

with President Kuchma following his Moscow visit.

I hope that President Clinton will take this advice, as I believe such a gesture would give new impetus to the struggle for human rights and democracy in two pivotal nations of the international community.

In closing, I would call attention to a resolution to be introduced by our colleague Mr. LANTOS and House International Affairs Committee Chairman BEN GILMAN, regarding the issue of free media in Russia. I am pleased to join as an original cosponsor of this resolution, which among other provisions, calls upon the President, the Secretary of State, and other officials and agencies of the United States Government to emphasize to Russian government officials our concern and preoccupation that official pressures against the independent media are incompatible with democratic norms. I am pleased to co-sponsor this resolution, I hope my colleagues will join us, and I hope that President Clinton will heed this call when he meets with President Putin in Moscow next month.

COMMENDING ISRAEL'S REDEPLOYMENT FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution, and I rise today in strong support of its adoption.

Earlier this week, the Israeli government completed a courageous and historic act. It removed the last of its military forces from southern Lebanon, in compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 425. This act was inspired and led by Prime Minister Ehud Barak, whose strategic vision has once again opened up new opportunities for a comprehensive peace in the region.

With this act, Israel has taken a brave step forward in the interest of peace for its people and its neighbors. It is now incumbent upon other parties in the region to follow Israel's lead, and to take the commensurate steps called for in U.N. Resolution 425 to further enhance security in the region. In addition to calling for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, the U.N. resolution demands "strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries." It also establishes and directs a United Nations force—known as UNIFIL—to work with the Lebanese government to restore its effective authority in southern Lebanon.

H. Con. Res. 331 addresses each element of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, and calls for swift action by Israel's neighbors to demonstrate their own commitment to the terms of the U.N. resolution and to peace in the region. With adoption of this resolution, the House of Representatives will make clear what we expect to occur, now that Israel has withdrawn from Lebanon:

First, we expect the United Nations to swiftly verify and endorse Israel's withdrawal, in full compliance with U.N. Resolution 425.

Second, we expect the United Nations to move swiftly in conjunction with the Lebanese government to assert control over southern Lebanon.

Third, we expect Hezbollah and other groups in southern Lebanon to be disarmed in order to prevent terrorist activities originating from that area against the State of Israel and its people.

Fourth, we expect the Syrian government to follow Israel's lead and remove its own forces from Lebanese territory.

And finally, we expect all parties to use this historic opportunity to resume negotiations aimed toward a comprehensive peace for all of the people of the Middle East.

Israel has shown today that it can—and will—take risks for peace. America stands by Israel in its courageous action, and shares its commitment to peace in the region. I call on Israel's neighbors to demonstrate similar commitments in the days and weeks ahead.

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT (NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT) TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to passage of the PNTR bill before the House of Representatives today.

Passage of this legislation would recognize China as a permanent trading partner as opposed to reviewing our trade relationship with China on an annual basis.

The key word in this debate is permanent. Why would the United States want to move from an annual review process to recognizing China as a permanent trading partner? China continues to make the world a more dangerous place by its cooperation with rogue states and China's ongoing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Normally, individuals and countries are rewarded because of their improvements or achievements. In this case, we would be recognizing a country that has violated every single trade agreement that they have signed with the United States. While proponents of this legislation may be correct in asserting that corporate America and our economy might benefit from this agreement, what message are we sending to the Chinese government, Chinese workers and the rest of the world.

Permanent recognition of China would tell the Chinese government and the rest of the world that when it comes to corporate profits and the almighty dollar the United States will throw in the towel on the very issues that the American people and our country have stood for from the beginning. This is of course not to mention the tens of thousands of jobs that will be lost in the United States as a result of this agreement.

The Chinese government continues to sit by idly while workers are paid 25 cents an hour, forced to work 12 to 14 hour days and are forced to work 7 days a week.

If a person is as bold as Zhang Jingfeng and attempts to organize employees into a

union, they in fact can be jailed and sent to prison. Mr. Jingfeng in fact was sentenced to a 13-year prison term—and he is not alone.

