

SUPPORTING NATO EXPANSION

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of NATO expansion by encouraging qualified emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe to become members of the NATO Alliance. Since 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has provided the foundation for the peace and political solidarity of all of its European members. For this reason I encourage such expansion in order to provide for the continued security, freedom, and prosperity that has existed for NATO members since the formation of the NATO Alliance.

Among the countries seeking NATO membership, including Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, I would like to acknowledge three additional countries namely, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia as strong, viable candidates that should be considered for NATO membership. Each of these countries, according to their individual preparations, can and should be granted NATO membership at the earliest possible date. For this reason I would like to ask that the President encourage other member countries of NATO to start negotiations for the accession to NATO, along with Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, of Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

Not only have each of these countries expressed an overwhelming desire to become full-fledged members of NATO, but they have actively pursued and achieved the qualifications for membership. According to Title II—NATO Participation Act of 1994, countries seeking membership in NATO must be full and active participants in the Partnership for Peace, and have demonstrated progress toward democratic institutions, free market economies, civilian control of their armed forces and the rule of law.

Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia are all successful participants in the Partnership for Peace [PFP] and have succeeded in establishing western-style democracies and efficient market economies. Not only have these countries been successful in their membership with PFP, but each has also made great strides in preparing to become worthwhile and beneficial members of the NATO Alliance.

In particular, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia have made great advances toward compliance with the requirements for NATO membership. Romania was the first nation in Central and Eastern Europe to join the Partnership for Peace and is currently participating in a "sixteen plus one" dialog with NATO. Militarily, Romania has a coherent and valid national defence doctrine and has the only armed forces in former East Block whose structures are fully compatible with NATO. The Romanian military enjoys an excellent relationship with neighboring countries as well, especially Hungary, with whom there are regular meetings of defence ministers, an open sky agreement and other manifestations of cooperation.

In fact, on September 16, 1996, Romania and Hungary signed the Treaty on Understanding, Cooperation and Good-Neighborliness. This treaty allows both Romania and

Hungary to continue to pursue their joint desires to integrate in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, European Union and Western European Union; to improve the security and prosperity of Europe; help protect minority rights through the implementation of the Council of Europe Framework Convention; and, to work toward the continued success of the relationship between Romania and Hungary.

Slovakia has also made great strides. They have had considerable dialog with NATO regarding the Study on NATO Enlargement which detailed the conditions and steps to be undertaken by a prospective country in exchange for a full membership. Slovakia submitted a document called Preparation for NATO Membership, which was further elaborated in the Individual Discussion Paper [IDP] on March 18, 1996. Slovakia was the first country among PFP members to submit this paper.

Slovenia's accomplishments and cooperation within the PFP, has made them, according to general consultation in 1995 on expansion of NATO, one of the most qualified candidates for NATO membership. According to the Statements and Consultation of the Parliament and Government of Slovenia on April 11, 1996, membership in NATO is the strategic security aim of Slovenia.

Therefore, in order to expedite the process of NATO enlargement, grant membership in NATO to all qualifying countries, and strengthen the stability in Central and Eastern Europe, I would ask that the President, at the earliest possible date, to encourage other member countries of NATO to start negotiations for the accession to NATO, along with Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, of Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

Already Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia have been successful in their attempt to meet the general requirements in order to be considered for NATO membership. And thus I am submitting legislation that will encourage and expedite the granting of membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to these countries.

REPORT FROM INDIANA—TRIBUTE
TO THOMAS JACKSON AND NATIONAL
POLLUTION PREVENTION
WEEK

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my report from Indiana.

Each weekend, my wife Ruthie and I travel across Indiana to meet with Hoosiers. And every time to travel to the second District of Indiana, we become more impressed with the hundreds and hundreds of individuals who are out there working day and night to make a difference taking responsibility to make our communities better places to live. I like to call these individuals Hoosier heros.

Hoosier heros because they do good things for their friends and neighbors. For my first part of this weeks report, today I recognize Thomas Jackson of Anderson, IN, as a Hoosier hero. Ruthie recently spent a day with Thomas.

Afterward she shared with me Tom's tireless efforts to help children in Madison County.

You see Tom owns and operates his own restaurant—the prime time deli and more.

And between spending time with his family and the responsibilities of running his own business, but that doesn't stop Tom from helping others.

He has taken on a crucial challenge. Thomas has taken on himself, the mission, to spread the message just say no to our young people. Tom travels to schools in Madison County educating, warning and teaching children to say: No to drugs and alcohol. Thomas' mission is special and close to his heart.

Nine years ago, his own son Thomas Jr., became involved with a drug cartel in the neighboring city of Muncie. His son almost lost his own life. Thomas Jr. was in pretty bad shape but with the love of his father and family, he survived. He turned his life around.

Thomas Jr. was recently married and today lives a happy life. Thomas Jackson, Sr., decided that the best way for others to avoid the same tragedy as his own son was to take a leadership role in warning children.

He started an alcohol and drug awareness program: Youth needs prime time. That's reassuring. Today he educates children about the very real danger and possible lethal consequences of drugs and alcohol use.

One of his volunteers is a 24 year old, ex gang member, Roosevelt Rees. Roosevelt has turned his life around, and is now dedicated to making sure kids don't make the same mistake of using drugs like he did.

The effort—is crucial, especially, when study after study tells us that drug use among America's children is at an alarming all-time high. Drug usage among 14 and 15 year olds are up 200 percent since 1992. And that's frightening. So today, I want to lift up Thomas Jackson as a Hoosier hero, for taking his own version of just say no to children of Anderson, IN.

For the second part of my report I will report on National Pollution Prevention Week efforts in Indiana. The week of September 16 to 22 is being recognized across America as National Pollution Prevention Week.

I strongly believe that pollution prevention is not only the most effective means of protecting human health and the environment, but also makes excellent business sense. I believe that free market principles can actually do a better job of ensuring we have a cleaner America.

In observance of this week, I would like to commend the efforts of those in Indiana to increase the development and use of pollution prevention methods.

In particular, I would like to applaud the work of the Indiana Pollution Prevention and Safe Materials Institute. This State-funded organization provides technical assistance and educational services to a variety of Indiana's industry.

Specifically, this institute helps businesses develop pollution prevention programs to reduce waste at the source and to prevent the environmental and health hazards of manufacturing wastes.

With the assistance of this institute, numerous Indiana manufacturing facilities have adopted pollution prevention strategies that have resulted in the significant reduction of pollutants being released into the environment.

They have also saved considerable dollars. Today, I also would like to recognize the metal finishing industry—a key segment of American manufacturing and a leader in pollution prevention initiatives.