

Let me begin with a quote by former United States Secretary of State, Lawrence Eagleburger, from the Bush administration, commenting on NATO expansion and the Baltic countries:

If we ever think of bringing the Baltic countries into NATO we ought to have our heads examined. First place, it would be a real threat—threat maybe not but a real challenge—to the Russians. Think about the commitment to defend them—we couldn't do it even if we were the only superpower in the world, which we seem to be.

First of all, Russia clearly perceives that the expansion of NATO into the Baltics would be an aggressive, wholly unjustifiable move by the United States. On May 22, 1997, President Boris Yeltsin's spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembskii, stated that if NATO expands to include Former Soviet Republics, Russia will review all of its foreign policy priorities and its relations with the West. Since the cold war is over, why are we militarily provoking Russia?

Second, how much more are we going to ask United States taxpayers to ante up to defend Europe in an expanded NATO with a still undefined mission? The total price tag is estimated at anywhere from \$27 billion to \$150 billion over the next 10 to 12 years. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the cost of NATO expansion will be between \$60.6–\$124.7 billion over 15 years. Don't forget that we have already paid \$60 million through the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act in order to assist Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovenia in bringing their Armed Forces up to NATO standards.

Lastly, I am also concerned about reports that several of the prospective new NATO member states have been involved in arms sales to terrorist countries. For example, Poland has made five shipments to Iran of T-72 tanks, equipment and trainers, Slovenia sent M-60 tanks to Iran, and Bulgaria sent North Korea 15 tons of explosives.

After four decades of the cold war and trillions of United States taxpayer dollars allocated to compete in the arms race, many of our constituents understand that it is not the time to continue wasting tens of billions of dollars helping to defend Europe, let alone assuming more than our share of any costs associated with expanding NATO eastward.

Mr. Speaker, in the words of New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman, "We [get] nothing for NATO expansion but a bill."

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS FOGLIETTA AS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ITALY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the House's most distinguished Members, Representative THOMAS FOGLIETTA of Pennsylvania, for his upcoming appointment by the President as the next U.S. Ambassador to Italy. This is an extraordinary and well-deserved honor for a true gentleman who has given four decades of his life to public service.

Since his election to the House of Representatives in 1980, TOM FOGLIETTA has been

a tireless fighter for his constituents in Philadelphia and Delaware County. As a member of the Appropriations Committee and a leader of the Urban Caucus, he has protected city jobs, helped restore Independence Hall, and put more police on the streets.

Perhaps just as important to his new duties, TOM FOGLIETTA has also been on the forefront of global affairs. He has worked to provide famine relief to starving people overseas and has never hesitated to speak up against tyrants around the world.

Only in America could the grandson of immigrants who came from Italy over 100 years ago live the dream of representing the birthplace of this Nation's freedom in the Halls of Congress and go on to serve his country as its representative in the land of his family's heritage. TOM FOGLIETTA is an outstanding example of what is possible for those who serve the United States with honor and distinction.

Mr. Speaker, Washington's loss is Italy's gain. Congress will undoubtedly be a lesser place when TOM FOGLIETTA takes his intelligence, dedication, integrity, and charm to Italy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending best wishes and a fond *arrivederci* to TOM FOGLIETTA as he stands ready to embark on another exciting chapter of his career, and insert the following editorial from the Philadelphia Inquirer to be included for the RECORD.

[From The Philadelphia Inquirer, May 28, 1997]

ARRIVEDERCI—TOM FOGLIETTA HAS EARNED HIS NEW JOB. LET'S HOPE HIS SUCCESSOR SERVES THE REGION AS WELL AS HE DID

After four decades of public service, Tom Foglietta richly deserves a job that melds diplomacy and *la dolce vita*: U.S. ambassador to Italy. So even though the Philadelphia area stands to lose its most senior member of the U.S. House, his constituents in the city and in Delaware County can still salute the (unofficial) news that he's headed for Rome.

Mr. Foglietta has worked hard for the needs of Philadelphia and other cities. As a member of the Appropriations Committee since 1993 and as a prime mover of the Urban Caucus, he's tried to aim more federal dollars at urban needs. His local causes have included protecting jobs at the Navy Yard, reversing the neglect of Independence Hall, and funding more police for the city of Chester.

Not all of his votes on pocketbook issues have been dead-on. He backed the Clinton economic package, tax hikes and all, but loudly opposed the modest, Penny-Kasich spending cuts. He sided with labor over consumers by voting against NAFTA.

But Mr. Foglietta is more than a bring-home-the-bacon guy. He's been a leading voice against despots around the globe. He's been as committed to famine relief in Africa as he was to food assistance at home.

A fair assessment of Mr. Foglietta's contributions must look beyond his specific stands on issues. In a city renowned for political corruption, Mr. Foglietta stood against the tide.

Running for Congress as an independent in 1980, he beat the comeback bid by Democrat Michael "Ozzie" Myers, who had been expelled from the House after being convicted of taking an Abscam bribe. In 1984 and 1986, Mr. Foglietta turned back strong challenges by a future felon: then-Councilman James Tayoun.

Endorsing him for Congress in 1980, this Editorial Page called Mr. Foglietta "sensitive and intelligent and convincingly committed to public service."

Ideally, Mr. Foglietta's successor would share his fervor for urban needs, his commitment to human needs and human rights, his people skills and intelligence, his ethics. And voters would be the ultimate judge of that if he were retiring at the end of a two-year term.

Unfortunately, the vacancy will be filled by a special election, without a primary. The favorite in this Democratic district will be whomever the Democratic organization chooses. The reported front-runners are former Rep. Lucien Blackwell—who was voted out of the Second District seat three years after the Democratic machine handed it to him—and city Democratic boss Bob Brady. Neither of them stacks up to Tom Foglietta.

EXPAND PRIVATE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR KIDS

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, one out of every seven American children is growing up without health insurance. These 10 million children—including 70,000 in my home State of Minnesota—are less likely to get preventive care to keep them healthy, or see a doctor when they get sick. These obstacles to health care can lead to harmful and lasting effects. For example, children whose ear infections go undiagnosed and untreated can suffer from permanent hearing loss.

Sadly, there are signs that the prognosis for the health of American's children is getting worse. The number of families receiving insurance sponsored by their employer has declined from 67 percent in 1987 to 59 percent in 1995. Additionally, premium costs for family coverage are on the rise, placing health insurance beyond the reach of an increasing number of working families.

Enough is enough. It is time for all of us to commit to solving this problem. Today, I am introducing legislation that takes one step toward a comprehensive solution.

The Children's Health Coverage Improvement Act of 1997 would make children's-only policies widely available to families at more affordable group rates. Federally regulated self-insured health plans would be required to offer these policies as one of the options available to their employees.

Many low-income working families simply cannot find room in the family budget to pay the increasingly large premiums for family policies. Moreover, many financially strapped single parents cannot afford to pay family premiums designed to cover two adults plus children. Kids-only policies could provide an answer for these hard-working and hard-pressed families.

According to a recent survey of 600 employers, the majority of respondents indicated a strong sense of responsibility toward their workers and expressed sympathy for those who are uninsured. My legislation builds upon this sense of community, and creates a new way for employers to make coverage available to children.

This legislation is also sensitive to employers' concerns that they cannot assume further insurance costs. Instead of requiring an employer to shoulder a specified portion of insurance costs, this bill allows the dynamics of the