In addition to a deplorable record on human rights, the Chinese people have limited freedom to assemble, limited freedom to express and practice their religious beliefs and there is limited freedom of the press.

I do not believe that United States firms are creating new markets in China—or new opportunities for Chinese workers. Instead, I believe they are creating new maquiladoras where products will be made for slave wages in horrible working conditions that will be sold to our consumers here in the United States for huge profits.

This is not the time to throw in the towel and grant permanent trading status to China. We should hold firm and review our trading relationship with China on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, for the above reasons, I strongly oppose PNTR and ask my colleagues to join me in voting "no."

INTRODUCTION OF TUBEROUS SCLEROSIS AWARENESS RESOLUTION

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Tuberos Sclerosis Awareness Resolution. Tuberos Sclerosis is a common genetic disorder that remains poorly understood. Even though 1,000,000 people worldwide are affected with the disease, few are even aware of it.

Tuberos Sclerosis is a genetic disorder that causes benign tumors to form in any of the vital organs—including the brain, eyes, heart, kidneys, and skin. It is often first recognized because of epileptic seizures and/or varying degrees of developmental delay. But, too often Tuberos Sclerosis goes undetected or is misdiagnosed because its symptoms are similar to those of more well-known diseases, such as epilepsy or autism. However, more recognition and early diagnosis is desperately needed. Infants and children too often spend their lives being misdiagnosed, possibly leading to irreparable brain damage, kidney failure, and even premature death. With a variety of treatments currently available to ease symptoms and improve the quality of life for people with Tuberos Sclerosis, diagnosis is critical.

Mr. Speaker, as May is Tuberos Sclerosis Month, I urge my colleagues to join me in bringing awareness to a devastating disease that affects at least one child born each day. By helping America to learn about and understand Tuberos Sclerosis, we will help to improve the quality of life for many children.

HONORING HEAR O'ISRAEL

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a valued organization within the Houston community, Hear O'Israel, which is sponsoring

Listen to the Cries of the Children National Campaign 2000. Hear O'Israel International, Inc. developed the campaign to strengthen the unity of families and enhance public awareness of the negative effects that alcohol and drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children and their families across Houston.

Mr. Speaker, the following resolution approved May 11th by the Mayor and Houston City Council demonstrates the high regard for Hear O'Israel in our community.

[From the Hear O'Israel International, May 22, 2000]

LISTEN TO THE CRIES OF THE CHILDREN
NATIONAL CAMPAIGN 2000

A non-profit, non-denominational organization, Hear O'Israel International, Inc. developed its Listen to the Cries of the Children National Campaign to strengthen the unity of families and enhance public awareness of the negative effects that alcohol and drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children and their families. The campaign has heard the cries of the children and parents, young and old, who are crying out due to neglect; physical challenges; broken homes; or lack of adequate food, shelter, clothing, and health care. The Listen to the Cries of the Children National Campaign 2000 will promote "... wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and forgiveness that will break them out of their prisons, visible or invisible."

As part of its ongoing effort to help the suffering, Hear O'Israel International, Inc. has conducted community-oriented programs, campaigning with former gang members who were shot and, after becoming quadriplegic, are presenting themselves as physical evidence to reinforce the negative consequences of gang involvement and experimentation with drugs and alcohol. As a part of this year's campaign, Hear O'Israel International, Inc. will call for ten seconds of silence at noon C.S.T. every day throughout the year 2000, in an effort to bridge cultural boundaries and unify a response to hear and Listen to the Cries of the Children and to "stop violence and have mercy, love and compassion for our fellow man; to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, linking and strengthening the connection that should be present between every parent, child, American, and all around the world."

The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Houston do hereby salute Hear O'Israel International, Inc. for its efforts to improve and enhance the quality of life for our children, and extend best wishes for continued success.

Approved by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Houston this 11th day of May, 2000, A.D.

THE CERRO GRANDE
COMPENSATION ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, twenty-one days ago the National Park Service in the Bandelier National Monument initiated a prescribed burn located near Los Alamos, New Mexico. Despite adverse and unpredictable weather conditions, the Park Service elected to ignite this fire.

