demand that this body reach out the hand of humanitarian aid.

Despite its numerous accomplishments, Ukraine still requires U.S. assistance. The \$125 million provided in this bill will not effectively fund the programs needed to assist Ukraine down the road toward democracy and prosperity. It is a shame that this bill severely cuts aid to this country, at a time when it is needed most. I believe that we should at least provide last year's level of funding, which was \$170 million. Ukraine has made great strides since its independence and it deserves our continued support.

WORKPLACE REFORMERS ARE STIRRING IN CHINA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD an op-ed piece written by Mr. William B. Gould IV that appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Monday, July 23, 2001. Mr. Gould wrote the article upon his return from China where he 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.

[From the San Jose Mercury News, July 23, 2001]

WORKPLACE REFORMERS ARE STIRRING IN CHINA

(By William B. Gould IV)

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 enterprise workers who have not found re-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 the desperate. Their unemployment and second class status mean worker protest and government scrutiny of it. Like South Africa and Poland in the '80s, 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. The Chinese government, though it signed last month a Decent

Work agreement with the Geneva-based International Labor Organization, defiantly 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 societized features." This approach seeks to protect both rural migrants and those dislocated public enterprise workers through a number of avenues.

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.

Dong and his students have organized events in public squares to advertise their services. They use the courts and China's expanding government arbitration process. The cases move quickly by Western standards, most of them brought to conclusion within 60 to 90 days of a complaint's filing.

The arbitration mechanism, admittedly government controlled, resolves a variety of workplace disputes. (The so-called neutral third party is a Labor Ministry employee.) Workers can retain lawyers and in half of the cases in Shanghai they do so.

The bad news is that workers have difficulty getting their frequently fearful fellow employees to testify on their behalf. The Communist Party official government unions are of no or little help to them. As a Shenzhen employment lawyer said to me: "No representatives of workers are in the arbitration process."

No one can completely anticipate the stress that the transition will place on China's workforce. The government's response to Tiananmen Square illustrates the likely reaction to any new challenge or to an outcry against its unapologetic use of forced labor.

Yet the workplace democratic impulse is an international one. In South Africa and Poland, it had its origin in institutions far more modest than those that ultimately brought sweeping change. And Chinese officials may ultimately find comfort in the examples of Hungary and the Czech Republic, where reform did not include new Solidarity-type mass movements.

One of China's many puzzles lies in the prospects of and the government's answer to the new workplace reformers who have come on the scene.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM A. NACK ON BEING HONORED BY THE SAN MATEO CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Nack, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, CA who is being honored by the San Mateo Central Labor Council at its 22nd Annual COPE Benefit Dinner on July 27, 2001.