SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the Following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

PLANT CLOSINGS AND AMERICAN JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. LONGLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday of this week, a chilling announcement was received by 500 employees of the C.F. Hathaway Co. in Waterville, ME. When the Warnaco Co., which is a national holding company, which owns the C.F. Hathaway Co., in Waterville, made the following announcement, that following a comprehensive evaluation of their Hathaway men's dress shirt business, the Warnaco Co. had decided to cease manufacturing and marketing this brand. This decision will ultimately result in the sale of the business or the cessation of operations at those facilities were Hathaway shirts are produced, including the plant in Waterville, ME.

Mr. Richard Kelso, president of the Mid-State Economic Development Corp., in central Maine, said of the news that this was going to be a devastating blow because of the large number of workers involved and that unemployment in the mid-Maine area would soar from 7 or 8 percent, currently a full point above the Maine State average, to upward of 10 percent.

This is a significant and devastating blow to the Waterville, ME economy. While the Waranco Co., has indicated that it will cease manufacturing at the facility, they have, pursuant to State law, given the 500 employees 60 days notice of their intention to either terminate operations or, hopefully, to find a buyer for their operations. The Governor of our State, Governor King, has spoken to the company and has conveyed to the company his great concern over the welfare of those 500 workers and that he, on behalf of the State and the congressional delegation, was going to extend every effort to assist the Warnaco Co., in attempting to find a buyer. He and we and other Members of the delegation have all urged the company to continue their operations, hopefully until such time as we can find a buyer for the company.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tremendous economic loss or potentially a tremendous economic loss to central Maine. The C.F. Hathaway Co. is currently the oldest domestic shirt manufacturing company in the United States. It was founded in 1837, almost 160 years ago. The 500 workers today work at wages averaging $7 to $9 an hour. We all hear a lot of talk about the productivity of the American worker, and we are all very gravely concerned about the shift towards overseas and offshore production.

It is significant that just in the last 2 years, as the workers of this company became aware of the fact that Warnaco was concerned about its production costs, that they have managed to increase weekly output from just over 2,000 dozen shirts a week to more than 3,000 dozen shirts a week, an increase of over 40 percent. Just as importantly, the labor costs have decreased from about $125 a dozen shirts to $60 a dozen shirts.

What is even more startling to the people in my State and in my district is the fact that the Warnaco Co. also at the same time reported over $30 million in operating income on revenues of $206 million or net income of about $15 million after additional expenses.

This is the contrast that we face: American workers losing good American jobs, paying local taxes, supporting State and Federal Government, and yet confronted with the loss of their jobs even as the company that owns their production facility is making millions of dollars.

I would suggest that there is an issue here that we in this Chamber should be paying attention to. I hope to be investigating it further.

We need to take a very close look at the cost of doing business in this country and specifically evaluate the fact that 500 workers could be losing their jobs at the very same time that a company could be earning millions of dollars and in fact watching the stock price of the company rise even as they are losing their jobs.

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I think this is a serious issue. I have called on the Warnaco Co. to extend every consideration to the State and to the Governor as he attempts to lead us in attempting to find a purchaser for the company, and I encourage and hope that they will extend that courtesy. The 500 workers who demonstrated a tradition of loyalty going back 160 years I hope are entitled to the same expressions of loyalty and courtesy from the company for which they worked and I think we can ask for no less.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MEEHAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MEEHAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. PRYCE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. PRYCE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

HUD HOUSING IMPLEMENTATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. DOYLE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, since we just completed consideration of the U.S. Housing Act, I believe it is appropriate that I rise this evening to discuss a public housing issue that is now being played out in western Pennsylvania.

In the suburban communities of Pittsburgh, which I represent in Congress, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, county housing authority, county government, and lawyers representing plaintiffs from a 1988 lawsuit are in the process of implementing a plan to provide public housing for those plaintiffs. And, while I am sure that lawyers could argue the merits of this case for days on end, my dispute is with the manner in which the implementation is being conducted.

In the last year, when decisions were made to purchase single-family houses in seven municipalities within two school districts, the elected officials and residents of these municipalities were not informed and not consulted. The first word of this plan to purchase single-family houses in six communities out of 100 eligible communities in Allegheny County, was this undated form letter notifying them that houses in their communities would be purchased for section 8 housing.

I became involved when the mayors of these affected communities wondered why they had not been brought into the decisionmaking process until it was too late, and then only for appearances. They were at a loss for what could be done about HUD forcing its will on their citizens. I suggested that they form an intermunicipal working group and offer an alternative plan to the proposal by the parties of the consent decree.

There are three basic problems with the path HUD is taking in my district: The lack of community notification and participation, the concentrated loss of tax revenues to the municipalities and school districts, and the extravagant use of taxpayer funds to provide public housing.

First, HUD has shown little interest in communicating with local officials

during the decisionmaking process. HUD, and the other parties to this consent decree, deliberately contrived to purchase houses using national guidelines in an original price range between $74,500 and $104,500 for a single unit of housing. When asked only as recently as last week, the communities, where six of the homes were to be purchased, provided lists of more reasonably priced houses as alternatives for purchase. The community leaders are making a good faith effort that is certainly more of a commonsense approach.

