

June 29, 2001

that provides commensurate benefits in the United States.

It is apparent that a laissez-faire, market-oriented approach has failed the American worker. Unemployment is extraordinarily high within the creative community, leading to seventy percent of SAG'S 100,000 plus members earning less than \$7,500 annually. This economic hardship is exacerbated by runaway production. Thus, it is abundantly clear that legislative remedies attempting to more adequately level the playing field must be pursued. Amid encouraging signs that a tax bill of significant consequence is likely to pass Congress in the coming months, it is imperative that the creative community take a proactive position to ensure that the tax bill provides incentives for domestic film production. It must use all resources to cure the concerns presented in the two reports outlined in this Article. Organizations, such as SAG, must work with Congress to develop a proposal that is acceptable in terms of cost and other political considerations.

While it seems unlikely that there is the political will or desire to match the incentives offered by many of our competitors, it is conceivable to the authors that an effective approach can be designed to substantially close the gap on cost savings without eliminating them. Thus, the approach advocated involves identifying the level where cost savings of filming abroad are minimized so as not to be the determinative location factor. An appropriate level may be in the range of ten percent cost savings versus the twenty-six percent cost savings now common in some Canadian locations.

It is important to note the strategy used to fashion a remedy is just as important as the relief sought. The industry should be willing to approach the tax-writing committee staff with the afore-mentioned concept and work closely with them in designing a legislative remedy. This strategy represents a holistic approach to a global problem. It is important to remember the United States risks losing its economic advantage in a vital industry which carries with it enormous economic consequences. As noted in the Department of Commerce Report:

"If the most rapid growth in the most dynamic area of film production is occurring outside the United States, then employment, infrastructure, and technical skills will also grow more rapidly outside the United States, and the country could lose its competitive edge in important segments of the film industry."

VI. CONCLUSION

Politics represents the art of the possible. The approach advocated in this Article should find a receptive ear in the halls of Congress if for nothing else than its simplicity. Timing is crucial. Left unchecked, the only certainty is continuing runaway production with the attendant of economic costs, lost jobs, and diminished tax revenues at all levels of government. In a time of waning economic growth and warning signs of dwindling surpluses and future economic weakness, including production incentives into any upcoming tax relief is essential to preserving the U.S. workforce in the American entertainment industry.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 26, 2001, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 190. Had I been present, I would have voted No on rollcall vote No. 190.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF MURRIETA, 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure today to pay tribute to a wonderful, young city in my district as they prepare to celebrate their 10th Anniversary—Murrieta, California, a "Gem of the Valley." Murrieta is an expansive valley covered with grasses and dotted with oak trees.

Incorporated as a city in July of 1991 after an overwhelming supportive vote, Murrieta has seen tremendous growth since its small beginnings as a sheep ranch. It was a young Don Juan Murrieta who first recognized the natural beauty and vitality of this California valley and bought 52,000 acres in 1873. As the years passed by, the city saw slow growth and finally a boom when the railroad came through. By 1890, almost 800 people lived in the valley. Unfortunately, by 1935 the city had gone bust like so many western towns whose livelihood depended upon the railroad.

It would not be until 1987, more than fifty years later, that Murrieta Valley would once again come into its own. That year saw explosive growth for this sleepy little town. Totalling only 542 residents in 1970 and little more than 2,250 a decade later it found its population increase by a multiple of eight by 1991, to 20,000 residents, when Murrieta became an incorporated city. This year, as they celebrate their 10th Anniversary it finds itself the home of some 50,000 residents.

As a city and community, Murrieta has thrived with the greater control of its destiny over the last 10 years. That includes providing services from within the community instead of outside, such as police, fire and library systems of its own rather than contracting for these services.

In 10 short years, the City of Murrieta has seen its population and communities grow because of dedication to affordable housing, protecting the natural beauty of the valley, good schools, low crime and clean air. The city adopted its first General Plan after more than 50 public meetings to draft a vision of what the new city would become over the next several decades. The police department was created in 1992, the fire department in 1993 and the library system in 1998. Public services like these are what bind a city together along with the building of parks and recreational facilities and more. In fact, for their incredible progress as a city Murrieta has won numerous awards for innovation and performance.

12611

Mr. Speaker, looking back, the city of Murrieta and its residents can hold their heads high with pride at what their once small town has become in only 10 short years. I wish to extend to them my congratulations as families, community leaders and business leaders gather on this Saturday, June 30th, to celebrate their 10th Anniversary. Congratulations to the "Gem of the Valley!"

PERSECUTION OF THE MONTAGNARD PEOPLES IN VIETNAM

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution concerning the persecution of the Montagnard peoples in Vietnam.

The Montagnards are indigenous peoples of the Central Highlands of Vietnam who have long suffered discrimination and mistreatment at the hands of successive Vietnamese governments. In the 1960's and 1970's the Montagnard freedom fighters were the first line in the defense of South Vietnam against invasion from the North, fighting courageously beside members of the Special Forces of the United States Army, suffering disproportionately heavy casualties, and saving the lives of many of their American and Vietnamese comrades in arms. Today the Montagnards are singled out by the Vietnamese government due to their past association with the United States, their strong commitment to their traditional way of life and to their Christian religion.

Due to this persecution, many Montagnards have attempted to flee Vietnam to other countries, including Cambodia. The Royal Government of Cambodia has announced that Montagnards found in Cambodia who express a fear of return to Vietnam will be placed under the protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees rather than forcibly repatriated to Vietnam. Unfortunately, it appears there is a policy of systematic repatriation of Montagnard asylum seekers to Vietnam by some officials of the central government. There also are credible reports that Vietnamese security forces are operating openly in the Mondulakiri and Ratanakiri provinces of Cambodia to repatriate Montagnards.

My resolution urges the government of Vietnam to allow freedom of religious belief and practice to all Montagnards, return all traditional Montagnard lands that have been confiscated, allow international humanitarian organizations to deliver humanitarian assistance directly to Montagnards in their villages, and to withdraw its security forces from Cambodia and stop hunting down refugees. It also commends the Royal Government of Cambodia for its official policy of guaranteeing temporary asylum for Montagnards fleeing Vietnam and urges the Cambodian government to take all necessary measures to ensure that all officials and employees of the local, provincial, and central governments fully obey the policy of providing temporary asylum. Finally, this resolution has the Department of State make clear to the Government of Vietnam that continued