As all of you are aware, control of that fire was quickly lost resulting in the destruction of

over 200 homes and over 44,000 acres of land. Although now under control, the fire continues to burn today.

The legislation titled "The Cerro Grande Compensation Act" would expeditiously compensate those individuals who have suffered losses as a direct result of this fire. Specifically, this bill would compensate individuals, businesses, homes, public buildings, and Native American tribes for personal injuries and property losses sustained as a result of this tragedy.

This legislation is only a first step in an attempt to make these victims whole again. Particularly those who lost everything in the fire and have a long road ahead after recovering from their losses.

I will continue to work with the New Mexico delegation and the Clinton Administration to see that a plan is quickly put in place to compensate the victims of the Cerro Grande fire.

Through this painful experience I am confident that we as Members of Congress and the Federal Government will continue to show compassion and understanding to those who have been affected by this disaster, and do everything we can to make them whole.

TIME TO REORGANIZE THE U.S.
FOREST SERVICE

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that is long overdue and desperately needed. My legislation, the 2000 U.S. Forest Service Organization Reform bill is simple legislation. Under this proposal the current Regional Offices of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) would be eliminated. In the terms of organization structure they would be replaced by state USFS offices. Each state would have a state director, just as several other agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture operate. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in the Department of the Interior also is organized in this manner.

Authority would be granted for the establishment of up to six technical support centers as well as allowing the USFS to have multi-state directors where the Federal forest presence is minor. The Forest Service office for a state would be responsible for the administration of National Forest System lands within the state.

I have come to the conclusion that I can no longer wait for the USFS to do the right thing. I can no longer wait for them to solve their management problems. I can no longer wait to see our forests suffer from neglect, mismanagement and misuse. This administration's record on addressing the major issues facing our forests on these issues is dismal. Reinventing government in the USFS today means that nobody is in charge. It means forest plans that nobody can understand. It means lawsuits and court decisions that destroy people's livelihoods and damage their families irreparably. And now it means catastrophic fires that cost millions of dollars and endangered the life and property of our citizens that live in and near our forests.

USFS state offices will be the first step in bringing accountability into this agency of government. This office will be closer to the peo-

ple in the state. The Director will interface directly and often with state officials, local government and concerned citizens. The Director will be accountable for what happens in the forest of the respective states. No longer would the USFS be able to hide in their regional offices. No longer would they be able to ignore problems in the respective states. The BLM manages more land than the USFS. The BLM planning program has been a model of unbridled success when compared to the disastrous Forest Service process. Part of the reason for this success is having a more responsive State office.

I would add at this point I have met numerous excellent USFS employees and I have been continually puzzled as to why these good people cannot make this agency work? Why, year after year, do we have study after study that talks about the mismanagement? I have finally decided that it is the structure of the USFS that is smothering the abilities of the individual employees and stopping them from solving the problems on our Forest Service lands. Today, we have "teams" and "team leaders" in government but not supervisors. Let me repeat, we have teams and team leaders, but not supervisors. Our forests deserve attention not unsupervised teams. We need people who will be responsive to the needs of our natural heritage—not to the faceless bureaucracy that currently exists in the Forest Service.

There is no doubt that the USFS will say the cost of implementing this legislation is too expensive. It will not be too expensive or more expensive. Not if they do it right. They need to stop trying to protect their sacred regional office turf. If USDA agencies can do it and BLM can do it, then so can the USFS.

We need an agency that listens to the people. We need an agency that responds to the communities most impacted by forest policy. We also need funding that is used on the ground projects that improve the health of our forests. We do not need funding that disappears in the Washington, D.C. office and in the Regional offices of the USFS. I ask the Congress when will we say about the total mismanagement "enough is enough"?

NORTHEAST DISTRICT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEGRO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS 42ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Northeast District of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., will hold its 42nd Annual District Conference at the Doubletree Somerset Hotel in Somerset New Jersey from June 2nd through June 4th.

The theme of the conference is "Leadership By Example: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." What an appropriate theme: for the challenge of leading by example has been the driving force behind this great organization, on the national level, throughout the Northeast District, and especially the Central Jersey Club. The organization, through its leadership,