

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A CELEBRATION OF PUERTO  
RICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 23, 1991*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of the celebration of Puerto Rican Heritage Month. In the last century, Puerto Rico has played a particularly significant role with regard to the United States. It is the many contributions that Puerto Rico has made to our Nation throughout the past 100 years that I would like to celebrate today.

While the United States has been developing these close ties with Puerto Rico, New York City has been a principal beneficiary. Puerto Ricans settled primarily in New York City and it is there that most of their successes and contributions have come to fruition.

In 1910, there were only 500 Puerto Ricans living in New York. Today there are 1 million. The great majority arrived shortly after World War II. Like so many of our poor people at that time, my family left its beloved island in search of a better life in New York. This was a major decision and the transition from life in Puerto Rico to the world of New York City was not easy. It was quite different from the immigration of foreigners in the preceding century. By the time Puerto Ricans started to arrive, the institutions originally set up to assist new arrivals adapt to life in New York City had begun to disappear, due in part to the passage of legislation earlier in the 20th century severely restricting immigration. Thus the New York City to which Puerto Ricans journeyed in the late 1940's and early 1950's was, in many respects, a much less welcoming city than it had been a century earlier.

But regardless of the difficulties with which they were faced, our Hispanic forefathers were determined to pursue the goals and seek the opportunities of which they had dreamed. And in this process, they made their own unique contributions that helped render New York City the brilliant mosaic of which today's New Yorkers are justifiably proud.

They revived the latent multicultural spirit by bringing with them the traditions of a culture brimming with gaiety and color. People of different nationalities and languages had lived in New York City for many years, but English still dominated unchallenged. Puerto Ricans learned and spoke English, but unlike the other newcomers, they never abandoned their native Spanish. They in fact chose to retain their total cultural heritage and most especially their beloved music. Latino music is today extremely popular in New York City and elsewhere in the Nation as a result.

Loyalty and respect for their Puerto Rican heritage has helped make New York a much more international city than it was 50 years

ago. The Puerto Rican presence has also created a productive relationship between New York and all of Latin America. As the principal commercial center of the United States, New York City has benefited substantially from increased trade with its southern neighbor nations. Similarly, as an important cultural center, New York City has experienced heightened travel by Latin Americans to the city.

One thing is certain. Puerto Ricans have established that people can continue to observe and maintain their heritage without conflicting with their role as loyal American citizens. Consider the thousands of patriotic Puerto Ricans who served faithfully and selflessly in the Gulf War. And consider the many Puerto Ricans who have merged the interests of their heritage and the interests of the United States in the service of the general public: Angel Cordero, Chi Chi Rodriguez, and Roberto Clemente in sports; Jose Feliciano, Tito Puente, and Tony Orlando in music; Rita Moreno, Jose Ferrer, and Raul Julia in drama, a number of distinguished individuals in public service organizations and a host of appointed and elected officials at all levels of government.

For nearly a century, Puerto Ricans have actively participated in the historical evolution of the United States, maintaining a perfect balance in their loyalty to their roots and their loyalty to the Nation to which they inadvertently became attached. In maintaining this balance, Puerto Ricans have helped to transform this great Nation of ours—perhaps that is their most important contribution. They revived multiculturalism in a nation that was becoming fearful of diversity. They encouraged the development of a nation that would be proud of all of its people, with the language, culture and history those people brought with them in their search for a better life. Puerto Ricans opened doors not just for other Puerto Ricans, but for all minorities and for generations to come. It is thus with joy and great pride that I rise today to celebrate the contributions Puerto Ricans have made to the United States and the honor of being a member of this exceptional community of people.

NEW TRADE RULES FOR A NEW  
WORLD ORDER

HON. DONALD J. PEASE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 23, 1991*

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation calling for the rules of international trade to be updated and amended to allow the United States and all other trading nations to uphold threshold environmental, labor, and public health and safety standards, especially when other multilateral organizations have brought into force international agreements spelling out such standards.

The United Nations has established a deadline of June 1992 for the halting of driftnet fishing by all Nations in order to protect endangered dolphins. In the absence of effective multilateral cooperation and enforcement, the United States enacted, through the Marine Mammal Protection Act [MMPA], a ban on tuna imports from countries whose fishing fleets persist in using driftnets.

