

Councilman Martin has four grown children, a loving wife, and he continued to be active in his church and several social and political organizations, including the N.A.A.C.P.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to a fine American, a family man, and a devoted public servant, Mr. Allen C. Martin.

SAFE BOATING WEEK

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Minnetonka Power Squadron for its sponsorship of Safe Boating Week, which is May 20–27.

I also want to highly applaud the Minnetonka Power Squadron's continuing efforts to make boating a safe summertime activity.

Minnesota is known worldwide for our more than 10,000 lakes. Each year, millions of Minnesotans and people from all over the country flock to these lakes to fish, water ski, canoe, or just beat the heat.

As we enjoy these activities, however, we must never forget the importance of boating safety. Carelessness or recklessness in boating can cause property damage and, even worse, result in serious injury or death.

During Safe Boating Week, the Minnetonka Power Squadron conducts many classes and public awareness activities to promote the importance of boating safety.

This yearly reminder of safe, proper boating techniques, and simple precautions—such as carrying life preservers—should be observed by all boaters throughout the boating season.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that all boaters—in Minnesota and across the country—will take the time to review safe boating precautions and exercise these practices all season long. I thank and applaud the Minnetonka Power Squadron for showing us how to enjoy boating safely.

SALUTE TO REV. DR. WILLIAM T. KENNEDY, JR.

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Dr. William T. Kennedy, Jr., the pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, on the occasion of his retirement.

Reverend Kennedy is completing 25 years of service in the ministry, 10 years of which have been at the Grace United Methodist Church in West Oak Lane. Reverend Kennedy has also served at Wesley A.M.E. Zion in South Philadelphia and at Tioga United Methodist in North Philadelphia. Reverend Kennedy has also had a distinguished career in education, teaching Sociology, Theology, and Preaching at Eastern College, the Eastern Baptist Seminary, Lutheran Seminary, and at Drew University.

In addition to his work in the ministry and teaching, Reverend Kennedy has participated

in numerous civic activities. He has served as the chairman of the Philadelphia A.M.E. Zion Ministers Conference, the chairman of the Housing Committee at the Waterbury Development Corporation, and as chairman of the Waterbury Human Relations Commission. Reverend Kennedy has also participated in a multitude of other community service organizations too numerous to name here.

Reverend Kennedy has been a selfless contributor to his work and community throughout his lifetime. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing Rev. William T. Kennedy, Jr. as he celebrates his retirement. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

DEVALUATION OF THE MEXICAN PESO

HON. MARK ADAM FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to alleviate the dislocation of a specific sector of the Florida economy due to the devaluation of the peso. While this legislation is designed only to relieve the problems experienced by the winter tomato industry in south Florida, it is my belief that the underlying intent of the legislation should be considered to be applied to all areas of trade within the North American Free-Trade Agreement [NAFTA].

Let me outline some ideas about NAFTA preamble of the agreement—the governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico resolved to: First, create an expanded and secure market for the goods and services produced in their territories; second, reduce distortions to trade; third, ensure a predictable commercial framework for business planning and investment; and fourth, promote sustainable development.

And finally, the second objective of NAFTA is to: "Promote conditions of fair competition in the free trade area."

When the Mexican peso underwent the devaluation beginning in December 1994—these objectives were tossed out the window. The administration's only response was a multi-billion-dollar bailout of the Mexican currency with American taxpayer dollars. However what the administration failed to address was the impact of this devaluation of the peso on our vitally important domestic industries. Nobody knows for certain about the overall effect, but let me outline the effect on an industry that is important to my home State of Florida.

Florida's tomato industry generates an estimated \$650 million in economic activity, and employs more than 2,000 workers. However, over the past 2 years, Mexico's share of the United States winter tomato market has nearly doubled. A devaluation of the Mexican currency has caused a massive export of Mexican tomatoes to the United States markets where a stronger, more stable currency is the real objective.

During the winter season, Florida produces about 95 percent of the fresh market tomatoes grown in the United States, with the only competition coming from Mexico. As the attached chart shows, the volume of Mexican tomato imports has dramatically increased over the past year due to the devaluation of the peso.

How has this affected the bottom line of tomato producers in Florida? They have seen the prices for their tomatoes decline from \$15 for a 25 pound carton to only \$5 from the period of January 30 to February 15 of this year. This steady decline in prices can clearly be attributable for the search for stable U.S. dollars.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that the recent peso devaluation undermines the bases for the establishment of tariffs and more than eclipses the tariffs negotiated to help transition the Florida tomato industry into a free trade agreement during the 10-year phase out period for tomatoes.

Therefore, today I am introducing legislation to link the tariff of tomatoes to the devaluation of the Mexican peso. This is a simple solution that would multiply the tariff on tomatoes by an equal percentage of the peso devaluation thereby establishing a fair and stable climate for trade between Mexico and the United States.

Furthermore, this legislation directs the Secretary of Agriculture to determine the nature and extent of harm done to the domestic industry and take actions to remedy such harm. Mr. Speaker, in 1990, there were 230 tomato growers in Florida, today, there are less than 100 with the threat of dumping from Mexico occurring every year.

Finally, this legislation takes steps to ensure that Mexican tomatoes entering the United States meet the same standards established by the United States Department of Agriculture for domestic tomatoes. The Department has been far too lax in allowing in Mexican tomatoes which do not meet the same United States standards.

While some may argue that this legislation will violate the NAFTA, I dispute this most vehemently. NAFTA was to establish clear and stable rules of trade between the United States and Mexico. This legislation would ensure that to be the case by reducing any distortions to trade due to the devaluation of the peso. I urge my colleagues to carefully examine the impact of the devaluation of the peso on all industries around the country and determine if this would be a workable solution for other sectors of the economy.

FLORIDA VEGETABLE REPORT FEDERAL-STATE MARKET NEWS USDA AND FDACS TOMATO SHIPMENTS 1993–94 AND 1994–95

[1,000 25-lb Cartons]

Shipments through	1994–95		Shipments through	1993–94	
	Florida	Mexico		Florida	Mexico
1/29/95	12,942	11,635	1/30/94	16,374	11,061
1/30/95	75	292	1/31/94	172	271
1/31/95	97	292	2/01/94	232	195
2/01/95	143	352	2/02/94	242	245
2/02/95	132	346	2/03/94	206	206
2/03/95	95	336	2/04/94	142	193
2/04/95	93	339	2/05/94	242	223
2/05/95	48	6	2/06/94	104	6
Total	13,625	13,598		17,714	12,400
2/06/95	84	423	2/07/94	162	220
2/07/95	164	384	2/08/94	326	258
2/08/95	154	420	2/09/94	282	308
2/09/95	94	448	2/10/94	234	268
2/10/95	134	525	2/11/94	218	273
2/11/95	108	609	2/12/94	284	268
2/12/95	49	8	2/13/94	129	2
Total	14,412	16,415		19,349	13,997
2/13/95	76	768	2/14/94	179	378
Total	14,488	17,183		19,528	14,375