

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
London, England.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
Chairman Committee on International Relations,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: You are shortly scheduled to meet with a delegation from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The delegation will be seeking your support for a legislative initiative that I regard as one of the most promising economic development proposals on the horizon for my beleaguered party of Northern Ireland. The initiative would have a profoundly positive impact on other deprived areas of Northern Ireland and the border region of the Republic as well. I am speaking of the proposed legislation that would begin the process of creating a free trade relationship between your country, Northern Ireland, and the border counties of the Republic.

Mr. Chairman, it was my intention to be with and lead the Irish delegation you are about to meet with to communicate personally just how important this initiative is for the economic future of Northern Ireland and the border counties. Following the recent Northern Ireland election however, the preparations within my political party for the forthcoming all party talks have foreclosed the possibility of my absence from Northern Ireland, even for one day. However, I look towards the very near future when we can meet and personally discuss this legislation as it begins its legislative journey through Congress.

I believe it is very important to communicate to you my personal commitment to do all in my power, both within the SDLP and inside the House of Commons, to support this endeavour. I am conversant with current UK reservations. Together with my parliamentary colleagues I shall endeavour to bring about a sea change in opinion within the current UK government. While the proposed legislation requires the efforts and goodwill from both London and Brussels, I see no barrier that cannot be overcome. This opportunity is simply too important to be allowed to flounder.

Mr. Chairman, the delegation you will meet with speak for me. They will ask you to assist in introducing this legislation immediately. That is my request. What you are being asked to consider will help to bring a new day to Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. Move forward and we will be with you.

Kind regards,

JOE HENDRON, M.P.,
West Belfast.

NEWTOWNGORE, Co. LEITRIM.
May 28, 1996.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you know, there is currently pending for your consideration, draft legislation that would begin the legislative process of establishing a free trade area between the United States, Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Irish Republic. Because of your unstinting efforts to find imaginative ways for your country to assist in securing the peace and prosperity of Northern Ireland and the border counties, I can think of no one better situated to initiate and shepherd this important legislative effort.

The current legislative initiative that you are considering could, in my opinion, represent the key ingredient in bringing a severely disadvantaged area of this island into economic parity with other areas of the European Union. As you know, Northern Ireland and the border counties' area will lose

their EU Objective 1 status in 1999, when they reach 75 percent economic parity with the rest of the union. Attendant funding with that status will be reduced or eliminated. My fear is that there will always be that remaining 25 percent deficit that cannot be bridged absent our acquisition of an economic development tool to close and secure that gap. The proposed legislation before you will achieve that goal and interestingly, assist in achieving the EU's own internal policy of economic and social cohesion and parity.

Mr. Chairman, no area of the European Union has suffered the kinds of assaults on its people or the pressures on its economy as Northern Ireland and the border counties. There is simply no parallel with any other area in the EU. Standard, unimaginative responses to our current economic reality are likely to fall short. The legislation you are currently contemplating will give us a unique and powerful tool to regenerate and revitalize those areas of Northern Ireland and the border areas of the Republic that have been flattened by civil discord and neglected and forgotten because of geographic isolation and peripherality.

As I look at this initiative, I can state that I am aware of and conversant with the hurdles that will need to be cleared for this legislation to succeed in London, Dublin and Brussels. Innovative solutions will always be met with initial skepticism and doubt. However, my view is that there is no impediments this proposal presents that cannot be managed. As for myself, I can give you every assurance that I will do all in my power as a Member of the European Parliament to speed this initiative on its way in Strasbourg and Brussels. I am confident that I will be joined, shoulder to shoulder by my fellow MEPs from Ireland, North and South.

Mr. Chairman, on June 10th, 1996, representatives of all or nearly all political parties in Northern Ireland will begin talks to secure the future peace for Northern Ireland. The legislation you are considering could help guarantee the future prosperity of the region. My request to you would be that you introduce the legislation prior to commencement of all party talks to demonstrate that a successful conclusion to those talks can and will yield a brighter tomorrow. As you move this legislation forward, know that I and my colleagues will stand with you.

Best Regards,

JOHN JOSEPH MCCARTIN,
Member, European Parliament.

TOWER ONE CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Tower One/Tower East on the 25th anniversary of this outstanding multicultural senior housing facility. For a quarter of a century, the New Haven Jewish Federation Housing Corp. has given New Haven area seniors a place to call home in Tower One.

Tower One was a special concept 25 years ago, and is a model to this day. The many distinguished leaders and business people who have taken up the mantle of leadership have helped assure the building's continued renewal. Most important, Tower One is a measure of this community's sense of obligation to its retirees, our parents and grandparents.

Tower One's history illustrates its commitment to people. Through the years, the organization has been creative and innovative in its response to the needs of residents. In the late 1970's, Tower One focused mainly on providing necessities, such as serving meals, filling apartment vacancies, and making building repairs. However, the nature of public housing and the needs of the residents began to change and in response, the board implemented extraordinary reforms. A new management structure for the staff was created, additional committees were formed to help the board deliver social services and plan for the long term. Finally, a new executive director, Dorothy Giannini-Meyers, was named to inaugurate imaginative new programs that would allow residents to keep living independently. The result was the broad array of services now available to residents and the transformation of Tower One from an elderly apartment complex to a caring, close-knit, and involved community.

When we celebrate Tower One's 25th anniversary, we celebrate the values that make families and communities strong—the values that enable Tower One to create a true home for Connecticut's seniors. Tower One is a community where people have fun, where the help and support they need is available. Their religious faith is affirmed, even as they age beyond the rituals of family. We all understand that this is a community that affirms our unity and humanity.

I treasure the yearly opportunity I have to host a holiday party at Tower One because it gives me the chance to share in the holiday celebrations so dear to Tower One's residents. Most important, the seniors at Tower One are able to honor the religious and cultural traditions that keep them close to family and friends. It is truly a place where residents feel at home.

I sincerely congratulate all those at Tower One on this proud occasion. I know that Bob Bachman's leadership will enable Tower One to continue its development and growth. I congratulate Tower One on 25 great years and with it the same success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JEFFREY
GARDERE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jeffrey Gardere was born in Manhattan on May 3, 1956. Although his parents were from the island of Haiti, he was raised in Brooklyn and attended Brooklyn Tech High School. While working full-time, he managed to obtain his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Rochester and, at age 27, received his doctorate in philosophy and psychology from George Washington University.

As a licensed clinician, Dr. Gardere rose from a staff psychologist for the Federal Bureau of Prisons to one of only two African-American chief psychologists. During his tenure, he was instrumental in designing the policy on psychological treatment for HIV-infected prisoners, participated in hostage negotiations at the Atlantic prison siege, and conducted witness protection relocation evaluations