

(13) Consideration by Members of Congress of fact-finding trips to Cuba. Hill staffers from the House and Senate foreign affairs committees have been invited to visit Cuba and should be encouraged to do so.

The FMC delegation believes that the contacts developed and candid discussions which took place in mid-December in Havana were an important start. The bipartisan quality of the group, its liberal to conservative construction, and its ability to be one step removed from the direct domestic political pressure that a formal Congressional delegation would have suggest that this opening should be pursued. The delegation was asked by the Cubans to plan a sequel trip at an appropriate time in the future and the FMC will consider such a possibility if and when it appears such a mission could serve a constructive purpose.

Representative Louis Frey, Jr., Republican-Florida (1969-1979), Chairman of Delegation; Representative Toby Roth, Republican-Wisconsin (1981-1997); Representative Jon Christensen, Republican-Nebraska (1995—); Representative James Symington, Democrat-Missouri (1969-1979), Vice Chairman of Delegation; Senator Dennis DeConcini, Democrat-Arizona (1977-1995); Representative Michael D. Barnes, Democrat-Maryland (1979-1985).

FOREIGN SUBSIDIARY TAX EQUITY ACT

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Foreign Subsidiary Tax Equity Act, a bill to discourage domestic corporations from establishing foreign manufacturing subsidiaries in order to avoid Federal taxes. I urge all Members to cosponsor this important legislation.

The bill is long overdue. American manufacturers have abused the good faith of the American workers by developing manufacturing processes in this country then moving production facilities overseas while handing out pink slips to workers here in America. Despite the fact that the American worker is the most productive and talented laborer in the world, many U.S. manufacturers, lured by cheap labor costs and tax holidays, have closed down plants and moved operations to countries like Mexico, Taiwan, and South Korea. Using the complex Tax Code to their advantage, some U.S. corporations pay next to nothing in Federal taxes. How can we as a Congress justify these policies?

Under my bill, foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies located in countries that provide tax holidays and other tax breaks and ship a significant portion of their products into the United States, would be taxed as if that subsidiary were located in the United States. My bill is designed to discourage tax-motivated foreign investment while protecting the jobs of your constituents.

I have always argued that many of America's social problems—crime, welfare abuse, health care costs, unemployment, and a breakdown in family values—lie in our trade and taxation policies. If we forced rogue multinationals to pay their fair share to the U.S. Treasury, we would be able to better tackle these problems.

I urge all Members to cosponsor this bill.

A LABOR OF LOVE

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, please permit me to share with my colleagues the text of a very touching letter U.S. Air Force Maj. William F. Smith wrote to a truly extraordinary man, Mr. Zachary Fisher.

Mr. Fisher is well-known to the men and women of our Nation's Armed Forces. With his wife, he established the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Armed Services Foundation to provide scholarships for service men and women and their families. To date, more than 700 scholarships have been awarded. The Fishers also provide direct financial assistance to families of military personnel killed in the line of duty.

In 1990, Zachary and Elizabeth undertook an important and unique project called Fisher House, to provide shelter near hospitals at major American military bases. The houses provide a home away from home for the families of military personnel recovering from illness at the adjacent hospitals. To date, 25 Fisher Houses have been constructed, with plans for several more.

Mr. Fisher is also the founder of the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum, the world's largest maritime museum, located on New York's Hudson River.

The Fishers latest philanthropic effort is directed toward finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease, which affects more than 4 million Americans. The Fishers have established the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research, which is the largest and best equipped laboratory devoted wholly to Alzheimer's research. Working in union with David Rockefeller and Rockefeller University, the Fishers have an ambitious goal, to create a model center for patient care and research.

Major Smith, who is stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, MD, penned this letter to Zachary following the dedication of a Fisher House on base. I commend it to my colleagues:

DEAR MR. FISHER: I am writing to thank you for the special gift you gave us here at Andrews Air Force Base on September 26, 1994. No, I'm not talking about the Fisher House although I do appreciate you building it and am thankful for all the good it will do for our community. I'm talking about the gift of love, and more specifically the gift you gave us of how to love. As I stood in the back and listened to the speeches honoring you I became mesmerized with the way you doted over your wife. Prior to your arrival I wondered what you would look like and how you would act. I guess I wondered about your character since a lot of men with wealth and power have fairly predictable characters. So as I stood in the midst of affluence and opulence I began to assess your character and I was impressed and inspired. The way you smiled at her and held her hand and took the time to explain things to her touched me very deeply. It occurred to me that I may be standing in a holy place, a place where true, unconditional love is alive in a special man. At the end of the ceremony the officer standing next to me said "that was pretty impressive wasn't it?" I said "I don't know what impressed you, but I think we just witnessed

the finest example of how we should love our wives." He looked at me a moment contemplating my comment and said, "Yes, I think you're right."

When I got home I told my wife about what I saw. When I began to describe how you started your speech saying, "Honey I think I should give you a kiss to remind us of how much we love each other," I began to cry. Then I kissed my wife and told her I found someone who loves his wife as much as I love mine. And that night as she lay asleep in bed I put my arms around her and held her and told her I love her and I kept holding her and she didn't know it. I think that is a sacred act, to love someone when they may not know it.

You are the luckiest man in the world, you have love in your heart. And so, even though I don't have the wealth you have, I am just as lucky as you, and I thank you for reminding me how lucky I am. Thank you.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM D. SMITH,
Major, USAF.

WILMINGTON CELEBRATES ITS 175TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, on March 22, the Essex County Town of Wilmington will celebrate its 175th Birthday.

As far as I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker, the nicest thing to happen to me in the 1990's is the addition of most of Essex County to the district I have the pleasure of representing. The town of Wilmington is typical of the region, one of hardy winters and friendly people. It is in such towns that the values and virtues that made America great have been developed to their fullest.

These values and virtues include self-reliance and a spirit of volunteerism, which is nothing more than an instinctive response to a neighbor in need.

America is not really defined by her soaring skyscrapers and sprawling shopping malls. She is defined by her small towns, where everyone knows each other like a large, extended family. It is actually possible to walk the streets at night in such towns.

Everything is on a smaller scale in such towns, everything that is, except the generosity and love of one's fellow man. Church steeples invariably pierce the horizons of such towns, reflecting the deep and abiding religious faith without which these values and virtues could not survive.

I invite Members to visit the area some day, perhaps on your way to enjoy the local seasonal sports. You will enjoy as well as open friendliness and picturesque scenery, and finally discover why I make it a point to go home every weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all Members to join me in wishing the town of Wilmington a happy 175th birthday, and in congratulating Supervisor Roy C. Holzer, other town officials, and the entire populace for bringing the town into the 21st century without changing what is great about small-town American life.