## RECOGNIZING LEXMARK INTERNATIONAL'S EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

### HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Lexmark International, an excellent corporate constituent headquartered in my District, that embodies the entrepreneurial spirit as well as the environmental consciousness required by a global corporation.

Lexmark received the Kentucky Governor's Environmental Excellence Award on November 9, presented by Lt. Gov. Steve Henry and James E. Bickford, Secretary of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet, at the Governor's Conference on the Environment.

Lexmark International was selected to receive this year's Environmental Excellence Award for Industrial Environmental Leadership because of the many steps it has taken to prevent pollution and encourage recycling. Since 1991, Lexmark has increased the amount of materials it recycles by about 70 percent. Last year, this Lexington-based company recycled more than 4.3 million pounds of paper and one million pounds of scrap metal.

Lexmark encourages its customers to recycle by offering them an incentive to return their empty laser printer cartridges through its Prebate program. Since the incentive began, Lexmark says that returns of empty toner cartridges have tripled, saving them from ending up in landfills.

As we recognize America Recycles Day this week, I urge my colleagues and our constituents to help encourage environmental protection both at home and at work. I offer my congratulations to Lexmark International for setting such a positive example for others to replicate.

## COURAGE

### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting this statement regarding my constituent, Gordon D. Ladd, which shows the courage and perseverance he displayed in organizing the first union in northern Vermont in the 1940s, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe the views of this person will benefit my colleagues.

GORDON D. LADD—FIRST PRESIDENT OF IAM LODGE IN DERBY LINE VERMONT ORGANIZING A UNION IN VERMONT IN THE 1940'S

In 1943 I requested an interview with the superintendent of management at Butterfield Corporation in Derby Line Vermont to request a wage increase and my request was denied emphatically. I informed him that I would return.

I met a friend of mine who used to be a coach, a hockey coach, and he had relatives in the plant. This guy I met, Bert, you could call him, he was a machinist for the railroad in Island Pond, and he belonged to the machinist's union. So he asked if we had a union up there and what the wages were. We were good friends, he was coach for a long time, but anyway, I told him that wages were very low at my workplace, and he said ''Well, do you think they would be interested in the union?''. I said ''Well, yeah I'll talk to a few.'' So, I did.

When I went up to see the boss that first time he asked me what I was making. I told him ''65 cents an hour''. I had started at 45 cents and worked three years—I got a 10 cent raise each year. And it was 65 cents, and he, ah, he's a rough little character, he slammed his fists down on his desk and he says ''by god,'' he says, ''that's the highest we will ever pay at this plant''. So then I got up and said ''We'll see about that, and I'll be back.''

So now I went to the shop, talked to several guys, they were all interested, all enthused about it, and said they would support a union. So then I get back to Burt at Island Pond, and told him to send us up a representative. It was then less than a week and the Machinist representative had arrived from Albany, New York. And he talked to me, he came to the house a few times, and then we called a meeting, and, more and more, one meeting after another, at first it was a small amount, a few men, but then they got bigger and bigger crowds.

Management of course fought us tooth and nail. Well, one thing I can remember in particular. The general foreman, he was under the superintendent, he was putting something on the union representative's car, on the front end of it, come to find out, spikes on a rope. And he was seen doing that, and we called him on it, but he denied it of course. You see they hit just right and they could blow the tires.

They did little annoying things. They'd send us one of these, what we'd call suckers down, always coming down and talking to me, trying to find out things, you know. I just told them I knew nothing. Another one of these superintendents came down one day and says ''We know you're the head of the union,'' and I said ''I've got a perfectly good right to according to the laws''. And he didn't have too much more to say.

We also learned that the company had hired an electrician for the purpose of organizing against the union, see he was a company plant. So he got up and threw a scare, said that if we had a union we would lose our bonus, a 10% bonus every six months. So that killed the first drive right there, see. And they tried every little trick, they sent the people down that I knew, they'd come down and fish around, try to get information from me. Then they called me, offered me 10 cents an hour more, if I'd stop the union organizing. ''We'll give you 10 cents an hour raise, but I want you to keep it quiet, I don't want you to tell anybody.'' Then they'd say, ''If you tell me the guys that are dissatisfied in the shop, give me their names, we'd give them 15 cents an hour more.'' And I said ''Just a minute, if everybody gets 15 cents and hour we'll go along with it, but other than that,'' I said, ''no way''. You can pick out a few, that would just start trouble.

So then we call the meeting, the machinist's union, and we get a hall and call the meeting, and that was the one where we lost the election the first time.

I don't remember the exact vote total but it was close. But then comes the good part. We later learned that the company sent down foremen and group leaders and had them vote too. But the fact is they shouldn't have been able to vote because they were management. They even sent down 3 or 4 women down from the office to vote, and the vote was for production workers and these were office workers. They shouldn't have been able to vote either but management wanted more to go in the ballot box.

So we petitioned for another election. And once again during the vote the company starting sending down foremen and group leaders to vote. But this time our union representative said no way. The Labor Board Representative was there and we challenged the right of these supervisory men to vote. The Board Representative put those votes, I think there were 26 of them, in a special envelope. This time we won the election by a pretty good margin. That was in 1944.

Another little thing here. I was in a barber shop and the big shot manager from the venier mill came in. My barber was my landlord, we were renting the house, and he asked me something about the union. And this management guy from the mill, he says ''That union'' and he used a few cuss-words ''won't last six months!'' Well it's a 55 year later and the union's still there. But the funny part is, in about a year and a half, they plopped the union in at the venier mill.

Well, the main thing at my plant was wages, because plants in the state, we checked around a little bit and some of the plants were paying, at that time, double what we were getting. We checked around, because some of the guys, neighbors in Newport were working down in the Springfield machine shops, at places like Jones-Lampson. When we heard what they were getting, we thought ''Well, we should be getting about the same.''

I was elected as the first president of the union lodge in 1944 and served for seven years. We did pretty good with improving wages and getting benefits—we got health insurance, a pension plan. I've collected from the pension plan for 19 years now, and we got pretty good medical. We didn't have either before the union. It definitely pays to be union.

## A BAD WEEK FOR ISOLATIONISTS

### HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, for those who might have missed it, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a piece by David Ignatius from Wednesday's Washington Post.

As a strong supporter of free trade, I share Mr. Ignatius's optimism at the agreement reached earlier this week for China to join the World Trade Organization. As foreign trade becomes increasingly important in the developing global economy, we must work to ensure open access to the emerging Chinese markets, especially in the areas of financial services and telecommunications. This agreement will give that access to American companies. I salute Trade Representative Barshefsky on her hard work at achieving this agreement under difficult circumstances.

I also agree with Mr. Ignatius's view that the agreement does not go far enough. As a member of the congressional delegation to the WTO Ministerial in Seattle later this month, I will work to restore some of the more favorable aspects of the agreement rejected by the President in April.

I commend Mr. Ignatius's article to my colleagues' attention.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 17, 1999]

A BAD WEEK FOR ISOLATIONISTS

If you believe that international engagement is America's best hope for the future, then this is a week to savor. For beyond the