

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ELIMINATING THE MINIMUM WAGE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the minimum wage should be eliminated. Government has no business determining a person's worth in the job market. If you force a business to pay more than a person is worth, somebody else is going to be paid less than they are worth to compensate for that person's job. Worker wages should be determined by competitive market forces, not Government imposed mandates.

President Clinton's proposed 21 percent wage hike represents a powerful blow to the low skilled and young wage earners of America—the bulk of the minimum wage population. Legislation to raise the minimum wage is no answer to poverty. Instead, it will increase poverty. Economists agree that raising the minimum wage would instantly eliminate tens of thousands of jobs. The minimum wage is a tax on labor and, more importantly, a tax on hiring.

Increasing the cost of labor and hiring makes it difficult for small businesses—the engine for job creation—to hire new workers. The minimum wage slams shut the window of opportunity. It denies thousands of potential young, low-skilled workers the opportunity to better themselves and contribute to their communities.

Government exists to serve the needs of the people. A federally imposed minimum wage increase works against the needs of American workers and small businesses—shrinking the job base while raising costs. Our economy functions best when left alone, not when meddled with by Government bureaucrats.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1360— KOSOVA PEACE, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 1995

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, recent events in Bosnia have demonstrated how little regard the Serbs have for the views of the international community. Their complete disregard for the mandates and requirements of the U.N. Security Council, and indeed for the norms of civilized behavior as they carry out their plan for an ethnically cleansed Greater Serbia raises concern for the region of Kosova with its population of nearly 2 million ethnic Albanians.

Prior to 1989, under the constitutional arrangements of the former Yugoslavia Kosova enjoyed an autonomous status in which the Albanian majority enjoyed many of the fruits of self-government. Public institutions such as schools, hospitals, and the police were con-

trolled by the local population. In 1989, however, as Serbian President Milosevic sought to consolidate his grasp on power he exploited ancient Serbian sensitivities on the status of Kosova as an excuse for annulling Kosova's autonomous status by illegally altering the Yugoslav Constitution, and subsequently replacing Albanian personnel in the educational, health, and law enforcement systems in Kosova with Serbs.

Almost 2 years ago, Serbian authorities refused to renew visas for a team of CSCE monitors that had been dispatched to Kosova to keep an eye on human rights abuses committed by the Serbian authorities. The Serbs have remained intransigent in refusing to grant visas for human rights monitors despite urgent appeals from the United States and most members of the European Union and other concerned countries. They have also refused to comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 855 which required Serbia to permit international human rights monitors into Kosova. Since the departure of international monitors last summer human rights abuses have nearly doubled, according to reports from the Kosovar Albanian community, with a number of its leading personalities driven into exile for fear for their lives.

Accordingly, on behalf of the gentlemen and gentelady from New York, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MOLINARI and Mr. KING, the gentleman from California, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH, I am today introducing H.R. 1360, entitled the "Kosova Peace, Democracy and Human Rights Act of 1995." This bill links lifting of the U.N. economic sanctions against Serbia—to a resolution of the deplorable human rights situation in Kosova, and requests the administration to submit a report within 60 days of enactment on its recommendations on ways to implement international protection for the rights of the majority of the Kosovar population. In so doing, I do not believe that this is an issue in which the United States should seek to act alone. We should consult with our allies in Europe and with other members of the Security Council because this is an issue in which they too have an important stake. I do hope that this measure will help to focus the administration on the issue of Kosova as it seeks to bring the conflict in Bosnia to conclusion. I do not believe that ignoring or omitting the situation in Kosova, wherein millions of people are daily subject to harsh and brutal denial of the most basic and fundamental human rights, will contribute to long-term stability in the Balkans.

I want to acknowledge with deep appreciation the role of my colleagues, Mr. ENGEL and Ms. MOLINARI, cofounders of the Albanian Issues Caucus, who have done so much to keep the issue of Kosova before the Congress and the American people. This bill reflects their efforts, and support for the rights of the citizens of Kosova, and I am pleased to be able to introduce this measure on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby request that the full text of H.R. 1360, the Kosova Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Act of 1995, be included at this point in the RECORD.

