THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE ESTABLISHMENT ACT

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the Department of Trade Establishment Act.

The idea of creating a Trade Department is not new. In fact, some of us have been working for years for a fundamental re-organization of our trade agencies. My own work on this issue began some 12 years ago.

Our deepening trade deficit makes this issue urgent. Last year, we had a $166 billion merchandise trade deficit—the worst in our history. But this year, the merchandise deficit is headed toward $200 billion, $40 billion worse than last year. Yet, our economy has just been judged the most efficient in the world. Clearly, our current trade programs are inadequate.

The weakness of our current trade organization is also reflected in the fact that exports account for barely 10 percent of our gross domestic product, lower than any of our major competitors. As our domestic economy matures and slows down, exports will be crucial to our future economic growth and strength.

What we need is an across-the-board, government-wide consolidation and strengthening of our trade functions. We are spending about $3 billion on 150 trade programs, spread among some two dozen trade agencies. As GAO testified before my Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade last week, these trade functions are scattered, duplicated and uncoordinated. The result is inadequate to assist our exporters in today's global markets. Moreover, it is too costly.

By contrast, our major trade competitors—Japan, Germany, France, and Korea—all have fully coordinated and streamlined trade ministries.

Establishing a Trade Department is the right course, for three reasons. First, it would assure a government-wide consolidation of trade functions. Second, it would make our trade programs consistent and coherent. Third, it would give trade issues the proper attention and priority within our own Government and in our relations with other nations.

Mr. Speaker, included with this statement is a brief summary of my bill. A section-by-section analysis is available in the office of the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade, room B–359 Rayburn. In my judgment, this is the right framework to lead us into the 21st century as the most competitive trading nation in the world.

BRIEF SUMMARY DEPARTMENT OF TRADE ESTABLISHMENT ACT INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN TOBY ROTH

The Act establishes a Department of Trade to provide a streamlined, coordinated and more effective trade organization. It consolidates some two dozen federal trade agencies and some 150 separate programs into a cohesive and less costly structure.

KEY PROVISIONS

(1) The Act establishes a Department of Trade and transfers the existing trade-related functions of the Commerce Department to the new department.

Included are all the functions of the International Trade Administration, the Bureau of Export Administration and the Office of International Economic Policy.

(2) The new Secretary of Trade is the President's chief trade policy-maker and coordinator of the federal government's trade-related activities.

The Secretary chairs both of the key interagency trade committees (the Trade Policy Committee and the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee), and serves as Chairman of the Board of both the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC).

(3) The U.S. Trade Representative is retained as the chief trade negotiator, in the Executive Office of the President.

The Trade Representative reports to the President and functions under the policy guidance of the President and the Trade Secretary.

Responsibility for administering trade sanctions, including the Section 301 program, is transferred to the Department of Trade.

(4) The President is required to transfer and consolidate all non-agricultural trade promotion functions from other departments and agencies into the Trade Department.

(5) After the government-wide consolidation, the President is required to reduce overall spending on the consolidated functions by 25 percent from the overall level of the previously unconsolidated functions.

HONORING A DELEGATION FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, last week marked the first time a bipartisan delegation of legislators from Pakistan headed by the National Assembly's Speaker has called on us in Washington.

It was my privilege to meet with these distinguished officials on September 7 and I know that several other colleagues have had the opportunity to meet them, as well.

The delegation included the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Honorable Yousuf Raza Gilani, as well as the Honorable Kazi Asad Abid, the Honorable Ijaz-Ul-Haq, the Honorable Naveed Qamar, the Honorable Junaid Iqbal, and the Honorable Abdul Rauf Khan Lughmani, who are members of the National Assembly.

They have been accompanied by Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, and distinguished Pakistani-Americans Dr. Murtaza Arain and Dr. Ikram Khan.

Mr. Speaker, our two nations—the United States and Pakistan—share several important issues of mutual concern, and it is my hope and belief that this visit will help to move us forward.

Pakistan is a strong ally of ours. When the community of nations has called, Pakistan has responded in Somalia, in Bosnia, in Cambodia, in the Persian Gulf, and in Afghanistan. That is why building these bridges is so important.

I look forward to working with these distinguished Pakistani officials and my colleagues in attempting to achieve more fairness in our policy toward Pakistan and addressing the critical issue of Kashmir.

Mr. Speaker, I extend the warmest welcome to our friends from Pakistan and hope that this is the first of many more such visits.

IN APPRECIATION OF CORPORATIONS NATIONWIDE WHICH DONATED THEIR PLANES, PILOTS, AND FUNDS TO THE CESSNA CITATION SPECIAL OLYMPICS AIRLIFT

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the more than 200 corporations that donated planes, pilots, and funding for the purpose of flying Special Olympians to and from the World Games in New Haven, CT on June 30, and July 10, 1995 respectively.

This airlift, properly known as the Cessna Citation Special Olympics Airlift, was the largest peacetime airlift in history. During the airlift period, which spanned almost 2 days, more than 400 pilots flew 1,500 athletes in and out of Bradley International Airport. The planning and preparation for these pilots, the ground crew at Bradley International, and the Special Olympics travel coordination team was truly remarkable. In fact, during the airlift, each citation arrived and departed Bradley International within a 10-hour window; that's 600 minutes! With 215 citations involved, a take-off or landing occurred every 90 seconds. All of this took place with normal Bradley air traffic in progress.

Despite obstacles such as stormy weather over Pennsylvania and New York, speed regulations that restricted airlift arrivals to specific time slots, and, in some cases, picking up Olympians on airstrips that were closed because of recent flooding, each citation aircraft made it safely to and from the world games. This is truly a remarkable accomplishment and one in which all who were involved should be proud.

The corporations and all who participated in this endeavor have given a memorable gift to the athletes, their coaches, and families. I feel privileged to have witnessed this historic undertaking, and I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the corporations, their pilots, and all who were willing to volunteer their time, energy, and funding to the world games and the spirit it represents.

THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE PEE DEE CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize an event of special importance in my 5th Congressional District of South Carolina. On October 1, 1995, the Pee Dee Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in South Carolina will commemorate the bicentennial of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.