Mexican tuna fishermen still use driftnets and Mexico brought a formal complaint under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT] seeking to have United States law nullified on the grounds that it violates several GATT provisions. Regrettably, a three-nation GATT panel in mid-August reached a preliminary judgment that the MMPA is not in keeping with existing GATT provisions. If President Bush simply folds our tent in this challenge and asks the Congress to amend or repeal the MMPA, then a very short-sighted and harmful GATT precedent will have been set that militates against an open trading system that promotes international respect for environmental, labor, and public health and safety standards as well as commercial and investment standards.

There is another way to go. When drafting its report the three-nation GATT panel reached two very important preliminary findings. They found the current wording of article XX of the GATT to be so fuzzy pertaining to when member nations may adopt national laws to "protect human, animal, or plant life or health or to preserve exhaustible natural resources" to be useless. Instead, they relied upon drafting history from 1948, long before environmental challenges like global warming or ozone depletion became apparent. Also, they concluded that if GATT member nations want to be allowed, under certain circumstances, to adopt trade laws to protect human, plant, or animal life, scarce resources, or environmental standards, then "it would be preferable to do so not by interpreting article XX, but by amending or supplementing the provisions of the GATT or waiving obligations thereunder".

The legislation I am sponsoring today seeks to build upon the important openings presented last August by the GATT panel's preliminary findings in the complaint brought against the United States in the tuna-dolphin case.

First, it calls upon U.S. negotiators at the GATT to simply defer any consideration of the report submitted to the GATT Council that declares the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act not to be in keeping with article XX of the GATT until the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations is concluded. After 6 years of contentious, protracted negotiations, the Uruguay round has certainly reached its climax. There are two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, so to speak, and the conclusion of this trade round is very near. It is unrealistic for environmental groups and others in the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

United States and abroad to expect the complex and controversial issues that have been brought into focus by the tuna-dolphin dispute to be effectively resolved during what little time remains in this GATT round.

Second, my legislation, at the same time, emphatically calls upon President Bush to initiate and complete negotiations to amend article XX to make crystal clear that differences in environmental, life, or health protection standards and worker rights policies of producers will be taken into serious consideration in determining justifiable exceptions to the general obligations of GATT member nations, especially when other multilateral organizations such as the United Nations or the International Labor Organization have concluded binding international agreements to uphold certain threshold environmental, health and safety standards and fundamental worker rights. The GATT must be brought into concert with other requirements of international law.

Third, my legislation states that the U.S. Congress will not support implementing legislation for any free trade agreement that impairs U.S. authority to uphold, strengthen, and enforce existing laws and standards that protect fundamental worker rights as well as environmental, labor, consumer, agricultural, and public health and safety standards. Since any free trade agreement between the United States and any foreign country goes well beyond GATT obligations in furtherance of trade and investment liberalization, it makes sense to bind the signatory countries to respect for such rights and standards within the terms of the agreement itself and the corresponding implementing legislation. In so doing, our free trade agreements can point the way for the GATT to be updated to promote global respect for internationally recognized rights and standards in the conduct of trade and investment.

Mexico has done the United States, in particular, and the international community, as a whole, a service by complaining to the GATT about the MMPA. Many more policymakers and activists in America and around the world, who were previously asleep, have awakened now to the need to negotiate free trade agreements and to revise the GATT to make certain that trade and investment dynamics in the emerging new world order promote respect for the environment and for mobility of capital.

#### CORVALLIS DOES IT AGAIN

### HON. MIKE KOPETSKI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 23, 1991*

Mr. KOPETSKI. Mr. Speaker, Corvallis has done it again. Recently, the Honorable R. Charles Vars, mayor of Corvallis, OR, declared November 24, 1991, as a "Community Day of Fasting and Celebration." I realize most of my colleagues have never been to Corvallis but Mr. Speaker I want my colleagues and this country to know Corvallis is a community with a conscience, a community that cares for its neighbors and a community I am proud to represent. At this point, I would like to enter into the RECORD the proclamation, "A Community Day of Fasting and Sharing."

