EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHHEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. HINCHHEY. 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 un-increased by over 9%. The privatization of land and business 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 to set up and work in the US/CNMI without having to register with the U.S. Customs Service.

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the Record a speech 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 giggled as they completed 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 increment of 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 scrunity 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 was of such spontaneity are not only the security apparatus but also the Communist Party government unions, which perform none of the representative functions that 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, 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 preference 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 socialized features." The approach is to protect both rural migrants and those dis- located 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 Shenzen 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 Tianannen 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 ultimate 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. ESHTHEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 26, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Nack, a 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.

Mr. Nack, 72 years of age, is a life-long resident of San Mateo County, CA. He grew up in the community and has always been active in the labor movement. Mr. Nack has been an active member of the San Mateo Central Labor Council for over 20 years and has served as its president for the past 10 years.

Mr. Nack is a respected leader in the community and is known for his strong commitment to labor rights and social justice. He has been an advocate for workers' rights and has helped to organize many unions in the area.

Mr. Nack's dedication to the labor movement has been recognized at the local, state, and national levels. He has received numerous awards and honors, including the San Mateo Central Labor Council's Labor Leader of the Year Award.

Mr. Nack's leadership and commitment to the labor movement have made him a role model for many young people in the area. His contributions to the community and the labor movement have been invaluable and he is a truly deserving recipient of this honor.
For over 30 years, Bill Nack has been an active member of the labor movement, a dedicated community leader, and an environmentalist in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has worked tirelessly to improve the health, the job safety and the economic conditions of workers in San Mateo County and throughout the nation.

Bill Nack currently serves as Business Manager and Executive Officer of the San Mateo County Building and Construction Trades Council, an association comprised of 26 construction unions and a membership of over 15,000 craftspersons.

For over 20 years, Bill Nack was an aircraft jet engine mechanic for United Airlines and a rank and file member of the International Association of Machinists, Local 1781. In 1987, he left United Airlines to work with the Santa Clara Central Labor Council and soon became the Deputy Executive Officer of the Santa Clara and San Benito Counties Building and Construction Trades Council.

As a resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, Bill Nack is a highly regarded member of the environmental community. Governor Gray Davis appointed him to the Bay Conservation and Development Committee (BCDC) to help ensure the protection of San Francisco Bay and in 1997, Bill became Chairman of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s Advisory Council.

Bill Nack’s involvement in our community is deep and broad. As a board member of Mid-Peninsula Rebuilding Together, he plays an integral role in helping to rehabilitate the homes and community facilities of low-income citizens, of the elderly, and for the disabled. He’s also an active member of many other community organizations, including San Mateo County’s United Way, and the San Mateo County Peninsula Policy Partnership, as well as the Bay Area Economic Forum.

Bill is married to fellow activist, Rayna Lehman, Director of AFL–CIO Community Services for the San Mateo County Central Labor Council and they are the proud parents of twin sons, Patrick and Benjamin.

Mr. Speaker, we are a better country, a better community, and a better people because of Bill Nack. It’s a privilege to know him, to serve him as a constituent, to call him a friend, and to honor him for his extraordinary leadership and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to him for all he has chosen to do.

I’m proud that Stony Brook University Hospital—which is located in the First District of New York and is one of the finest medical institutions in the nation—is one of the four Long Island hospitals hosting sites for this very important study.

Next week, July 29–August 3, is National Prostate Cancer Awareness Week. I urge all men over the age of 40 to set aside time during this week to make an appointment with their doctor to schedule a prostate health screening. With early detection offering more treatment options and a better cure rate for those who are diagnosed with this disease.

Research into the prevention and cure for prostate cancer and other forms of this ailment is critically important; and additional research dollars are needed to achieve this goal is vital.

That’s why I have joined my colleagues from Long Island, Congressman Peter King in co-sponsoring H.R. 281, the Taxpayer’s Cancer Research Funding Act. This legislation would amend the Internal Revenue Code and allow certain individuals to designate that five dollars—or ten dollars in the case of joint returns—be directed to the Breast and Prostate Cancer Research Fund. These dollars would be used to award peer review research grants by the National Cancer Institute.

I ask all of my colleagues to inform their constituents about the National Cancer Institute’s study and to urge the men in their district over the age of 40 to schedule a screening appointment during National Prostate Cancer Awareness Week and support H.R. 281.

HONORING THE 2000 GOVERNOR OF GUAM’S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the governor of Guam, acknowledges the hard work of government of Guam employees. The governor’s employee recognition program, better known as the Excel Program, is the highest and most competitive employees awards bestowed by the governor—showcasing outstanding employees and programs within the government of Guam.

Local governmental agencies and departments participate in this program. Awardees are chosen within each department’s nominees for a number of occupational groups. These groups range from clerical to labor and trades to professional and technical positions. The various awards reflect individual and group performance, valor, sports, community service, cost savings, and integrity.

My sincerest congratulations go to this year’s awardees. I urge them to keep up the good work. I am pleased to submit for the RECORD the names of this year’s outstanding employees.

THE WINNERS FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN 2000

INSPIRATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD
Medium Dept./Agency: Kenneth G. Castro, Social Worker III, Department of Youth Affairs.