

A FREE PASS IN RUSSIA—NOT
YET!

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have a story for any of my esteemed colleagues who think that the press in Russia is truly free.

Early this month NTV, the largest privately owned TV network in Russia aired a puppet show that took a few satirical swipes at the Russian government. Very light stuff compared to what you might see on Saturday Night Live. The prosecutor-general's office, upon learning that the honor and dignity of the Russian leadership had been made light of, swung into action, filing suit against the producers of the show and launching a full-blown criminal investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's quite ironic that the Russian government, which has thus far proven incapable of catching the killers of two leading journalists, is turning its massive resources to bear on a bunch of rubber puppets. Public figures have to face up to a certain amount of lampooning, and a little political humor is no excuse for this kind of bullying by the Russian government.

TRIBUTE TO SECRETARY OF
COMMERCE RONALD H. BROWN

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, As we prepare to return to our districts where many of us will be meeting with community and business leaders concerned about economic development opportunities in our neighborhoods, I want to use this occasion to salute the outstanding accomplishments of a gentleman who has worked tirelessly to promote the cause of business and economic opportunity throughout the United States and abroad. The Honorable Ronald H. Brown, our distinguished commerce secretary, is to be applauded and commended for the outstanding job that he has done in serving as the administration's enormously adept "Pied Piper" of economic opportunity and empowerment.

Ron Brown is the 30th United States Secretary of Commerce. In nominating him to this auspicious post, President Bill Clinton noted that "American business will know that the Department of Commerce has a strong and independent leader and a forceful advocate." Those of us who have been privileged to know Ron can attest to his outstanding leadership acumen and his tenacity and considerable powers of persuasion. His is a skillful negotiator and an indefatigable advocate on behalf of America's economic interests abroad as he seeks to expand and open markets for American made products around the globe.

Ron's career has been structured around public service and helping to make America a better place for all of her citizens. A native Washingtonian, he grew up in New York where his parents managed Harlem's famous St. Theresa's Hotel. He attended Middlebury College in Vermont and received his law de-

gree from St. John's University. He is a member of the New York Bar, the District of Columbia Bar, and is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

A veteran of the United States Army, Ron saw tours of duty in Germany and Korea.

Secretary Brown has had an eclectic career. He spent 12 years with the National Urban League, serving as Deputy Executive Director, and General Counsel and Vice President for the organization's Washington operations. He also served as Chief Counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee. He is a former partner in the Washington, DC law firm of Patton, Boggs, and Blow. And who among us does not remember the brilliant job that he did as the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee and 1993 Inaugural Committee.

As Secretary of Commerce, Ron has traveled extensively, promoting the administration's trade policies and forging sound private/public sector partnerships. Following the Los Angeles, Northridge earthquake in January 1994, Ron was one of the first cabinet officials on the scene, working with local, state, and federal officials to identify and earmark funding sources for businesses severely damaged and/or destroyed in the quake. He has since returned to the quake damaged areas on several occasions to survey the progress made by programs implemented under this aegis.

Ron maintains a schedule that would tire men half of his age. Yet he is always prepared to go wherever he is needed, and he always does it with aplomb and with a spirit of unyielding optimism that inspires all around him to achieve the same level of commitment.

In addition to his weighty responsibilities as Commerce Secretary, Ron serves on several presidential boards and councils. He is a member of the President's National Economic Council, the Domestic Policy Council, and the Task Force on National Health Care Reform. He serves a Co-Chair of the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, the U.S.-Russia Business Development Committee, and the U.S.-Israel Science and Technology Commission.

Secretary Brown is also a member of the Board of Trustees for Middlebury College and is chair of the Senior Advisory Committee of the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to have this opportunity to commend my good friend Secretary Ronald H. Brown on the fine job that he is doing as our Secretary of Commerce. He has led an exemplary career, and I have no doubt that he will continue to lead and inspire. Please join me in applauding him on an outstanding career, and in extending to him, his wife Alma, and their two children, attorneys Michael and Tracy, continued success in the future.

H.R. 2127, A TRAGIC SETBACK FOR
THIS NATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, last night's vote on H.R. 2127, the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill, represents a tragic setback for this Nation and

particularly for our young people. The cuts embodied in that legislation are a full-fledged assault on the prosperity of this Nation's next generation. Fortunately, the action of this House last night is far from the last skirmish in the battle for a solid commitment to educate America's young people.

Before my colleagues leave to return to their districts, I want to share with all of you a speech given this past Sunday by Louis V. Gerstner, Jr., chairman and CEO of the IBM Corp. which is headquartered in Westchester County, NY, parts of which I represent. His remarks were to the National Governors Association. They are, without a doubt, a call to arms in the pursuit to revolutionize and dramatically improve education in America.

I could not agree more with Mr. Gerstner's sense of urgency about the need for a true commitment to enhance education in America. He is right that much more clearly needs to be done. He hit the nail on the head when he said, "A true change agent puts their money where their mouth is." Unfortunately, last night's vote tells the American people that the House has made a decision not to be a partner in pursuing the changes in America's schools that we all know are needed.

Mr. Speaker, change is possible. I have seen the innovations that are occurring in schools in Westchester, the Bronx, and Queens. Over the years, I have been deeply involved in major education reform initiatives, including Goals 2000, title I reforms, and a newfound commitment to professional development and technology through the Eisenhower Professional Development Program and the Technology Learning Challenge.

Unfortunately, the bill passed last night makes precisely the wrong kinds of changes. It eliminates funding for Goals 2000, cuts funding for title I by 18 percent, and slashes the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program. This bill also undermines our commitment to preserving the American dream by cutting student financial assistance and higher education program.

As we head back to our districts, I urge my colleagues to reflect on Mr. Gerstner's message. I sincerely hope that, when we return to Washington in September, this body will do what is right for America's future and correct the serious mistakes included in the bill approved last night. When so much is at stake, this House should not abandon our bipartisan commitment to America's schools—and our children.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of Mr. Gerstner's speech be included at this point in the RECORD.

REMARKS OF LOUIS V. GERSTNER, JR., CHAIRMAN AND CEO—IBM CORP. AT THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you, Governor Dean. It's good to be back in Vermont.

In 1983, the report A Nation at Risk focused the country's attention on the deficiencies in our public school system. Here's a quote from that report that has stuck with me for many years: "If an unfriendly foreign power had imposed our schools upon us, we would have regarded it as an act of war."

That was 12 years ago. What's happened since? Lots of hand wringing, lots of speeches, lots of reports. Not much change—very little improvement. It's twelve years since A Nation at Risk was published, and U.S. students still finish at, or near, the bottom on international tests of math and science.

I wonder what the national reaction would have been if in the 1984 Olympic games we