

at Champaign, and a juris doctor from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, IL.

Representative Wennlund has been an active member and leader of his community as a member of: Trinity Lutheran Church, the New Lenox Lions Club, the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the New Lenox Grade School Board of Education.

Representative Wennlund remains a leader in his growing community as an advocate for building a strong transportation network, economic development for the area, reforming the Juvenile Justice system, welfare-to-work initiatives and real property tax reform.

Representative Larry Wennlund has also been honored for his talents and accomplishments by being selected from among his peers to serve as a member of the Republican Leadership Team. Representative Larry Wennlund is an honorable man, worthy of praise for his many years of service, leadership and accomplishments for the people of his district.

#### FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY FOR THE CNMI

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 19, 1997*

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, last week, joined by my colleague and friend PHIL CRANE, the chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, I had the pleasure of meeting Gov. Froilan Tenorio of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands [CNMI]. Governor Tenorio has embarked on a bold course to promote economic and political liberty in the CNMI. The brave men and women who died for freedom at the battle of Saipan would be proud to know that Governor Tenorio has been a true champion of freedom in the Western Pacific.

Governor Tenorio recognizes that the market, and not the government, is the engine of job creation. Governor Tenorio has pushed forward with a program of privatization, fiscal restraint, and lower taxes for his people. Governor Tenorio did not come to Washington looking for taxpayer benefits, welfare, or handouts. He came to promote his market reforms. Mr. Speaker, Governor Tenorio deserves our support.

During his administration, Governor Tenorio has actively pursued and courted businesses around the globe to open shop in the CNMI. Like President Reagan in the 1980's, Tenorio has kept taxes low. Low tax rates have actually increased productivity, which in turn, increased revenue for the government of the CNMI. Additionally, the Governor has recognized the importance of trade and has demonstrated how trade with Asian markets can bring prosperity.

The economic changes that have taken place in the CNMI have been nothing short of miraculous. In 1970 most roads were unpaved and most homes lacked running water. There were 55 licensed businesses on the islands, with combined assets of \$2 million. There was one bank and one credit union. Then the island tried free markets.

CNMI dropped laws common elsewhere in Micronesia that restricted foreign investment. It reduced the regulatory burden on business. The island also reformed its punitive tax sys-

tem. The result has been economic growth. As Peter Ferrara of Americans for Tax Reform said, "Once a dismal outpost of failed state socialism, the islands have now been thoroughly integrated in the dynamic economy of the Pacific Rim."

The number of businesses on the islands has grown from 55 to 5,000. Gross business revenue rose from \$244.4 million in 1986 to \$1.477 billion in 1994. Only 1,056 people were employed in 1970, most by the government. Twenty years later, 25,965 people were working, 22,795 of them for the private sector. Unemployment has fallen from 15 percent to 4 percent since 1980.

The pro-growth economic policies of the CNMI have been in stark contrast to the experiences of other American territories in the Pacific, such as Guam and American Samoa. The unemployment rate in Samoa is close to 16 percent. The government is the most important provider of jobs in the American Samoa and, as of 1989, nearly 60 percent of the residents had incomes below the poverty lines. In Guam, where the local economy has benefited from United States military presence on the island, but the unemployment rate remains higher than in the CNMI.

The Governor's efforts have not come without criticism by some who believe that Washington knows better how to create jobs for the people of the islands than the people of the CNMI themselves. Rep GEORGE MILLER of California believes that Washington should impose the Federal minimum wage on the people of the CNMI. Make no mistake about it, passage of that bill would kill jobs, growth, and opportunity.

Most Members of Congress recognize that a higher minimum wage would result in a withdrawal of industry from the islands and widespread unemployment. Factories would move from the CNMI to other Pacific outposts that were not burdened by Washington wage controls.

Instead of trying to impose redtape and mandates on the people of the CNMI, we should look to the CNMI as a model of reform. Like the CNMI, Washington should provide tax relief for the American people. We should recognize that pro-business policies create jobs. And we should recognize that free trade creates prosperity. The CNMI is proof positive that these policies work.

While we shouldn't impose Washington mandates on the CNMI, we should also allow the people of the island more control over their own lands. Governor Tenorio described to Mr. CRANE and me the trouble the people of Tinian are having with unreasonable Federal control of their land. Governor Tenorio asked us to look into assisting the people of Tinian with opening up more of their land for development and use in accordance with their cultural and economic interests. Congressman CRANE and I hope to become active in bringing a positive resolution to this matter and other areas where we can help the people of the CNMI.

The CNMI is on the right track. Their Pacific neighbors should view the economic policies on the CNMI as a model. Washington should also acknowledge that Governor Tenorio's policies are on the right track. Let's not nip job creation and economic reform in the bud with ill-conceived Washington knows best legislation. It's time that we recognize and respect the impressive progress that this group of

American citizens halfway around the world has achieved.

#### FREE SPEECH ON THE INTERNET

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 19, 1997*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the efforts of citizens everywhere to protect free speech on the Internet.

Today, the Supreme Court heard arguments to determine the constitutionality of the Communications Decency Act [CDA], which criminalizes certain speech on the Internet.

It is because of the hard work and dedication to free speech by netizens everywhere that this issue has gained the attention of the public, and now, our Nation's highest court.

I have maintained from the very beginning that the CDA is unconstitutional, and I eagerly await the Supreme Court's decision on this case.

I was one of the few Members of this body to vote against the Telecommunications Act, in large part, due to the CDA provision that imposes unacceptable limits on free speech.

While the stated intent of this provision is to limit minors' access to indecent material, in fact, its effect will be much farther reaching. This so-called decency language will dangerously constrain electronic free speech. I still believe that it is the cyberspace equivalent to book burning.

When this bill first became law, I turned my web page black to protest this dangerous assault on free speech. I have been working actively to overturn the CDA ever since. I received thousands of e-mail messages from around the world from people concerned with the threat to free speech imposed by the CDA. I pledged to join with concerned citizens all across the country to fight the CDA in Congress, in the courts, and in the chat rooms and online forums of the Internet itself. And we have. We won in Philadelphia, we won in New York, and we are now poised to win in the Supreme Court of the United States. We promised not to give up the fight, and to continue our efforts to keep the Internet free, and we have done just that.

Now this case is finally before the Supreme Court. Soon we will learn of the outcome of our efforts. Have we successfully challenged this unjust act? Will the Supreme Court uphold the lower court's ruling which struck down the CDA? Will the Justices join the choir of voices who have declared this bill an indecent assault on American liberty? I believe they will.

I believe they will recognize what the lower courts have already determined, that "as the most participatory form of mass speech yet developed, the Internet deserves the highest protection from governmental intrusion," that the CDA is unconstitutional, and that it dangerously constrains electronic free speech.

I applaud everyone who has taken action to support the first amendment, and who has spoken out against this bill to ensure that future generations are able to enjoy the same rights and liberties on the Internet that we have enjoyed in other arenas of expression for the past two centuries.