H.R. 1360

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Kosova Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, adopted in 1946, and the amended Constitution of Yugoslavia, adopted in 1974, described the status of Kosova as one of the eight constituent territorial units of the Yugoslav Federation.

(2) The political rights of the Albanian majority in Kosova were curtailed when the Government of Yugoslavia illegally amended the Constitution of Yugoslavia without the consent of the people of Kosova on March 23, 1989, revoking the autonomous status of Kosova.

(3) In 1990, the Parliament and Government of Kosova were abolished by further unlawful amendments to the Constitution of Yugoslavia.

(4) In September 1990, a referendum on the question of independence for Kosova was held in which 87 percent of those eligible to participate voted and 99 percent of those voting supported independence for Kosova.

(5) In May 1992, a Kosovar national parliament was elected and Dr. Ibrahim Rugova was overwhelmingly elected President of the Republic of Kosova.

(6) The Parliament and Government of Kosova were not permitted to assemble in Kosova.

(7) Credible reports of Serbian "ethnic cleansing" in Kosova have been received by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, and in January 1995, Serbia announced a new policy to colonize Albanian land in Kosova.

(8) Over 100,000 ethnic Albanians in government, police, the judiciary, enterprises, media, educational institutions, and hospitals of Kosova have been removed from their jobs and replaced by Serbians.

(9) The government in Belgrade has severely restricted the access of ethnic Albanians in Kosova to all levels of education, especially education in the Albanian language, solely on the basis of their ethnicity.

(10) Reports of arrests and brutal beatings by the mostly Servian police, sometimes leading to the death of ethnic Albanians in Kosova for expressing views in opposition to Servian authorities, are received almost daily.

(11) Observers of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe dispatched to Kosova in 1991 were expelled by the government in Belgrade in July 1993.

(12) The Government of Serbia has ignored United Nations Security Council Resolution 855 of August 1993, which calls upon Belgrade to allow the continuation of the mission of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe and to guarantee the safety of and unimpeded access for monitors of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

(13) Following the departure of such observers, several international human rights

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch-Helsinki, and the Helsinki Federation for Human Rights have documented an increase in humanitarian abuses in Kosova.

(14) Congress provided for the opening of United States Information Agency cultural center in Prishtina, Kosova, in section 223 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993, but the Department of State has asserted that security conditions have prevented the establishment of such center.

(15) The President has explicitly warned the Government of Serbia that the United States is prepared to respond in the event of escalated conflict in Kosova caused by Serbia.

(16) On January 4, 1994, President Clinton stated, "there are a large number of issues, including Kosova, that I believe must be addressed before Belgrade should be freed of United Nations sanctions and able to return to the international community. . . . As before, our decision of whether to support suspension of any sanctions will be made in close consultation with Congress."

(17) On February 15, 1994, President Clinton announced, without prior consultation with the Congress, a set of conditions, not including improvements in Kosova, which, if met by Serbia and Montenegro, would result in the lifting of international sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro.

SEC. 3. POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States that—

(1) the situation in Kosova must be resolved before Belgrade is freed of international sanctions and is able to return to the international community;

(2) the right of the people of Kosova to govern themselves and to establish a separate identity for Kosova must not be denied;

(3) international observers should be returned to Kosova;

(4) the elected Government of Kosova should be permitted to meet and exercise its legitimate mandate as elected representatives of the people of Kosova;

(5) all individuals whose employment was terminated on the basis of their ethnicity should be reinstated to their previous positions; and

(6) the education system in Kosova should be reopened to all residents of Kosova regardless of ethnicity and the majority ethnic Albanian population should be allowed to educate its youth in its native tongue.

SEC. 4. RESTRICTIONS ON THE TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO UNTIL CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET.

(a) RESTRICTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no sanction, prohibition, or requirement described in section 1511 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (Public Law 103-160), with respect to Serbia or Montenegro, may cease to be effective, unless—

(1) the President first submits to the Congress a certification described in subsection (b); and

(2) the requirements of section 1511 of that Act are met.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—A certification described in this subsection is a certification that—

(1) there is substantial progress toward—

(A) the realization of a separate identity for Kosova and the right of the people of Kosova to govern themselves; or

(B) the creation of an international protectorate for Kosova;

(2) there is substantial improvement in the human rights situation in Kosova,

(3) international human rights observers are allowed to return to Kosova; and

(4) the elected government of Kosova is permitted to meet and carry out its legitimate mandate as elected representatives of the people of Kosova.