By concentrating the first 18 of these 23 house purchases in three communities, the tax revenue losses due to the tax exemptions for section 8 housing were directed unfairly at a relatively small number of communities and only one school district. We proposed that the scattered-site distribution be made throughout a wider geographic area so any revenue losses would be a burden shared fairly among the entire region. After all, the consent decree calls for the public housing to be located throughout Allegheny County, not just a limited portion of the county. And that brings me to the third area that HUD disregarded in its implementation. By purchasing less expensive houses, the tax revenue losses would be more bearable by the local governments and this would be a fair way to treat the citizens who already live in those communities.

The case concluded with a judge's consent decree which requires HUD to acquire 100 units of public housing within Allegheny County to be maintained by the county's housing authority. This still left open the question of how the decree would be implemented.

After the judge's ruling in December 1994, the parties involved in the lawsuit began making implementation plans, but they did not ask for any input from the communities involved. Some time before this past December, HUD decided that it would purchase 23 scattered-site single family houses in a small number of communities to begin implementing the decree. My observation is that there is a right way and a wrong way to implement such a consent decree. HUD and the others involved in this case have taken the wrong path and should go back and start over.

On Tuesday, HUD closed purchases on five of six houses, with prices of $57,500, $67,000, $73,000, $76,000, and $76,595. The people in these communities work hard to have homes and some work two and three jobs to pay for them. Most of the people who live in these communities cannot afford to buy homes at those prices. What kind of a message is HUD sending when they use $2.6 million of the taxpayers' funds to purchase 23 houses in 7 communities? Is this wise use of Federal funds? I don't think so.

Along with the local elected officials, I recommended that HUD help revitalize the housing stock in these communities by purchasing starter homes—homes that could be purchased for much less, and upgraded to improve the housing stock in those communities. This would be a win-win proposal and a commonsense approach to the problem.

I discussed this entire fiasco with Secretary Henry Cisneros recently and I thank him for listening. Now, I want him to act. This week I wrote this letter asking him to place the houses that HUD purchased this week back on the market. HUD needs to start over. And I am asking that he use the guidelines I just explained to implement the consent decree. If HUD is willing to purchase less expensive starter houses across a larger number of the 100 eligible communities and work with the community leaders to identify such properties, then we will solve this implementation challenge. We have been ready to offer alternatives and act in a cooperative spirit to assist HUD and the local housing authority in implementing this consent decree.

During the recent debate on H.R. 2406, the U.S. Housing Act, I discussed this issue with the Appropriations VA/HUD Subcommittee Chairman Jerry Lewis, and I have his assurance that he will work with me through the appropriations process to develop legislative language ensuring that this kind of reckless disregard for the communities and extravagant use of taxpayer dollars does not continue. Public policy on housing and on other local issues should be developed with public participation and by extending a hand of cooperation. We are prepared to cooperate and help create a better life for every citizen in western Pennsylvania.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCINTOSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

SALUTE TO LT. COL. HAROLD COHEN ON HIS RECEIPT OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. CHAMBLISS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to salute a remarkable man who is the subject of a remarkable story. Harold Cohen is a native of Spartanburg, SC. He is the son of a Russian immigrant.

In 1942 Harold Cohen entered the Army of the United States of America as a private. Two and a half years later Harold Cohen was a major in the U.S. Army and a battalion commander. Ultimately Harold Cohen received the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army.

Colonel Cohen was a close personal friend and a colleague of Creighton Abrams. He and General Abrams served together as a part of General Patton's 3d Army. General Abrams was commander of the 37th Tank Battalion while Colonel Cohen commanded the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion.

It has been said of Harold Cohen as follows:

> Often in the advance, Cohen's infantrymen would ride on Abrams' tanks. Cohen himself, remembered his men, was in constant motion. He sped up and down the column in a mud-splattered Jeep, pleading, coaxing and cursing. His high-pitched voice with his rich southern accent could be heard from great distances. Abrams as a tanker was impressed that infantry leaders like Cohen could motivate their men to move forward under fire with nothing but their OD shirts for protection and he often did so.

Harold Cohen became a real World War II hero. For the exemplary service that Harold Cohen rendered to his country, Harold Cohen received four Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts, the Legion of Merit, the French Croix de Guerre, and awards from Poland, England, Czechoslovakia, and Luxembourg.

But the highest recognition of Harold Cohen was yet to come. Harold Cohen mustered out of the Army after the war and became a successful businessman in Tifton, GA. Creighton Abrams went on to become Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

Dr. Lewis Sorley, who is a resident of Potomac, MD, wrote a book called ''Thunderbolt.'' ''Thunderbolt'' included a long history of the life of Creighton Abrams.

During the course of writing that book, Dr. Sorley discovered that during the latter part of World War II, Harold Cohen was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross by his men for bravery performed by Harold Cohen during an event that took place on February 25, 1945. The paperwork on this particular recommendation for the award of the Distinguished Service Cross for Harold Cohen unfortunately became lost during the process of the end of World War II.

Dr. Sorley pursued the matter after he discovered this. He went to the U.S. Army, told them what had happened and thanks to his diligence, Harold Cohen today received the Distinguished Service Cross from Gen. Dennis Reimer, who is the current Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

The receipt today was very special, because Harold's wife Bettye; Harold's children Marty and Peggy; their grandchildren, Anna, Rachel, Michael, and Alan were also present.

I would like to take just a minute to read the citation that was presented to Harold Cohen today.

> The President of the United States, authorized by an act of Congress dated July 9, 1918, has awarded the Distinguished Service