

this nation today for his commitment to his Delta, Colorado community. He has done much for the city of Delta, and I congratulate him on receiving the Delta Chamber Citizen of the Year award. I would also like to congratulate Ray and his wife Jo as they recently celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday March 29, 2004.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I not been unavoidably detained, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No., 94—Motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments to H.R. 2584; and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 95—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3723.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 2004, I missed rollcall votes No. 94 and 95.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 94 and 95.

COMMENDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SANTA BARBARA, VENTURA AND SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTIES, INC. ON THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. on their 40th anniversary. Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. promotes family planning and healthy, responsible reproductive and sexual behavior through the provision of high-quality, comprehensive educational, counseling, medical and referral services.

Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. promotes public understanding, acceptance and support for reproductive choice and family planning services. They provide these important services to everyone who needs them, regardless of their ability to pay.

Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. promotes public understanding of global problems that stem from population pressures and encourages support of programs working toward solutions to these problems. More than 52,000 reproductive health care visits are provided

annually to more than 20,000 low-income women, men and teens. Planned Parenthood should be commended for their outreach to underserved populations and for their provision of care in an unbiased and accepting environment.

The advocacy efforts on behalf of clients that Planned Parenthood provides, ensures that women and families continue to have access to the full array of reproductive health care services. I celebrate Planned Parenthood's forty years of dedicated service to this community.

Professional and peer educators provide sexuality education to promote healthy sexual attitudes and responsible sexual behavior to more than 66,000 teens, young adults and parents annually. As a nurse I understand firsthand the importance of proper health education. I commend Planned Parenthood for providing such a critical service.

In closing, I want to affirm my support for Planned Parenthood, as we join in commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. in order to focus public attention on the importance of promoting family planning and responsible choices so that each person may make an educated choice about the future.

HONORING LAURIE MARRS UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Laurie Marrs upon her retirement after 20 years of service as Executive Director of the Northville Chamber of Commerce.

Due to her leadership in the business community, the Northville Chamber of Commerce has become one of the premier business associations in the State of Michigan. From 1985 to today, Laurie Marrs has increased membership from 100 to 525 members, founded and served as chairperson for the Northville Victorian Festival, increased the number of Farmer's Market vendors from 6 to 100, instituted the annual State of the Community luncheon and founded the Northville Business Showcase.

Her husband, Terry, and daughters, Kelly and Andrea, should be extremely proud of the undeniable mark she has left on the community. We at home will sorely miss and always benefit from her dedication and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to Ms. Laurie Marrs, upon her retirement after 20 years as Executive Director of the Northville Chamber of Commerce, for her fine service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO LON ERWIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lon Erwin for his remarkable record of service to

the community of Durango, Colorado. I would also like to congratulate him on receiving the 2004 Barbara Conrad Award from the Durango Chamber of Commerce which was presented by his wife, Sidny Zink, a Durango City Councilor. This award, honors an individual who is associated with the Leadership La Plata program and is dedicated to building a stronger community by bringing people together.

Since his graduation from the Leadership La Plata program in 1990, Lon has been active in numerous initiatives and organizations. He serves as president of the local chapter of Civitan International, serves as board president of the Southwest Colorado chapter of the Red Cross, and is the executive director of the Community Foundation Serving Southwest Colorado. Erwin is also the volunteer coordinator for Durango Food Share, which distributes food to those in need in Durango, Cortez, Pagosa Springs, and Aztec, Colorado. Not only is he willing to give his time to worthy causes, but he had the foresight to establish leadership classes for high school students in Durango, Cortez, Bayfield, and Ignacio, ensuring that the next generation has the tools to lead and strengthen the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of Lon Erwin before this body of Congress and this nation. His efforts to strengthen his community are truly remarkable, and his receiving the 2004 Barbara Conrad Award is a well-deserved testament to his tireless efforts. I sincerely thank him for his service and wish him the best in his future efforts.

SAVE THE SUMMERS ACT OF 2004

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced the Save the Summers Act of 2004, which will temporarily increase the cap on the number of skilled overseas workers allowed into the United States. For the first time and without advance warning, the Department of Homeland Security announced that the cap of 66,000 H-2B visas had been reached just six months into the current year—leaving summer employers stranded. This one-year emergency fix will increase the number of H-2B visas by 40,000 for fiscal year 2004 only. This bill will also require that the Department of Homeland Security provide Congress with quarterly reports on the number of H-2B visas issued and an annual report providing a statistical analysis of the program.

