

planning and training of the local work force. While our people need time to develop the sewing skills needed to be competitive on a worldwide basis, we are very good at cutting—regularly meeting or exceeding the quantitative standards.

To take advantage of our cutting skills, the existing garment manufacturing company is proposing a three-phase expansion. The expansion plans call for the construction of an enlarged cutting facility where fabric of U.S. origin will be cut, a dye plant in which grey goods or pre-dyed fabric of U.S. origin will be dyed and a knitting facility where yarn of U.S. origin will be knit into fabric.

This will be good for the U.S. textile industry—in American Samoa and on the mainland. We estimate that an additional \$5 to \$7 million can be generated for the mainland U.S. textile industry if the expansion goes forward as planned. In addition, sewing capacity in American Samoa will increase in order to handle the larger output of material. The total required work force after 3 to 5 years is estimated to be in the range of 2,000 persons.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very small number in U.S. mainland terms, but it is of great significance on an island whose population totals 60,000 people.

It now appears that a recent change in U.S. Customs regulations will jeopardize our infant garment industry and its future growth. As of July 1, 1996, garments produced almost entirely in American Samoa lose their previous Customs treatment even if only a relatively small portion of the production process is performed in a foreign country.

The garment company doing business in American Samoa would like to import United States yarn to American Samoa, knit or weave it in American Samoa, dye it in American Samoa, cut it in American Samoa, use what the plant in American Samoa can sew, ship only the excess out to another country for sewing, bring it back to American Samoa for final assembly and packaging and have the finished goods enter the United States as products of the United States.

This was possible under the old regulations; under the new regulations which took effect on July 1st of this year, this can no longer be done. It does not make good business sense for this company to expand as it is proposing in American Samoa unless this expansion is economically feasible. The legislation I am introducing today, if enacted into law, would grandfather the nascent American Samoa garment industry under the old rules, enabling the industry to operate successfully in American Samoa and allowing the existing company to build a larger production facility and finance an orderly expansion.

I believe that this legislation is reasonable and fair and in the best interest of the U.S. textile industry as a whole and the U.S. territories in particular.

My legislation is limited in scope and will merely preserve the old country of origin rules for garment producers in American Samoa.

My legislation will help other manufacturing companies who may contemplate locating in American Samoa.

This industry is already providing more than 400 new local jobs in American Samoa, and will provide hundreds more if the expansion plans can be implemented. The infant industry and its future growth are at stake.

This is an important test case which will prove whether or not new export industries

can be successful in American Samoa. The implications of the success, or failure, of the expansion project are critical for the economic future of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the experience of the people of American Samoa is a good example of the difficulties the United States territories face in attracting businesses to invest in our economies.

American Samoa's economy has been hampered by our isolation from world markets and world shipping lanes. We have relied on incentives such as the possessions tax credit and the advantages offered under General Note 3(a) of the Harmonized Trade Agreement to help attract the outside investment our economy needs to grow, but those incentives are disappearing.

Over time, the advantages of doing business in the U.S. territories may be outweighed by the emergence of low-cost alternatives engendered by NAFTA and GATT/WTO policies. Countries with lower wage scales, such as Mexico and others in Central America and the Far East, could lure business away from the United States.

Under our analysis, sewing in higher wage countries will continue to be reduced, and there may not be a domestic U.S. sewing industry in ten years. I believe that this legislation will better position the United States to keep as much of the industry in U.S. hands as possible, and I look forward to seeing this bill enacted into law.

SALUTING THE GOODSPEED OPERA

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute yet another achievement of the Goodspeed Opera House and its executive director, Michael Price.

"By Jeeves," a musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Alan Ayckbourn, will appear at the Norma Terris Theater in Chester, CT in October. The work, inspired by the P.G. Wodehouse stories about Jeeves the butler, will be yet another feather in the cap for the Goodspeed, a theatre dedicated to the development and preservation of musical theatre.

The Goodspeed is the Tony award winning house where "Annie" and "Shenandoah" premiered over 20 years ago. Since that time, the theatre has sent more than a dozen new shows to Broadway, including last year's hit "Swinging on a Star."

The Goodspeed currently maintains two separate houses, the 398 seat main stage in East Haddam, as well as the 200-seat Norma Terris in Chester. The Goodspeed-at-Chester is a unique place developing new musicals and nurturing emerging artists. These artists have a space at Goodspeed where they can develop their work and get ready for commercial audiences without the commercial pressure of Broadway.

Musical theatre is a uniquely American art form. The spaces that Goodspeed provide to artists and theatre patrons alike are an invaluable asset to the cultural life of the United States and eastern Connecticut in particular.

And so I congratulate Mr. Price and everyone else on the "By Jeeves" team. Thank you

for your work and the enjoyment you have brought me and thousands of others.

A TRIBUTE TO PALMER VINEYARDS OF AQUEBOGUE, LONG ISLAND

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Palmer Vineyards of Aquebogue, on Long Island's North Fork, a winery of international renown that is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its first vintage this year. In this decade of excellence, Palmer vineyards has established itself as perhaps the most distinguished winery in what is becoming one of the world's preeminent wine producing regions.

It was in 1983 when Lorraine and Robert Palmer planted the first vines on their 62 acres of farm land along Sound Avenue in Aquebogue and 3 years later, the first vintage was produced. The following year, Palmer Vineyards earned its first award medals in a professional tasting competition. Today, after a decade of unmatched distinction, Palmer wines are enjoyed throughout the world and have become the most widely distributed of Long Island's many celebrated vintages.

In its first decade, Palmer Vineyards has garnered an impressive host of national and international awards in competition against the world's best vintners. These awards include 45 gold medals and six double golds, 115 silver medals and countless bronze citations. Among the top achievers is Palmer's Chardonnay, which has earned double gold medals at the San Francisco National Wine Fair and the New York Wine Classic for 2 consecutive years. Equally impressive is the nine gold medals, including two double golds, that Palmer's 1994 Select Harvest Gewuztraminer has been awarded.

Palmer Vineyards' phenomenal success is mostly attributable to the superior quality of its wines, but much credit is due to the aggressive and skilled marketing efforts of Robert Palmer and his dedicated staff. Marketed in 23 States, including California, Palmer wines are also available throughout Canada, the United Kingdom, and much of Europe. Palmer's Merlot is served on all of American Airlines' first class transcontinental flights, its Chardonnay was selected as the official wine of the U.S. Golf Open and Palmer Wines are the only Long Island wines available at Disney's Epcot Center.

The prosperity and growth of Palmer Vineyards over the last decade parallel the fortunes of Long Island's entire East End wine country. Many of the world's great wine regions have been producing vintages since the Middle Ages, but the first grape vines were planted on the East End just 24 years ago. Today, the Long Island wine industry has expanded to include 40 vineyards that grow grapes on approximately 1,400 acres. Seventeen of those vineyards also make their own wine, producing 120,000 cases of wine and \$15 to \$20 million in sales annually. More than 200 full-time workers are employed in Long Island's wine industry.

The East End's success as a wine region is attributable to its ideal growing conditions. The