

Mission City commemorating Mission San Juan Bautista's bicentennial.

"We'll be ready when it gets here," said Leonard Caetano, chairman of the mission bicentennial committee. "We're busy as a bunch of beavers."

A Kiddie Parade begins at 6:30 p.m., and a full slate of ceremonies, games, dances and meals resumes at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

The official bicentennial is Tuesday, and on that 200 years ago, Father Fermin de Lasuen, a Franciscan priest, established the mission along what is now known to be the San Andreas Fault.

The mission was one of eight established by Lausen and the 15th among 21 created by the Franciscans in what was then referred to as Alta California. Thanks to the work of members of various Native American tribes, Mission San Juan Bautista became one of the most prosperous sites in the Franciscan's chain, producing the largest crop among the 21.

The mission today is one of the best preserved sites in the former statewide chain. Its church is the only one with three aisles and church officials claim a mass has been said there every day since its foundation.

The mission has had far-reaching effects on the city that grew up around it as well. San Juan Bautista was once an important shopping point for stages that traveled between Northern and Southern California. And tourism remains a top industry today. The town is often referred to as the Mission City.

A state park grew up around the mission as well. Today, 40,000 fourth-graders visit the park annually to study the buildings of the people who lived near the mission in its various eras.

The mission itself remains an active Catholic Church and hosts daily services for parishioners, weddings and ceremonies for the community.

The weekend's activities include a full slate of tributes to the Spaniards, Native Americans and others who contributed to the mission. A bronze statue of Father de Lasuen, donated by the people of Vitoria, Spain, de Lausen's hometown, will be dedicated in front of the mission Sunday at 3 p.m.

A Native American blessing will be said at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the plaza. A roll call of the names of about 200 Mutsun Indians buried in the mission cemetery will be read.

Sonne Reyna, a member of the San Juan American Indian Intertribal Council, said the bicentennial is a time for "reconciliation" between the Native American and mission communities.

"We feel that the padre and the bicentennial committee have been very sensitive and very supportive of what we as an Intertribal Council want to do to honor the ancestors," Reyna said.

Members of the San Juan Indian Council and inter-tribal delegation will be participating throughout the weekend's events.

A fiesta featuring a barbecue, raffle, games and music will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Events resume Tuesday when Bishop Sylvester Ryan will bless a newly restored chapel, located in back of the current church. The tiny chapel was built in 1797 but abandoned by the church in favor of a larger facility.

It was used as a schoolroom and a gift shop and then nearly forgotten until restoration work began last year. After the bicentennial celebration, the chapel will likely be opened for regular use according to church officials.

WHERE IS THE SUCCESS IN OUR CURRENT POLICY TOWARD CHINA?

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 1997

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I have voted against MFN status for China every year since becoming a U.S. Representative in 1993. I will vote against MFN status for China again today.

The economic reforms initiated by the Chinese Government in 1978 have vastly improved the lives of the Chinese people. I understand the argument that this improvement has led to better opportunities for the people of China and I hope that China's economy will keep growing and the lives of its people improve. However, I cannot ignore the fact that this economic liberalization has been carried out under a politically repressive regime that does not respect the basic rights or dignity of its people. Hopefully, in the years to come, more economic freedom will lead to political freedom. But, until that day comes, we cannot close our eyes to the Chinese Government's unpardonable behavior.

The United States has much to gain by engaging the leaders of China on a broad range of issues. Nonetheless, engagement must not become an excuse for a lack of principle or a lack of will on the part of the United States to stand up for American beliefs. Respect for Chinese sovereignty does not mean that the United States must ignore behavior by the Chinese Government that we regard as reprehensible.

For many years, the debate on MFN served as a useful inducement for the Chinese Government to improve its human rights record. There are good people in the United States who believe that the annual debate now does more harm than good. They believe ending China's MFN status would serve no useful purpose. I disagree. One compelling reason the debate carries little weight with the Chinese Government now is that China has come to take annual extension of MFN status for granted. I question whether the leaders of the Chinese regime would treat American concerns so cavalierly if they believed that China would suffer an economic disadvantage because of their behavior.

Since President Clinton delinked human rights from the extension of MFN, China has exported nuclear weapons technology and ballistic missiles in violation of its treaty commitments. It has supported nations hostile to the United States and continues its military threats

against Taiwan. China has also failed to enforce bilateral agreements with the United States on intellectual property which costs American businesses and workers billions of dollars in lost profits and wages.

But even worse, China has imprisoned still more domestic critics and threatened foreign individuals and organizations who rightly criticize the government in Beijing. China increasingly jails those who practice their faith. In short, China has failed to comply with human rights conventions it has agreed to in international treaties and it has flagrantly disregarded attempts by the United States to achieve a better footing for bilateral relations. The delinking of human rights from MFN has caused more harm than the much-needed Congressional debate on Chinese behavior.

Although China does offer an important and growing market for American goods, the American business community has seen minimal gains in many Chinese markets—and suffered in others—as China plays one nation off against another in an attempt to affect policy. I agree that trade with China is a matter of great importance, not only to our trade-based economy and our national security, but also to the future development of China and the rights of its people. But trade, and our overall relationship with China, must be a two-way street. American policy cannot be based on what Beijing wants. Our policy should reflect what is in the long term interest of our fellow citizens.

Soon, Hong Kong will be controlled again by China. What will the United States do if freedom is smothered by the Chinese authorities? What will this House do? The current U.S. position on engaging China is more hope than policy. I applaud the efforts of many of my colleagues—including David Dreier, Chris Cox, Robert Matsui, John Porter, and others—who are working on legislation that will establish a meaningful policy of engagement with China. We need a framework that will propose real actions to engage and respond to China and a policy that China cannot take for granted.

Whether or not the United States and China can coexist peacefully in the next century is one of the great questions we must all consider. If we are to live in peace, how will we establish a relationship to do so? The United States must develop a plan for working realistically and constructively with China to solve the many issues of concern to both countries. The United States and China need to establish a relationship based on mutual trust and respect. Unfortunately, I do not believe such a relationship exists today. I cannot vote to support MFN in good conscience because of the many serious concerns I have stated. However, I strongly support efforts that offer the promise of a real dialogue with China about fundamental American beliefs regarding dignity and fairness. I also strongly support the creation of a relationship in which American concerns are treated with the same sensitivity as America has treated China's concerns.