The H-2B visa program allows foreign workers to come to the U.S. for short periods of time (up to 10 months) to fill seasonal or temporary jobs. The fishing industry in Alaska, tourist and resort industry along much of the East Coast, the Upper Midwest, and the Rockies, swimming pool management companies across America, catfish, timber and sugar industries in Louisiana, crab processors in North Carolina, and the shrimp industry in Texas are just a few that depend on the H-2B program to bring in needed workers.

Fishing in Alaska supports nearly 20,000 jobs, and is estimated to be a billion dollar-a-year industry with nearly 700 million dollars-a-

year in exports. The processors and vessel owners rely on these temporary workers who are Japanese technicians specifically trained to the standards required for Alaska Ikuro products to be sold in the Japanese market. Their skills are not otherwise available in the Alaska or U.S. labor pool and they are not taking work from U.S. workers. My state relies on these workers and I believe the H-2B visa program is vital to the survival and economic growth of the fishing industry in Alaska. The potential for lost revenue in Alaska is extremely high if the industry does not have these skilled technicians to aid with the processing.

This is a serious matter that requires immediate legislative action. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives for their support and urge them to swiftly pass this emergency legislation, which directly affects the economy in many of our districts.

JOB LOSSES IN THE U.S. TIED TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CHINA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call my colleagues' attention to an important development in our country's approach to trade. For years, businesses have recognized that markets only work when the rules are applied fairly to everyone. Corporations have pushed our government to enforce international trade law governing intellectual property, state subsidies, and pricing, because violations of these international rules hurt American businesses and American workers.

Now, for the first time, workers themselves have filed a petition, arguing that systematic abuse of workers' rights in China have displaced hundreds of thousands of American jobs. This historic petition filed by the AFL-CIO describes how the Chinese labor system artificially lowers wages and brutally represses its workers, and therefore constitutes an unfair trade practice under Section 301(d) of the Trade Act because it "burdens or restricts U.S. commerce."

I commend to my colleagues the following opinion piece from Harold Meyerson, who notes correctly that this petition could result in our trade law finally being applied to the benefit of workers as well as shareholders. In addition, the unabashedly free-trade editorial page of the Washington Post wrote that the "administration should agree to consider [the AFL-CIO's] petition." Simply put: it is not protectionist to argue that free markets and a free economy cannot be based on human-rights abuses.

For too long, American trade policy has failed to promote even minimum labor standards. The International Labor Organization's core labor standards simply articulate basic political freedoms, such as the freedom to associate, the abolition of forced labor, and the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. Unfortunately, the Bush administration has failed to include even these internationally-recognized standards as a framework for trade negotiations. Yet the ILO's report on Central America confirms that none of the CAFTA

countries is in compliance with basic standards of health and safety or freedom of association.

If free trade is going to improve the quality of life for Americans without putting downward pressure on labor standards internationally, we must ensure that every country is playing by the same rules. I urge my colleagues to read the attached articles.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 17, 2004]

CHINA'S WORKERS—AND OURS

(By Harold Meyerson)

Until 10 a.m. yesterday, U.S. trade law belonged to big business. Corporations routinely petitioned our government to threaten other countries with sanctions if their products were being knocked off or undersold by foreign manufacturers with state subsidies, and our government frequently complied. The solicitude the Bush White House and its predecessors showed for shareholders, however, was nowhere in evidence for workers. Profits depressed by unfair trade practices were an official object of concern; wages and employment levels depressed by unfair trade practices were none of the government's business.

This double standard was the heart of modern trade policy. Yesterday morning, that began to change. For the first time ever, the AFL-CIO filed the kind of unfair-trade petition that corporations commonly file, alleging that China's repression of workers' rights has displaced at minimum 727,000 U.S. jobs, and calling on the President to threaten China with tariffs until it stops artificially lowering its workers' wages.

The idea that our trade statutes protect American workers from competition with repressed workforces overseas will surprise just about everybody, but in fact, these laws were enacted by Congress in the 1980s and signed by Ronald Reagan. For the past 15 years, unions have taken no action under the laws, because the U.S. job losses were hard to quantify.

