

for more than 50 years because many of the people living in Indian-administered Kashmir—especially in the Muslim-majority Kashmir valley—do not wish to be governed by India. They would prefer to be either independent or part of Pakistan. In fact, India and Pakistan have militarily clashed over the territory three times in 1947/48, 1965 and 1971, and nearly fought another war over the territory in 2001—which could have involved nuclear weapons.

Several years ago, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and then Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf agreed to begin a dialogue aimed at narrowing their differences on the issue of Kashmir, and launch a series of confidence-building measures aimed at promoting trade and normal relations. I was encouraged by their efforts to improve the security situation in Kashmir, and was hopeful that cooperation between India and Pakistan would continue and ultimately lead to a sustained peace in Kashmir. President Musharraf is now gone and Prime Minister Singh has either been unable or unwilling to carry forward the initiative he began some six years ago. As a result, the simmering frustrations of an entire generation of Kashmiris who have grown up and come of age in an environment of repression once again exploded into violence this summer.

Regrettably, the conflict has garnered little attention from the American media and zero attention from the White House. During the Presidential campaign, President Obama pledged to appoint a special envoy to the region and declared, "... that solving the 'Kashmir crisis' was one of his 'critical tasks.'" So far, this has been a promise unfulfilled.

Madam Speaker, I believe an end to the violence and uncertainty in Kashmir would be widely welcomed in India and Pakistan as well as by our military commanders in Afghanistan. The longer the Pakistani Government focuses on staring down India along the Line of Control in Kashmir the harder it will be to defeat the extremists groups threatening the stability of the Pakistani Government, as well as the elements of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda using Pakistan as a safe haven to launch attacks against coalition forces in Afghanistan.

I do not know how the problem in Kashmir will ultimately be solved. However, I personally believe that the people of Kashmir should be given the plebiscite they were promised by the United Nations decades ago. And I ask unanimous consent to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an op-ed by Dr. Ghulam-Nabi Fai—Executive Director of the Kashmiri American Council—which puts the case for the plebiscite in context. I encourage my colleagues to read it. Whatever the solution, resolving the dispute over Kashmir is crucial to defeating the militants and stabilizing Pakistan, and winning the War in Afghanistan. The status quo is simply unacceptable.

[From the Guardian, Aug. 31, 2010]

THE PEOPLE OF KASHMIR MUST BE ALLOWED
TO VOTE ON THEIR OWN FUTURE

(By Ghulam-Nabi Fai)

Pankaj Mishra's article was a concise and accurate examination of the Kashmir crisis (Why silence over Kashmir speaks volumes, 14 August). He pointed out that the protesters "have a broader mass base than the Green Movement does in Iran. But no colour-coded revolution is heralded in Kashmir by western commentators?"

Virtually everyone—men, women and children—of the capital city of Kashmir,

Srinagar, has taken to the streets to lodge a non-violent protest at the office of the United Nations against the continuance of Indian occupation. But such non-violent protests have received little or no press coverage, even though they have been taking place, as Mishra reports, since 2008. Is it any wonder that Kashmiris feel "that theirs is the voice of a neglected people"?

Mishra speaks about the Indian media amplifying "the falsehoods and deceptions of Indian intelligence agencies in Kashmir", which argue that the Kashmiri protests are the work of Islamic fundamentalists and/or terrorists. But in the case of Srinagar, the population of a major town cannot be composed entirely of such elements.

Kashmiris simply demand a speedy implementation of the pledge solemnly extended to them by India and Pakistan and the UN—to be allowed to decide their future through an unrigged and uncoerced vote.

The protests are an unmistakable expression of Kashmiris' resentment against the indifference of world powers—and their failure, largely because of toxic power politics, to implement international agreements.

As Mishra stated: "India is a counterweight, at least in the fantasies of western strategists, to China." This contributes to the policies of inaction.

So Kashmir continues to bleed under a renewed outpouring of revolt against occupation, as the world continues to ignore it. There is a deliberate and direct targeting of young people by the military forces, intent on crushing the anti-occupation movement. Mishra states: "Already this summer, soldiers have shot dead more than 50 protesters, most of them teenagers." Their weapons? Rocks and stones. Hardly the tools of terrorists.

Apart from the magnitude of violence unleashed by the military forces against protesters, the most poignant aspect of the situation is the acute suffering of the whole population caused by the frequent curfews, disregard of normal life, arrests, detentions and sometimes disappearances of innocent civilians by the authorities. This is a situation without precedent in the south Asian sub-continent and with few parallels in the world today.

