

watched it flourish ever since. Last year, Holland partially privatized its postal service and Germany is doing the same starting this month. Also, there has been considerable discussion in Great Britain about the possibility of privatizing parts of the Royal Mail and Parcelforce, a move favored by a number of its top managers.

In this country, the objection to privatization has been that it would result—allegedly—in cream skimming by USPS competitors which would leave the USPS with the financially troublesome prospect of being left with only rural and bulk mail to deliver. However, the logic behind such an assumption not only does a disservice to the capabilities of USPS employees but it overlooks the significance of the telecommunications revolution now underway. What with the growing popularity of FAX machines, modems, internet, E-mail and the like, the truth of the matter is that the USPS is more likely to be left with rural and bulk mail to deliver if it doesn't go private than if it does. Only by keeping up with the times and the competition, which can best be done by operating in the same way as the competition, can be USPS hope to thrive in the future.

Understandably, many USPS employees, fearing for their jobs, have certain reservations about going that route. Since change often breeds uncertainty and uncertainty is unsettling, such a reaction is only natural. However, change also brings opportunity and that would certainly be true if the USPS were to be converted into a private corporation. And it would be especially true if that corporation were to be an employee owned one. Not only would the new entity be able to explore new markets and develop new ways of doing business, both of which could benefit postal workers, but making it employee owned would give workers more control over their futures as well as a share of the profits.

For all these reasons, I have decided to introduce once again legislation that would convert the U.S. Postal Service into a totally private, employee-owned corporation. As was the case with my previous bills to this effect, this measure calls for this transition to be implemented over a 5 year period, after which the USPS's current monopoly over the delivery of first class mail would end. However, there is one difference between this bill and my previous legislation. To make the prospects for the success of this new private sector corporation even more likely and attractive, the measure I am introducing today calls for the cost-free transfer of the assets held by the USPS to that corporation. Now only will that make the transition to private status easier to arrange, but it will speed the day when American taxpayers will no longer have to subsidize an operation that has been losing money as well as the mail.

Given the clear need for more than just minor adjustments to our postal delivery system, I hope my colleagues will carefully consider this legislation and then give it their support by signing on as co-sponsors. If America is to be truly competitive in the forthcoming era of computers and telecommunications, we simply cannot afford a correspondence delivery system that is neither prompt nor reliable. Instead, we need a system that is state of the art and the best way to get it is make use of, by making the USPS a part of, the private sector.

ENDING THE FOREIGN AID PIPELINE MESS

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation to bring to an end a multibillion-dollar problem with our foreign aid programs: the so-called foreign aid pipeline. The pipeline consists of funds appropriated in prior years, up to a decade ago, but which are not expended and just sit in accounts waiting for some bureaucrat to dream up a way to spend it.

Responding to my request for an investigation in 1991, the General Accounting Office reported that nearly \$9 billion has been sitting in the pipeline, for up to 10 years. GAO recommended that such unneeded funds be canceled after 2 years, with a couple of specific exceptions.

In 1991, the House adopted my amendment to cut off this pipeline, but the underlying bill was not enacted. Again in 1993, a version of my amendment was incorporated into the Foreign Affairs Committee's foreign aid reform bill, but that bill also was not enacted.

Today, I am renewing my initiative to cut off this multibillion waste of taxpayers' funds. GAO estimated that about half of the funds in the pipeline could be recovered by enacting my proposal, as much as \$4.5 billion. My bill was drafted after consulting with experts at the GAO.

At a time when Congress is debating reductions in programs for Americans, foreign aid should be cut first. The place to start cutting is in the foreign aid pipeline, because it has already been determined to be a source of waste.

As the new Congress proceeds to considering legislation to make spending savings, I intend to seek action on this bill and end this misuse of taxpayers' money.

USE OF UNDERUTILIZED BUILDINGS IN ECONOMICALLY DE- PRESSED AREAS

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce legislation that I sponsored in the 103d Congress that would require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to take advantage of abandoned and underutilized buildings and grounds in economically depressed areas of the country when selecting new site facilities. I invite all Members to co-sponsor this legislation.

I believe that in this age of reinvestment in our large cities, programs such as Enterprise Zone and HUD grants offer economically depressed communities the opportunity to pick themselves up and forge ahead with their recovery. I also believe, however, that Federal agencies, such as NASA, should look at those same communities when looking to expand their facilities. Much like a major sports team, NASA expansion into an economically depressed area would boost the area's financial

status, self-esteem, and morale. Often these last two simply cannot be fixed with a simple Government-sponsored grant.

My legislation would also allow older buildings and underused facilities in decaying cities the chance to be fully utilized, thereby furthering the economic and cosmetic recovery of those cities. And because those facilities would already be in place, NASA would not have to spend a fortune on constructing all new buildings and support infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, NASA's operations should not just be something we see pictures of on television. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation so that all Americans can take advantage of this country's space program.

THE 103D CONGRESS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, October 19, 1994, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE 103D CONGRESS

The 103rd Congress promised to govern. In the end, despite significant achievements, it was unable to deliver on much of the legislative program. But it should not be judged solely on the numerous measures which were defeated in the closing weeks. Among them were the bills dealing with health care, campaign finance, lobbying disclosure, telecommunications, and toxic waste clean-up. There is no doubt it was a bad ending to the Congress.

But the 103rd Congress really did quite a lot. It was reasonably productive even through extraordinarily contentious. In the end I think it was a respectable Congress, not spectacular but at least average.

MEASURES PASSED

Important legislation passed by the 103rd Congress included deficit reduction, the North American Free Trade Agreement, family and medical leave, "motor voter" registration, national service corps, Hatch Act revisions, the crime bill, interstate branch banking, Goals 2000 education reform, and deep cuts in the federal workforce. GATT may be added to this list during a special post-election session. It is easy to imagine another 8 to 12 pieces of major legislation that could have been passed near the end but were not. In judging the Congress it is important to think in terms of not only what it did but also what groundwork it laid. My guess is that basic agreements were reached in several areas in preparation for passage next year. That includes a telecommunications bill and superfund reform.

The central achievement of the 103rd Congress was passage last year of one of the largest deficit reduction packages in history—reducing the projected deficits over five years by some \$430 billion. The deficit will fall three years in a row—the first time that has happened since the Truman Administration. This has helped boost the economy—raising the overall growth rate, boosting productivity, and reducing the unemployment rate. Some 4.6 million new jobs have been created since January 1993, compared to 2.4 million over the previous four years. Passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement abolishing trade barriers between the United States, Mexico, and Canada has led to a sharp increase in U.S. exports to our NAFTA partners.