Over the past year, however, Mark Barenberg, a Columbia University law professor, and Mark Levinson, chief economist for UNITE (the clothing and textile union), concluded that changes in the global economy were so huge that such a calculation was now possible—and necessary. In particular, there was the loss of nearly 3 million U.S. manufacturing jobs over the past 3 years, the concurrent explosion of Chinese manufacturing, the ballooning of the U.S. trade deficit with China and the abundant if largely ignored documentation of China's semi-Stalinist labor system. All these things combined to make a trade-law appeal on behalf of U.S. workers eminently plausible.

The 103-page AFL-CIO petition runs through an array of statistical analyses to come up with its figure of 727,000 displaced American manufacturing jobs. But its foremost achievement may be to encapsulate the vast literature that describes the part-feudal, part-communist labor system in which Chinese peasants must labor when they go to work in China's export-sector factories. Under China's hukou system of household registration, citizens must live and work in the place where they are permanently registered, normally their place of birth. Every household is designated as rural or urban, a distinction on which a caste system has been erected.

Urban workers are free to apply for and leave jobs; they are entitled to state housing and pensions. Rural workers, however, need state permission to seek work in towns and factories. Once employed, they enter a bonded-labor arrangement in which they cannot quit unless they can pay their employer an amount plainly beyond their means. The

hukou system forbids them to compete with urban workers for higher paying jobs, and migrant workers without jobs are subject to arrest by the state's public security bureau.

By state design, then, these workers have no power to affect their conditions of work. Though productivity in China has skyrocketed, they are routinely paid rural-level subsistence wages—as little as 15 to 30 cents an hour—when they are paid at all. Employers tend to recruit childless, young, single women, whom they pack into cement-block dormitories to which the women are commonly restricted when they're not on the factory floor. They cannot leave. They organize at the peril of imprisonment or torture.

China has 160 million workers in manufacturing and mining, nearly 12 times the U.S. total. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates that 20 million peasants will enter the urban workforce every year for the next 20 years. This is, make no mistake, the planet's proletariat—and it in no way resembles the kind of free labor force we take for granted in the United States. Those U.S.-based corporations that invest in Chinese factories—a long list headed by Wal-Mart—owe some nice chunk of their profits to a workforce toiling, to resurrect a line from Mao, under "the barrel of a gun."

Critics will doubtless call the AFL-CIO "protectionist" for filing this petition. And if it's protectionist to demand that millions of Chinese women have the right to leave their jobs and apply for better ones, or to unionize their workplace or be allowed at least one day off a year, if it's protectionist to demand that U.S. workers not lose their jobs because they cannot work as cheaply as these repressed Chinese workers, then the AFL-CIO should absolutely plead guilty. What I'd like to hear from the critics—and from George W. Bush—is why they're protecting the deal between U.S. corporations and China's neo-Stalinist state to extract profits for them both at the expense of tens of millions of desperate young women.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 22, 2004]

TRADE AND LABOR RIGHTS

The Ethical basis of free markets is that they reflect free, individual choices. Workers may be paid little, but if they sign up for jobs voluntarily, then those jobs must be the best options available. Removing those jobs, for example, by closing factories on the grounds that they are "sweatshops," will make workers' lives worse. But what if the workers' choices are not free—what if workers are locked up in factory dormitories and brutalized when they protest? In that case capitalism has lost its ethical foundation. Capitalism may remain a wonderful engine of economic growth, and growth in the long term tends to bring freedom. But in the meantime it will not be just.

This is why the trade complaint against China, filed by the AFL-CIO last week, deserves qualified sympathy. China's police state abuses workers, who sometimes go unpaid and then get beaten up when they demand what is owed to them; it has punished labor leaders with harsh prison sentences handed down after fake trials. The AFL-CIO is right that such treatment violates the principle that free economics should be rooted in free politics. If the effect of the petition is to goad the U.S. government into protesting human-rights abuses in China, it will be constructive.

But the unions' ambitions go beyond that. Their petition demands that the Bush administration punish China with trade sanctions, arguing that Chinese abuses drive down wages and increase the competitive pressure on American workers. In fact, ending abuses in China would not save many