SEC. 5. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall prepare and transmit to the Congress a report on—

(1) the situation in Kosova, including the manner in which the policies of Serbia have affected the economic, social, and cultural rights of the majority in Kosova;

(2) measures to provide humanitarian assistance to the population of Kosova and to Kosovar refugees who have fled Kosova, including the impact of United States sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro upon the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Kosova;

(3) recommendations (taking into account the views of other United Nations Security Council members and the European Union) on what modalities may be pursued, including the possibility of establishing an international protectorate for Kosova together with other members of the United Nations Security Council and the European Union, to implement international protection of the rights of the people of Kosova, reestablish an international presence in Kosova to monitor more effectively the situation in Kosova, and secure for the people of Kosova their right to democratic self-government;

(4) the current status of United States efforts to establish a United States Information Agency cultural center in Prishtina, Kosova, as provided in section 223 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993, specifying the security conditions and any other factors preventing establishment of such center; and

(5) the presence of United States officials in Kosova, prior to establishment of a United States Information Agency cultural center in Prishtina, Kosova, including the number, frequency, and duration of visits of personnel of the United States Embassy in Belgrade to Kosova during the 12-month period ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

HAPPY 30TH ANNIVERSARY
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMIS-
SION

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful organization within my congressional district that is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The Human Development Commission has been ably led since 1979 by its executive director, Mary Ann Vandemark, whom I have had the privilege to know for a number of years. The work that HDC performs for the people of Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac and Tuscola counties is most important, and the public support for HDC is a sincere testimony to the organization's worth.

HDC evolved from the Thumb Area Economic Opportunity Commission, which was created when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1965. A full-color photograph of that historic signing hangs today in HDC's board room, and it has witnessed many decisions which have served to help those in need in Michigan's Thumb area. Among the effects of those decisions were the local creation of Head Start, the Neighborhood Youth Corps, and Family Coun-

seling Programs. Today, HDC serves its population with over 40 programs, ranging from Assault Crisis Intervention to weatherization services, and is a leading member of the National Community Action network of nearly 1,000 agencies.

The Human Development Commission has faithfully served Michigan's Thumb area for 30 years, providing employment for thousands of area citizens, hundreds of whom have come from low-income categories, and has returned millions of dollars to its local communities through housing rehabilitation and construction, through food and nutrition services, and through dozens of services extended to the aging population.

HDC has been guided by the watchful, skilled, and sightful eyes of chairman LeeRoy Clark, a 30-year board member, commissioner Robert (Bob) Russell, a 30-year board member, executive director Mary Ann Vandemark, current president of the National Association of Community Action Agencies, and dozens of able board and advisory council members. HDC has consistently brought together government, business, and social segments of society for the purpose of creating new and ever more effective service delivery networks.

I am proud and honored to count the people of the Human Development Commission among the large number of Americans who make a positive difference in this country. Let us pay tribute to the Human Development Commission on its 30th anniversary, recognize its outstanding work on behalf of all people, and encourage its efforts to be extended well into the future.

HONORING THE REVEREND DR. W.
FRANKLYN RICHARDSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor today a man of vision and commitment, the Reverend W. Franklyn Richardson.

April 1995 marks 20 years since Reverend Richardson became pastor of historic Grace Baptist Church which is located in my district in Mount Vernon, NY. Grace Baptist Church, the largest church in Westchester County, has some 3,000 parishioners and in addition conducts a comprehensive outreach ministry to the surrounding community.

Under Reverend Richardson's leadership, the congregation is involved in numerous programs and activities, such as providing food and clothing for the needy; ministering persons in prison, the sick and shut-in, senior citizens, the homeless and others; hosting a Christmas celebration and other programs for homeless and less privileged children; and sponsoring cultural and educational workshops and special events. Furthermore, Reverend Richardson led the congregation in the completion of a \$4.2 million restoration and expansion of the church facilities; and recently initiated the construction of an \$11 million 100-unit housing facility in Mount Vernon for senior citizens called Grace House.

And while he has cared for his flock in Mount Vernon, Dr. Richardson has also been