During his U.S. presidential campaign, Barack Obama pledged he would appoint a special envoy to the region—as Mishra says, "he declared that solving the 'Kashmir crisis' was one of his 'critical tasks'". However: "Since then the U.S. president hasn't uttered a word about this ur-crisis that has seeded all major conflicts in south Asia."

If only Obama would keep his promise, it would certainly hasten the process of peace and stability in south Asia—home to one-fifth of the human race.

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5297—Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010, a bill that brings billions of dollars of tax relief and access to capital to small businesses.

Helping North Dakota businesses create jobs is one of my top priorities. In North Dakota, small business is business. Nearly 80 percent of North Dakotans work for companies

with less than 500 employees and 60 percent work for companies with less than 100 employees. Small businesses are a proven engine of job creation. During the last economic expansion, companies with less than 20 employees accounted for 40 percent of the job growth while accounting for only 25 percent of all jobs.

Today, we give this engine of job creation the fuel it needs to charge forward.

Surveys of National Federation of Independent Business members identified the number one economic concern facing small businesses as poor sales stemming from a lack of demand from consumers. This has been their top concern since the recession and most recently 31 percent of respondents reported poor sales as their most important problem. Beneath this response is the fact that many small businesses want to borrow but cannot. So, they need help with capital too.

To help small business, I introduced bipartisan legislation, the Small Business Jobs and Tax Relief Act, which would generate demand for products and services while putting more capital into the hands of small businesses.

One of the lingering difficulties is that many small businesses have limited access to the capital they need to operate, grow, and create new jobs. By providing small business tax relief, Congress can free up money, which will help small businesses feel that they can hire new employees and make investments in new equipment that will build demand for goods and services. I am pleased that tax cuts from the bill I authored are in key components in this bill before the House today.

One of the several good measures in H.R. 5297 that will generate the demand that our small business need to grow is bonus depreciation. It is one of the best ways to stimulate the economy and create jobs. Bonus depreciation accelerates the rate at which businesses can deduct the cost of capital expenditures so it encourages companies to spend while it boosts company cash flows.

Economists rate bonus depreciation as one of the most economically productive tax initiatives. In a 2001 analysis, the Institute for Policy Innovation estimated that every \$1 of tax cuts devoted to accelerated depreciation generates about \$9 new growth in the economy. Looking back at times when bonus depreciation was used to encourage capital investment, economists determined that it was responsible for creating several hundred thousand jobs.

Out in our small towns, many Americans are creating job opportunities for themselves and for others by starting new small business. We need to encourage this spirit of free enterprise. The Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010 will help new start-up businesses in two ways that I heard from North Dakotans would be helpful and included in my bill:

1. The bill would double the current amount a start-up business can deduct, so that a new business owner could deduct \$10,000 of expenses he or she might have incurred to set up shop. Without the bill before us today, that deduction for start up costs would be limited to only \$5,000; and

2. The 100 percent exclusion from tax of gains on small business stock in H.R. 5297 would expand the access to capital for small business across the county.

This bill also reduces the regulatory burden on small business by modernizing the tax accounting required for business provided cell

phones and eliminating outlandish penalties for abusive tax shelters.

Small businesses are most likely to conduct business while they are away from their offices. Nine out of ten small businesses indicate they use mobile phones for their business and one in seven feel that their businesses could not survive without mobile devices. The Internal Revenue Code still contains paperwork requirements for wireless phones from the 1970s. Rather than spending money on accountants and the costs associated with an IRS audit, H.R. 5297 allows small businesses to spend it instead on creating jobs.

While the Internal Revenue Service must stop abusive tax shelters, today will vote to eliminate a disproportionate effect that some tax penalties have on small businesses. No longer will small businesses face outlandish penalties for failing to disclose on their taxes reportable transactions. The bill brings such penalties into proportion with the underlying tax savings and does not put business owners out of business.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Chairman LEVIN for including small business tax incentives, especially bonus depreciation, and relief from excessive regulations that I authored in the bipartisan Small Business Jobs and Tax Relief Act in the final bill that we vote on today.

The Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010 is good for North Dakota small businesses. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 5297.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN ON THE 99TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise and invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Republic of China's National Day, known as "Double Ten Day." On October 10, 1911 the Wuchang Uprising ushered in the wave leading to the collapse of the Ching Dynasty and the founding of the Republic of China. This anniversary will be a day of great celebration and thanksgiving, and I would like to offer my congratulations and good wishes to President Ma Ying-jeou and all the people of Taiwan on this special occasion.