#### PROCLAMATION: A COMMUNITY DAY OF FASTING AND SHARING, NOVEMBER 24, 1991

Whereas, In a substantially Christian population, this is the season to donate food to feed the community's hungry and the 1991 Community Holiday Food Drive began November 13 and runs through November 27; and

Whereas, Monetary donations are needed to provide turkeys, chickens and perishables to fill an estimated 1,000 holidays baskets (as compared to 1984, when about 400 baskets were given), with most of the baskets going to families who have employed members who cannot meet their monthly costs of living due to increased housing and medical costs; and

Whereas, An average of 82 families show up every day at the emergency food pantries which distribute food boxes which feed families for three days and the number of hungry families seeking help is up 15 percent over 1990, with an increase in requests from people working for low wages and no benefits and from those with temporary jobs; and

Whereas, There are 18 pantries as well as three soup kitchens and seven shelters that serve meals; and

Whereas, Any Community Holiday Food Drive funds remaining after baskets are delivered and expenses paid will be turned over to Linn-Benton Food Share.

Now, Therefore, I, R. Charles Vars, Jr., Mayor of Corvallis, Oregon, do hereby proclaim Sunday, November 24, 1991, to be A Community Day of Fasting and Sharing in the City and urge all citizens to join together in a day of going without eating and to contribute the money saved through fasting to the Community Holiday Food Drive (in care of Town & Country Realty, 455 Tyler Street) or to Stone Soup, the community soup kitchen (in care of Saint Mary's Catholic Church, 501 NW 25th Street).

#### FXI TRUCKING COMPANY HONORED FOR STRONG FAMILY TRADITION

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 23, 1991*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the attention of my colleagues a remarkable family-owned company which makes its home in my district and provides 480 jobs to the community. Friedman's Express, Inc., in Wilkes-Barre, PA, may very well be the oldest continually family-owned trucking business in the United States.

Friedman's Express, Inc., or FXI, was founded by Simon Friedman in 1910. Emigrating from Russia a few years earlier, Simon began with nothing more than a wheelbarrow which he used to pick up goods at the train station and deliver to local merchants. Soon, he had enough money to purchase a horse and wagon and open a small warehouse. As demand for his services grew, Simon expanded his operation and eventually motorized the business. As his business grew, so did his family. Before long, Simon had the help of two sons, Harry and Norman.

At the same time, three brothers were operating a trucking firm in New York City known as Rapid Delivery Service. Simon met these brothers, Joseph, Leonard, and Harry Frank,

while on a trip to New York. The four men agreed to merge Rapid Delivery with Friedman's Express. This joint venture expanded their freight business service throughout Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey.

Today, FXI is a multimillion dollar operation and has 21 service centers located throughout the Middle Atlantic States and southern New England. The company continues to prosper under the leadership of Simon Friedman's grandson, Daniel Friedman, president and CEO. Leonard Frank's son, Morton Frank, is secretary-treasurer and Morton's son, Alec Frank, serves as administrative vice president.

Mr. Speaker, it is no small feat that this third generation business has survived more than 80 years of economic change and upheaval. I am pleased to commend these two families of entrepreneurs for their success and am sure that the future members of the Friedman and Frank families will continue to reap the benefits of carrying on the family business.

#### CONGRATULATIONS FIFTH DISTRICT ATHLETES

### HON. MIKE KOPETSKI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 23, 1991*

Mr. KOPETSKI. Mr. Speaker, each fall as school begins again, millions of Americans participate in fall athletic activities. This is true all across our country, from Salem, MA to Salem, OR in my district. These activities add to the academic atmosphere and the sense of community that we all take pride in.

Today, I rise to congratulate all Fifth District residents who participated in and supported fall athletic activities. These include the individual athletes, their families, the coaches, the school administrators and teachers, the cheerleaders, the bands, the booster clubs, the officials, and the community supporters.

Mr. Speaker, recently in Oregon the playoffs began for fall athletics. I would like to congratulate those teams from my district who qualified for the playoffs. In women's volleyball; Clackamas High School, South Albany High School, Corvallis High School, Lake Oswego High School, Estacada High School, Molalla High School, Silverton High School. In men's soccer; Lakeridge High School, Lake Oswego High School, Corvallis High School, and Gervais High School. In women's soccer; West Linn High School, Crescent Valley High School, Lake Oswego High School and Gladstone High School. In men's football; Oregon City High School, McNary High School, Milwaukie High School, North Salem High School, Lakeridge High School, Silverton High School, Salem Academy and St. Paul School. I would also like to congratulate my alma mater, Pendleton High School, for qualifying for the football playoffs.

Mr. Speaker, in recognizing athletic excellence I do not want to overlook the importance of academic achievement. I challenge each student athlete in my district to duplicate and exceed their athletic achievements in the classroom. True excellence begins in the classroom.