

at the invitation of two quakers who invited him to share their carriage. Upon arriving in New Bedford, where he lived for several years and played an active role in the Underground Railroad, this former slave took the name of Frederick Douglass, and, under that name, became one of the best known African American authors and activists in our nation's history. In 1848, Lewis Temple, an African American blacksmith invented the Temple Toggle Harpoon, which revolutionized the whaling industry. And, in 1863, Sgt. William Carney of New Bedford saved the American flag in a Civil War battle at Fort Wagner, where he fought with members of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, made up of black soldiers (a battle depicted in the film "Glory"). Sgt. Carney was later the first black recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Other New Bedford historical events of note include the 1853 opening of the city's Free Public Library (this was the nation's second free library, opening its doors just weeks after the first opened in Boston); the 1871 founding of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, the first Portuguese Catholic Church in North America; and the 1874 writing of "Robert's Rules of Order" by Captain Henry Robert, then stationed at the city's Fort Taber (which was designed by Robert E. Lee).

Beyond these specific events, the history of New Bedford illustrates the strengths and challenges of older industrial area in our country from the latter half of the nineteenth century through the end of the twentieth. Most important, it demonstrates the importance of the commitment and character of a city's residents in creating a vibrant community.

The whaling industry which was so essential to New Bedford has of course ended as an ongoing commercial activity. But, the city remains one of the centers of fishing in the world, and one example of the creative spirit of the people of New Bedford is the extent to which they have blended the maritime history of the city into its ongoing economic life. Too often in America respect for history and tradition is somehow considered to be a detraction from a concern with current economic activity. Indeed, many urban areas in this country during the middle part of this century, began, in one way or another, to separate their waterfronts from their main commercial centers. In New Bedford, however, the waterfront has always had an important place of pride in the economic life and culture of the city, and this experience is a graphic repudiation of the idea that tradition and economic activity must perpetually be in conflict. Rather, as shown so clearly in New Bedford, they can be mutually reinforcing to everyone's benefit.

New Bedford also has a proud history as one of the industrial centers of this country, serving as an important hub of the garment and textile industry. While this has meant that the city—and the region—has also become an example of the shortsightedness of national trade and industrial policies which often promote the interests of some at the expense of others, once again, the spirit of the people of New Bedford has been strengthened by these adverse trends. And, now in its 151st year, New Bedford continues to strive for economic expansion that takes full advantage of twenty-first century norms. The city is striving hard for a number of improvements in the transportation grid which serves the region, and which, when brought to fruition, hold great promise for significant economic expansion.

Another area where New Bedford has an important lesson for the rest of the country is in dealing with the consequences of past environmental damage. Until fairly recently in our nation's history we paid very little attention to the negative effects of air and water pollution. For the past twenty-five years we have worked hard to address the environmental problems that have arisen in cities and towns throughout the country. New Bedford, as one of the older industrial areas of the country, was not immune from the effects of the pre-environmental regime in which so little attention was paid to the cleanliness of our air and water. But, today, in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency, which has shown a great deal of responsiveness to the City's needs, New Bedford is an example of how to proceed in a constructive fashion to address past environmental difficulties while maximizing current economic potential. With the ongoing work to restore the city's harbor, ensure the protection of Buzzards Bay's waters, convert abandoned manufacturing sites into opportunities for new economic growth, explore the potential of aquaculture, and in so many other ways, the people of New Bedford continue to strive for an appropriate balance between sensitivity to the environment and economic growth.

Finally, New Bedford reminds America of a lesson which, sadly, the country appears to be very much in need of remembering: the importance of immigration in building this great country, culturally, socially and economically. As a port, New Bedford has long been a center of immigration. Today, people continue to immigrate in large numbers to the area from Portugal, the Azores, Madeira and the Republic of Cape Verde. All continue to be a source of vitality for the city, and those of us who point to the industrious and valued work force that constitutes one of the city's great assets know that immigration is a major factor in the composition of the work force. Furthermore, the city's example is an excellent argument in favor of a continuation of the generous attitude toward immigration that the United States has traditionally held, but which, unfortunately, is now being questioned in some quarters.

Mr. Speaker, in the years ahead at the appropriate anniversaries on which people take stock of the city's condition, I believe we will be able to look back to today as a period when the people of New Bedford, working together as they have so often in the past, continued to make important strides in both transforming the city's economy to prepare it for the twenty-first century and in preserving its incredibly rich legacy. I have represented New Bedford in the United States House of Representatives since January of 1993, and in that capacity it is a great honor as well as a distinct pleasure for me to join in celebrating with the people of the city on this glorious 150th birthday.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS IN SUPPORT OF BILL TO REFORM THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK TO BE MORE RESPONSIBLE TO AMERICAN JOBS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill which I introduced today, with Mr. LIPINSKI of Illinois and Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts as original cosponsors. This bill would require the Export-Import Bank of the United States, when selecting among firms to provide financial assistance, to give preference to any firm which has shown a commitment to reinvestment and job creation in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this bill gets at, I believe the heart of the issue of the relationship between the U.S. Government, the taxpayers of this country and corporate America.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you a little bit about some of the companies which have received financial assistance from the Export-Import Bank in recent years—and you tell me whether these are really the best companies that the middle income people of this country should be subsidizing. According to information from Ex-IM, among the top 25 companies which receive assistance from Ex-Im are Boeing, General Electric, and AT&T. Let's take a brief look at these companies and see whether these really are the types of companies that the American taxpayers should be rewarding.

In terms of employment, in 1990 Boeing had 155,900 employees. In 1996, it had 103,600 employees—a decline of 52,300 jobs during that period. In other words, it laid off 1/3 of its workforce, despite being the top recipient of Ex-Im aid.

Mr. Speaker, General Electric is the number two recipient of Ex-Im aid. In 1975 GE had 667,000 American workers. Twenty years later, it had 398,000, a decline of 269,000 jobs. General Electric CEO Jack Welch, is well known for his ruthlessness in moving GE jobs to anyplace in the world where he can get cheap labor—Mexico, China, and other poor Third World countries. Is this really the type of company we want to be rewarding with taxpayer subsidies? Downsizing American workers has been at the core of the Jack Welch philosophy at GE, and Ex-Im is actually providing millions of dollars in support of this company.

As for AT&T, in 1995 AT&T laid off 40,000 workers. Interestingly enough, reports show that in that same year, AT&T provided its CEO, Robert Allen, with \$15 million in options plus a \$11 million grant.

My point, Mr. Speaker, is that the entire approach of Ex-Im in terms of job creation is too narrow. They approach the idea of "jobs through exports" on a project-by-project basis, and ignore the totality of what the company is doing.

My bill is quite simple. This bill would simply require the Export-Import Bank to look at the totality of the situation. And if there is a company that is showing a commitment to job creation and reinvestment in the United States, then that company should receive preference for assistance.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.