

of athletic, artistic, and other recreational activities.

This prestigious institution has provided hundreds of children in the New York area with the opportunity to explore their creative, academic, athletic and spiritual nature in a nurturing and motivating atmosphere.

Although one may leave Camp Chen-A-Wanda just after a few weeks, the camp experience never leaves the camper. By the end of the summer, campers have forged new friendships, achieved new goals, and are confidently prepared to start the upcoming school year.

I would like to congratulate Camp Directors Caryl and Morey Baldwin of Dix Hills, Long Island; and Marcy and Craig Neyer of Montville, NJ, on their good work. I wish them the best of luck in the future.

And most important, I would like to see many of the campers of Camp Chen-A-Wanda, return to Washington, D.C. as interns, legislative staff, and future Legislators.

CRAZY FOR KAZAKHSTAN

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the Op Ed article "Crazy for Kazakhstan—Asian nation of vital interest" by former Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson published in "The Washington Times" on July 30, 2001. Mr. Richardson has been working with countries of Central Asia, particularly with oil rich Kazakhstan, for a long time and has an extensive expertise in the region. I think we can rely on his assessments. In the article he outlines achievements of Kazakhstan and defines this country one of the promising "of all the countries rising from the ashes of the Soviet Union".

Indeed, Kazakhstan, despite the difficulties of its transition period, has carried out large scale economic and political reforms, especially when compared to the rest of the newly independent states.

Kazakhstan is a young country located in a critically strategic region with "rough" neighbors and it is crucial for the U.S. to work with this country both politically and economically to ensure their security, independence and progressive development.

This year is the 10th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence and during this period Kazakhstan has shown its commitment to work with the U.S. in many areas, including sensitive ones, and has proven to be our reliable partner.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Mr. Richardson that this key Central Asian country is of great importance to U.S. interests. Kazakhstan in many ways should be seen as our natural ally in the region. The time has come for the U.S. to pay closer attention to this country and be more engaged with it. For this reason I co-sponsored the legislation (H.R. 1318) that would grant permanent trade relations to Kazakhstan.

I submit the full text of this article from "The Washington Times" to be placed in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, July 30, 2001]

CRAZY FOR KAZAKHSTAN

(By Bill Richardson)

As secretary of energy and ambassador to the United Nations during the Clinton administration, I traveled three times to Kazakhstan to underscore the importance of this key Central Asian country to U.S. interests. Of all the countries rising from the ashes of the Soviet Union, few offer the promise of Kazakhstan. In terms of both economic potential and political stability, Kazakhstan is critical to the long-term success of the Central Asian nations. The Bush administration should continue our policy of engaging Kazakhstan to ensure that this key country moves towards the Western orbit and adopts continued market and political reforms.

From its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 to the Present, Kazak leaders have made the difficult and controversial decisions necessary to bring their country into the 21st century. In May 1992, President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced that Kazakhstan would unilaterally disarm all of its nuclear weapons. In the aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse, Kazakhstan was left with the fourth-largest nuclear arsenal in the world, a tempting target for terrorists and other extremists. Mr. Nazarbayev's courageous decision to disarm in the face of opposition from Islamic nationalists and potential regional instability was one of the fundamental building blocks that have allowed Kazakhstan to emerge as a strong, stable nation and a leader in Central Asia. Then-President George Bush hailed the decision as "a momentous stride toward peace and stability."

Since that time, Central Asia has become an increasingly complex region. Russia is re-emerging from its post-Soviet economic crises and is actively looking for both economic opportunities in Central Asia as well as to secure its political influence over the region. China is rapidly expanding its economic power and political influence in the region. Iran, despite recent progress made by moderate elements in the government, is still a state sponsor of terrorism and is actively working to develop weapons of mass destruction. Many of the other former Soviet republics have become havens for religious extremists, terrorists, drug cartels and transit points for smugglers of all kind.

In the center of this conflict and instability Kazakhstan has begun to prosper by working to build a modern economy, developing its vast natural resources and providing a base of stability in a very uncertain part of the world. With the discovery of the massive Kashagan oil field in the Kazak portion of the Caspian Sea, Kazakhstan is poised to become a major supplier of petroleum to the Western World and a competitor to Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). It is critical that we continue to facilitate western companies' investment in Kazakhstan and the establishment of secure, east-west pipeline routes for Kazak oil. This is the only way for Kazakhstan to loosen its dependence on Russia for transit rights for its oil and gas and secure additional, much needed, oil for the world market.

American policy in the region must be based on the complex geopolitics of Central Asia and provide the support required to enable these countries to reach their economic potential. We must continue to give top priority to the development of Kazakhstan's oil and gas industries and to the establishment of east-west transportation corridors for Cas-

pian oil and gas. We must also remain committed to real support for local political leadership, fostering rule of law and economic reforms and to helping mitigate and solve the lingering ethnic and nationalistic conflicts in the region. Only through meaningful and substantial cooperation with Kazakhstan, will we be able to realize these goals.

There are many challenges ahead for Kazakhstan, but there are enormous opportunities for economic and political progress. Mr. Nazarbayev has taken advantage of Kazakhstan's stability to begin transforming its economy from the old Soviet form giant, state-owned industries and collective grain farms into a modern, market-based economy. We have much at stake in this development. Will Kazakhstan become a true market-oriented democracy, or will it slip into economic stagnation and ethnic violence like so many of its neighbor? The stability of Central Asia and the Caucasus depends on how Kazakhstan chooses to move forward. The United States must do its part to enhance U.S.-Kazakhstan cooperation and encourage prosperity and stability for the entire region.

REMOVAL OF SIGNATURE FROM DISCHARGE PETITION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to request that my signature be removed from discharge petition number 0002. This petition moves to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of H. Res. 165, a resolution providing for the consideration of the bill H.R. 1468.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) recent action to expand price restrictions imposed in California on wholesale electricity to cover 10 other Western states. Though FERC could have exercised its statutory authority to set "just and reasonable" wholesale rates several months ago, I hope that the Commission's June 19 Order will soon achieve the intended goal of "correct[ing] dysfunctions in the wholesale power markets operated by the Independent System Operator [ISO] and California Power Exchange [PX]."

In response to FERC's June 19 Order, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN [D-CA] and GORDON SMITH [R-OR] stopped advocating consideration of their legislation [S. 764] that would force FERC to follow its statutory mandate to set "just and reasonable" wholesale power rates. I agree with Senator SMITH that FERC's action renders S. 764 "substantially moot."

In light of FERC's recent actions and the decision by Senators FEINSTEIN and SMITH not to push for consideration of their legislation, I believe that House action on this matter is no longer warranted at this time. The House needs to exercise patience and wait for a period of perhaps a few months to see if FERC's June 19 Order exerts downward pressure on wholesale prices.