The centennial anniversary of the Republic of China's National Day is just one year away and it is fitting and proper to recognize the great strides made by the Republic of China over the course of that century. This great country has developed a vibrant and spirited democratic system of government, created a dynamic economic engine, and developed into a fully modernized country—a model for the region.

Under the leadership of President Ma, Taiwan has also worked to improve relations with mainland China, having successfully negotiated and signed the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, ECFA, this year. Efforts like this can foster a new sense of cooperation within the region as the people of China and Taiwan benefit from increased trade between their countries.

So I stand together today with the people of Taiwan as they celebrate the 99th anniversary

of the founding of the Republic of China. May the bravery and commitment that marked that day continue to flourish in these days and in the years ahead.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING EFFICIENCY AND RETRAINING INVESTMENT COLLABORATION ACHIEVEMENT WORKS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to promote America's workforce competitiveness by calling for measures that modernize our job training programs and prepare workers with the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century global economy. The bill before us, the AMERICA Works Act, H.R. 4072, would develop the technical workforce necessary to strengthen and attract in-demand industries in the United States, and create good jobs in regional economies across the country.

Our Nation's economic recovery remains extremely fragile. According to last month's jobs report, 42 percent of the nearly 15 million people have been unemployed for 6 months or longer. Despite large numbers of individuals looking for jobs, the staffing firm Manpower, Inc., found in a recent survey that one in five employers have left positions unfilled because they did not believe qualified candidates existed. Especially employers in key industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, and energy report difficulty finding workers with appropriate skill sets. With unemployment rates expected to remain high for months to come, investing in targeted job training that matches labor market demand is an economic strategy needed for a strong and sustained recovery.

Employers rely on a pipeline of skilled workers to drive innovation, increase productivity, and remain globally competitive. At the same time, individuals need the skills and credentials to fill these jobs. According to the Virginia Council on Advanced Technology Skills, which include companies such as Micron Technology, Inc., and Boehringer Ingelheim Chemicals, more than 40,000 manufacturing jobs could open up in the region over the next few years. The industry group is currently developing an assessment to determine what skills employers require and help students learn what skills they need to increase their job prospects and increase their salary when they are hired. The goal is to be able to match workers with the core skills and industry-recognized credentials for employers that have job openings. Addressing the current skills mismatch, according to the president of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, could reduce national unemployment from 9.6 percent to as low as 6.5 percent.

The AMERICA Works Act will help workers and employers like the industry group in Virginia as well as other industry-sector partnerships fill the skills gap by honing in on the importance of industry-recognized, portable credentials. Specifically, the bill would direct the use of public funds for designated programs within the Carl D. Perkins Vocational-Technical Education Act and the Workforce In-

vestment Act to prepare individuals with the core skills necessary to obtain good, middle-class jobs. This bill complements other efforts, including sector strategies, which support local partnerships between business, labor, the workforce system, and education and training providers to ensure that workers have the skills employers need to compete in the global marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman MINNICK and Congressman LEE for introducing this legislation that invests in the skills of America's workers. I urge my colleagues to continue to advance education and training measures that build America's workforce and strengthen the economy.

HONORING THE ALLEN ORGAN COMPANY

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Allen Organ Company, which was founded in Allentown, Pennsylvania, by Jerome Markowitz, in 1937.

We are fast approaching the 40th anniversary of the technology used in the Allen Digital Computer Organ, the world's first digital instrument. Introduced the same year as the digital calculator, these were the first two applications of the digital technology that is so prevalent in our world today. For nearly 40 years, digital music has provided quality, versatile, and economical music to performing artists and houses of worship.

In 2004, the Smithsonian Institution acquired the very first Allen Digital Organ, which was manufactured in 1971 and originally installed in St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Easton, Pennsylvania. This recognition is a great honor for the Allen Organ Company and the inventive people in my district who have been crafting high-quality instruments for decades.

Today, the Jerome Markowitz Memorial Center serves to display the technological advancements that Allen Organ has made over the years which have contributed to the advancement of electronic music. Allen Organ's early advances in digital technology paved the way for modern digital sound devices, such as CDs, personal computer sound cards, and portable media devices. From the company's first patent for an analog organ in 1938 through the digital revolution, Allen Organ has been a pioneer in the advancement of electronic music.

Jerome's son, Steve Markowitz, is currently the president of the company, which has been run by the same family for seventy-three years. From humble beginnings, the Allen Organ Company now employs roughly 200 of my constituents in the Lehigh Valley and has installed 80,000 instruments in more than 80 countries. In closing, Madam Speaker, I would like to applaud the Allen Organ Company and its employees for their enduring dedication to the furtherance of digital music technology.